

# 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 2022

Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Apr. 3	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Errand Hang - Taking care of the everyday tasks might just be the perfect excuse to get together.</i>	Toni Janik
Apr. 10	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Grounded - The earth that we come from has even more in common with us than we might realize. And soil's web sustains more than we usually imagine!</i>	Baylis Duo
Apr. 17	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>No News ≠ No News - The news has dominated much of our lives lately, but even when it looks like there's no news, there is still news... somewhere. Sometimes, it's even good news!</i>	Baylis Duo
Apr. 24	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>From the Ground Up - The things that come from the ground and float in the air can be mysterious – and exploring them can offer inspiring insight!</i>	Lorie Lyons
May 1	Karen Miller	<i>Flower Power (Flour Power)</i>	Toni Janik

\*There are no in-person services in the church building **except by personal invitation to those on the Priority List** 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 [UUOlinda.org](http://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.

## Report from the Board

The vernal equinox brings not only more daylight and warmer days, but a new Church Board of Directors, Chairs and other leaders. We met virtually on Thursday evening, March 10, together with the old board. The joint meeting provided continuity, allowing the new board to thank the old board for all its guidance and hard work, and letting the old board tell the new board what work still needs to be undertaken or continued.

We're happy to see Covid cases finally dropping in North America, and we all look forward once again to holding full in-person services and social gatherings at our church. We already much enjoy somewhat relaxed masking and distancing protocols while recording music for our services. However, Covid case counts are rising in parts of Britain, Hong Kong, China and elsewhere, caused at least in part by new variants like the BA-2 version of the omicron variant. Thus, caution is still needed. In any case, many of us have found virtual, online services meetings convenient, and not only in snowy weather, so that multi-platform services, a combination of in-person and virtual services, seem likely to become the future norm.

To keep our in-person participants healthy, the Board is looking into better air circulation and the use of HEPA (high-efficiency particle air) filters. The two furnaces in the church have served us well for years, but their fan motors are not up to moving large volumes of air through dense filters, so the board is looking into replacing them with new more powerful furnaces that can not only protect us better from air-borne pathogens but also facilitate air conditioning for summer use.

Other news:

- Stuart Miller, who has returned as Property Chair, is intent on fixing the roof leak that arises when snow and freezing water work their way up under the shingles.
- Bobbye Baylis has been working with the Governance Document Committee to create comprehensive instructions for church operations.
- The Sunday Services Committee has compiled and delivered a service-leader manual and has implemented a covenant document drafted by Rev. Rod to ensure that public discussion of services during Q&A sessions remain fully courteous and respectful.
- The Committee on Shared Ministry is preparing for a new survey of all ministries while clarifying the selection procedure for its members.

Finally, enjoy the warming sunny weather and the solar energy it generates for us, and be sure to join in Olinda's lively, fun and fund-raising virtual aUction, first on Monday through Wednesday, April 4 -6, for the silent aUction part, and then starting at 2 pm on Saturday afternoon, April 9, for the live part, as detailed elsewhere in the newsletter supplement!

Bill Baylis, President

## Clergy Connection

I was glad to see so many participants at our online Annual Meeting, as you took part in this aspect of our polity's ministry, which included electing our new Board. I want to thank the outgoing Board, including those who have served on it and are now taking a well-deserved break, as well as all who have accepted a call to continue serving on it. I also welcome new members who have accepted the responsibility, privilege, and challenge of sharing ministry in the governance of our church.

Looking after our church is one way to make a positive impact for the communities that hold us up, especially in times of uncertainty and grief, as we witness difficult news around the world.

We also welcome spaces for celebrating our community. I appreciate Dan Janik's sharing on Mar. 27, to help us get better acquainted with his Ukrainian heritage and history.

And I'm looking forward to our traditional **aUUction** fundraiser suite, which is online for the second year in a row, from Monday-Wednesday **Apr. 4-6 , 10 am - 6 pm (silent)** and Saturday afternoon, **2 - 4 pm Apr. 9 (live)**. Thanks to all the volunteers who are putting this event together and everyone who is contributing. Like many of you I have one or two items on the list (included in the Newsletter supplement!). And all of us are invited to continue building community together by participating in whichever way makes sense. You're welcome to bid, or simply witness the action!

The Board has now approved reinitiating some in-person attendance by members on our **Priority Access List**, who have otherwise limited options for live services. We began on Mar. 20 and, as is expected, there are some technical details to fine-tune. It is our hope that we can extend the in-person option more widely in the coming weeks.

I took part in the second of the CUC's spring Inclusivity Forum series, which focused on *disability* on Mar. 2, where I was once again invited to be one of the facilitators. I expect to attend the third of these series and learn more about *Welcoming People of All Classes*, on Apr. 6. I hope to bring much of that learning to our community.

With the longer days ahead of us, I look forward to the possibility of seeing more of you, in more spaces, this spring!

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 4, 5 & 6, 10 am - 6 pm**  
Silent aUUction

**April 9 2 pm to 4 pm**  
Live aUUction

**Apr. 10 Noon**  
Sunday Services Meeting

**Apr. 14 7 pm**  
Board Meeting

**Apr. 17 Noon**  
Social Responsibility  
Committee Meeting

**April 25**  
May Newsletter  
Reports Due

**Apr. 28 7 pm**  
Governance Documents  
Committee Meeting

**May 4 10 am**  
Membership Committee  
Meeting

## Social Responsibility Committee Report

The committee has been meeting once a month to advance issues of social justice deemed important within our church.

