

# 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  
April 2021**



Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
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
Apr. 11	Lt. Nicole McKay	<i>Called to Serve</i> At every juncture in our lives, we are asked to be attentive to that still small voice inside that guides us on our way. This is the journey of discernment which is revealed to us slowly over time and it is our responsibility to stay curious about how these callings will play out. This Sunday, join Nicole as she shares how she has come to discern her call to ministry as a Unitarian Universalist military chaplain in Canada, and how your own life's journey is helping you bring your gifts and talents in service to the wider world.	Lorie Lyons
Apr. 18	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Planet Ground</i> - Our planet is unique for many reasons, and exploring how other planets in our galaxy might compare invites the imagination to ponder on just what conditions are "just right" for life as we know it!	Baylis/ Stone Trio
Apr. 25	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>MVPs - Most Valuable Players</i> - One year on, the meaning of essential workers remains elusive, with much debate as to what work is considered essential - though it's clear that work itself is essential for livelihoods, and that workers are central to work-places.	Toni Janik
May 2	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>The Best Worst Spanish</i> - Sometimes, making mistakes can be the best way to get it right - be it learning a language, or building community.	Lorie Lyons

\*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](http://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](http://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.

## President's Report

The new board held its first meeting on Thursday, March 11. The next meeting will take place on Thursday, April 8. One of the key items for the board to deal with this year is producing a governance document to bring us into full compliance with federal law governing non-profit corporations. Bobbye Baylis, the chair of our finance committee, is taking the lead in this important endeavour. The governance document sets out policies and practices and is an important supplement to our by-laws.

On behalf of the congregation, I would like to express our gratitude to the folks working to make the auction happen this year. There is a lot of work involved. I know they are putting in much time and effort on our behalf. Thanks!!

The memorial service for Evelyn Fisher was held online on Saturday, March 20. We are very grateful to everyone who participated or helped to make this happen. Dr. Ray Hobbs, who had been an intern under Evelyn's supervision almost 40 years ago, gave an inspiring account of Dr. Evelyn Fisher's career. Shera Gregory, the wife of Evelyn's nephew Nelson, produced a wonderful photo montage which encompassed her whole life. There are private links to both the photo montage and the memorial service available for private viewing only.

It will be a great pleasure to welcome Conrad Dippel back to our pulpit this Sunday, March 28. Conrad was our settled minister as a young recent graduate from divinity school decades ago and it's always nice to have him back.

Raymond Stone, President



UU Church of Olinda Choir at "Big Sing" in Ann Arbor. Evelyn is the last woman on the right in the front row.

## Clergy Connection

Easter will mark one year since we began online services... resurrecting, as it were, our live services (in a new medium) after a three-week pause when we relied exclusively on the written word for shared worship.

Last month was also a time when we honoured Evelyn Fisher at an online memorial service. At that time, I made a point of describing it as an *online* service, rather than a *virtual* one, as we sometimes call services on the videoconferencing medium. The fact is, these are *real* gatherings in which we make real connections. To be sure, the physical element of in-person meetings is hard to replicate online, yet we were also able to join as a community to support each other, as we commemorated and celebrated Evelyn's life. For this memorial service, it also meant that family and friends of Evelyn's could join us from across the border.

The **Lifespan and Religious Education** Committee is looking for your input as we plan more adult programming in the coming months. You can do so by answering a **brief LRE Survey** – there is a paper copy included in this newsletter, and there will also be an electronic option being sent out this month. Taking just a couple minutes to answer a few questions will help us in our planning and we thank you for participating!

I participated in an **anti-racism workshop series** by Dr. David Campt, hosted by the Canadian Unitarian Council. This included two Saturday afternoon workshops on **Mar. 6 & 13**. In the coming weeks, the CUC continues to offer online programming, and I recommend taking advantage of similar opportunities as they come up.

One of these opportunities is the **Canadian Unitarian Council National Conference** from **May 14-16**. You can **register by May 9** at a sliding scale from \$5 and up! There will be a number of events and spaces for connection.

Another similar opportunity is for attending the **Parliament of the World's Religions** on **Oct. 17-18**, which this year will be held entirely online. **Early bird registration closes May 31**, at their most accessible rate ever of **US \$50**. I attended the 2018 Parliament when it was held in Toronto, and I'm curious to see where the conversation will go this year!

I look forward to staying connected with you this spring, as we catch the blooming flowers!

Warm regards,  
--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.

