

The Olinda Outpost

Monthly Newsletter of the [Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda](#)
2953 Olinda Side Road, Ruthven, Ontario, N0P 2G0
Toni Janik & Bobbye Baylis, Editors

Sunday Services 10:30 am
March 2021



Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Mar. 7	Karen Miller	<i>Light and Shadow: Transcendence and The Wisdom of Wise Women (International Women's Day on March 8)</i> – Karen invites everyone attending the service to bring names of 1-3 women who have inspired you, and if you would like, also a quote by one of the women mentioned.	TBA
Mar. 14	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Circling Back</i> – We now mark a year of church outside the walls of our building, and anniversaries have power as times for commemoration and contemplation... sometimes, even celebration. We can recognize this time, and the feelings that come along with it, together.	Toni Janik
Mar. 21	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Circle of Light</i> – The arrival of spring brings expectations for brighter and more colourful days. And along with these, we can find illumination on the mysteries of light and colour.	Lorie Lyons
Mar. 28	Rev. Conrad Dippel	<i>Salvation in the Stacks</i> – Based upon my experience in old libraries and wrecking yards, I explore the relationship between salvage and salvation, and wonder whether a Unitarian Universalist can be saved again.	Baylis/ Stone Trio
Apr. 4	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>[Easter Sunday] Rising From the Rabbit Hole</i> – Sometimes, a bit of extra time online can land us in unexpected places, as exploration of new topics can feed greater curiosity. Eventually, the time to emerge out of these rabbit holes invites new opportunities to rise up.	Toni Janik

*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 UUOlin-da.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.

Board Report

2020: A Year of Change ... A Year of Dynamic Response!

This my last newsletter report as I conclude my time in the role of President.

With the Annual Congregational Meeting being held on March 7, 2021, the Minister, Board of Directors and church membership will welcome in the next slate of leadership stepping forward to assist the church through the coming year. This annual rite of passage confers on the church a reminder of where we have come from and where we are heading.

Within this past year the COVID 19 worldwide pandemic has influenced Olinda in ways that were unforeseen when the current board took their places on Feb. 23, 2020 – 12 months ago. On March 15, 2020, the New Executive of the Board and the Minister met, resulting in the temporary suspension of all in-person services and other church meetings. The Minister, Board of Directors and various church committees moved quickly to recreate UU of Olinda with online media, in virtual reality. For the last 12 months the church has transitioned through the many phases of COVID-19 using governmental information, shut-downs, lockdowns and colour-coded stages as guidelines.

The Current Result: Olinda now exists with a strong online presence, attracting attendance at its Sunday Services of both old members and new visitors. While continuing to await the safe lifting of the suspension around in person services/meetings, Olinda has found many unique opportunities for outreach to the church community and beyond while continuing to brainstorm more innovative ways to do so.

At the same time, UU Olinda completed the final stages of being incorporated as a federal corporation, meeting all requirements fully. This year long process led the Board of Directors to be involved in additional learning around due diligence and fiduciary responsibility in the time of a worldwide pandemic. The overlap of these two aspects opened the directors and committee chairs to opportunities for continuous learning through online education seminars.

A third, yearlong process resulting from the above two changes, ended in the creation of and eventual adoption by the church membership of NEW church corporation bylaws. With the bylaws in place, Olinda is now able to move forward, meeting requirements and processes that will assist in keeping it in alignment with the governmental requirements of a federal corporation.

The Current Result: The task remaining is to put in place the governance that will assist in putting these new bylaws into effect – a task for the new Board of Directors.

A fourth process that speaks to the passion of the current board around the continuance of Olinda was the completion of the visioning process that the Minister, Board of Directors and Committee Chairs undertook during this past summer.

The Current Result: Through it, they arrived at an initial visioning report presented to the Board of Directors in October 2020, that will assist in guiding the NEW Board of Directors through this coming year. One relevant statistic that speaks to how well the church has weathered this year of change is the membership numbers. We began the year with a total of 55 members and ended the year with a total of 54 members. I believe that this speaks to both the solid foundation that the church had in entering into this year not knowing what was to come; and committed effort put forth by the Board of Directors and Committee members throughout this year in adapting to the constant changes placed before them.

