

# 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 2023



Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Apr. 30	Rev. Rod Solano Quesnel	<i>Sweet Things</i> - We're hardwired to like sweet things like honey and sugar. Flowers and fruits offer us these things – but what about all the other sweet things in the kitchen... and in life?	Lorie Lyons
May 7	Rev. Rod Solano Quesnel	<i>Negative Concord</i> - Clarity is important when we speak, but what if our speech is too perfect for its own good? It can literally be confusing!	Baylis Ensemble
May 14	WESUN (Ukrainian New-comers)]	<i>TBD</i>	Lorie Lyons
May 21 10:30 AM	CUC – National Service	<i>Bringing Promises to Life</i> with Rev. Eric Meter, Rev. Diane Rollert, and Rev. Fulgence Ndagijimana We will gather from across the nation to celebrate what has brought us to this moment in making manifest our new principle: promoting “individual and communal action that accountably dismantles racism and systemic barriers to full inclusion in ourselves and our institutions.” This is a promise worthy of this time and the fullness of our creative energies.	CUC
May 28	Rev. Rod Solano Quesnel	<i>Simultaneous Brightness</i> - We all want to be “right”, but what happens when that ambition becomes hazardous to our health?	Toni Janik
June 4	Rev. Rod Solano Quesnel	<i>I Could've Sworn!</i> - Every once in a while, we remember things differently, but what if many of us are equally wrong?	Lorie Lyons

The building is open for in-person services. 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 [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

Unseasonably warm, sunny days of early April ushered in the start of Spring and Easter, together with a bountiful rebirth of flowers and new life on Earth and in our church. While our Sunday services continue to be offered online, a freshly cleaned church building and cleared yard has made in-person attendance at the church an increasingly attractive option, allowing us to reconnect socially and add our voices in song with old friends. A new entrance ramp, expertly constructed by Patrick Impens and colleague, in consultation with Stuart Miller and his Property Committee, now eases wheel-chair access. A new laser projector, approved at the March Board meeting and purchased with Memorial funds, permits sharper projected images even in the presence of more ambient lighting. Tweaks to the sound system enhance audience experience and communication between home viewers and sanctuary attendees, and hospitality tea and nibbles encourage post-sermon socialization.

April this year has also brought the return of the annual AUUction, both live and silent, and a new Bring-your-own-bowl Chili luncheon on Auction Day, Saturday, April 22. The hard work of Toni Janik and her Membership team, including Carmen Smith, auctioneers John Upcott and Brent Campbell, financial help of Bobbye Baylis, Mireya Campbell and Helen Moore, and everyone who prepared wonderful Auction items, seems to have been super-successful in launching fun social events now and in the future while raising funds for our church. Its apparent success and the help of Mariette Preyde has convinced the Board to schedule a return of a pot-luck picnic at the church on June 11. Details to follow.

International activity of the church has continued with talks by Neil Buhne at the beginning of April, about his many years of work for the United Nations in Asia, and by nurse Carolyn Davies in the Howard Pawley lecture at the end of June about her leadership in the provision of medical services in disaster-torn regions around the globe. Neil is the son of long-term church members Emil and Eunice Buhne, and Carolyn operates a bed and breakfast location in Amherstburg. In addition, our minister Rev. Rodrigo Emilio Solano Quesnel and Sue Markham, our lay chaplain and Chair of the Social Responsibility Committee have been active locally assisting in the provision of food and shelter. This year, we also celebrate the return of Adult Religious Education in several sessions about spirituality in everyday life, led by Karen Andersen Miller, our new chair of the Lifespan Learning Committee.

Finally, please remember the live and on-line Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council on Saturday, May 19. UU Olinda can send up to 2 delegates to represent us at the proceedings. If you are interested, details can be found at [CUC's AGM event page](#), but let me or Rev. Rod know asap if you are interested since delegates must be approved by our Board by May 1.

Bill Baylis, President

## Clergy Connection

With the official beginning of spring, as well as Easter now past in our calendars, and some April-confirming weather, it feels clear that the seasons have shifted. We have also seen a shift back toward a majority in-person attendance for services, though our online options continue to serve many for whom this is a better fit. I was glad to participate in a few in-person encounters this past month, and I'm very excited that the BYOB-owl Chili Lunch and aUuction have invited another opportunity for greater in-person interaction.

