

The Olinda Outpost

Monthly Newsletter of the [Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda](http://uuOlinda.org)
 2953 Olinda Side Road, Ruthven, Ontario, N0P 2G0
 Toni Janik & Bobbye Baylis, Editors



Sunday Services 10:30 am February 2021

Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Feb. 7 1:00 pm	CUC National Service: Revs. Shana Lynngood and Samaya Oakley	<i>A Faith Worth Failing For</i> We often talk about Unitarian Universalism as a transformational faith - and yet to be transformed means to take a risk. How is it that we are adverse to taking such risks when it comes to widening the circle of who we are as a community? Join Revs. Shana Lynngood and Samaya Oakley for a service that explores how we've failed and how we can learn from those failures to become the transformational faith we proclaim to be.	CUC
Feb. 14	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Love it or Leave it</i> We all have things we don't particularly care about... and we might not understand why others would be into those things. Sometimes people will pay a premium for a food we never crave, or we know die-hard fans of a movie we thought was alright for an evening, but its fandom perplexes us. The way people express their love and form relationships is also varied, and folks may go about it in ways that don't resonate with others. The culture of diversity allows room for multiple realities to coexist.	Baylis/ Stone Trio
Feb. 21	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Speaking in Tongues</i> Languages come in different flavours - with different sounds, looks, and stories. And forms of expression can go beyond spoken or written dialects. Telling each other our stories, or making ourselves known, can encompass all aspects of our being.	Toni Janik
Feb. 28	Dr. Phil Alexander	<i>The Hardening of Attitudes – A Terminal Condition?</i> Some of my experiences may lead to the conclusion that there is no generally agreed upon answer. (Black History Month)	Lorie Lyons
Mar. 7	Karen Miller	<i>Light and Shadow: Transcendence and The Wisdom of Wise Women</i>	TBA

*There will be no services in the church building until further notice due to COVID-19. Services will be available at the usual time via Zoom. You will receive notifications by email and/or telephone. The website, uuOlinda.org, will be kept up-to-date regarding services and meetings. Rev. Rod is publishing his reflections on the website. You can access them by going to UUOlinda.org and clicking on the appropriate Recent Post (upper right-hand corner.) His reflections are also being mailed to those who prefer to read printed materials.

Lay Chaplains in Canada: A Unique Service

Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist congregations in Canada have the unique opportunity to use licensed lay chaplains to perform rights of passage and ceremonies marking milestone life celebrations.

Only the Canadian Unitarian Council member congregations/ fellowships have lay chaplains. This agreement was initiated in 1971 when it was found that Unitarian ministers were being overwhelmed with requests for rites of passage from other congregations and the public. It became taxing on their time, travel expense and other ministerial obligations but these ministers firmly believed that "all people had a right to a rite".

The Canadian Unitarian Council of Lay Chaplains helps clients searching for meaningful rites of passage at a place of comfort, honouring their personal wishes and beliefs.

It is equally important that attention is paid to attendees of any ceremony, insuring their comfort while reflecting the values and principles of Unitarians and Universalists.

Working closely with each client, lay chaplains can offer a way through any situation where other people can hold competing beliefs and multiple religious loyalties; holding a safe space for all.

If you have any inquiries or merely wish to chat about lay chaplain service, you are invited to contact **Sue Markham, Lay Chaplain for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda** @ 226-350-2879.

Dear Church Members,

On Sunday, March 7th, 2021 I will lead the church service for International Women's Day. This holiday takes place every March 8th and is recognized in many churches and communities throughout the world. This year I am requesting that everyone attending the service please say the names of 1-3 women who have inspired you and if you would like bring a quote by one of the women you have mentioned. It will be honoring to speak their names out loud and to recognize their contributions to you and to the world. I will also have readings and special music. I look forward to seeing you at our zoom church.

Kind Regards,

Karen Miller

Clergy Connection

Although February is a short month, it always packs a lot to reflect on. We'll have opportunities to reflect on love, justice, faith, and family. This includes expanding connections with our larger Unitarian Universalist community, as well as hearing perspectives from outside our church.

We also mark a new era in our church life, as the main transitions of the incorporation process wind down, although its transforming impact carries on. With our **new by-laws** in place, we can move forward in a more clearly-defined framework. For the most part, these by-laws retain most of what we are already familiar with, while keeping us in line with current legal expectations, as well as offering us some useful room to try out new things.

