

The Olinda Outpost

Monthly Newsletter of the [Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda](http://uuOlinda.org)
 2953 Olinda Side Road, Ruthven, Ontario, N0P 2G0
 Toni Janik & Bobbye Baylis, Editors



Sunday Services 10:30 am June 2021

Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
May 30	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>The Best Worst Spanish</i> - Sometimes, making mistakes can be the best way to get it right - be it learning a language, or building community.	Toni Janik, Karen Miller
June 6	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>What is it Good For?</i> - Author and UU minister Robert Fulghum once proposed making a "Crayola bomb" to deliver crayons around the world whenever there was an international crisis, in order to promote creativity and wonder. What are the alternatives? Are they any better?	Toni Janik, Karen Miller
June 13	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Sheet Cake</i> - We often have an instinct to help out. But sometimes, our desire to be helpful might not match the actual needs of those who seek support. How can we close the gap and be real supporters, rather than help for our own sake?	Lorie Lyons
June 20	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>BRB (Be Right Back) - Flower Celebration</i> - Our program year is winding down, but church isn't really over. We have plans for the summer and into the fall. And we mark this shift with our flower celebration.	Baylis/Stone Trio
June 27	Dr. Katherine Baylis	<i>Howard Pawley Memorial Lecture</i> - Can Earth, now stressed by climate change, sustainably feed 10 billion people? Critical food issues in sub-Saharan Africa offer valuable lessons.	Baylis/Stone Trio
July 11	Qasim Rashid	TBA	Baylis/Stone Trio

*There will be no services in the church building until further notice due to COVID-19. Services will be available at the usual time via Zoom. You will receive notifications by email and/or telephone. 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 President

It has been a busy month for our church. Preparations for our first online fund-raising aUuction on May 29 are coming together nicely. The next newsletter will list updated items for both the silent and online aUuctions. All non-perishable live aUuction items are now at either Toni's or Carmen's. Much thanks to the volunteers working hard to make it happen.

The board meeting on Thursday, May 13, addressed several topics including the opportunity to acquire the property across the street from the church at 1520 County Road 5. The board considered whether acquiring the property would benefit the church, e.g. for use as a parking lot. The board deferred the matter to a special board meeting on May 20 to gather additional information. Many thanks to Stuart Miller for his thorough and capable research (See photo.) It seems unlikely the property will be offered for sale at an attractive price given that there is room to build a large house on it, 38 feet x 116 feet, after including the required setbacks (SB on photo.) Furthermore, putting a parking lot on the property would be expensive and would also incur ongoing maintenance costs for additional parking capacity we don't yet clearly need. The board declined to take immediate action but may discuss the question further at the June meeting.

Respectfully,
Ray Stone
President



Preliminary Zoning Analysis of 1520 Concession Rd 5
Stuart Miller, Architect

Clergy Connection

May is always a busy time for our denomination in Canada. This past week included the Canadian Unitarian Council's Annual General Meeting, a gathering of the UU Ministers of Canada (UUMoC), and the CUC's Annual Conference, which included our national Sunday service. You may have seen a few folks from Olinda in composite choirs during the service!

The many goings-on this past week meant I clocked over 50 hours of Zoom time! It was a busy and rewarding time. Some of my time with colleagues at UUMoC included professional development with the Rev. Dr. Natalie Fenimore, who offered us strategies for better understanding how we frame our work toward radical inclusivity and justice, among other valuable insights.

The CUC AGM was an eventful time, as much support was shown for the adoption of an 8th Principle. Following a recommendation from the Dismantling Racism Study Group, a delegate's spontaneous motion from the floor proposed the immediate adoption of the principle. While this motion had overwhelming support, it was later determined that introducing a motion at such late stage was inconsistent with the CUC's by-laws, which means the principle has not been formally adopted – yet. Leadership at the CUC have now suggested a timeline for congregations to discuss it, and allowing delegates to ensure that they have their congregation's support. We'll have some time to do this work, leading to a special meeting at the end of November.

If you're curious about the 8th Principle and the process toward adopting it, the CUC's "A Way Forward for the 8th Principle Process" will be helpful in addressing most, or all, of your questions.

<https://cuc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/A-Way-Forward-for-the-8th-Principle-Process2-2021-05-13.pdf>

Looking back at our church, we're also building community with the comeback of our **Live aUUction on May 29**, as well as the **Silent Auction from May, 25-27**. There are many offerings from our church members on the listing, which you can find in the special aUUction supplement of this newsletter.

If you have internet access, you might consider registering for the **Parliament of the World's Religions**, which is set for **Oct. 17-18**, and will be held entirely online. **Early bird registration closes May 31**, at their most accessible rate ever of **US\$50**. I am sending the registration link by e-mail on the last two Sundays in May.

