

# 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**  
**May 2022**



Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
May 1	Karen Miller	<i>Flower Power (Flour Power)</i>	Toni Janik
May 8	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Just Words - Words have impact. Even if they're "just" things we say, they invite deep connection, understanding, and inspiration toward action.</i>	Lorie Lyons
May 15, 1 pm	CUC National Service	<i>Focus on Breath - The Youth and Young Adults in Canadian Unitarian Universalism join Rev. Shana Lynngood and Rev. Danielle Webber in offering an experiential worship gathering.</i>	CUC
May 22	Carmelo Gutierrez	TBA	Baylis Duo
May 29	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Period Piece - Some topics are often left out of polite conversation, and yet, intentionally bringing them up can be a life-saving practice.</i>	Lorie Lyons
June 5	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Between Elections - Voting may be the flagship act of democracy, but there are plenty of opportunities for the people to engage in governance at other times.</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

After seeing a reduction in recorded rates of Covid-19 hospitalizations and deaths, most of us were looking forward to resuming more normal activities, including in-person services and gatherings. However, ever-evolving variants of the virus still pose serious danger and demand precautions such as masking while avoiding close contact and exuberant singing, especially for seniors and those with compromised immune systems or not fully vaccinated. With over a half billion people having already contracted Covid, among them almost 4 million Canadians and over 81 million Americans, a bit over 6% of the total world population of about 8 billion have been infected so far. I expect this means that UU Olinda, like many other churches, will continue to offer virtual services and gatherings for the near future.

We do seem to be getting better at offering virtual functions and handling technical internet issues, as we saw with the outstanding success of our aUUction earlier in April and reported elsewhere in this newsletter. Congratulations to all involved! The Board would like to know your thoughts about returning to in-person services at the church. Please take a minute or two to complete and submit the survey about this that the team of Rev. Rod, Toni Janik and Carmen Smith has prepared on Survey Monkey.

May brings flowers, Mothers Day on May 8, and the Canadian Unitarian Council's (CUC's) Annual General Meeting on May 14. It's a virtual meeting this year starting at 1 pm ET and everyone can attend without cost as long as they preregister. See <https://cuc.ca/annual-general-meeting-conference/> for details. However, only delegates can vote, and our allotted two delegates have to be approved by our Board and then be registered with the CUC by May 1.

Our property chair, Stuart Miller, has been getting quotes for roof repair and cleaning of church's exterior, and is also looking into upgrades to ventilation and air filtering in the church.

Bill Baylis, President

### **Congregational Survey on In-Person Services**

It has been emailed out and a print copy will be mailed with this Newsletter to those without computer access.

Thanks in advance for sharing your thoughts on returning to in-person services.

## Clergy Connection

I was very pleased with our traditional aUuction fundraiser suite, which was online for the second year in a row, on Apr. 4-6 and Apr. 9. Thanks to all the volunteers who worked on putting this event together and to everyone who contributed. I enjoyed being part of the action, offering some items, as well as bidding on (and getting) a few goodies myself! I appreciate the effort to continue building community together with opportunities such as these.

May is always a peculiar month in Canadian Unitarian Universalism, as delegates for our national body, the Canadian Unitarian Council, hold our Annual General Meeting on May 14, and we are invited to join a **National Service on May 15**, led by Rev. Shana Lynngood, Rev. Danielle Webber, CUC staff, and UU Youth and Young Adults. I will also be participating in a semi-annual CUC Board retreat (online) later in the month. During this month, we also have pulpit leadership by Karen Miller, Sue Markham, and guest speaker Carmelo Gutierrez.

Our growing tech support team is still exploring ways to improve the reliability in broadcasting for multi-platform worship options. We've had some notable success alongside unexpected challenges, and we appreciate the patience and grace you've offered as we work on solutions.

We are also taking more concrete steps toward expanding our in-person attendance options. The Board has put together a survey, to which you can respond online or on paper, to give us a better idea of your preferences, expectations, and personal risk assessments as we explore a more in-person presence.

I also took part in the third of the CUC's spring Inclusivity Forum series on Apr. 6, alongside some of our Olinda Board members. This latest installment focused on *Welcoming People of All Classes*, where I was once again invited to be one of the facilitators. This is perhaps an under-discussed topic in our congregations, and I hope to explore it with you more often in the coming months.

I've also been taking part in a set of monthly Theology Discussions with my colleagues from the UU Ministers of Canada (UUMoC), which have stimulated some deeper thought about important topics, which I hope to bring along in our church's spiritual exploration.

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.

