

# 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  
June 2022**



Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
June 5	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Between Elections</i> - Voting may be the flagship act of democracy, but there are plenty of opportunities for the people to engage in governance at other times.	Toni Janik
June 12	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Ordinary Time</i> - Even when the calendar doesn't show a special date, we can still be mindful of special things. That may even be the best time to do so!	Baylis-Stone Trio
June 19	Suzanne Grouette	<i>Howard Pawley Memorial Lecture - Truth and Reconciliation</i>	Lorie Lyons
June 26	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>A Reading from the Minutes [Flower Celebration]</i> - Stories of inclusion turn up in unexpected places. We can celebrate these with flowers... and some archived memories.	TBA
July 17 or 24	TBA		Baylis-Stone Trio
Aug. 14 or 21	TBA		Baylis-Stone Trio
Sep. 11	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Just Add Water</i> - Water really is that special - and its very presence can make all the difference.	Baylis-Stone Trio

The building will open for in-person services starting June 5, following a COVID-19 protocol described on page 8. The services will also continue to be broadcast via Zoom. 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.

## Report from the Board

While our survey on options for Sunday Services showed that slightly over half of the 38 respondents would like to return now to in-person services, the continuing spread of COVID-19 cases in North America is constraining our moves. The USA has recorded over a million deaths and a potent new version BA.21.1.2 of subvariant BA.2, which is currently the main cause of over 100,000 new cases per day in the USA. To minimize any further spread of COVID, we probably need to continue masking in church, maintain social distancing, avoid most singing, and ask that those attending be fully vaccinated.

One of the clearest results of the survey is that about two-thirds of respondents want to continue with hybrid services, allowing them to choose whether to attend either in person or online. Services broadcast from the church continue to suffer occasional connection problems, but we are learning how to improve the WiFi signal. One hopeful sign is that new coverage maps from Rogers show that the church now has good access to the 5G network, whose higher carrier frequencies offer roughly ten times the speed and band-width capacity of our current LTE/4G system but a shorter range. In any case, the new Canadian restrictions on the use of Huawei and XTE (Chinese) technology for 5G (and even existing 4G) systems will make our XTE current rocket hubs obsolete by June 2024. The Tech committee will look into a possible upgrade of our system.

Stuart Miller and his property committee with Laurie Hylton and John Upcott are working on several projects including washing the stucco exterior, washing windows, cleaning gutters, and repairing a leak in our roof caused by winter snow build-up. They like a quote from a company called Men in Kilts, although there is still some question about the advisability of washing the solar panels in spite of some posted ads and recommendations on Google. The panels were installed in October and November of 2012 by Green Sun Rising, a solar company led by Klaus Dohring and his partner Tanja Nuske under a 20-year microfit agreement with HydroOne. After commissioning, the panels started returning revenue in March 2013 and in their 9 years of operation have enriched the church by their initial cost of about \$54,000 (before HST). They still produce electrical energy for the grid (and money for the church! at a rate of about \$6000 per year) with little if any sign of age (see table on the UUOlinda website). Other projects underway include upgrades to the furnaces and air ventilation system in the church, including the option of adding air-conditioning to the system.

The Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday, May 14. Our church was allotted 2 delegates for the meeting but our call for volunteers did not yield any candidates. To ensure we had some representation, I volunteered to be a delegate. Our minister, Rev. Rod E.S.Q., is on the CUC Board and attended as a representative of the Central District. Compared to the AGM last year, with its somewhat stumbling adoption of the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle, the meeting this year was rather low key, with reasonable extensions of priorities and new committee assignments.

As reports in this newsletter testify, other committees including Membership, Sunday Services, Life-Long Learning RE, Governance, and Caring also remain busy, keeping our community connected, informed, and stimulated. Many thanks for all the dedication and work!

Bill Baylis, President

## Clergy Connection

I want to thank all of you who offered feedback for our survey on congregant preferences, expectations, and personal risk assessments regarding potential expansion of in-person options.

At a special meeting on May 26, the Board took your feedback into consideration, alongside current public health directives, and some other factors, and is excited to announce that, as of June 5, **in-person attendance is now open to everyone** – with an *expectation to be masked indoors and being fully vaccinated*. At this time, we will not be offering live singing or coffee hour – this may change over time. We also invite you to observe physical distance as you find a place to sit. I will be unmasking only while speaking from the pulpit.

We will be relying on people's own judgement and compliance, and will not be asking for any disclosures of medical history. We will have a volunteer on site to offer masks and remind you, if needed, that it is a requirement to wear a mask over your nose and mouth – we ask that you respect our volunteers and their directives.