And we can welcome the summer with our **Flower Celebration on June 20!** I invite you, once again, to e-mail or post me a picture of a flower you'd like featured. I'll include the flowers I get **by June 16** in a slideshow for all of us to share in their beauty.

Warm regards,
--Rev. Rod

Important Dates

No in-person meetings are planned; all meetings noted below are virtual meetings, utilizing Zoom technology.

If that should change, a revised schedule will be published.

May 25-27

Silent aUUction

May 29 2 pm

Live aUUction

June 9 10 am

Membership Committee Meeting

June 10 7 pm

Board Meeting

June 13 Noon

Sunday Services Meeting

June 20 Noon

Social Responsibility Committee Meeting

June 23 7 pm

Homelessness Presentation

June 29

July-August Newsletter Reports Due

Social Responsibility Committee Report

At the meeting on May 16, the following topics were discussed:

Film Report: Sue Markham has joined the Detroit First UU Film Committee. They have a group of six who view films and decide which film to present at monthly Zoom sessions. They send out Zoom links for a preview and for the film and a discussion the following evening. Other Michigan UU Churches are involved, and they welcome our involvement. The films are chosen for social justice content and often have a decidedly US slant, but they are eager to include an International component. For the present, this will be the focus of our film activities, but, depending on our enthusiasm, we may start offering our own series.

County Homelessness Report: The Homeless Committee in Leamington has prepared a presentation to educate people on the issue of homelessness. Tentatively we plan to offer this presentation on Saturday, June 26, at 7 pm, via Zoom.

Gay Pride Week: Sue will coordinate with Rev. Rod and Sarah Wert with respect to a possible speaker, either during the week or on Sunday, Aug. 15. There is at present no speaker set for that August summer service.

Bobbye Baylis
Secretary, Social Responsibility Committee

Save the Date (Tentative)
Leamington Homeless Committee Presentation
to help us understand homelessness
Saturday, June 26, 2021, at 7 pm
A Zoom link will be issued.

Note from the Treasurer

Thanks for your regular and periodic donations to support our church and ministry. Our expenses continue through the summer.

Further thanks for your donations and hours of preparation for our Zoom aUuction on May 29.

Helen Moore

**UU Olinda AUUction 2021
Virtual Silent Auction by Phone and Email
Tuesday May 25—Thursday May 27
&**

**Virtual Live Auction via Zoom
Saturday May 29
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 Tuesday May 25, Wednesday May 26 and Thursday May 27. 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 4 PM each of these 3 days. You can reach her by either phone or email. See our Directory for her contact information.

Then... Set your calendars for the **Live aUuction** which begins **Saturday May 29th at 2 PM**. The Zoom link will be sent out the day before.

Please take notice of the Newsletter Supplement which has the list of items for both the Silent and Live Auction Segments, as well as details on how billing, payment, and delivery will be handled. Let us have fun and raise some funds for our beloved church!

Toni Janik, AUUction Committee Member

Flower Celebration

June 20



Rev. Rod invites you to e-mail or post him a picture of a flower you would like featured in a slideshow for this virtual service. Pictures received by June 16 will be included for all of us to share in their beauty.

Going Squirrely

Two thousand and twenty was the year I went completely “squirrely”, to coin a phrase, and not just because of the Pandemic and its impact on literally every facet of my life, but because of The Squirrels. The Squirrels and I have had an on-off, love-hate relationship, for 4+ decades now, ever since I first started seriously feeding The Birds.