The **Canadian Unitarian Council's Symposium**, which includes the **CUC Annual General Meeting**, is approaching on the weekend of **May 19-21**, and there has been extensive discussion about the more substantive motion to repudiate the doctrine of discovery, now that the Vatican has made statements of repudiation. The CUC motion currently stands, though some of its wording may yet be modified. It bears mentioning that the CUC motion also includes some action items that remain current, regardless of the Vatican's statements.

You can participate in these CUC events – there are in-person and online options! Deadline for registration is **May 1**.

I'll add that I was invited to fill in for a facilitator at another CUC-sponsored Inclusivity Forum last week, and was very pleased to have the CUC's Elder-in-Residence Sharon Jinkerson Bass among the participants, who enriched a very fulfilling discussion.

I also attended the grand opening of the Caldwell First Nation's new Gas Bar and Variety, on land they can call their own. This initial development of that land will offer opportunities for economic justice and sustainability for the Caldwell community.

I was glad to welcome back Neil Buhne to the pulpit, this time in-person. The past season has included conversations on spiritual practice and its place among different seasons. We have also explored aspects of our perception, and I intend to continue that, especially in the areas of meaning-finding and meaning-seeking.

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.

**April 23 Noon**  
Sunday Services Meeting

**May 11 7 pm**  
Board Meeting

**May 22**  
June Newsletter Reports Due

**May 25 10 am**  
Membership Committee Meeting

## Adult Religious Education

# Adult Religious Education The Sacred in Everyday Life Mondays @ 7:00 p.m., April 17, 24 & May 1, 2023

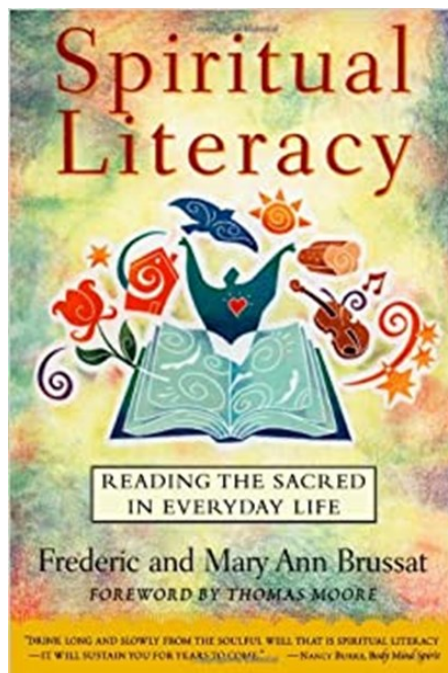
Via Zoom

Participants will be reading *Spiritual Literacy: Reading The Sacred in Everyday Life* by Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat. The book may be purchased through Chapters Indigo in Windsor or your favorite bookstore in the area. It sells for \$48.00 Canadian for the soft cover edition.

Led by Karen Andersen Miller, Chair, Lifespan Learning Committee

To register or for questions e-mail

[k.a.miller@wavedirect.com](mailto:k.a.miller@wavedirect.com)



## Note from the Treasurer

Derek Freeman, who mows our church lawn each year, called to ask if the church wanted him to mow again this season for the same price of \$25 per cut to which I replied, "Yes, please." Derek keeps the lawn looking good all season and doesn't mow during the weeks when there is no grass growth because of the lack of rain. Thanks to Walter Sinclair who made arrangements with Derek several years ago.

AUAction results were not available when this newsletter was prepared so the results will be reported in the next newsletter.

Thanks for your ongoing offerings by etransfer, mailed cheque or cash or cheque placed in offering plates at church.

Helen Moore

## Caring Committee Report

This month comes with gifts of spring, with hints of summer, flowers, good weather and the assurance that after every storm comes the sunshine. May also reminds us of Mother's Day, she who can take the place of all others, but whose place no one else can take. Best wishes to all Mothers on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

It was my pleasure to chat with Emil Buhne at the April 2<sup>nd</sup> church service. He noted that both he and his wife Eunice will reach a milestone of 90 years this year. Eunice May 27<sup>th</sup> and Emil August 19<sup>th</sup>. Best wishes extended to both of them.

Thanks to all for reaching out to homebound folks and church families living alone, its important that they realize they are often thought of. Enjoy the beautiful spring weather everyone. The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today.

Submitted by: Linda Upcott

### Caring Committee Members

Carol Hylton

Carmen Smith

Anne Purtell

Linda Upcott

## Membership Report

My Thanks for all our members and congregants who participated in the aUuction that was held over the week of April 17 to 22. Thanks to everyone who called or emailed in their silent auction requests to purchase, thanks to all who donated the terrific array of items to purchase, and thanks to all who came for the Bring Your Own Bowl Chili Lunch. A huge THANK YOU to the volunteers who made the great assortment of chilis—some meaty , some vegetarian to satisfy everyone’s palate. And last, but not least, thank you to all who heartily bid on the Live Auction items. All for the great cause of raising funds for our beloved church.