It is important to note that we cannot guarantee an environment that is risk-free of infection, but these steps and expectations will help us minimize risks. And, if you have symptoms of an easily communicable disease, we request that you stay home. All of these expectations are set for our collective and individual health. I remind us that different members in our community have varying levels of risk, and even if some of you feel relatively safe, others may have greater vulnerabilities. *Your cooperation will allow us to keep our spaces as accessible as possible.*

I'd also remind us that the **online options remain available!** If you feel safer, or find it more convenient, you may stay at home and access services live on Zoom or through the archived worship resources.

As is to be expected, May was a busy month in Canadian Unitarian Universalism, as the Canadian Unitarian Council held its Annual General Meeting on May 14, and a National Service on May 15. I also participated in a semi-annual CUC Board retreat (online) on May 24 and 25. In addition to my CUC participation, I attended the UU Ministers of Canada (UUMoC) retreat (online) from May 16-19, and a UU Ministers of Southern Ontario (UUMoSO) gathering in Mississauga on May 24, where we honoured outgoing ministers Rev. Wayne Walder (Neighbourhood UU, in Toronto) and Rev. Julie Stoneberg (Peterborough UU).

As we close our program year this month, we are once again invited to offer the beauty of flowers to each other, at our annual **Flower Celebration on June 26**. You are welcome to submit your images of flowers to share with others – these could be photos or other artworks depicting flowers! Be sure to let me know whether you'd like these displayed during the live service only, or if you're also OK with them being shared publicly on our website's worship resources.

Warm regards,  
--Rev. Rod

## Important Dates

Committee meetings may either be in-person or via Zoom. Committee chairs need to notify their members how the meeting will be held when they send out meeting reminders.

**June 9      7 pm**  
Board Meeting

**June 12      Noon**  
Sunday Services Meeting

**June 19      Noon**  
Social Responsibility  
Committee Meeting

**June 20**  
Summer Newsletter  
Reports Due, if Needed

**June 23      7 pm**  
Governance Documents  
Committee Meeting

## Back in the Day

As youngsters, we all have vivid memories of our parents regaling us with stories of what it was like when *THEY* were young, and the hardships they faced, compared to how “easy” we had it as kids. The stories, of course, depended on how old you were when the stories were told. For me and my brother, it was stories of how they had to walk 5 miles each way, in a foot of snow, to school and back. Or walk a mile to the nearest source of water, to fill a bucket, when the farm pump was frozen up. We learned later, as adults, to chuckle, as we finally realized, that that was never the case for them as city dwellers, but was perhaps for many other more rural families. But the tall tales were told to make a POINT. For parents who were kids living through the years of WW1, The Great Depression, and/or WW2, it was stories of rationing, donating treasured household items to be scrapped for making war related weapons, planes, tanks, etc., and a lot of “doing without”. It was an attitude of “team spirit”, not focusing on individual needs or wants. I can recall one story, however, my mother told of how hard she, as a young teenager, had to wheel and deal in order to obtain a pair of “nylon hose” for a dance she wanted to attend, and be properly dressed for. When my mother died, and my brother and I went through her home, to decide what to do with everything, we came across stashes of such things like folded pieces of tin foil, hundreds of rubber bands, some so old they fell apart, pencils that were really just “nubs”, hoarded in kitchen drawers. Some might call it “hoarding”, but her mantra was “You never know when you might need that”, which carried on far into her later adulthood. Even though at a time when my parents could have afforded to throw things out/donate them, we were used to having things “kicking around”, after-school clothing, for example, being re-sized, shortened, let down, and/or patched. My mother would say “it still has life in it, why throw it out?”. And we had our one “Sunday Best” outfit that was to be worn ONLY for going to church, weddings, funerals and the like. We were taught to *appreciate* what we had, never ask for things that were beyond my parents means (even if all the “cool kids” in school had it), and to *respect the value of, and take care of*, what we had, as unlikely we would get a second one if it was stolen or damaged as a result of our negligence. If we didn’t put our clothes, toys, books, bikes etc. away, only ONE warning was issued, and if a second “infraction” occurred, the item/s would suddenly vanish into the night, until my parents decided we had learned our lesson. Sometimes, if we had not learned our lesson, and another infraction occurred, the item not only vanished, it was donated to a place like “Goodwill”, never to be seen again. I lost a bike that way, and then had to negotiate with my parents to enter into a deal where I would work to pay *half* of a replacement bike, not to be purchased until I had accrued my half. Believe you me, I never left my second bike laying in the driveway! So, although I hate the over-used expression, “Back in The Day”, such it was.