Anyone who feeds birds, and has bird feeders, knows you can't feed The Birds without also feeding The Squirrels... and, depending on where you live, all sorts of other “uninvited guests” arrive for eats, such as racoons, skunks, deer, porcupines, mice, rats, voles, moles, wild boars, and even bears. A veritable buffet for all of God's Critters. As you might imagine, as a Rookie Bird Fan, I was being eaten out of house and home of bird seed, sunflower seeds, special seeds like thistle, suet and all the other tasty snacks that money can buy (and only someone with a pretty good job can afford). So, I began to do some *serious*, and I do mean *serious*, research on the behaviour of my Arch Enemy, The Squirrels, so I could “one-up” them in my Bird Feeding hobby. The first strategy I discovered in reading, and then implemented, was to give The Squirrels their very own super treats in an area removed from the other bird feeders. I bought several special feeders designed to hold various sizes of dried corn cobs, supposedly one of their favourites, and bags of dried cobs to stock the new feeders for Them. This strategy worked for a few weeks, until some smart Leader Squirrel said to his buddies, “let's eat dinner Here (the cobs), and then go over There for dessert” (the bird feeders)! In no time, however, the corn cobs began to be “dessert” instead of the main meal, only supplementing the contents of the bird feeders. Squirrels 1, Judy 0. One of the next wicked strategies I found in my research, was to be sure ALL your feeders were atop of at least six-foot, heavy metal poles, placed solidly in the ground. Once the feeder was adequately secured, a round metal “squirrel baffle” was applied to the pole UNDER the feeder, to prevent The Squirrels from somehow getting up the pole, and around and over the baffle into the feeder. However, someone forgot to tell The Squirrels, they were NOT to climb the poles and then eat in the feeders! Squirrels 2, Judy 0. Then I read the REAL answer to my dilemma, and something that would offer The Squirrels a REAL challenge. The advice was to slick down the pole of each feeder, with Motor Oil, from the bottom up. I was told NO squirrel was going to get up the pole, as their paws would immediately hit the oil on the pole, and their greasy little paws would make them slide down. So there! I perched myself in a comfortable chair by the dining room window that looks out on all the feeders, equipped with my binoculars. Let The Games begin! For awhile They lulled me into a false sense of security by trying to jump onto the oiled pole and grasp on, only to slide down to the ground, time after time, Squirrel after Squirrel. Then Squirrel Advisory Committee met, and after a *good laugh*, decided to stop toying with me, and let The Games *really* begin. Perched on my chair, watching a line-up of “Dumb Squirrels” jump from the ground near the pole only to be foiled. I was chuckling away, when one Squirrel (probably a female) turned around and gave me The Look...and proceeded to back off from the pole about three feet and then run at it. Round One, slipped down; round two, slipped down, but on round three She moved back from the pole about six feet and jumped up the pole *above* the area where I had so carefully dosed it with the oil, held on, looked back at me, and climbed up the rest of the pole, around the baffle, and into the feeder. Squirrels 3, Judy 0.

Going Squirrely, cont'd

Did I learn my lesson with the Squirrels? Last Spring I decided to return to another hobby that I had enjoyed over the years, which had produced an abundance of fresh yummy produce, Container Gardening. I planted around 15 large containers raised up on bricks, with various varieties of tomatoes, including Beefsteak and Grape tomato plants, as well as another 6 or so pots of sweet pepper varieties. I had early varieties, mid-time and later varieties. Also a few pots of potatoes from seedlings, lettuce and radishes, and about eight 3 ft plastic window boxes, raised on saw horse, with green and yellow beans. As the season began last year, my Archs, The Squirrels, basically remained focused on the feeders, and left my veggies alone. However, as time went by, even with covering them with netting, The Squirrels got wind of my new hobby, and day after day, got in and ate more and more of my vegetables, often before we even had a taste! Over just a few weeks, They ate and destroyed EVERY SINGLE ONE of my vegetable plants, as well as about eight beautiful hanging red Geraniums! As a last resort, I Googled what I should try to at least keep them out of my Geraniums, as they were eating not only the buds, but digging into the hanging pots and eating all of the roots. Between Google and friends, I discovered, and tried, several “natural home remedies”, including putting lemon wedges and red pepper flakes in the pots (not at the same time!), and finally the “piece de resistance”, spraying diluted apple cider vinegar on the root areas. That was the final straw. The Geraniums died *NOT* from The Squirrels, but from the apple cider vinegar spray... and the yard smelled awful for days! Squirrels 4+, Judy 0.

Stay tuned for the dastardly plot I have devised to defeat The Squirrels for this season. Hoping for July 10, Squirrels 0! Watch for Part Two coming soon (with pictures) in this Newsletter!

Judith L. Carter

Comments welcome: see UU Church Directory for Judy's contact information.



Report to the UU Church of Olinda on the CUC's AGM

When I volunteered to be a delegate for our church to the Annual General Meeting of the CUC on May 8, 2021, I anticipated mainly the usual boring meeting, approving rather perfunctory resolutions and electing qualified members to continuing positions on the CUC board and its committees. But it turned out to be something else entirely! It was an exciting meeting full of drama and emotion, and I thank the Olinda Board and CUC for giving me an opportunity to participate.

Only two resolutions requiring votes had been placed on the agenda. One set uniform dates for setting parameters for the Annual Program Contribution and the other set priorities for action by the CUC in 2021-22. Both seemed good choices and were in fact approved. In addition, proposed changes to the Board of the CUC were approved, including the extension of our minister, the Reverend Rodrigo Emilio Solano-Quesnel, on the Board for a second term of three years. In addition, several reports were received, including the final report of the Dismantling Racism Study Group (DRSG), which among other points recommended the adoption of a new UU 8th principle to counter racism.