Our Treasurer will report in the next newsletter the total of our Efforts, as at the time of this writing the total is not yet available.

My thanks to John Upcott and Brent Campbell our auctioneers, and Mireya Campbell and Helen Moore for taking on the responsibility of tabulating and recording who bought what and for how much. Bobbye Baylis prepares the spreadsheet which Mireya uses to record purchases and tabulates the totals. This has made final calculations of amounts owing much easier in recent years.

It’s a huge job to take on these roles for the auction and these individuals have my sincere gratitude.

Toni Janik, Chair, Membership and Publicity Committee



## “The Battle of The Bulge”

On December 16<sup>th</sup>, 1914, the Battle known as the Battle of the Bulge, Germany’s last major offensive in World War II, against the Western Front, began in Belgium. History tells us this resulted in a very noteworthy victory for the Allies, which impacted the entire world. Around the same date, but in December 2021, I began my own “Battle of the Bulge”, when, in earnest, I began my battle to finally lose weight and have a more healthy lifestyle, in hopes of impacting my entire world. This was something I’d put off for far too long. Starting proper eating habits and more limited portions, plus exercise, and with my Doctor’s recommended use of Ozempic, I began the journey to discover a “new physical Me”. I have always had at least some insight to the fact that in my early years I had repeatedly made bad choices and decisions, but it took *many* years for me to begin to actually MAKE better choices and decisions, not only to impact my physical health, but equally important, to impact my mental health. Extra baggage can be both physical and mental.

Having always had to battle with my weight, it was a particularly sensitive issue when I was in both elementary and high school, when those of us who were “a bit chunky” as my Mother called it, were often the subject of ridicule, “kidding”, or what we now know as “bullying”. For me, it helped me develop into the “class clown”, when I was able to take the heat off me and my size, and keep everyone entertained with my jokes, and misbehaviour in class, much to the chagrin of the teachers. I learned to hide nicely inside the shell I had created for myself. SIDEBAR: In school during that time, unknown to my parents, teachers, the school administrators, and myself, I was suffering from having undiagnosed dyslexia. What I knew was that I didn’t learn in the same way as everyone else, but I just didn’t understand why. I dreaded the thought of being asked to read aloud, or go to the board at the front of class, and have to write a sentence. In those days, students like me were just sent to the office for discipline, or to a school psychologist. In any event, as you might imagine, school for me was a significant challenge and I was constantly accused of “not applying myself” on my report cards. So, I continued to EAT my way through life *with gusto*.

Fast forward to when I was almost 17, I left home, I moved back to Toronto, and surprisingly, I got a job working at Bell Telephone. I got myself a \$17 a week shared room at the YWCA. I was so looking forward to “being my own boss” and looking for new opportunities and hanging out with interesting, different people. Except for not being my own boss at work, I found all of that, and more, as I began to hang out in “Yorkville”, what was then the Haven for all that was not conservative or normal! I was introduced to injectable amphetamines, with one side benefit of making you lose weight, as well as losing many other things. I became *much* thinner, pretty much gaunt, more “one of the gang”, but *very* addicted. Years later, with lots of rehab and counselling for both alcohol and drug addiction by then, miraculously, I managed to come out the other end, knowing that was NOT the path to losing weight in any healthy way! Thirty three years ago this past March, I began a relationship with A.A., one of the major reasons why my life has turned around both physically and mentally. **(Continued on next page.)**

## **“The Battle of The Bulge” Continued**

Since starting my journey to lose weight, almost a year and a half ago, I have lost 73 pounds, enough to make a second smaller me! I know I look better, I know I feel better, and for sure my heart and other body parts are eternally grateful! With a new wardrobe, I feel like a thousand bucks...but I am still the same old me, but a bit better person inside, and I've learned there's absolutely nothing wrong with that!

Respectfully yours,  
Judith L. Carter

## **Property Report**

New changes on the exterior of our church ...

The exterior wood ramp at the front entrance has been updated by new Property Committee member Pat Impens.

Pat and an assistant have added the missing lower sloped section, and added temporary handrails. New metal rails will replace these wood ones shortly.

So ... everyone is now invited to come to the church to participate in the AUUction this coming weekend, and now ... all can come on in too !

Stuart Miller