I once again congratulate all for their diligence and hard work.

While not my original intention when accepting the position last Feb 23, changes - professionally and personally related - have led to my making the decision to remove my name from continuing to run for the President position after only one year. I have absolute faith and trust in those leaders who are continuing and to those new ones stepping up to serve in this coming year. I look forward to being part of this vibrant community, as we all continue to celebrate the 140th anniversary of the UU Church of Olinda!

Clergy Connection

This month marks a full year since we last gathered in our building for Sunday service – even though our church continues to worship on a regular schedule! We also celebrate a return to spring and the cycling of light into our lives with more intensity. It is worth marking these cycles in our church's life.

One of the annual cycles that we missed out on last year was the AUUction, and the Finance Committee has now selected this year's committee to explore a virtual **AUUction** later in the spring. We are exploring options to make this as accessible as possible, including options for folks who cannot attend online. This will require additional discussion, imagination, and flexibility, and this might include moving the event a bit later in the calendar, possibly into May. Stay tuned!

I was very impressed by the online play *UnMute*, offered by the *Theatre of the Beat* troupe, and co-sponsored by our church through **Leamington Ministerial**. Through our collective efforts, we are raising our community awareness about domestic violence and how we may participate in addressing it. I was also pleased to see members of our community be active participants in the interactive portions of this forum theatre production.

I attended the **Midwinter Retreat** on **Feb. 6**, along with at least a couple other participants from Olinda. I greatly welcomed Liz James' keynote speech, as well as the other spots for regional interaction. Even without the in-person element, this was a great opportunity to be involved with this regional UU community tradition.

The **National Service** on **Feb. 7**, sponsored by the Canadian Unitarian Council, offered an inspiring look on how we can be "*A Faith Worth Failing For*". The process to sign in was much simpler than before, and if you missed it for whatever reason, it is now posted on our website.

And in preparation for our next National Service on May 16, a few of us are taking part in a Canada-wide UU virtual choir that will feature at that service, so be on the lookout for the Olinda folks when the Canadian Unitarian Council's Annual Conference rolls around in May!

I would like to close by acknowledging the work of outgoing members of the Board, including President Stephen Brennan, as well as Bill Baylis, Sunday Services Chair, and I look forward to working with the incoming Board starting next month!

Respectfully submitted,
--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.

Mar. 3 6:30 pm
Lifespan RE Committee Meeting

Mar. 7 Noon
Annual Congregational Meeting

Mar. 10 10 am
Membership Committee Meeting

Mar. 11 7 pm
Board Meeting

Mar. 14 Noon
Sunday Services Meeting

Mar. 21 Noon
Social Responsibility Committee Meeting

Mar. 23
April Newsletter Reports Due

“Two Years To Live”

We recently learned that a friend of ours, who has had recurrences of his cancer over many years, and “dodged the bullet” many times, as they say, has now been diagnosed with Stage Four cancer. His wife says he *may* have two years to live. John has had many surgeries, many treatments, many recoveries, most of which have literally “knocked the wind out of his sails”, but still he gets back up and keeps on going one foot ahead of the other, one day at a time. I can’t begin to imagine how he and his wife are dealing with this news, although I suspect, given what they have been through, that this was not totally unexpected, which, by the way, doesn’t make the news any easier to swallow. I feel a sense of powerlessness, and restlessness, as I’m not sure how to behave, what to say, what to think. I am lost in a vast field of questions, most of which, I’m not sure I have answers for.

Some of my first thoughts are “what would I do if I was told I only had two years to live?” It’s a scary proposition. Would I travel to places I’ve always wanted to see, visit friends I haven’t seen in awhile, spoil myself with all kinds of treats, not pay my bills, make amends to those I may have hurt, or continue to do what I usually do, only better, and hug those I love just a little bit tighter? Would I try all kinds of different, maybe even risky, things that have a certain appeal, like hang gliding, riding in a hot air balloon, sky diving, learn to fly for real, take a helicopter ride over the volcano areas in Hawaii....a long bucket list of things to do before that last day arrives. For sure, I would play lots of euchre, help some of my pet causes like Guide Dogs for the Blind, Rescue Dogs, and the Elephant Sanctuary. Maybe I’d have to win the lottery first!

