

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 2023

Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Mar. 5	Rev. Rod Solano Quesnel	<i>The Leviathan of Parsonstown</i> - A major disagreement was settled when people were able to look at the heavens more clearly – it turns out everyone was right.	Toni Janik
Mar. 12	Rev. Rod Solano Quesnel	<i>Complicated People</i> - Sometimes, it's hard to know what to think about a person... and that can change our understanding of ourselves.	Lorie Lyons
Mar. 19	Rev. Debbie Wilson-Safa	<i>Feeding Our Community</i> - Rev. Debbie Wilson-Safa is Vocational Deacon as well as Community Meal and Outreach Coordinator at St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church in Leamington. We are invited to hear her witness about their community meal program, one of the ministries that serves our most vulnerable.	Bill Baylis
Mar. 26	Rev. Rod Solano Quesnel	<i>Watching Paint Dry</i> - Some things seem to take forever – and yet, even paint dries at some point.	Lorie Lyons
Apr. 2	Neil Buhne	<i>Shared Values and/or Shared Faith: Conflict Maker or Confidence Builder?</i> - Reflections from personal experience with the United Nations in about a dozen countries.	Baylis Stone Duo

Annual Congregational Meeting

Vote on the Annual Report

Election of 2023 Board of Directors
 and Nominating & Auditing Committees

March 5, 2023

At 11:40 AM following the Church Service

The building is open for in-person services following a COVID-19 protocol requiring masks and maintaining a 2 meter distance. The services will also continue to be broadcast via Zoom. 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 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 Annual General Meeting of our church on Sunday, March 5, 2023, may be our most important congregational assembly of the year. It marks the transition of our fiscal years from 2022-23 to 2023-24 and reviews events and progress of last year while establishing the officers and committees that will guide the church through the next 12 months. Please attend and let's celebrate our success in navigating the rough seas and stormy weather that earthquakes, climate change, war, inflation, and covid has thrown at us all. As announced elsewhere in this newsletter, in order to be able to finish the meeting in a timely fashion, we now plan to start our AGM at 11:40 am, earlier than originally planned. If you have already retrieved your family's copy of the Annual Report, please bring it along to the AGM.

As most members and friends of the church are well aware, since covid-19 arrived, our Sunday services have evolved from being almost entirely on-line using the Zoom platform to becoming hybrid ones, with both online and in-person attendance and a gradual relaxation of masking requirements, a resumption of singing, and even a mini coffee hour. While the Zoom platform has allowed us to hear speakers from Alberta, Manitoba, Thailand, and other distant locations and to catch up with friends who had long-ago moved away, we obviously still treasure personal encounters whenever they are possible. In the sanctuary, we would usually display a gallery of virtual attendees on the wall next to the pulpit and invite their comments and contributions to Joys and Concerns or other elements of the service.

However, at the service on Sunday, February 12, the projection lamp that illuminated images on the sanctuary wall ceased to operate. Afterwards, I took the projector apart and saw that it would not be difficult to repair if we had a spare lamp, but of course we didn't. I found an outlet in Alberta where I could order one, at a cost of close to \$200. However, I noted that our projector was made about 10 years ago and technology has advanced considerably in the interim. New models have recently become available that employ new laser light sources of much longer lifetimes to produce bigger, brighter images of faster dynamic high resolution. It may be time to consider an upgrade to a brighter future.

Bill Baylis, President

Clergy Connection

Our **Annual Congregational Meeting** on **Mar. 5** offers us another space to collectively look after our church. We'll be holding the meeting right after the morning service to make it easier for you to participate. I have already heard from many of you who have been reading the Annual Report, and have found a better sense of connection with our story as we currently live it.

Starting in February, **mask-wearing is voluntary** in our building. You are always welcome to wear one as you see fit, but it is no longer a requirement. Common precautions continue to be encouraged, including the initiative to stay home if you are sick, or have reason to believe that you pose a risk of an easily-transmissible infection to others. Versions of our services continue to be available if you need to stay home for whatever reason. I personally have taken advantage of this option by leading a service from home when I haven't felt well.