## Back in the Day—Continued

I think for many of us of my vintage, and beyond, the values we carry with us have not likely changed much, and sometimes we feel like “Dinosaurs” (the kind word for “old fuddy duddies”) in the new age of the upcoming generations. Anne and I learn every day how far removed we are from what would be considered current, trendy, or “cool”. We don’t “do” Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or the like. We had no idea what an “App” was, until we were required to have one on our cell phone by the Canadian government, for when we re-enter the country. We had to have a “younger person” enter the App on our phone, and show us how to use it. I have it all written down, but I’m not sure I completely understand it yet. And we have learned we must carry our cell phone EVERYWHERE with us, something we never did before, and still often forget to do. As folks NOT dependent on our cell phone for every facet of our life to proceed, we just aren’t in the habit of having it along. Although, especially during the pandemic, we have relied more on phoning, and texting and emailing friends and relatives, but we still actually send “snail mail” birthday and other event cards with notes, and are delighted when we receive one ourselves. A much more “*personal*” connection. Now, we are slowly returning to personal contact, as we feel safe and comfortable with, something we had missed so much. The ancient art of “communication” has taken a turn for the worse, however, in my humble opinion. Even kids had to become familiar with, and comfortable with, remote learning on their computers/tablets. They are beginning to lose the basic in-person communication skills all of us, as now older literate and verbal adults, learned at home and in school. We were at a local restaurant the other day, and I was noticing the folks sitting at the table across from us. There were 4 younger adults, and one child, probably about 5 years old, all sitting waiting for their order, ALL totally engrossed in their cell phones. Absolutely NO conversation was going on between any of them. Even after the food arrived, they were interrupting their eating with reading or answering messages on their phones, between fork-fulls. I found it sad to watch.

Until we learn to communicate face-to-face again with each other, we are not likely going to be able to overcome the more “Me Oriented” robo-call world we currently live seem to in, where it seems many are more focused on themselves, than the needs of, or spirit of the bigger “Community”. That’s my ten cents worth anyway!

Judith L. Carter

## Membership & Publicity Report

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! I appreciate that a few members have already given us their birth dates. I'm hoping that more of you will choose to do so over the summer.

Thank you to all who completed the Board's survey about the future considering the possibility of expanding in-person attendance options for our church services. You will find a notice about the results on page 8 of this issue of the newsletter that were discussed at the board meeting Thursday May 26th.

Just a friendly reminder that if you have a change of contact information—phone number, address or email kindly let Toni Janik or Bobbye Baylis know so we can update your information in our Church Directory and our Telephone Tree. If you would like to either submit or edit your information on your Emergency Contact Form please contact Toni and I'll send you a fresh copy of the form to complete. This information is used solely by Rev. Rod in the event of a serious event to contact your self-identified emergency contact.

At any time if you wish to consider becoming a member please contact Rev. Rod or myself and we would be pleased to answer any questions you may have and review the process with you.

Submitted by  
Toni Janik, Chair Membership & Publicity

If, in response to Carmelo Gutierrez's talk on Guatemala Hope, you would like to contribute to his organization, you can inquire at the following link:

[info@guatemalahope.org](mailto:info@guatemalahope.org)

OR you can send cheques payable to **Guatemala Hope** to:

**Guatemala Hope**  
**P.O. Box 68**  
**Woodslee, ON, N0R 1V0.**



## Caring Committee Report

Hard to believe this is the last report before our summer break, therefore the caring committee would like to wish everyone a healthy and safe summer, and may these months be filled with sunny days, laughter and lots of love. As always we still need to remain connected in these uncertain times, and please know that we think of you all often.

Sincere condolences to the family of Brian and Kathryn Worrell in the passing of their son Evan, May 6, 2022, also to the family of Laurie and Carol Hylton in the passing of Carol's son Bruce Taggart, May 11, 2022, and also to Dan and Leona Crowder in the passing of Leona's sister. May all of you find comfort from the entire congregation that we acknowledge your sorrow.

A cheery "hello" to all our friends in retirement homes, nursing homes and just at home. A special 102<sup>nd</sup> Birthday wish to Marion Thompson for a year of love and laughter and good health, all the best from all of us. Get well thoughts to all that are struggling with health issues, wishing you brighter days ahead.

Anyone can be a father, but it takes someone special to be a dad. Wishing all the dad's a "Happy Father's Day" on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

Submitted by Linda Upcott

### Caring Committee Members

Carol Hylton  
Carmen Smith  
Anne Purtell  
Linda Upcott



***We want to Thank All of You for your thoughtful messages of condolence and cards in the passing of my son Bruce Taggart. Your kind words and support somehow do help.***

*With sincere thanks, Carol & Laurie Hylton*

## Note from the Treasurer

Thanks for your generous donations and gifts of service.

Just a reminder that our summer expenses remain quite similar to the rest of the year with the insurance premium due in June and our quarterly Annual Program Contribution to Canadian Unitarian Council due in August.

Helen Moore, Treasurer

Your Board and Minister are happy to announce that

**As of June 5, in-person attendance is open to everyone.**

Because COVID-19 is not behind us, all attending will be expected to adhere to the following:

- Being fully vaccinated
- Wearing a mask indoors
- Maintaining a distance of 2 meters between family groups

COVID protocols require that there will be

- No singing
- No Coffee Hour
- Open windows, weather permitting

Multi-platform aspects will be continuing:

- Services will be available simultaneously via Zoom.
- Sermons will continue to be mailed to those for whom neither the in-person nor Zoom options are available.