**April 7 10 am**  
Membership Committee Meeting

**April 8 7 pm**  
Board Meeting

**April 11 Noon**  
Sunday Services Meeting

**April 18 Noon**  
Social Responsibility Committee Meeting

**April 20**  
May Newsletter Reports Due

## **“Am I A Racist?”**

The quick and easy answer would be a resounding “NO”! As a young gay woman, living in Toronto, who survived raw hatred against my Community in the 60s, 70s and far beyond; survived police beatings, abuse, and humiliation; suffered being called demeaning, hateful, names in public; was not welcome into certain businesses, washrooms, and even churches; could not get jobs, housing, or many other opportunities, strictly because of my sexual orientation, *I know more than a little something about misunderstanding, hatred and discrimination.*

When I first heard of the “Black Lives Matter” Movement, over the past few years, I must admit I was somewhat perplexed. Didn’t ALL lives matter? Didn’t Hispanic lives matter; Aboriginal lives matter; Women’s lives matter, LGBTQ lives matter; Transgender lives matter; Senior lives matter; Disabled lives matter? Didn’t MY life matter? So why did “Black” lives matter “more” or differently? Why did they have a “Movement”, when other seemingly equally oppressed and misunderstood groups did not? Shouldn’t we have protests against the hatred, unjust and/or cruel treatment of ANY group of individuals? *I have a lot to learn.*

The recent news stories about professional sport teams feeling compelled to re-consider their team names and/or logos, had me in a bit of a quandary. The Edmonton Eskimos CFL team, for example. I didn’t understand why using the term “Eskimo” was a bad thing. I wish I had opportunity to ask an “Eskimo”, who undoubtedly sees it differently. What about the Cleveland Indians? I never perceived the term “Indians” as derogatory. However, clearly their logo, and mascot Chief Wahoo, could certainly be seen as insulting, at the very least. The Washington Redskins, NFL team, had that name for years, without concern or question. “Redskins” *did* sound suspect to me though. I don’t think the term “Redskins” was ever meant as a term of endearment and was never used so in any Western I ever saw. There also began a ground swell of concern about some famous, long-term brands names like “Aunt Jemima” pancake mix and syrup, and “Uncle Ben’s” rice, which have drawn criticism, calling their symbols or characterizations as “racist” and demeaning. Are these groups being overly sensitive? I wonder why certain groups perceive such things as “racist” or demeaning when I, as a non-black, non-aboriginal person, White, have just gotten used to seeing these things as “normal” on my table, in my cupboard, or in my life? Do we have to “houseclean” every name or characterization we have today, in case what has been “normal” across the ages is no longer acceptable in a more enlightened world and culture? Probably. *I have a lot to learn.*

Gone are “the good old days”, when it was enough to keep you from being “branded” as a racist, simply by saying: “Some of my best friends are \_\_\_\_\_” (fill in the blank). Fear of the Unknown is a great divider. I must try harder to be a part of the solution, not part of the problem. I can not allow racism and discrimination to be “invisible”. I confess that I do not have all the answers to many of these challenging questions. But I do know that I am eager to expand my horizons, to learn and question, not accept the norm as acceptable and appropriate. I have to remind myself that I too have been on the receiving line of blatant oppression, hatred, misunderstanding, cruel and unjust laws and treatment, and how that felt and shaped me. Change is often painful and slow....but most often worthwhile.

Judith L. Carter

Comments welcome: see UU Church Directory for Judy’s contact information.

## Note from the Treasurer

As I write this, the month of March is not yet complete but in February, building on the surplus from January, we have a surplus year to date.

Donations to the ***Bakeless Bake Sale***, described in last month's newsletter, have been coming in with three arriving so far. If you wish to donate, send a cheque or e-transfer. All donations are receiptable for income tax purposes.

Thanks for your continuing generosity.

Helen Moore



### UU Olinda AUUction 2021

Get ready, get set, we are almost at the start of our annual auction event. This year, we have already had promised to us a kaleidoscope of exciting items to bid on in our live auction segment. Not to be outdone our donors have also promised us a wonderful array of items for our silent auction segment. We are offering two segments for the auction this year to be inclusive of everyone—those who like to connect via email and phone, and those who like to connect via Zoom.

Mark your calendars for Saturday afternoon May 29th for the live auction via zoom. The preceding week we will be holding our silent auction. Further details on how to bid, and guarantee that you have the best chance of getting the items you want, will be outlined in the May Newsletter.

To whet your appetite for what will be available at this year's auction, here's a snippet of the list up for your enjoyment:

Virtual Dinners—Tropical Chicken,  
Virtual Cooking Classes—BBQ, Romanian Stuffed Peppers, and many more ....  
Jams, Pickles, Soups, Cheese Boards, Pastry Trays, Meat Lasagnas and Vegetarian Lasagnas, etc.  
Wine and Food Pairings  
Paintings  
Hand Sewn Quilt  
Basket of Assorted Muffins  
The Famous Linda Upcott Lemon Meringue Pie  
Transportation

Stay tuned for the May Issue and more information about how you can participate!