**May 5 10 am**  
Membership Committee Meeting

**May 12 7 pm**  
Board Meeting

**May 15 Noon**  
**(before CUC Service)**  
Sunday Services Meeting

**May 22 Noon**  
Social Responsibility Committee Meeting

**May 24**  
June Newsletter Reports Due

## Does Prayer Work?

Like most youngsters of my day, it was recommended at bedtime, that I kneel at the side of my bed, often at the urging of one of my parents, to “say my prayers”. Being so young, I really had no idea what the significance of this posture and statements meant. I recall it as a time that I was to think of others, and pray for them to recover from illness, perhaps acquire the job or raise they were hoping for and wish good fortune for them. It wasn’t recommended as a time for a shopping list of things I wanted to get, like a bike, but I was allowed to ask “God” to keep my puppy well.

Later, as an older young person, I began to be more intrigued with what this was all about. Because of my parents’ hobby of breeding and showing Basset Hounds, I was in the company of adults a great deal of the time. I overheard curious statements like: “Pray that (your dog) wins!”, “We pray that she goes quickly”, “Pray that the car holds out for another year”, and “You’d better pray for forgiveness”. What I noticed was; a) usually, the best dog won, despite the prayer, b) She often lingered on, c) the car didn’t make it, and d) I never prayed for forgiveness.

As a teenager, I honestly never gave prayer a serious thought, nor did I have any expectation of favour from a Higher Power I could not grasp. I never considered myself “religious”, but I did see myself as “spiritual”. Just before I turned seventeen, I left home and moved back to Toronto, hoping for the Freedom I felt I deserved and didn’t have. Oh, the wisdom of teenagers! I started off well on my own, had a room at the YWCA, and a full-time job as a long-distance Operator at Bell Canada. Making \$64 dollars a week, I thought I had won the lottery! As I had a meal plan as part of my rent at the YWCA, and a subway pass, I had some “disposable income”.

Unfortunately, I hooked up with what my folks would have called “the wrong crowd”, an interesting fun drugging group of kids who hung around every evening in Yorkville, the “Hippy Village” in Toronto. Drugs of all kinds were not hard to come by, and were not terribly expensive, so, like many others, I gave them a try. It seemed that I was having a lot of “fun”. Unfortunately, however, not being aware of my “addictive personality”, I quickly fell into drug addiction, big time. I “did time”, as I saw it, in several rehabilitation group homes, and even a famous psychiatric hospital. I “prayed” to get out, not to get help for my addictions. At my worse point, homeless and with a severe amphetamine addiction, desperate for some easy, painless “way out”, I tried praying to “whomever was in charge” to get me out of the mess I was in and make me whole and “normal” again. Fortunately, “whomever was in charge” had the wisdom to let me do the hard footwork myself, succeed and fail many times, and to bring myself up from the bottom. I did, eventually “get clean” from drugs, and instead began to work seriously on being the best alcoholic I could be!

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## Membership Committee Report

Now is the time to start thinking about where you would like to plant the seeds that were distributed to everyone at our 140th celebration of our church last fall. The marigold seeds are easy to plant and will provide a welcome pop of colour to any flower bed or area you wish to have them grow. Directions for planting were included in the "Seeds for the Future" cards. Happy spring to all.

The Membership Committee is taking on an archival project. We are looking to record all congregants' birthdates. Rest assured these will not be published in any public document but will only be stored in the archival records of the Membership Committee. If you are willing to help us to develop a listing of all congregants with their birth dates, kindly email or call Toni Janik to provide your personal birth date. Thank you!

The Board is looking towards the future considering the possibility of expanding in-person attendance options for our church services and are conducting a short survey. This survey is included in the mailing for those who receive the newsletter via Canada Post. Those with computer access have been emailed a link to the Survey. Please respond before May 20 so that we can have a complete picture of our members' expressed needs, preferences and sense of risk.

Submitted by  
Toni Janik, Chair Membership & Publicity

## Does Prayer Work? Cont'd.

Fortunately, before I "hit my bottom", I was introduced to AA, and more new concepts of prayer and Higher Power. Typically stubborn, I just could not believe that anyone but myself could get me out of the predicament I was in; after all, I had gotten "clean" all on my own! The Serenity Prayer, in particular, did make a lot sense to me: "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can, and Wisdom to know the difference". At every meeting, however, I continued to balk at the concept of "prayer" as I had come to understand it over time. I had an easier time considering the concept of a "Higher Power", rather than "God". God was always spoken of as a man, and I wanted Her to be a Woman! I have, sometimes grudgingly, accepted that there is "Someone looking out for Me". When I do pray, I know now to ask Her for the patience, wisdom and even sense of humour, that I will need to make my way through the day, and to make decisions about matters that weigh heavily on me. At almost seventy-three, I have become a bit more teachable! A work in progress! Feel free to pray for me! And, by the way, I did eventually get that bike I prayed for!

Judith L. Carter

## Finance Committee Report

Thanks to a lot of work behind the scenes, we had another very successful aUction in April. The event was split into two fairly distinct parts, with many items handled as a Silent aUction with fixed prices and first-come, first-served protocol managed by Toni Janik. In this way, the Live aUction that followed a few days later had a more reasonable number of items. The aUctioneers, John Upcott and Brent Campbell, kept the Live aUction up-beat, and a lot of fun was had by all those who participated.

