

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 February 2024

Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Feb. 4	Liz James	<i>My Mzungu Eyes Are Improving</i>	Lorie Lyons
Feb. 11	Karen Miller	<i>L is for ...</i>	Baylis/ Stone Trio
Feb. 18	Dr. Caroline Schleier Cutler	<i>Resistance is futile, or is it?</i>	Toni Janik
Feb. 25	Rev. Meg Roberts (Zoom)	<i>What Sustains and Inspires Us in This Climate Emergency? (#4 in Liminal Times Series)</i>	Zoom
March 3	Karen Miller	<i>International Women's Day Service</i>	Baylis/ Stone Trio

Ministerial Search Committee Congregational Survey

All completed surveys are due January 31, 2024

Need Assistance? Call or email Toni Janik djanik1@cogeco.ca
and a member of the Search Committee will provide assistance

The Olinda church building is open for in-person services. Masks are available should you chose to wear one. The services will also continue to be broadcast via Zoom. A link to the service is emailed to those interested on Saturday afternoons. If you would like to be included, email Bobbye Baylis at bbaylis@cogeco.ca.

Report from the Board

As our UU church in Olinda approached its new fall season last summer, our Sunday Services Committee was concerned about finding a full season of interesting sermons and talks. Following the tragic death in July of our beloved minister, the Reverend Rodrigo Emilio Solano Quesnel in a traffic collision, this would be our first season in five years without a full-time minister. Although we faced and survived a similar situation before Rev. Rod's arrival in 2018, we now needed to serve not only live attendees but also online zoom guests.

Thanks to the help of many volunteers and a new series of six sermons entitled *Making Meaning in Liminal Times* that we subscribed to from the CUC, we have enjoyed some truly excellent services with only relatively minor technical hick-ups. The "liminal times" in the series title refers to times of change and transition. Such changes are the essence of life and the ratchet of history. The changes we witness in the nightly news these days seem to me often momentous and historically significant. Do others have the same feeling that we are experiencing important history in the making?

The service last Sunday featured the talk *To Be or Not To Be & Chat GPT* by Saskatoon Rev. Karen Fraser Gitlitz and her service leader Janice Braden. They discussed and illustrated applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI). While many of us still fight daily with examples of human stupidity, advances over the past decade or two of computer-assisted and -synthesized intelligence have irrevocably changed our future, boosting not only the capacity of some to entertain and amuse us, but also for others to seriously threaten our security and safety. It will be exciting to see how such "advances" affect both current world politics and Olinda's search for a new minister!

UU Olinda is currently encountering frustration with procedural changes to the police-clearance requirements of committee members for its liability insurance. We depend on committee members to do the work of the committees who can't afford to lose them. We have met such challenges in the past by helping each other with forms and computer submissions, but the requirements seem to have escalated. Our vice-president Michael Hoffman has provided valuable guidance, and I anticipate that once he returns from vacation and with some of us providing help on submissions and, perhaps, on clarifying committee-member roles, we will be able to resolve the remaining problems. I want to thank all for their work, patience, and understanding.

Bill Baylis, Board President

Annual Reports—Due Dates

1) Due date for Non-Financial reports: January 12th

2) Due date for Financial Reports: January 23rd, (Lloyd Fund January 29th)

3) Date for Annual Report distribution to congregants: February 18th

4) Annual Congregational Meeting for Report presentation: March 10th

Please observe the following in preparing and submitting your reports:

1) The report can be submitted in Word or other word processing software, or in the body of the email itself. Please do not submit as a PDF as we won't be able to edit.

2) ***The due date is really a last call date. We hope you don't consider the due date as a suggestion!***

3) Please send copies of your reports to Bobbye, Helen and Carmen. On the subject line please include the words **Annual Report 2023.**

4) Carmen will keep track of all the reports in a central file and send out reminders as needed; Bobbye & Helen will review content and edit.

In order to meet the timelines, we are asking that everyone kindly submit their reports in a timely manner

Carmen Smith, Secretary

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.

Jan. 28 Noon
Social Responsibility
Committee Meeting

Jan. 23, 29
Due dates for Financial
Annual Reports

Jan. 31
Due date, Congregational
Survey for Search

Feb. 8 7 pm
Board Meeting

Feb. 11 Noon
Sunday Services Meeting

Feb. 15 10 am
Membership Committee
Meeting via Zoom

Feb. 18
Annual Reports Available

Feb. 19
March Newsletter
Reports Due Promptly

April 1—3
Silent Auction

April 6
Live Auction

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 16, 2024. 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 2024

Virtual Silent Auction by Phone and Email

Monday April 1—Wednesday April 3

&

Live Auction in our Church Sanctuary

Saturday April 6

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 1, Tuesday April 2, and Wednesday April 3. 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 March & April Newsletters. 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 1st. My guess is that with the excellent list of items available this year—we will sell out of everything.