This spirit of exploration was present at the Lifespan and Religious Education Committee meeting on Jan. 22, and we will delve into further opportunities for **lifespan deepening** in the coming months.

Another innovative opportunity is the "forum theatre" Zoom production **UnMute** on **Saturday, Feb. 20**, by the troupe *Theatre of the Beat*, which **Leamington Ministerial** is sponsoring. This is an interactive production that addresses the rise of domestic violence that has been observed during the pandemic – along with an opportunity for *engagement* to explore how we can be part of the *solution*. Our church has joined local communities of faith in sponsoring the event, and we're making a contribution of \$100 as we collaborate with our neighbours to ensure this initiative is accessible to all who wish to participate.

I've also been attending the **Leamington homelessness working group** with other faith and community leaders, and have now been joined by Sue Markham, who has been welcomed to the group, attending her first meeting on Jan. 19.

On **Saturday, Feb. 6**, you are invited to attend the [Midwinter Retreat](#), which I have attended the past two years – this year will be more accessible, with no travel requirements and a reduced fee of \$15 per household (or computer connection). If you haven't had a chance to attend before, this might be an opportunity to get acquainted with this regional UU community tradition. **Deadline for registration is Jan. 31.**

And the following day will be our next **National Service** on **Feb. 7**, sponsored by the Canadian Unitarian Council, with the theme "*A Faith Worth Failing For*", and led by my colleagues, the Revs. Shana Lynngood and Samaya Oakley. I hope to see many of you there!

In Solidarity,
--Rev. Rod

Important Dates

No in-person meetings are planned; all meetings noted below are virtual meetings, utilizing Zoom technology. If that should change, a revised schedule will be published.

Feb. 6 Noon
Midwinter Retreat

Feb. 10 10 am
Membership Committee Meeting

Feb. 11 7 pm
Board Meeting

Feb. 14 Noon
Sunday Services Meeting

Feb. 14
Annual Reports available

Feb. 20 7:30 pm
UnMute. See Page 7.

Feb. 21 Noon
Finance Comm. Meeting

Feb. 23
March Newsletter Reports Due

Mar. 7 Noon
Annual Congregational Meeting

“Are You Kind?”

“What a silly question” a young friend of mine said. She went on to explain: “everyone IS kind, in their own little way”. “It’s part of our nature”, she went on to say, profoundly. “But if you tell people you ARE,” she explained, “you probably AREN’T” (her emphasis, not mine). This 10 year old had obviously thought this through, in a way well beyond her years. Her comments sent me searching for the dictionary, to see if I was “up to snuff”. So, just in case you did not know, the New World Dictionary defines “kind” as: “sympathetic, friendly, gentle, tender-hearted, generous, cordial, *and* affectionate”. Not explaining, of course, if you have to possess ALL of those characteristics, or just need *some*, to be considered “kind”. Do you have to be ALL of them at the same time, or can you save some for later, I wondered? Now, I am worried.

The other day, someone I had done a small favour for, said to me: “You are the kindest person I know!”. I wasn’t sure how to react to that statement. If I responded, saying: “thank you”, did that mean the pressure was on, that I had to be a “kind” person all the time, in order to meet the criteria and expectations of her statement? Or, if I said “gosh gee, shucks, it was nothing”, was I being way too humble, and, therefore, I am a work in progress, who needs to learn how to “*be* kind”? If I don’t respond at all, will she change her mind about the significant status of my kindness, and think, after all, I am just rude? Being no “saint”, I wondered who were all the other folks she had met, if I was the “kindest”? The kind of dilemma that comes over us when we have too much time on our hands, during a pandemic.

However, it is significant, during these challenging days, that one consider where they fall along this spectrum of “kindness”, when many of us are feeling bewildered, isolated, and uncertain. Do I think only of myself, and what I need? Or am I able, *without thought*, to think outside myself, and spontaneously do “deeds of kindness” or “act kindly” *without* a clear expectation of reward or acknowledgement? Am I “evil” if I can’t bear to be that “kind”? Do I act “kindly” for the strokes I might receive, or do I act “kindly” because I truly care that someone else may be in trouble or need some help or cheer? Would I “give you the shirt off my back”, even if it was cold out? Perhaps I don’t act so “kindly” when I think it is inconvenient or might “cost” me something?

