

# 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  
Summer 2021**



Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
July 11	Qasim Rashid	<i><b>Absolute Justice, Kindness, and Kinship</b> - In the creation of the universe, in the evolution of life and the ultimate creation of man, one finds the principle of absolute justice at work guiding the steps of evolution and governing the functions of each individual living cell. Perfect balance is to be found in all components of the universe, within every living fibre of man's body and between the various species found on Earth. Perfect balance, or absolute justice forms the very foundation of life as we know it. With justice, humanity can then foster kindness, and ultimately kinship. It is this balance which leads to the harmony that we witness in the laws of nature, a harmony that points ultimately to the Creator's existence and teachings that can lead to true world peace.</i>	Baylis Duet
Aug. 15	Stefanie Pest	<i><b>The Gender Unicorn</b> - Every human being that is born has qualities innate, that are typically set as unchanging. A discussion on these will explain each of them and how today's society must learn to respect a person as their authentic self.</i>	Baylis/ Stone Trio
Sep. 12	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i><b>Ingathering - Water Ceremony</b></i>	TBA
		The following Confluence Lecture segments represent a resource that people can look at on their own time. Rev. Rod will send a link on each of these Sundays, to start building the momentum toward our regular Sundays starting Sept. 12.	
Aug. 22	Rev. Anne Barker	<i><b>A New Premise Part 1 - What if we were wrong?</b></i>	
Aug. 29	Rev. Anne Barker	<i><b>A New Premise Part 2 - disComfort</b></i>	
Sep. 5	Rev. Anne Barker	<i><b>A New Premise Part 3 - Yes</b></i>	

\*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](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.

## **Governance Document Committee Report**

The committee held a lengthy discussion on how limiting the “job descriptions” for the officers and the committees should be. It was agreed that the purpose of these descriptions was to assure that the necessary work of running our church would get done and not to define how the officers and chairs achieve this.

The responsibility for each job description was assigned to a member of the committee. Members were encouraged to ask those who have held these positions for input. Sue Markham was attending the meeting and it was noted that she is well placed to be responsible for multiple job descriptions. Fortunately she is willing to join the committee and take this work on. It will be useful having the summer to work on collecting information and writing these descriptions.

New procedures should be developed to ensure the smooth running of the church. Activities so far suggested that would benefit from having procedures written are listed below, and more will no doubt come to light in the course of the summer.

1. Dealing with disruptive behaviour
2. Social Media rules
3. Safe Church rules
4. Safe Document Retention rules (Include digital versus hard copy retention)
5. Required financial document retention rules
6. Procedure by which Minister's Salary, benefits, and sabbatical is decided (Role of UUA model Letter of Agreement)
7. Delegate selection and obligations
8. Evaluation of church ministries
9. Solicitation on behalf of other organizations (or personal)
10. Summer duties

Bobbie Baylis, Acting Chair, Governance Document Committee

Members: John Upcott, Laurie Hylton, Sue Markham, Jane Innerd, Mireya Campbell, and Bobbie Baylis

**Come Celebrate our 140th Anniversary  
September 19, 2021  
Invitations with the Details  
Including whether the Service will be In-Person or Virtual  
Coming to your Mailbox Early September**

## Clergy Connection

Thank you to all who shared images of flowers – these are still available to all of you to see in the web-page version of our **Flower Celebration!** It was also exciting to reignite our aUUction tradition at the end of May. I have now collected my bids, including two wholesome cooking lessons online. This was a great community-building opportunity and I was glad to see it unfold so successfully in a different format.

The past couple of months, I have spent more time than usual on denominational matters, including two special meetings of the Canadian Unitarian Council Board. A large part of this includes preparation for a special meeting at the end of November to discuss adopting an 8<sup>th</sup> Principle confirming our commitment to dismantling racism and other oppressions, following widespread support at the AGM in May.

To help you be part of this conversation, I am distributing a condensed version of the CUC's document "A Way Forward for the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle Process". This is a helpful document that answers many questions you may have about the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle and the process involved in adopting it. The original document is 24 pages, but the people at Neighbourhood UU in Toronto have condensed it to a more digestible *6 pages* and have given me permission to share it with you.

I have been working with the Tech Committee in exploring options for multi-platform services, particularly since in-person services *may* become possible as early as September – our Board hopes to have a decision about this by the end of the summer, especially as our building's 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary is set toward the beginning of our program year. Please let any of the Tech Committee members know if you have tech skills to offer!

However we happen to meet in September, we will be able to celebrate – in one way or another – the power of water, as well as our community, at our **Water Ceremony on Sept. 12**, and our church building's **140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on September 19**. The summer time may give you opportunities to reflect on how water is significant to you, and maybe even collect some from your experience.

I will be on vacation for most of July and on study leave most of August. You can contact our Board President Ray Stone if you have any matters related to the church to discuss.

You can expect to receive some automated messages from me over the summer, including Zoom links for our two summer services, as well as links to a few additional pre-recorded Sunday reflections in August, available on our website, courtesy of Rev. Anne Barker from Westwood Unitarian Congregation in Edmonton.