Then... Set your calendars for the **Live AUUction** which begins **Saturday April 6th at 2 PM in the Church Sanctuary**. The list of items available for bidding will be published in the March & 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 funds for our beloved church.



Toni Janik, AUUction Committee Member

Note from the Treasurer

Thank you and congratulations! Another year has passed and financial reports indicate that this year our church is in a surplus position thanks to your generosity both in donations and gifts of service which result in less money being spent on paying people for services rendered. These gifts of service include members presenting Sunday Services, musicians presenting music at Sunday Services , and maintaining the church and gardens. There were also fundraisers including the Soup Luncheon on January 25 and the Annual Auction.

Each year we pay the Canadian Unitarian Council an Annual Program Contribution to maintain our membership in the Canadian Unitarian Council. We benefited from our membership this year when we were supported by CUC, Executive Director Vyda Ng and Reverend Linda Thomson who conducted the Sunday Service on July 16 following the death of our Rev. Rod. They both also attended Rev. Rod's funeral service in support of Rev. Rod, his beloved Sarah, his family and our congregation. Reverend Linda Thomson also conducted our first service in September. We also receive other services from the CUC.

The cost of our membership is determined by the number of members in our congregation and the value of our operating budget for the year. In 2023 that cost was \$98.28 per church member. Our membership for 2023 was 58 as determined on September 1, 2022.

Thanks for your donations and gifts of service.

Helen Moore

Caring Committee Report

February is a month that brings with it the promise of spring and new beginnings. It's a time to celebrate love, friendship, and all the special people in our lives. Warm wishes on Valentine's Day to all.

A special mid winter hello to all the church families and friends, especially the homebound congregants and those who are struggling with health issues. Thinking of you all and wishing you well.

Sincere condolences to Eric McCort whose sister passed away. The congregation shares your loss.

Happy 98th birthday to Evelyn Dresser on Jan.10th . Unfortunately we were unable to visit due to the COVID outbreak. Also birthday wishes to Pat Haynes on Jan.18th , wishing you both a year of good health.

With being such a cold and bitter month, many of us find it difficult to get out. Please remember to stay connected with a phone call or e-mail. Stay safe .

Submitted by : Linda Upcott

Caring Committee Members

Carmen Smith
Linda Upcott

Renewing Lunch in the County

For anyone who wishes to get out of the house in February
and have lunch with friends

We will be meeting February 29 (Thursday) at 11:30 at:

The Moonlight Grill and Lounge

75 Talbot Street East

Leamington, Ont.

across from the show (Southpoint Cinemas)

Please e-mail or call Trudy Ware a week before if you plan to attend
so she can reserve a table : Trudy 519-733-2706
They have a full menu with breakfast all day also.



**Annual Congregational Meeting
March 10, 2024
Immediately after the Service**

Sunday Services Committee Report

In December and January, Olinda continued to provide interesting services to all who attended on Sunday morning. On December 17 and 24, Bill Baylis shared his abundant knowledge about various Christmas hymns and traditions that have UU connections.

There was no Christmas Eve service since there had been a service on the morning of the 24th, and during the most recent years when there was a Christmas Eve service, attendance was low. As well, there was no service on Sunday, December 31st, since it was expected not many would attend if there was one, and it was felt that all the usual volunteers who make the Sunday Services happen deserved a break!

We began 2024 at Olinda on January 7, when there was a service with congregants making contributions related to the year and to looking back on the year just gone by. Unfortunately, technical difficulties hampered the service considerably, but the tech team has been working hard to have things running more smoothly in the future.

Then, on January 14, we had Randy Lepp of Mennonite Central Committee speaking at Olinda for a second time. Next up was a recorded service that was part of the Meaning Making in Liminal Times series, in which Rev. Karen Fraser Gitlitz mused philosophically about artificial intelligence. It's fortunate that a recorded service was planned for that week, since wintry weather made getting into the church building a no-go! At the end of January, we will hear Charlotte Innerd speak.

In February, we've got plenty of services you'll love lined up: Liz James of Mirth and Dignity will be speaking in person at Olinda, and we will also hear Karen Miller speaking about love, as well as hearing another Meaning Making in Liminal Times sermon.

Submitted by Sarah Wert, Sunday Services Committee Chair

Lay Chaplaincy

Have You Ever Thought Of Becoming a Lay Chaplain?



Our UU Church is looking for a lay chaplain to perform and officiate rites of passage (weddings, funerals, memorial services, child dedication services and others) for the general public and in congregations without ministers, for members of the congregation, following guidelines issued by the CUC and additional policies established by each congregation's Board of Directors.