In my humble opinion, “kindness”, much like beauty, is in the eye and heart of the beholder. What might be perceived as a “kindness” by one person, may not be by another, no matter what your intention. A chicken sandwich on whole wheat bread might not be well-received by a finicky 5 year old, whereas, the offer of the same sandwich might be the difference between life and death to a homeless person. I really believe that most of us do our best to “be a good person”, which, in my book, includes “kindness”. Perhaps my young friend was right, that we ALL are “kind” in our own little way, because it IS in our nature!”

Judith L. Carter

Finance Chair Report

We all have reason to cautiously celebrate the good financial health of our church; the end of 2020 has brought us an amazing surplus instead of the significant deficit we predicted. Thank you all: Trustees and Committee Chairs, Lloyd Fund managers, hard-working fundraisers, but especially our very generous donors! The reason for caution is that part of our income this year was a government wage subsidy. We received almost \$22,000 which obviously went a long way to supply our \$13,000 surplus and allowed us to take much less from the Lloyd Fund than we had budgeted. However, there is a possibility that some of this may be clawed back at tax time. Even if all of it is clawed back, we can cover the resulting deficit by simply taking more of the budgeted amount from the Lloyd Fund.

Speaking of fundraisers, we are lucky that we know how to have fun when we are raising money. \$885 was raised at the January Soup Meal and Virtual Dining Experience. We will be having a committee meeting on Feb. 21 at noon to discuss how we might have a virtual aUction or other fundraiser during this time when we cannot meet in person.

Thanks again for the incredible support from our donors!

Bobbie Baylis,
Chair, Finance Committee

Note from the Treasurer

By the time you receive this newsletter, I expect that you would have also received your income tax receipt. Thanks again for your generous donations even though we have been unable to meet in church since March 15, 2020. Fortunately we have remained connected through Zoom, Rev. Rod's printed sermons, phone calls and emails.

Helen Moore, Treasurer

Annual Congregational Meeting
Vote on the Annual Report
Election of 2021 Board of Directors
and Nominating & Auditing Committees
March 7, 2021
At noon following the Zoom Service
Please attend! We need a Quorum!

Lifespan Education



New

Chil-

Children's After-School Home Program

Programs on climate, waste, water and emergency preparedness

Mondays-Thursdays

4.30-5.30pm (PT) / 7.30-8.30pm (ET)

Tell your friends and children. Any family can join in the fun!

"It helped a lot with not sinking into melancholy.

The world is changing, pitching violently downwards,
but the Planet Protector Academy has several rays of hope.

The biggest gift was the fun we had!"

Noriron Oudhoff, 12 years old

Cape Town, South Africa

For more information on this program and how to register, contact

Upcoming CUC Events (January 27 - March 9, 2021)

Dates and times, and forms for registered events can be found on the Events page on the CUC website. <https://cuc.ca/events/>

Lay Chaplain Question and Answer Session on Thursday, Feb. 18, 2021 at 7 pm ET

Dialogues on Indigenous Perspectives:

- **The Power of Dialogue With David Camp** on Monday, Feb.22, 2021 at 7 pm ET
- **Elder's Circle With Stephen Paquette** on Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2021 at 7 pm ET
- **THR – Reconciliation Through Film: Six Miles Deep** on Sat., Feb. 27 at 12:30 pm ET
- **David Camp Workshop Part I** on Saturday, March 6 at 2 pm ET

CUC Regular Events:

Connect and Deepen on Sundays, February 14 and 28 at 4 pm ET

<https://cuc.ca/events/connect-deepen/1611504000/1611502200/>

Gathered Here on Thursday, Feb. 11 at 2 pm ET and on Monday, Mar. 8 at 8 pm ET

<https://cuc.ca/events/gathered-here-february-and-april-2021/1613052000/1613057400/>

Leamington Ministerial News

Coming soon to a Zoom near you:

UnMute is a forum theatre piece by *Theatre of the Beat* that addresses the rise of domestic violence and gender-based assault during COVID-19. "While a family's life may seem normal from the other side of the screen, abuse is lurking behind closed doors. Immerse yourself in this important and timely piece that gives audience members the chance to rehearse scenarios for real life." Audiences will learn skills and resources for how they can make a difference.