The last few weeks have represented significant CUC participation from me. In addition to the National Service on Feb. 5, I was invited to co-facilitate at an Inclusivity Action Forum on Feb. 1. The CUC Board also held two meetings additional to the regular monthly meetings, as we took a closer look at the motions that will be put to delegates at the **CUC Annual General Meeting** the weekend of **May 19-21**.

We're gearing up for our upcoming large-scale community meal, the **BYOB-owl Chili Lunch** and **aUuction** on **Apr. 22**. Some of the items for the aUuction are already available for your perusal in this newsletter. And, by bringing your own bowl and utensils to the Chili Lunch, you'll be helping in keeping this event manageable for our volunteer team. I look forward to seeing many of you there!

As the Lenten season is upon us, I invite us to consider how our ways of perceiving the world shape us – and how we may shape them. We also have a guest speaker, Rev. Debbie Wilson-Safa, who is deacon at St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church in Leamington, and who will offer witness about their community meal program. And in April we welcome back Neil Buhne, who will join us with his insights.

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.

March 5 11:40 AM
Annual General Meeting

March 9 7 pm
Board Meeting

March 12 Noon
Sunday Services Meeting

March 19 Noon
Social Responsibility
Committee Meeting

March 20
April Newsletter Reports
Due

March 21 10 am
Membership Committee
Meeting

It's Time to Prepare for our Annual AUUction

If you would like to donate items for either our silent or live auction this year please contact Toni Janik no later than March 19, 2023. The final list of items up for bids will be published in the April newsletter. Perhaps you would like to host a dinner and provide the food for your dining guests. Or maybe you would like to offer a class online, offer a service, art work, jams, pickles, pies, dessert.... The possibilities are endless.



UU Olinda AUUction 2023 Virtual Silent Auction by Phone and Email Monday April 17—Wednesday April 19 & Live Auction in our Church Sanctuary Saturday April 22 Time: 2 PM—4 PM

What an exciting auction it's going to be this year. We start with the Silent Auction which we will hold on Monday April 17, Tuesday April 18, and Wednesday April 19. You will be able to choose whether you want to **Phone** in your orders for items on the Silent Auction List OR **Email** in your orders. Toni Janik will be accepting your orders from 10 AM until 6 PM each of these 3 days. You can reach her by either calling her at 519-966-6434 or emailing at djanik1@cogeco.ca

The list of items available for **Silent AUUction** ordering will be published in the April Newsletter. For example you may choose to order 1 jar of pickles, 1 Quiche, 2 jars of jam, one ticket to a dining event,..... For each item you will see how many jars, tickets, etc. are available. Once we sell out of that item—that's it—there aren't any more. SO..... Start placing your orders as soon as you can once the auction opens on Monday April 17th. My guess is that with the excellent list of items available this year—we will sell out of everything.

See page 5 for details on our AUUction Chili Lunch which will take place at the church before the Live Auction on April 22, 2023.

Then... Set your calendars for the **Live AUUction** which begins **Saturday April 22th at 2 PM in the Church Sanctuary**. The list of items available for bidding will be published in the April Newsletter.

Keep your copy of this newsletter handy—you will want it close by so you can start choosing what you want to order from the silent auction and what you want to bid on during the live auction segment. Let us have fun and raise some funds for our beloved church.



UU Olinda AUuction Bring Your Own Bowl Chili Lunch



Once again we are thrilled to announce the return of the AU-Uction Lunch prior to the Live Auction.

Bring your own Bowl, Spoon and Beverage. This is a no cleanup lunch. Just take your dishes home.

There will be both Vegetarian and Meaty Chilis for your dining pleasure.

Time: Noon April 22, 2023

Where: At the Church

Price: \$15 per person

To Reserve your tickets: Call or email Toni Janik

Caring Committee Report

Friends are like a four leaf clover, hard to find and lucky to have. Whether you celebrate by watching parades, consuming green colored goodies or enjoying greenery in nature, the caring committee wishes everyone a fabulous St. Patrick 's Day.

According to the calendar, March 12th is the beginning of daylight saving time and March 20th is the first day of spring. As we move forward to the bright days ahead, we encourage everyone a grateful and giving heart full of love and kindness to each other.