May this summer offer you opportunities for renewal and re-creation! I look forward to continuing our ministry together.

Warm summer 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.

**July 7      10 am**  
Membership Committee Meeting

**July 15      7 pm**  
Technical Team Meeting

**Aug. 12      7 pm**  
Board Meeting

**Sep. 1      7 pm**  
Sunday Services Meeting

**Sep. 2      7 pm**  
Board Meeting

**Sep. 7**  
September Newsletter Reports Due

**Sep. 9      7 pm**  
Governance Document Committee Meeting

**Sep. 26      Noon**  
Social Responsibility Committee Meeting

## **A Short History of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda.**

As I have delivered three services at the church on its history, the Membership Committee has asked me to prepare some memories of mine to share on this anniversary. So with the help of Louise Foulds' book "Universalists in Ontario", I will try.

Big Mike Fox was a friend to all and would let the indigenous peoples of that time stay at his home on their way to Point Pelee and give them supplies when they left. He had heard at this time of a religion where God was a loving God and did not condemn anyone to a never-ending hell so he sent away to Boston for some literature and donated the land on which the church was built.

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, 1880, a group of 14 men and 9 women met to organize The First Universalist Parish of Olinda and they adopted a constitution and bylaws. The church was founded in 1880 and the church was built in 1881 with the cornerstone laid on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 1881. In about 1902 the name became "The Universalist Church of Olinda, The Church Of Our Saviour," but this was too long for general usage so it became The Universalist Church Of Olinda. In 1964, with the merger of the Universalists and the Unitarians, there was a motion to change the name to "The Olinda Unitarian Universalist Church", but names seem to die hard, and it took until February 20<sup>th</sup> 1978 until a motion was passed and the name became what it is today "The Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda".

The church was built for \$1950; and in 1882, \$754 was still owing. In 1886 with \$30 from Mike Fox and \$20 from Isaac Whittle the last \$292 was paid, making the church debt-free. By 1902 all descendants of Mike Fox had turned to Christian Science and as late as 1960 all but one of the families in the congregation were descendants of John and Ann Whittle. That was soon to change, but even today they are well represented in the membership.

The parsonage was added on to the church in about 1918 as a place for the minister to stay and it is my understanding that Martha and Leon Jones were the first to stay there. In 1922 George and Nellie Campbell arrived to serve the first of three pastorates at Olinda, and in his third pastorate Rev. Campbell found himself dedicating the children of parents he had dedicated 25 years before. In 1950 Rev. Campbell preached that religion is a matter of life and Jesus lived a life that we could imitate. Rev. Stewart Moore continued the message the following year, "That while the life and teachings of Jesus was difficult to follow, that was the lofty idea to which one should aspire. One's life was the measure of one's religion."

In 1966 the congregation took a stand against the fundamentalist bible teaching in schools and it caused conflict in the Olinda community. Children of this church were harassed by other members of the fundamentalist religions in the area. While I did not go to the Olinda school, but the Inman school, I was made to spend time in the hallway by myself when the religion class was taught. I had always been shown a loving God and not a Jesus that would chase the money lenders with a club, so I was excused from class. It took almost 24 years to finally get the Ontario Court of Appeal to rule that religious education in schools was unconstitutional.

## **A Short History , Cont'd.**

Stewart Moore, whom I credit for most of my religious education, left and in December of 1965 Leonard Thompson began what would be the second longest ministry in church history. He was most respected in the community and had a personal friendship with John Davies who was the minister at the Olinda United Church. During July and August of 1972 there would be joint services when one minister would be away. The two ministers conducted weddings on each other's behalf; it was a time of great stability. In 1977 Rev. Thompson announced his retirement to take effect in a year's time. On June 25<sup>th</sup>, 1978, he preached his Farewell Sermon which focused on the future rather than the past. At his Open House 140 people attended in honor of the Thompsons. Because of his service to the church Rev. Leonard Thompson was named Minister Emeritus, the first in Olinda's history.

There have been a number of Capital campaigns in the church over the years, one bought the first organ, one put a coat of stucco on the outside brick and one did the renovations to the outside coating with windows and entrance system. The church thanks the people who contributed to all of these improvements.

While organized Universalism in Ontario never achieved statistical success, the Universalist idea of inclusiveness, human concern, and respect for the individual still carries on. Always Universalist Ministers and Lay Chaplains along with their congregations are ready to be of service to all who need a place where you will not be judged but be honored for who you are and whom you love.

John Upcott, Past Moderator then President, Olinda Board of Trustees

## **Social Responsibility Committee Report**

The Homeless Committee in Leamington has prepared a presentation to educate people on the issue of homelessness. Sue Markham presented this material on Saturday, June 26 at 7 pm via Zoom. The congregants who attended found it very informative and compelling. It is good to see such an energetic local initiative.

Kathy Baylis was the speaker for the Howard Pawley Memorial Lecture on June 27. Her talk on the effectiveness of agricultural programs in sub-Saharan Africa and a social justice initiative in India was encouraging, especially in light of global population trends compounded by climate change.