The Leamington Ministerial is sponsoring a Zoom performance of **UnMute** on **Saturday February 20 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are FREE.** Registration is limited to the first 100 screens. Priority is given to Leamington / Windsor-Essex community members until January 29, 2021.

Representatives of local organizations will be present to discuss questions of domestic violence unique to Windsor-Essex. For more about the show, see www.theatreofthebeat.ca/unmute

To register, simply click this link and fill in a short form (name, e-mail address, and city):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEIcuutqDkpHdVyNzaeaAIWSD4vhEvJDTCv>

Enjoy!

Rev. Rod

Social Responsibility Committee Report

Our committee has not been meeting during this "shut down" period because our activities in the past have all required in-person gatherings. Since we still do not know when this time of virtual-only meeting will end, we should plan to meet virtually after church to discuss options. I suggest we think about options and discuss them on **March 21 at noon**. Send me your ideas so we can have a substantial agenda for the meeting.

Bobbye Baylis

Secretary, Social Responsibility Committee

Membership and Publicity

Winter is here and it will be a while before we see the sunny days of spring. Elaine Stevenson and I would like to thank everyone who participated in our January Contactless Soup Meal Fundraiser and Virtual Dining Experience. Together, with all your orders and donations, \$885 was raised for the Church Operating Fund. Those who chose to attend the virtual dinner had a lively time with great conversation, and good food in the comfort of our own dining rooms.

Copies of our two publications of our history are still available. If you own a copy of Louise Foulds' Book and would like a complimentary copy of Jane Innerd's updated history covering the last 20 years contact Toni Janik to get your very own copy. If you don't already own Louise's book—it's a great read and well worth having your own copy—the 2 book collection is available for a nominal fee of \$15.00. Your order can be placed with either Helen Moore, Bobbye Baylis or Toni Janik and payment can be made by cheque or e-transfer payable to the UU Church of Olinda.

I'd also like to remind everyone that it's always a good time to update or provide your emergency contact information for Rev. Rod's use in the event of a serious emergency. Kindly consider connecting with either Rev. Rod or Toni Janik for the form entitled "Congregant Emergency Contact Form." If you have questions—feel free to reach out to Rev. Rod or myself. For your convenience the form is included with this issue of the newsletter on page 10.

Toni Janik
Membership and Publicity Chair

Caring Committee Report

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

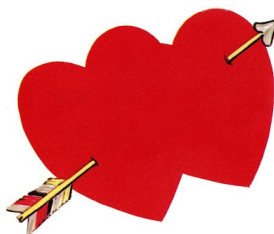
A special mid-winter hello to our church families and friends, especially our church member Nancy Basinger, as she is currently battling the COVID-19 virus. It is a relief to hear that her symptoms are subsiding, and we hope she continues a rapid return to good health. Sending her big hugs. I have heard the great news that most of the long-term care and retirement homes have received the long awaited vaccine. May we continue to stay safe, and support each other by phone or e-mail during these uncertain times.

It is a pleasure to see all of you who can attend on the Sunday Zoom services, and many thanks and support to our technical team for this privilege.

This is Valentine Month, and with that in mind, we all need a little love, but a little chocolate now and then does not hurt.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S.

Submitted by:
Linda Upcott



Annual Report Deadlines

Many of you have reports to submit for the Annual Report, which will be voted on at the Annual Meeting on March 7. Our new bylaws require that the report be available three weeks before the meeting. This is a large document and takes time to assemble and print, so please try to get your reports to Ray Stone and Bobbye Baylis by the following dates:

January 17

Non-financial Annual Reports were due to Ray Stone and Bobbye Baylis

January 31

Financial Reports were due to Ray Stone and Bobbye Baylis.

Feb. 14

Annual Reports available for Congregation

March 7

Annual Meeting

Caring Committee Members

Eunice Goyette

June Blacker

Leona Crowder

Linda Upcott

**UU Church of Olinda
Congregant Emergency Contact Form**

Your Name: _____

Primary Contact Name: (e.g. Next of Kin)

Contact Email: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____



Secondary Contact Name: _____

Contact Email: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Your Signature: _____

Date: _____

Email or mail (address in church directory) completed form to:

Toni Janik

Membership & Publicity Trustee

djanik1@cogeco.ca