Lay chaplaincy is an important outreach program of the congregation, and the lay chaplains represent their congregation in the wider community. They are expected to perform rites of passage in a manner that celebrates and dignifies those special occasions in human life, adding spiritual depth to the lives of individuals and communities. Lay chaplains are at all times expected to interact with the larger community in a professional manner, and to understand and be able to articulate and model Unitarian Universalist principles and practice.

Lay chaplains are appointed by their congregation for a term for up to 6 years; they report to Olinda Board of Directors and enter into a contract that is annually reviewed with the congregation.

If you are interested and would like further detailed information please contact Sue Markham: worthysole4u@hotmail.com or 226-350-2879.

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

“Thy Will Be Done...”

We never thought much about having wills, until this past year. I suspect we are not alone in that. If I only had a dollar for every time we said “we must get our wills done”, or, “get our wills updated”. Many of us don’t think it’s important to have a will, others of us just haven’t gotten to it yet. Perhaps, like us, you may not fully understand the significance of having, at any age, both a *current* will, along with the necessary Power of Attorney documents. We became much more aware of, and concerned with this topic, after a few significant events: the loss of our beloved Minister, Reverend Rod, last July, the loss of several friends & family during and after COVID, and most recently, the diagnosis my 42 year old niece received of “terminal cancer”, after the cervical cancer she had been battling since the late Spring of 2023, was found to have metastasized. None of these events were predicted, they happened “out of the blue”, without advance notice. In addition, our appointed Sub-Executor, who had agreed to take on this role, unexpectedly withdrew her name last Fall, putting us in a bit of a pickle.

So, there is a need for on-going “Estate Planning”, as we discovered. When reading the word “Estate”, you may envision wealthy people with sprawling mansions, luxury cars, and millions in net worth. That isn’t the majority of us! When you own *anything of value*, you have an Estate, and it’s essential to have a plan in place for it after you pass on. Your Estate comprises the assets you accumulate and hold at any given time. Your estate is likely to grow, and change, *many times* over the years. Your house, car/s, and bank/ investment accounts are all part of your assets. So is your refrigerator, your books, your golf clubs, that Tiger baseball you caught in the crowd at a 1997 game, and your dog. Someone has to be charged with the responsibility for ensuring that these things are dealt with in a clear and sensible way, according to your wishes. If you don’t, the Government will do it for you! Everything you possess and value, including personal belongings, makes up the estate you’ll pass on to heirs & favourite causes at your time of death. In your will, you will appoint an Executor who will be charged with the distribution of your estate, according to your wishes. In your will you can direct that donations be made to charities or causes that you have supported, and ensure that their good work is carried on, and direct who is to get that Tiger baseball! As important as it is to have a Will, and have a trusted Executor, it is equally important to NOT keep your Executor “in the dark”. Firstly, gift your Executor by DOWNSIZING! Get rid of as much of your “stuff” as possible. You should not only have continuing discussions with your Executor (& Substitute Executor, if you have one) about the details of your wishes, but also, for example, where assets are located, and whom to contact to access them. Furthermore, your Executor will no doubt find it helpful to have copies of, and information about, your last tax returns, your magazine subscriptions, your utilities etc. We had never thought of that until our Sub Executor (who takes over if both of us die at the same time) who had just

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dealt with being Executor for his recently passed Father, told us disturbing stories of trying to get utilities stopped at his Father's apartment, without having copies of a previous statement or account number. You probably don't want to leave a real mess for someone else to figure out and clean up, when, with a little bit of effort, YOU can tidy up the mess before you go. Please do the right thing!

Considering your mortality is no easy task. But its necessary to determine who will make decisions for you if you're not able, and how to divide your assets when you're no longer here. People often make the mistake of thinking they don't need to deal with these issues until the wrinkles creep up on us. Yet, the truth is, people get seriously ill or die in accidents every day, at any age, as we well know.

Respectfully submitted, Judith L. Carter

ATTENTION ALL CONGREGANT EUCHRE PLAYERS!

Looking for U.U. Olinda Congregants who are interested in participating in a ONCE A MONTH Euchre gathering at various host locations throughout the County. Looking at February to end of April. All skill levels welcomed, but this is for friendly competition, no cash involved. Host locations to be volunteered, and Host would be asked to provide some simple snacks, and up to 2 tables (card or other) to accommodate 4 or 8 players. Players to provide their own beverages. Gatherings would be during week afternoons ,for a few hours, weather permitting. Please no alcoholic beverages, vaping or smoking at Host locations. If interested, please contact Anne and Judy ASAP at EMAIL carterljudy7@gmail.com OR TEXT 519-713-9237.