Then I began to think about questions I have had for years. What would happen to me when I die? Would I go to “Heaven”? *Is there a Heaven?*? Would I get to see all of my friends and loved ones I have lost over the years, even my favourite and dear dogs there? Is it a peaceful kind place where I can look down on what I have left? Do I just die, and that’s it? Do I get these considerations only if I believe in a God? I have always grappled with the concept of what God is. I think I am more “spiritual”, but am still undecided on the whole thing. Will She be there to help me through this transition? Do I get “demerit points” from whoever is in charge, for all the stupid, angry, dishonest, hurtful things I may have done while I was an angry drug infested adolescent and young adult? Do I even deserve to have any kind of “afterlife”? Or maybe I will get to come back a second time. If so, I want to come back as a Corgi who will love her master and sit on their lap. I wish I knew the answers.

But, while I grapple with these things, of more consequence, I wish my friend John a peaceful and quick exit from this life, full of good memories, and free of pain and regrets. I respect him greatly and will miss him. I hope to beat him at euchre a few more times, and laugh like crazy when he accuses me of cheating (which, I don’t, by the way).

Judith L. Carter

Comments welcome: jlcarter7@aol.com

Note from the Treasurer

After ending 2020 with a surplus, we also had a surplus for the month of January. Your generosity, Toni Janik and Elaine Stevenson's very successful January Soup Lunch Fundraiser and no extra expenses made it so. Your generosity continues in February though the month of February has not ended at the time of this writing.

The Registered Charity Information Return has been filed with Canada Revenue Agency and our annual registration and fee payment with Corporations Canada has also been completed. Income tax receipts were mailed on January 25 so you should have received yours by now.

Helen Moore, Treasurer



Bakeless Bake Sale April 2021

“No Baking Required”

In lieu of an actual Bake Sale we are once again having a Bakeless Bakesale. Consider the cost of ingredients and the time to bake and what you might have spent purchasing other individuals' baking and consider donating the amount to our UU Olinda Church. For your donation you will receive a tax receipt. You can either mail a cheque to our Treasurer, Helen Moore, or send your donation by E-Transfer.



Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda
2953 Olinda Side Road
Ruthven, ON N0P 2G0

or to Helen Moore's home address
(see Directory.)



Happy St. Patrick's Day

Irish Soda Bread from a book called Irish Cookery (purchased in Dublin by Joyse Gilbert)

12 oz plain flour
 1/2 tsp salt
 1/2 tso baking soda
 1/2 tsp cream tartar
 1/2 pint buttermilk

Mix dry ingredients together and sift twice to incorporate plenty of air. Make a well in the center of the flour and add enough buttermilk to get an easy to handle, soft but not wet dough. Knead very lightly, form into a round and mark with a cross. Bake in a hot 450 degree oven for 20 minutes. Reduce heat to 400 degrees and bake another 20 minutes.

(Some people incorporate caraway seeds into the dough, it's a matter of taste.)

Irish Soda Bread (Bake in Bread Machine)

1 and 1/3 cups milk
 2 tablespoons butter
 2 teaspoons sugar
 2 teaspoons caraway seeds
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
 1 1/3 cups white flour
 1 teaspoon yeast



1. Put ingredients in Baking Pan in order list
2. Insert Baking Pan securely into unit; close lid
3. Select BASIC SETTING and 1.5 lb loaf setting. Choose light or dark crust setting.
4. Push Start Button. There will be a 15 minute preheat delay before mixing begins.
5. At "Add ingredient" beep, add raisins if adding.
6. The Complete Signal will sound when bread is done.
7. Using Pot Holders, remove Baking Pan from the unit and carefully turn bread out of Baking Pan.
8. Allow to cool before Slicing

Finance Committee

At our meeting last Sunday (Feb. 21) we decided to hold a Virtual aUuction in May. By now we have enough experience holding interactive virtual meetings (Budget and By-Law Approval meetings.) We even can envision how to include those who cannot participate on Zoom by having some items and events available by email and phone. Details will be worked out by the aUuction committee, starting at its first meeting on Feb. 28.

