

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 September 2023

Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Sep 10	Rev. Linda Thomson	<i>Like Rivers to the Sea</i> On this day we return to our regular weekly services. While we return to familiar routines we come transformed, by the experiences of the summer. People are encouraged to bring a small container of water this Sunday, symbolizing the travels and transformations of the summer. BRING WATER!	Toni Janik
Sep 17	Bill Baylis	<i>The Water Ceremony - The Wonders of Water.</i> Water, as common as it is, has a number of surprising properties that make it essential for life as we know it. We'll review and demonstrate a few of these properties before we invite you to share recent experiences you have had with this wondrous but also often threatening substance. Followed by the Stone Soup Lunch.	Lorie Lyons
Sep 24	Rev. Dr. Janet Brigham-Turowski	<i>When you walk through a storm ... you will never walk alone.</i>	Baylis Ensemble
Oct 1	Cheryl Taggart	<i>The Other Shoe - Caregiver Support</i>	Toni Janik
Sep 23	Rev. Pat Trudeau	<i>A Celebration of Life in Toronto for Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel will be happening on Saturday, September 23 at 5 PM in the sanctuary of Neighbourhood Unitarian Universalist Congregation, at 310 Danforth Ave, Toronto. The entrance for Neighbourhood is at the corner of Hurndale Ave and Jackman Ave. See below for details.</i>	Susanne Maziarz

People will have the chance to share memories of Rev. Rod, and to share a song, poem, science experiment, magic trick, or other creative/quirky/fun tribute to Rod. There may also be an opportunity for dancing to some of Rod's favourite music. Refreshments and/or a light meal will be provided.

Donations to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda (where Rod had been the settled minister for 5 years) can be made in Rod's honour.

The event will be live-streamed. To join in on Zoom:

<http://tinyurl.com/neighbourhoodservice>

Password: nuuc

Phone connections: 647 374 4685 / 647 558 0588

Meeting ID: 749 188 739 & Phone password: 632634

The Olinda church building is open for in-person services. The services will also continue to be broadcast via Zoom.

Report from the Board

As you no doubt are well aware, since the last newsletter at the beginning of June, our Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda (UUO) has been struck by serious tragedy. For the record, let me summarize some of the events as I understand them and our efforts to move forward. After a regular service by Rev. Rod on June 4 about how we may remember events differently, on June 11, we enjoyed a catered picnic lunch of fried chicken in celebration of our volunteers, and listened to a lecture by Rev. Rod on Stone Soup about how engagement and generosity can convert scarcity to abundance. The following Sunday, June 18, the theme was the Flower Celebration, a practice started by the Rev. Norbert F. Capek in his native Czechoslovakia in 1923. But this service, tragically, was to be Rev. Rod's last one at Olinda. The service on June 25 was the Howard Pawley lecture, this year given by Carolyn Davies about her experience with CMAT, the Canadian Medical Assistant Teams. No services were scheduled on July 2 or 9, but then, on Tuesday, July 11, an early morning highway accident involving a roll over and collision with a transport truck injured Sarah and killed our minister.

In his few years at Olinda, Rev. Rod (as he was known) had become an integral part of the UUO, much loved and appreciated by all as far as I could see. He was a talented, creative, fun, and multi-competent friend and leader. Perhaps we came to depend on him too much! But his sudden death came as a total shock and he is greatly missed.

A special Board Meeting was called on Thursday, July 13, a to discuss emergency plans, and on Sunday, July 16, a special service of mutual support and consolation was held, with CUC Executive Director Vyda Ng and Rev. Linda Thomson, with music by Village Quartet and Fred Butzen, flute.

On Friday, July 21, a funeral ceremony was held at the Reid funeral home in Leamington, followed by a reception and burial in Graceland cemetery. The service was led by Rev. Debra Faulk with contributions from Sarah Wert (Rod's partner and fiancée), Leticia Rosana Quesnel (his mother), Luis Pastor Solano Flores (his father), me (Bill Baylis, electronic piano, UUO president), and other friends and colleagues including Rev. Danielle Webber, Rev. Deborah Wilson-Safa, Sue Markham (lay chaplain), Ruth Baer, Curtis Murphy, and Lionel Knights (ukulele), followed by reception and burial.