A special greeting to all the homebound folks, whether it be in a retirement or nursing home or just at home. It was great news to hear that Joyse Gilbert's eye surgery was successful after having a few complications. Get well wishes extended to those struggling with health issues, may this new month bless you all with happiness and good health.

Let's all remember hopefully March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb.

Submitted by: Linda Upcott

Caring Committee Members

Carol Hylton

Carmen Smith

Anne Purtell

Linda Upcott

Social Responsibility Report

The Committee met after the service on Sunday, February 19. We discussed current developments in Windsor, such as the welcome imminent opening of a Safe Injection Site and the less welcome news of the moving of the Snack Truck to Drouillard Road. We hope they are successful in finding another location downtown, where the clients are.

The church is in the process of deciding how to again hold pot-luck lunches after church. Among other decisions: upstairs or downstairs, purchase and installation of dishwasher and of additional sink, and development of team of volunteers to organize pot-lucks. To clarify the present status of the International Dinner, the Committee voted not to hold an International Dinner this year. We definitely are sponsoring at least one internationally focused speaker in Neil Buhne, who will be speaking at the service on April 2. We may sponsor another, this one on Ukrainian refugees.

Carolyn Davies, who has spoken here before on her experiences with Canadian Medical Assistance Teams, has agreed to speak again, and we have proposed her to the Sunday Services Committee as this year's Howard Pawley Memorial Lecturer.

Submitted by Bobbye Baylis

Note from the Treasurer

Thanks to Toni Janik and Elaine Stevenson for another Soup Fundraiser which included preparing five soups, roll and choice of desserts. Thanks to Rev. Rod who offered a Virtual Soup Gathering. Amount raised was \$895.

Thanks to all who prepared the Annual Report including Carmen Smith, Bobbye Baylis, Ray Stone, as well as Doug Whaley and Mireya Campbell who prepared the Lloyd Fund Report within the Annual Report, and all who wrote reports. Thanks to Jane Innerd for mailing reports and Trudy Ware for delivering reports.

Our next big event is the Annual Congregational Meeting on March 5 at 11:40 am. Please bring your report to the meeting since reports were printed with one for each member or couple without many extra.

Thanks for your ongoing donations by mail, etransfer or at church. Thanks for your hours of volunteer service.

Helen Moore

Silent Auction Items

Item #	Donor	Item	Quantity	Price	Date
1	Brett & Mireya	Wine Food Pairing Event	10 Tickets	\$60 each	Saturday July 8th at 1 PM @ Indian Ridge
2	Elaine Stevenson	250 ml Cinnamon Pear Jam	6	\$8.00	April 22
3	Elaine Stevenson	250 ml Sweet Cherry Jam	6	\$8.00	April 22
4	Elaine Stevenson	Tortierre Pies Frozen	6—9 inch each	\$35.00	April 22
5	Jane Innerd	Granola	8	\$10.00	April 22
6	Toni Janik	Wedding Soup	5—750 ML Jar	\$15.00	April 22
7	Toni Janik	Rustic Tomato Basil Soup	5—750 ML Jar	\$15.00	April 22
8	Toni Janik	Ham & Cheese Quiche	4—9 Inch pies	\$20.00	April 22
9	Jane Innerd	Apple & Mince Pies	4—9 Inch Pies	\$30.00	April 22
10	Toni Janik	Hungarian Palachinta—6 per package—Crepe filled with Sweetened Cheese	6 packages	\$10.00	April 22
11	Mike Hoffman	Steak BBQ poolside with Loaded Potatoes, Veg, Salad & Dessert	6 Tickets	\$40.00 each	June 10 at 5 PM
12	Cathy Dewhurst	Garlic dill pickles	4—1 quart each	\$15.00	April 22
13	Cathy Dewhurst	Pickled Beets	4—1 pint each	\$10.00	April 22
14	Cathy Dewhurst	Cranberry Sauce	4—1 pint each	\$10.00	April 22
15	Cathy Dewhurst	Pineapple Jalapeño Chutney	4—1/2 pint each	\$8.00	April 22
16	Carmen Smith	Wood Fired Pizza Oven Patio Dinner	6 tickets	\$40.00	June 24th 6—8 pm
17		Chili Lunch Tickets—available now—Call Toni to purchase	50	\$15.00	April 22 @ Noon