Please start thinking about what you can donate to the aUuction and let a committee member know. The sooner we have an idea how many items will be available for live auction, the better we can plan. Committee Members are Laurie Stone, Toni Janik, Carol Hylton, Helen Moore, Carmen Smith, and Bill and Bobbye Baylis.

At our aUuctions in the past we have had sign-up sheets for events, usually dinners, and some items, usually paintings. We could also handle some food items in this way. Again, details will be worked out and available later. But if you are planning to offer an activity, a post-pandemic dinner (date to be determined) or multiple jars of soup, pickles, or jam, let us know and we will figure out the best way to present it. In particular, we want some things available to those who cannot participate in a Zoom event.

Bobbye Baylis, Finance Chair

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!

Social Responsibility Committee Report

Our first meeting in a year will be held on Sunday, March 21 at noon, after church. We will be discussing activities that can be undertaken given COVID restrictions. All are welcome to attend.

Bobbye Baylis
Secretary, Social Responsibility Committee

Membership and Publicity

Many of us rely on the accuracy and currency of both our telephone tree and our Church Directory. This spring after our new board is installed we will be publishing and distributing our updated Telephone Tree.... For me there isn't a day that goes by that I don't find myself using our directory. It is such a valuable tool for staying in touch with all of you.

This month we are counting on all of you to look at your entries within our UU Church of Olinda Directory. Please send all updates and changes to Toni Janik and Bobbye Baylis. When reviewing your entry please check that all of your contact information is current. Consider updating your entry if your email has changed, your phone number is changed or you want to list more than one phone number, or you have moved and have a new address. Also if you would like to have your contact information in the directory and it isn't currently included—we would appreciate having your listing. This directory is for all of us—members and friends of the UU Church of Olinda.

We expect to publish and distribute the updated Church Directory in late spring.

Toni Janik
djanik1@cogeco.ca
Membership and Publicity Chair



Caring Committee Report

March is the month where the winter leaves us and finally makes way for spring. According to the calendar, March 14th is the beginning of daylight saving time, March 17th is St. Patrick's Day and March 20th is the first day of spring all in the same week. As we move forward to the bright days ahead we encourage everyone to a grateful, giving, open heart full of love and kindness to each other.

A special St. Patrick hello to all our church families and friends, especially those in the retirement homes and those just at home. The congregation was saddened to have received the news of the passing of Jane Innerd's brother. We extend our deepest condolences to her and her family. Wilf Innerd gave a brief eulogy about him during joys and sorrows and we learned that his brother-in-law had accomplished a great deal in his short life. May he rest in peace.

Wishing everyone a peaceful mind, full of positive thoughts of only great things to come. Stay Safe Everyone. Looking forward to spring.

Submitted by
Linda Upcott



Caring Committee Members

Eunice Goyette

June Blacker

Leona Crowder

Linda Upcott

Bakeless Bake Sale April 2021

A BAKELESS BAKE SALE

*A bit of news we have today,
A bakeless bake sale is on the way,
On those busy days, now who would bake
Pies or cookies or even a cake.
You'd be surprised, if you counted the cost,
Of materials, heat and time you lost
Cookies for sale is extra work
Yet nobody really wants to shirk.
So we thought of a plan that is grand
And feel quite certain you will understand.
In an envelope, please put the price
Of a pie or cake or something nice.
Without fuss or bother you have done your part,
We are sure you'll give with a willing heart.
This is the end of our little tale,
Wishing success to our bakeless bake sale.*

Mail your cheque to the Treasurer now or E-Transfer your donation.
(See Page 5 for address.) Just write Bake Sale on the information line on
the cheque. This donation is eligible for a tax receipt.