On August 3, a special Board Meeting was held with guests Rev. Linda Thomson, Jane Innerd, and Ray Stone, where steps for finding another minister of Olinda were discussed. On August 13, a summer service about the gifted black violinist and composer Joseph Bologne (1745-1799) was presented both live and online. We are now approaching September 4, Labour Day, and regular fall services start on September 10, 2023. On September 17, there will be an Ingathering and Water Ceremony, followed by a Stone Soup lunch (both meat and vegetarian versions, by Toni Janik) after the service at the church. Please see p. 4 in this newsletter for details. Note also that the Canadian Unitarian Council through its Executive Director Vyda Ng is offering pastoral support by Revs. Ren McFadyen of Nova Scotia (rmcfadyen@uuma.org) and Carly Gaylor of Port Bruce, ON (cgaylor@uuma.org) until the Labour Day weekend. On Sept. 23, a Celebration of Life will be held at 5 pm in the Neighbourhood Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Toronto, led by Rev. Pat Trudeau, as described on p. 1. UUO services on September 24 and October 1, are scheduled as listed on p. 1.

Our Sunday Services committee has been busy lining up speakers and ministers for coming Sundays. Let Sarah Wert or me know if you have suggestions for topics or speakers (including yourself!). Our Zoom connections are working but occasionally suffer frustrating stability problems that we are trying to resolve, perhaps with WiFi boosters. Our website is working and I have been updating our church calendar. Saved video of past presentations are also available there, but at present, you need to know their full url link to view or print them. The links used to be listed automatically, but that seems to have stopped with a recent update of our WordPress version. I need to restore such links and am working on it!

Bill Baylis, Board President

Clergy Connection



Reverend Rodrigo ("Rod") Emilio Solano-Quesnel died suddenly at age 42 in a traffic accident early on the morning of Tuesday, July 11, 2023. His life partner Sarah Wert was with him at the time of the accident and suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

Rod was born in Mexico City on February 27, 1981 to Leticia Rosana Quesnel and Luis Pastor Solano Flores. In 1991, he moved to Canada, settling into a new life in London, Ontario with his father and step-mother

Martha Patricia Rosas Arellano and later, Patty's niece Navil Astrid. While attending Carleton University he was introduced to Unitarian Universalism, a religion that resonated strongly with him. He became an active member of First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa and began feeling called to Unitarian Universalist ministry.

After attending seminary at the Montreal School of Theology (affiliated with McGill University), Rev. Solano-Quesnel served as Intern Minister at First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto. It was also in Toronto that Rod met his sweetheart Sarah Wert. Following his internship, Rod and Sarah joined Neighbourhood Unitarian Universalist Congregation (NUUC), also in Toronto, which ordained him in 2016.

Rev. Rod then served as the half-time Developmental Minister at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ottawa for two years, alternating weeks between both Toronto and Ottawa, and calling both places home. Rod moved to Leamington in Essex County in 2018, where he served as the settled minister of the Unitarian Universalist (UU) Church of Olinda from August 2018 to July 2023.

Rod was a boundlessly loving human being who nurtured positive change in the lives, communities, and world which he was - and is - part of. He listened thoughtfully to all who sought his ear, was intensely intentional in his actions, and exuded both childlike joy and understanding beyond his years. Rod was very human and far from perfect, but he was divine in his embodiment of love, grace, and connection. Rod was relentlessly himself and passionately committed to others. He will be profoundly, profoundly missed. Rod is survived by his partner Sarah Wert, his mother Leticia, his father Pastor and step-mother Patricia, and many other loving relatives.

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.