LIVE Auction Items—Page 1

Item #	Donor	Item	Quantity	Price	Date
1	Linda Upcott	Apple Pie	1		April 22
2	Linda Upcott	Peach Pie	1		April 22
3	Linda Upcott	Cherry Pie	1		April 22
4	Linda Upcott	3 lbs. Beef Stew	4	Min bid \$35	April 22
5	Linda Upcott's SIL—Doris Rivard	Washable Handmade Crochet Blanket—55 x52 Winter White with Beige, Mint Green & Grey	1	Starting Bid \$35	April 22
6	Sarah Wert	Photograph of Wild Turkeys	1		April 22
7	Rev. Rod	Photograph	1		April 22
8	Joyse Gilbert	Fresh Key Lime Pie with Whipped Cream	2		April 22
9	Joyse Gilbert	Salt Free Strawberry Rhu- barb 10" Pie	1		April 22
10	Joyse Gilbert	Zucchini Salsa	2		April 22
11	Carmen Smith	Gordon Ramsey Beef Shepherd's Pie—Serves 6	1	Starting Bid \$30	April 22
12	Toni & Dan Janik	2—60 Day Aged Strip Loin Steaks	2 pkgs of 2 each	Starting bid of \$35 per package	April 22
13	Carmen Smith	Gift Card	1		April 22
14	Lorie Lyons	Flat of Blueberries	2		Mid-July
15	Lorie Lyons	Blueberry Pie—9 Inch	2		Mid to Late July
16	Lorie Lyons	Apple Pie—9 Inch	2		Spring 2023
17	Lorie Lyons	Peach Pie—9 Inch	1		Late August
18	Lorie Lyons	Peach Custard Pie—9 Inch	1		Late August
19	Stuart Miller	Men's Hockey Skates Size 10.5	1		April 22

More Items Coming in the April Newsletter. Let Toni Know if you have something you would like to donate by March 19th.

You Can Bet On That!

I suppose I am not the only one who has noticed how frequently the TV ads for online betting have increased. You would especially notice it if you watch the US primary TV stations, ABC, CBS, NBC or CNN. However, in the past while we have also noticed the commercials now creeping onto the Canadian stations, CBC and CTV and Global as well.

As a person with an addictive personality (alcohol, drugs and food) over much of my adult life, but in recovery for 32 years, these ads angered me terribly, as trying to take advantage of those most vulnerable. In particular, during the Pandemic, at a time when most of us were scarcely in a position to throw money away, that these ads appeared in earnest, and seemed to have taken over the airwaves. And, although the most serious part of the Pandemic is apparently over, these ads continue to plague us. During the evening prime time hours, it is not uncommon to see two or more of these slick commercials within a 30-minute time slot. Not surprisingly, not only the number of ads has increased, but also the number of betting/gambling “casinos”, eager to separate us from our money.

It’s interesting to consider WHO these ads must be directed to. Clearly, young adult men, perhaps un- or under-employed, given the sexual innuendo in some of the ads, but no group is exempt. As a new customer, the majority of these ads even offer to cover your betting “losses” for up to \$1000. Cloaked in mumbo-gumbo is the fact that most often this is given as a “credit”, in order to encourage you to gamble even more. It is never clearly explained that in many cases, you will not be able to “cash out” for this money.

Nor do folks probably give much thought to the fact that when you “join” these sites to gamble, you must provide a credit card number. Imagine how easy it would be to run up “a tab” in those circumstances, and significantly raise your debt.

It is laughable that in tiny print at the bottom of these ads is the number for you to call if you happen to have a “gambling problem”. Do you know anyone who has actually WON real money as a result of gambling on these sites? It would certainly appear that these casino companies are aiming to “normalize” this kind of gambling, so that we think nothing of participating. And you can bet on that!

Judith L. Carter