According to CUC Bylaws, any motion or resolution brought before the AGM that is not on the agenda is out of order, and no motion for an 8th principle had been officially planned. Nevertheless, a delegate moved that operating procedures be suspended so that the AGM could vote on an 8th principle now. Suspension of the usual procedures is not debatable and requires a 2/3 vote. I assumed it unlikely to be successful. However, there was strong support for a new 8th UU principle, and the motion to suspend procedures was approved by an electronic hand count of 61 out of 84 delegates. The motion to adopt an 8th principle was then brought to the floor. It read, "We, the member congregations of the Canadian Unitarian Council, covenant to affirm and promote: **"individual and communal action that accountably dismantles racism and other oppressions in ourselves and in our institutions."**

This placed delegates like me in an awkward position since we had not considered the question at our church. At the AGM, speakers alternated for and against the motion, with pro speakers urging support so that an 8th principle could be implemented immediately. Those speaking against the suspension were generally not opposed to the proposed new principle but were concerned about procedure: had there been enough time to fully consider its consequences and wordsmith its formulation? It seemed an historic moment for the CUC. Wide support for the new principle was evident, and its text could always be adjusted at future AGMs. I voted for the suspension of the rules and for the adoption of the proposed 8th principle and hoped this represented the sentiments of our members.

This was a bold action by the AGM, but evidently inconsistent with the CUC's bylaws. The board reviewed the procedures and CUC bylaws after the meeting and concluded they had acted too hastily. The bylaws should have taken precedent. Their president, Margaret Wanlin, drafted a letter to CUC members, confirming support of the proposed principle but apologizing for the procedures followed, and proposing a special meeting on November 27, 2021, for more deliberate consideration of the proposed eighth principle after member congregations have an opportunity to fully discuss its implications with their members. Full details will follow soon from the CUC.

Bill Baylis

Caring Committee Report

How did it get so late so soon? It's night before it's afternoon.
December is here before it's June. My goodness how the time has flown.
How did it get so late so soon? Quote: from Dr. Seuss.

Hard to believe this is the last report before the summer break, therefore on behalf of the caring committee, I would like to wish everyone a healthy and safe summer. As always we still need to stay connected in these most difficult times. Please know that we think of you often and we are excited for the day that we can be reunited again.

A cheery hello to all our church friends in retirement homes or just at home. A special 101th birthday wish to Marion Thompson for a year full of love and laughter, and good health, all the best from all of us. Get well thoughts to Nancy Basinger and Laurie Stone. Wishing them brighter days ahead.

"Anyone can be a father, but it takes someone special to be a dad." Said by a former MLB player during a 2005 speech while getting inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Wishing all our dads a Happy Father's Day.

Submitted: Linda Upcott

Property Committee Report

Now that Spring has arrived, the Church is scheduling maintenance and repairs. The roof leak that has been plaguing us intermittently over the last couple of years will now be repaired.

Local company Fehrway Roofing has submitted a quote that the Board has approved. Abe has confirmed that mid June, this summer, his crew will replace worn shingles at the main roof peak, and around the chimney, and seal and provide flashings in these areas.

Our neighbouring property to the north has been cleared of its old building, and the file has been closed by the Town and is now in the hands of the Province of Ontario. Potentially it will be put up for sale. The Board is interested in this property, and is currently investigating its details and how the church could utilize the extra area. We'll keep you posted on any developments as they occur.

Stuart Miller. Property Committee Chairperson

Caring Committee Members

Eunice Goyette

June Blacker

Leona Crowder

Linda Upcott

Governance Document Committee Report

This document is envisioned to be a source of information on the responsibilities of officers, committees, and committee chairs. It will supplement the By-Laws, giving details too specific and perhaps too flexible to be included in the By-Laws that require Congregational Meetings to amend. The amended By-Laws then must be submitted to a Federal government office, with a cost attached. Some material in the 2018 By-Laws was transferred to the Governance Document for this reason. This committee will be collecting information and writing up additional "job descriptions" and procedures for inclusion in this document.

As a start to gathering information, emails were sent out to many committee chairs (including past chairs) requesting information they believe should be included in the Governance Document. Any existing documents will be useful, such as job descriptions and reports passed from retiring chairs to new chairs. Several chairs have responded, providing a start on this phase of preparation of the Governance Document.

One procedure that should possibly be developed by this committee relates to how chairs of the various committees are chosen. Presently the Finance and other operating committee chairs are appointed by the Board annually, and some other committees have rotating chairs chosen by the committees themselves. But other committees have no procedures. Should there be a general procedure for a yearly selection of their chairs, to use if the committee desired? This would not limit how the committees would function or their chairs be chosen. They might choose not to have a chair at all.

Another possible procedure that has been suggested concerns solicitation for other groups or individuals. Other situations may call for procedures, simply to prevent problems in the future. Suggestions are welcome!

At present the committee consists of Bobbye Baylis, John Upcott, Laurie Hylton and Jane Innerd. We request one or two more volunteers. Incidentally, the final committee composition has to be approved by the Board, per our new By-Laws.

Bobbye Baylis, Member, Governance Document Committee