Sep. 10 Noon
Sunday Services Meeting

Sep 14 10 am
Membership Committee Meeting via Zoom

Sep. 14 7 pm
Board Meeting

Sep. 17 Noon
Stone Soup Lunch

Sep. 23 5 pm
A Celebration of Life in Toronto for Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel

Sep. 24 Noon
Social Responsibility Committee Meeting

Sep. 25
October Newsletter Reports Due

Stone Soup Lunch with a Twist

September 17th

Directly following our church service we will be having a Stone Soup Lunch with a Twist. In June Rev. Rod delivered a sermon on the topic of Stone Soup and in the spirit of that theme we will be having a Lunch. Toni Janik will be providing all the soups—both vegetarian and meaty. If you would like, kindly bring sandwiches or a dessert to share . Please bring your own plates, cutlery, and beverage. Doing this reduces the workload on our volunteers and allows everyone to enjoy themselves.

If you plan to come, please RSVP to Mariette Preyde, to assure that we are prepared for everyone to enjoy a community building lunch.

See you there!

Membership & Publicity Report

I'm thrilled that we have a number of Community Building activities to start our year back together. The first is the Stone Soup Lunch on September 17th. I hope everyone plans to attend.

The first two of our Dinners for 6, 8, or 10 are scheduled for Saturday, September 23rd. One is in the county and the other in Windsor.

Joyse and Peter are hosting a Greek Dinner for 6 people at their Kingsville Home. Our Hosts Joyse and Peter are providing the entrée and the appetizer. When you call Joyse to reserve your place let her know whether you want to bring a hot veggie dish, the wine, salad or dessert.

Jane Innerd is hosting an Italian Dinner for 10 people in the Party Room at her Condo. When you call to reserve your place at the table, connect with Jane regarding what dish you will be bringing.

These Dinners for 6, 8, 10 are very popular so call your hosts early to join in on the fun. If you would like to host Dinner in October or November, please contact Toni by September 22 so I can announce this opportunity for our congregants in the next newsletter.

Toni Janik
Chair Membership and Publicity

Note from the Treasurer

So much of the summer seems to have been overshadowed by the loss of Rev. Rod. It is hard to realize that he won't be there in September, walking along the hall, standing at the pulpit delivering his sermon and socializing at coffee hour. Condolences to all.

There were many donations to the church Memorial Fund which Sarah chose as the recipient for charitable donations in memory of Rev. Rod. Thank you to all.

Thank you for your continuing donations during the summer.

Helen Moore

Contact Information

Minister: While we are between ministers and seek our next minister, you can contact:

President: Bill Baylis: baylis@uwindsor.ca or (519)738-2118 or Cell phone 519-980-2431

Chaplain: Sue Markham: worthysole4u@hotmail.com or (226)350-2879

Membership Chair: Toni Janik: djanik1@cogeco.ca or (519)966-6434

Caring Committee Report

Every month feels like a bit of renewal, but there's something special about September. Let's not forget cooler evenings, and best of all, there are fewer mosquitoes and other annoying insects when we decide to partake in outdoor activities. Welcome everyone from your summer break.

It is with profound sadness to believe that Rev. Rod has passed away July 11, 2023 in a tragic car accident. We begin to remember, not just that he passed, but that he lived, and that his life gave us all memories too beautiful to forget. Condolences to Sarah Wert and his family.

The committee had the privilege to have a short visit with all the home-bound folks throughout the summer. It was unfortunate to discover that Nancy Basinger had a fall and needed hip surgery. Also Carabel Ringrose has spent several weeks in hospital with pneumonia and general weakness. Wishing all a speedy recovery.

Just a reminder, the caring committee is here for you, if you wish to connect. You are all important to us, and remember, be strong because things will get better. It may be stormy now, but it never rains forever, I Hope!