It is amazing that we have been able to continue raising about the same amount of money as the average over past years! Once all of the invoices have been paid, we will have raised \$4257, with almost \$4000 already received. An interesting observation: The Silent aUction is the better fundraiser, bringing in 60% of the revenue. The live aUction, even on Zoom, was the big social event, and was definitely worth while!

Thank you for all your support!  
Bobbie Baylis, Finance Committee Chair

## Governance Document Committee Report

To date, the Committee has approved 15 documents. They include job descriptions for all of the Officers and Terms of Reference for many committees. The rest of the outstanding documents are in the hands of the relevant committees or are still being worked on by Committee members.

We are taking a May break, allowing us time to organize the writing of additional Terms of Reference, in preparation for our next meeting in late June.

Now that we have a significant number of documents approved, we need to start publishing them so they will be useful to new Board and committee members. The documents will be kept in two binders, one of which should be designated as "locked." That is, documents should not be removed (except when replaced by a new revision.) The other binder is to be used when someone wants to photocopy a document. Details on proper maintenance of these documents will be discussed with the Archives committee.

Bobbie Baylis,  
Chair, **GDC**

## **Caring Committee Report**

May is known for being a month with amazing weather and for a variety of celebrations including Mother's Day, May Day, Cinco De Mayo, and Memorial Day. May this month bring you satisfaction, peace, and joy. Extending best wishes to all mothers on this Mother's Day.

The congregation extends their deepest sympathies to the family of Patty Kristy in the sudden passing of her sister Dr. Peggy Patterson (Meuser) on March 31, 2022.

It was a pleasure to introduce the new committee member, Carmen Smith, to our congregants at Rosewood Erie Glen. Quite a treat to visit face to face after not seeing them for two years. Special thanks to another new committee member, Anne Purtell, for all Easter, get-well and sympathy cards sent, and Carol Hylton for keeping me updated. Much appreciated.

A cheery spring hello to all who are struggling with various health issues. May the spring sunshine brighten your days ahead.

Submitted by Linda Upcott

## **Note from the Treasurer**

Thanks very much for another very successful aUuction which provided funds for our next major church expenditure, the church roof repair. More than \$4,200 was raised. Thanks to all the donors and purchasers as well as the hard-working volunteers who organized the event and made sure that items were picked up from donors. It is amazing how much was raised as the church members pivoted for the second virtual aUuction. Payments continue to arrive by mail and e-transfer.

Thanks also for your continuing donations and gifts of service.

Helen Moore, Treasurer

### **Caring Committee Members**

Carol Hylton

Carmen Smith

Anne Purtell

Linda Upcott

## Property Committee Report

As Post-Covid Planning begins to take shape, and with spring 'barking' at our door steps, the following report of '**Property Action Items**' was presented at the April Board Meeting:

A) **Exterior Cleaning** - Laurie Hylton is contacting companies to 'power-wash' the church's exterior stucco finish.

B) **Roof Repair** - 2 major parts:

1) South side over Tranquility & Coffee Room - bottom 5' requires a membrane under replaced shingles & solar panels - to stop 'ice-dam' from pushing water up under shingles.

2) Sides of dormer (at end of 2nd floor corridor) over Coffee Room (existing ceiling being damaged by water drips), requires repair - new membrane / shingles, and then run-up adjacent sloped roofs.

The Committee has contacted 2 local Roofers, one from Wheatley, the other from Cottam, as recommended by Jacob Enns Roofing (our previous roof repair person) to John Upcott earlier this spring. Part 1 is newly discovered, and Part 2 is a perennial threat. The congregation has already approved a maximum amount for roof repairs. We are awaiting quotes for this work.

C) **Furnace / Filter / Ventilation**

Consultation with Commercial HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, & Air Conditioning) company and with Mechanical Engineers on staff, recommended 4 improvements (either separately, or together) to improve our Church's air quality in a post-Covid world.

1) **Package Hepa Filter** - Separate addition to furnace(s) - can eliminate 95 - 98% of 'dirt' -particulate, & odour from air. Includes a separate fan.

2) **Humidifer** - Separate Addition to furnace(s) - add humidity to air, which makes conditioning of air more efficient. Requires water connections.

3) **Increased Ventilation** - construction of additional air intakes to increase / dilute air in system.

4) **Ultra-Violet Filtration** - Separate Addition to furnace(s) - can eliminate (zap) dirt / particles in air.

Committee is preparing measured Furnace / Ductwork / Supply & Exhaust Grille drawings & Specifications of present Church building for the contractor to provide prices and details for each of the above solutions.

Respectfully, Stuart Miller, Committee Chairperson