We are working to find speakers for the Howard Pawley service in June, as well as a speaker for the International Dinner, tentatively scheduled for April 10th or the 24<sup>th</sup>. At our last meeting March 20<sup>th</sup> the committee decided that the meal part of the service for the International Dinner would be cancelled because of the still uncertain path of Covid 19 and its variants.

Sue attended a presentation on cooperative housing as a solution to affordable housing and learned that there are fears that once the mortgages on these aging housing cooperatives come due, the provincial government may not inject more money to ensure they are secure from investors offering the government attractive money but eliminating this type of affordable housing. Some money has to be invested for needed repairs and retrofits. The creation of community land trusts might add the necessary protections as a policy tool. They are an innovative form of tenure, providing an opportunity for low income households to experience the benefits of home ownership.

Sue is actively involved in the Film Crew: a group of dedicated UU folks who are interested in showing films related to a number of social justice topics. The majority of the crew is from the USA but we welcome anyone interested. The last film shown was *Preserving Democracy: Pursuing a More Perfect Union* on March 12th and March 13<sup>th</sup>. Our church sends out the film link to each monthly film so I hope some of us will join in.

There are a number of upcoming social justice events scheduled within the next month. On March 30th the Ontario Health Coalition is organizing a virtual rally to discuss and prevent the privatization of health care. You will need to register in advance with the link below.  
[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tzMufuutrijgtE9VQM\\_UZyWCuqXM4BTqO2ZvU](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tzMufuutrijgtE9VQM_UZyWCuqXM4BTqO2ZvU)

The Windsor and District Labour Council in conjunction with the Greater Essex EFTO Political Action Committee is presenting “Backpack Full of Cash” on April 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. This feature length documentary explores the growing privatization of public schools and the impact on America’s most vulnerable children, narrated by Matt Damon. Go to [www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com) to register.

Sue has also secured a spot in an online antiracism workshop “ Learning How to Move Beyond Allyship at Work, at Home and in the Community” on March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Through the CUC, Sue has also registered for the Elder’s Circle with Sharon Jinkerson-Brass to be held Wednesday May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. That is still open for registration for anyone interested.

(Continued on next page.)

## Caring Committee Report

The spring season brings along with it beautiful flower blossoms, chirping birds, warm and pleasant sun, and a new beginning to everything. No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow.

Finally Covid restrictions are lifting somewhat, and hopefully the committee will soon be able to visit face to face with our isolated congregants in all facilities, and at home. We look so forward to our visits and to spread some cheer.

On March 8<sup>th</sup> Buster and Carabel Ringrose celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. CONGRATULATIONS on this special occasion. A cheery hello to all those struggling with health issues, may the spring sunshine brighten your days.

Easter greetings to all our church family and friends. Easter is meant to be a symbol of hope and renewal. Wishing you all a Happy & Healthy Easter Holiday.

Submitted by: Linda Upcott

### Caring Committee Members

Carol Hylton  
Carmen Smith  
Anne Purtell  
Linda Upcott

### Memorial List

The Memorial List on pages 43 and 44 of the Annual Report has some names and dates of members missing. If you know missing names or dates, please contact Toni Janik by phone or email. This list is a “living document,” that is, it will always be a list we continue to add to when you help to make it as complete as possible. Let’s honour our ancestors as we inscribe their names on this list.

### Social Responsibility Committee Report cont’d.

Registration closed today March 23rd for “Putting the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle into Practice: A Profile of the Inclusivity Forums” but Sue managed to squeak under the wire and is now registered for the workshop on April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

The UUA is offering a fully online seminar, April 22 to May 1, 2022 at the Intergenerational Spring Seminar on “Displacement and Human Rights”. This examines climate forced migration and aims to instill in UU Youth and Adults a commitment to global engagement and the skills to take action locally for climate and migration justice. You can register at:

[www.uua.org/unspringseminar](http://www.uua.org/unspringseminar). There is still ample time to register.

Sue Markham, Chair SRC

## **Note from the Treasurer**

Thanks for your ongoing donations in addition to the donations to the Memorial Fund in memory of John Haynes.

Some who will not be purchasing items at the aUuction have made a donation to the aUuction Fund. Cheques and etransfers to the aUuction Fund or for aUuction items are not receiptable.

Thanks for your gifts of service including all the volunteer activities related to the aUuction, items prepared and donated as well as items to be purchased.

Helen Moore  
Treasurer

## **Governance Document Committee Report**

At the meeting on March 24 the Committee approved the terms of reference for the following:

- Social Responsibility Committee - final approval
- Nominating Committee - checking with that committee
- Auditing Committee - checking with that committee

They passed suggested changes to the terms of reference for the following, with approval (or not) from the relevant committees to come before the next meeting:

- Board of Directors - Committee (GDC) members will review
- Musicians' Committee - checking with that committee
- Summer Services - Rev. Rod will compare with wording in Letter of Call
- Q & A Covenant - Rev. Rod and Sunday Services Committee will review
- Safe Church Rules - Jane Innerd will review for Committee

The Committee completed its work in less than an hour! This bodes well for the completion of our task in a reasonable length of time.

Bobbye Baylis,  
Chair, Governance Document Committee