Submitted by Linda Upcott

Caring Committee Members

Carol Hylton

Carmen Smith

Anne Purtell

Linda Upcott

Adult Religious Education

Adult Religious Education The Sacred in Everyday Life

Dates: Mondays at 7:00 p.m., Via Zoom

October 30: Animals

November 20: Leisure

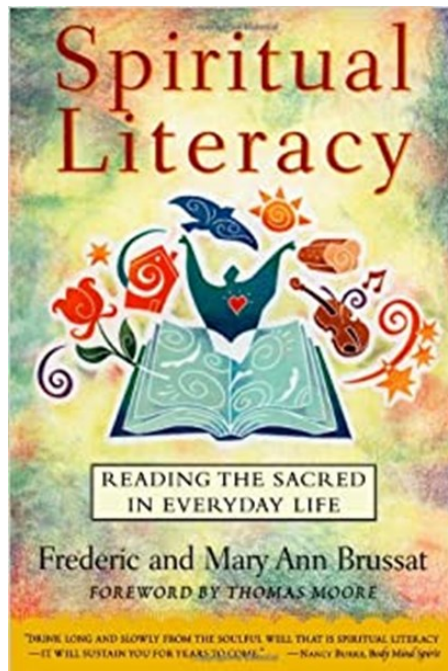
December 4: Creativity

Participants will be reading *Spiritual Literacy: Reading The Sacred in Everyday Life* by Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat. If you do not have it yet, 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



“The Times They Are A Changin..”

Many of us will recall the title of Bob Dylan’s famous song, written back in 1964, which was performed by Dylan, but also by many other significant Rock and Folk performers over the years. In addition, no doubt most of us are familiar with the myriad of change related expressions, some being: “Change is as good as a rest”; “You change your mind more than I change my socks”; “People don’t resist change. They resist being changed.”; “They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself”; “Stress is nothing but the fear of change”; and “Change is inevitable...”

On that last note, it HAS become true that “Change is inevitable”, especially now we are in “Post Covid” times. It seems everything that was “normal” in pre-Covid times, has now been changed upside down. Far too many of us are looking for the easy, softer way of doing things, not necessarily the smartest way. For example, if you don’t want to leave home, you can order everything from your groceries (am I the only one who wants to pick MY OWN produce?), to a car online (without ever sitting in it, or trying it out), delivered right to your door, by car dispensing machines. You can order pets, clothes, and yes, even Ice Cream, delivered to your door (Doesn’t it melt?). And when I shop for myself, I want to check out with a *real live person*, not some “self-check out” register, that can put lots of folks out of jobs! I shake my head every time we want to dine out, the prices have become so outrageous, its hard to find an affordable spot to eat, even if you DO want to support local businesses. And speaking of groceries, last night I opened a package of cookies, and had to hunt for them, they were HALF the size they used to be. Half the product for the same price the BIG ones used to be. Sort of like paying twice the price for jeans full of holes!

Change also seems to be inevitable, in terms of climate change, thanks to us and all our many bad habits. We see the glaciers in the north and south becoming no more than floating icebergs. We see coral reefs losing all of their colour and dying off, putting the many creatures that hide in, and depend on them, at serious risk. There seem to be more severe climate changes all over the globe: wildfires, hurricanes, tropical storms, tornadoes, flooding, drought, extreme heat and cold. Do we really take all of those changes seriously... are we putting in the work we need to do, to reverse some of the change that still *does* remain changeable? Why are electric cars SO expensive only a mere few of us can even afford a hybrid? If we’re really interested in changing our dependence on fossil fuels, wouldn’t you think companies would have been producing these vehicles *years ago*, at more affordable prices? The chances of me being able to afford even a hybrid, as a retired person, is not likely going to happen in my lifetime! Recently I purchased a smaller, more fuel efficient SUV. Again trying to find a gently used affordable vehicle, was super challenging. And, although I have an excellent credit rating, the interest on my car loan was TWICE what it was when I purchased a used van in 2019! Talk about *change!*

Every day, we encounter changes and upheavals in just about everything we see or do, especially as most of us are “more mature individuals”. In our very own Congregation, we recently experienced upheaval of a great magnitude, when we lost our beloved Reverend Rod in a car accident. Obviously causing an unexpected, and very unpleasant impact on not only us, The Congregation, but also on Sarah, his partner, his and Sarah’s families, as well as the community at large, which Rod was very vested in. Finding another Rod will be a challenge for sure, and will mean we all of us supporting each other, and being strong enough to respect his “footprint”, while being able to put one foot ahead of the other, as change occurs... That’s my two cents.

Sincerely,
Judith L. Carter

Property Report

The Summer is winding down ... usually a time when we collect thoughts of the previous church year, and forecast what will be, to come, and when we look forward to meeting again, for services and community, either in person or virtually.