Toni Janik, AUUction Committee Member





## **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 church or E-Transfer your donation. (See below for address.) Just write Bake Sale on the information line on the cheque. This donation is eligible for a tax receipt.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda  
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Ruthven, ON NOP 2G0

## Property Report

As you may be aware, there was a leak at our Church several weeks ago. Just after the large February snowfall, water leaked into the roof, and down through the second-floor archive vault, and over the Coffee Hour - Tranquility Room areas of the first floor.

We managed to eventually have a local roofer come and inspect the situation. As an experienced building person, I'm aware that locating the source of a roof leak is very difficult. Water that makes its way under shingles, could have started feet or yards (Millimeters or Metres) from where the water drips into the interior.

We have since discussed this with the roofer. He is having a Heating & Cooling Contractor also review the situation, as it is possible that the chimney, which is being used to exhaust gases from our 2 furnaces and is still required, may be the source of the leak. One option was to remove, and replace the old brick chimney, with a new efficient stainless steel unit, that could be better sealed from the elements. A new sleek vent, would however, also not match the character of our old veteran 1880's structure.

At the time ... of going to press ... the investigation is still underway.

Your Property Committee assures all that no work will begin until the best repair is agreed upon by all.

The Leaking, by the way, has stopped, and the tarps are still in place to protect our fine historic church interior, and records.

Stuart Miller,  
Property  
Committee  
Chairperson



## Membership and Publicity

Thank you to all of you who responded so quickly to Bobbye Baylis' inquiry regarding your contact information in both the telephone tree and our Church Directory. Later this spring we will be publishing and distributing our updated telephone tree and our Church Directory.

Welcome to Patrick Impens, our newest member of the UU Church of Olinda. We will be formally recognizing Patrick's membership and also everyone who has joined/rejoined when we can safely get together in person. If membership is something you have been thinking about, please reach out to either Rev. Rod or anyone on the Membership Committee. We would love to connect with you.

By the time you see this issue of our newsletter it is my hope you have or will soon receive an uplifting spring postcard from our Membership Committee. We wish everyone all the joys of the renewal of the spring season. I for one am anxiously awaiting the return of the spring blossoms, and the opportunity to "play" in my garden.

Toni Janik  
Membership and Publicity Chair





## Caring Committee Report

April does mean the “true” arrival of spring, after all. Try to get outside, connect with nature, shake loose those final winter cobwebs from your mind and begin a new adventure.

Good to hear from some of our members that they were able to receive their first COVID vaccine. We look forward to the time when we can once again resume our visits and hopefully spread some cheer and/or a smile to everyone.

On March 9<sup>th</sup>, Buster and Carabel Ringrose had the honor of toasting, with a glass of champagne, their 69<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Congratulations to you both, on this special occasion. They were treated to a lovely dinner, made especially for them at Southgate Retirement Home, and they graciously shared cupcakes with all their friends.

Easter greetings to all our church families and friends, especially those in retirement homes and those just at home. Easter is meant to be a symbol of hope, renewal, and new life. Wishing all a Happy and Healthy Easter Celebration.

Submitted by Linda Upcott

## Social Responsibility Committee Report

The committee met for the first time in a year last Sunday and discussed undertakings that might be possible in a virtual context. We have noticed that First UU Church of Detroit has been running monthly films, and Sue Markham and Ray Stone are looking into learning from their experience. Stay tuned!

Other projects we discussed undertaking:

- Migrant worker housing and working conditions

- Homelessness in Essex County

- Missing and murdered indigenous women and girls follow-up

Our intent is basically to learn more about these issues, especially to learn about what is actually being done, given the problems that have been identified. We plan to work on this in concert with the Lifespan Religious Education committee.

Given the enthusiasm shown at the meeting, we have planned to meet next month, on April 18, after “coffee hour,” not after another year!

Bobbie Baylis

Secretary, Social Responsibility Committee

### Caring Committee Members

Eunice Goyette

June Blacker

Leona Crowder

Linda Upcott

## ADULT LRE Classes Survey

**To assist the Committee on Adult Religious Education  
kindly complete the following survey:**

Please check the topics which would interest you.

- Anti-racism and Indigenous reconciliation workshops and conversations
- Death Conversations
- Justice for Migrant Workers
- World Religions

What time of the year would you be most interested in starting the next Adult LRE classes?

- June 2021
- October 2021

Which day of the week would and what time would you prefer to attend?

- Wed. afternoon 2pm - 4pm
- Wed. evening 7pm - 9pm
- Fri. evening 7pm - 9pm
- Sat. afternoon 2pm - 4pm

Is there anything else you would like to tell us? or

Are there any other comments you would like to make?

Rev. Rod will be sending out an electronic version of this survey shortly. If however your preferred means of communication involves paper, you can mail this completed survey to Stuart Miller: see UU Church Directory for Stuart's contact information.