See Clergy Connections (page 3) for further details.

**We all look forward to returning to “normal,”  
but this is a good next step!**



## Life Long Learning Committee Report

The committee met on May 17<sup>th</sup> to have a discussion about setting a direction for the next church year. There was some reflection on the program we enjoyed on Islam. Rod thought it was very successful and was happy with the number of participants although more are always hoped for. Many garnered a greater understanding of Islam after the discussion with the Imam of the Windsor Mosque.

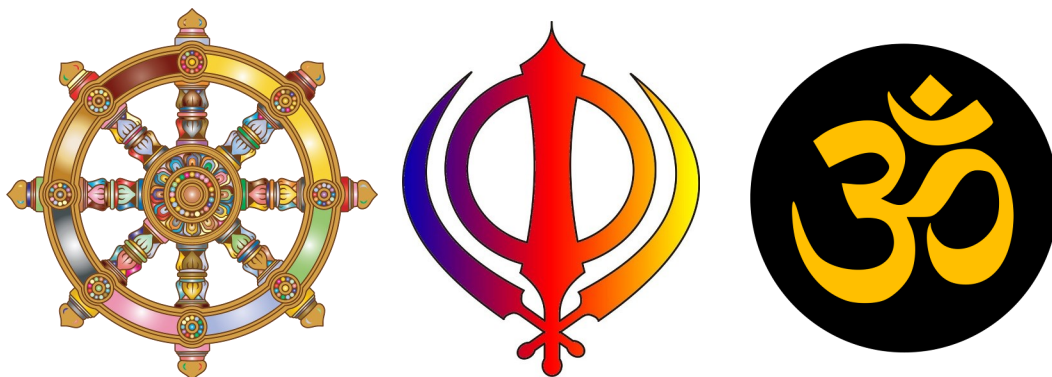
Ideas were generated about the possibility of another educational opportunity and from that discussion two distinct options were listed: Sikhism and Buddhism. Rod has a contact with Kingston Unitarian Universalist church who may be available for an introduction to Buddhism. We will have to contact a Designated Ambassador from a local Sikh Gurdwara to find someone who may be available for a future course. The hope is that we will be able to offer something to the congregation by October.

The committee also had a detailed discussion about how to grow the youth numbers in our church. One of the questions that arose was whether the concentrated effort required for outreach was a priority for the whole congregation and the Board. It would require the groundwork to publicize what our church offers, have enough volunteers on Sundays and set an intergenerational approach. We would like the congregates to paint us the picture of what “ Sunday School “ would look like for them.

Rod presented a document to the committee for thought: The Death of Sunday School.

In the meeting we also looked at future presentations of other faith based topics: Christianity, Indigenous spiritual traditions and Hinduism. These may be slightly more time consuming to prepare, and being aware of this, we discussed the possibility of tapping into any existing programs that may be offered as outreach from these communities.

Sue Markham, Chair



## Social Responsibility Committee News

The committee met on May 29 for our monthly meeting.

We have been able to finalize the speaker for the Howard Pawley lecture on June 19. We are thrilled to have Suzanne Grouette from the Me'tis community address us on the needs and challenges of the Me'tis in Ontario but more widely in Canada. Stuart Miller will be service leader for this presentation. Please plan to attend this annual commemoration.

We have also had discussions on a few other actions that require attention. We may choose to implement a learning program that is being created in the near future by the CUC staff on the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle. The Social Responsibility Committee could work together with the Life Long Learning Committee to bring this to our congregation.

We continue to donate through KIVA (a micro loan initiative) throughout the world in our focus to support agriculture practices and women's businesses. Once there is a balance in our KIVA account we will plan to target our support for countries of particular concern like Ukraine and Guatemala.

The state of Long Term Care facilities was also discussed. The current situation is sometimes dire because there is simply not enough staff to give sufficient care to residents. There have to be dollars diverted to long term care though our provincial health care transfers. The focus should not be on privatizing where profits are the priority but where care is the highest desired standard. You can get involved by supporting the work of the Ontario Health Care Coalition and checking out their initiatives on their website. In truth, petitioning the current provincial government may be the only way of expressing your dissatisfaction as a citizen.

We also ask congregants to look at land trusts as a successful means to create and maintain affordable housing in Ontario. You can search "land trust" associations to decide how you could best support them, perhaps just by writing a letter.

Our next meeting is June 19<sup>th</sup> at noon. If there is an issue you would like us to address, please contact the Committee of Stuart Miller, Bobbye and Bill Baylis, Laurie and Ray Stone, Helen Moore, Rev Rod and Sarah Wert and Sue Markham.

Sue Markham, Chair