This fall, we have a new situation to address. The Board and the CUC have walked us through the tragic loss of our esteemed minister, Rev. Rod. We will be strong and move ahead, manage church business, and become more united in the process.

The last report from the Property Committee included the successful repair to the rear church roofs, over the 2nd floor 'old' archive room, and the 1st floor Tranquility and Coffee Rooms.

Unfortunately fierce persistent summer rain storms, have found another path for water to enter the building. This time a water puddle ended up on the lower level floor, by a central concrete structural column. We have notified the roof repair company, and they are scheduled to return and solve this latest leak shortly.

County Road 5, to the north of the church, has been updated during the summer. The road received a new 'tar & chip' surfacing treatment, and new hi-tech telephone and power poles. The church received a request from the Post Office, to accommodate the new higher road level, and raise the mail box height by over 7 inches !

We've accomplished this, with a very strong wood and steel pipe resolution, that rivals the strong new steel pipe power poles.

The church Board of Directors received a request to investigate a physical memorial in Rev. Rod's honour. One idea is the creation of a new bench for the rear yard, for contemplation and solace, potentially located either near the north flowering fruit tree, or in another location sheltered by some of the shade trees that the landscape committee (read Lori Lyons & Helen Moore) has been nurturing. Our property committee will have several concepts to share with the congregation shortly.

Enjoy the last days of summer ...Respectfully,
Chair- Stuart Miller.

Finance Report

Once again it is time to plan for the coming year. We will start the process of creating an Operating Budget for 2024 in October. The following schedule is being presented to inform everyone who would like to be part of this process. There are always openings on the Finance Committee for anyone who is interested in the financial health of our church.

Date	Time	Description
Oct. 15	After church, probably via Zoom	Open meeting to discuss budget items. Anyone desiring to be on the Finance Committee should definitely attend this meeting and volunteer to become a member. Lloyd Fund Committee members are requested to attend to answer questions.
Nov. 5	After Church, Zoom	Meeting of the Finance Committee to approve the Budget.
Nov. 9	7 PM	Board Meeting at which Budget will be presented for approval.
Nov. 19	Before Church	Copies of the budget will be available to the congregation for review.
Dec. 3	After Church	Congregational Budget meeting.

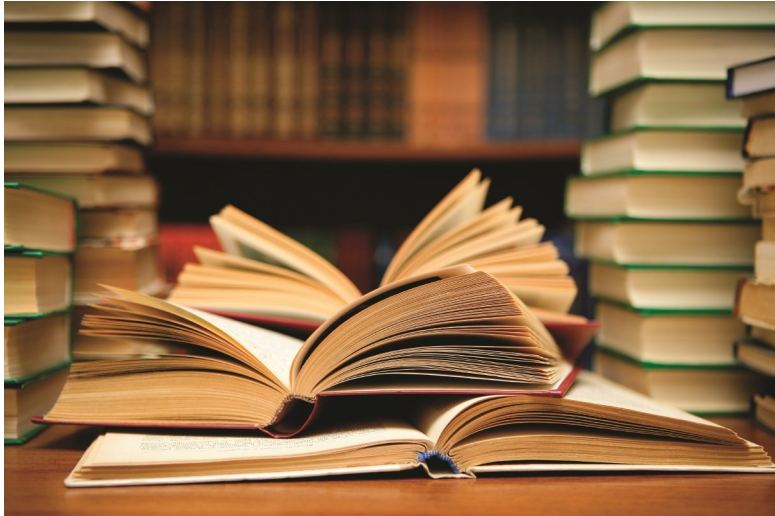
See you there!
Bobbye Baylis, Finance Chair

Book Club

Want to discuss interesting books and possibly contribute to a Sunday Service?

Missing the Book Club??

Contact Bobbye Baylis if you are interested.



Sunday Services

“Everyone has at least one sermon in them!” Consider presenting a talk to your good friends at Olinda. We would all like to learn more about topic(s) of interest to you. Let a member of the Sunday Services Committee know if you are interested.

Committee: Sarah Wert (Chair), Jane Innerd, Helen Moore, Ray Stone, Mariette Preyde, Bobbye and Bill Baylis.