Sue Markham has arranged for a speaker, Stefanie Pest, for Sunday, Aug. 15, which aligns with Pride Week. Sue will be Service Leader for the presentation.

Bobbie Baylis  
Secretary, Social Responsibility Committee

## **Message from Your Committee on Shared Ministry**

We are happy to report to you that we have completed the Covenant to guide our CoSM. Currently we are working on the Job Description of the CoSM to be included in the new Governance Document. On behalf of the Committee, a member attends the Board meetings.

As part of the responsibilities of the Committee on Shared Ministries, we are in the process of creating a Survey to be sent out to all members. The focus will be to once again obtain members' opinions on the workings of all church ministries. Our goal is to have this Survey ready to distribute sometime in the Fall of 2021.

Due to various circumstances, some related to the Covid times we are in, which leaves us with many unknowns for this upcoming year and the above projects, we have decided to delay replacing Carol Hylton at the end of June as planned. This will allow the current Committee to complete the projects and hopefully have a bit more information on what our Church life will be in the upcoming year. In making this change it will be easier for a new person to be introduced onto the Committee.

Have a good summer and keep well.

*Your Committee on Shared Ministry*

*Rev. Rod, Steve Brennan, Mariette Preyde & Carol Hylton, June 2021*

## **Library/Archives Report**

Charlotte Innerd is now Chair of the Library/Archives Committee. Sue Markham and I will be working with Charlotte. We are very fortunate to have Charlotte lead our way in these areas with her experience as a Librarian. We welcome Charlotte and look forward to working with her.

*Carol Hylton, Library/Archives Committee*

## **Looking for Past Newsletters for the Archives**

A couple of years ago I requested past Newsletters we are missing from the Archives. I have received many of them, but there are still some missing. Here is what I am looking for:

Newsletters: 2010 – January, February, March, September, October

In case you are going through some of your collection and you have any of these, I would appreciate you letting me know. We can arrange how I might receive them from you. I thank you so much.

Carol Hylton, Archives

## Finance Committee Report

The annual aUuction is always the work of many volunteers, and this year was exceptionally challenging. Holding a Virtual aUuction meant that each of the organizational steps was about twice as difficult as usual. Activities that occur at the time of the aUuction, such as signing up for dinners, paying for the purchases, and delivering donations to the venue and taking purchases home, all must be handled “off site.” Thanks to impressive organizational skills and willingness to do a lot of driving, this was handled smoothly. Pretty much everything (except for items yet to be created) has found its new home and all of the payments have been made. That aspect being complete, the aUuction has netted our church \$3923. This is remarkable considering that dinners usually bring in a major part of our donations. Only one dinner is scheduled to be held after COVID restrictions are (hopefully) lifted.

There is no way I can list all of those hard working, well-organized volunteers, but Toni Janik and Carmen Smith did yeoman service handling logistics in a way that has never been necessary before. I suspect they look forward to never having to do this again!

Of course, we also know it is all about the food. Without our cooks, picklers and bakers there would be few sales, so I very much hope they all realize we continue to look forward to the fruits of their labour for many years into the future!

Bobbye Baylis, Chair, Finance Committee

## Technical Committee Report

Since the COVID crisis began, this committee has been operating on an ad hoc basis, and its main function has been to train members in how to use the host functions of Zoom. However it is now being called on to recommend equipment and internet plans and procedures for future multi-platform services. This requires more communication with the rest of the congregation; hence you will see occasional reports from this committee.

At our first formal meeting on June 17, we discussed the following:

- Proposed terms of reference for the Governance Document
- We will use a collaborative committee structure
- Multi-platform services – eventually 5 platforms will be in place for services
- Privacy concerns – need permissions from congregants for presence in videos
- Needs for equipment, expertise, personnel, internet plan, budget

Ray and Laurie Stone, Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel, Sue Markham, Bill & Bobbye Baylis were present at this meeting. If you are interested in participating in the technology aspect of our church’s development, contact one of the above and they will make sure you receive a Zoom link for the next meeting, which is on July 15 at 7 pm.

Bobbye Baylis



## An Eighth Principle?

Many may recall that during the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council on May 8, 2021, an 8<sup>th</sup> principle on dismantling racism was proposed and accepted, but that after lively debate and a review by Council, it was deemed that CUC by-laws allowing for adequate advance discussion had not been followed. To rectify the process, a special CUC meeting has been scheduled on November 27, 2021, with preliminary roundtables and discussion forums, to decide on whether to adopt a new principle and if so, what form it should take. Details of the history of the vote and the process now being followed can be found on the CUC website in this link: [8th Principle Process](#). Just as at the AGM, our congregation can select two delegates to represent it at the meeting on November 27.

The adoption of a new principle is an important step for the CUC, and I encourage members of our church to participate in the upcoming CUC roundtables and forums and to communicate their feelings to their delegates. We might allocate time following a couple of future virtual or hybrid Sunday services for discussion of the proposed principle by Zoom.

Bill Baylis

## Lay Chaplain Report

Well, I have rounded the corner for my first year as a lay chaplain. I have to admit it has been an interesting and surprisingly anxious year.

So much of me was in a state of expectation but also in a place of resignation that the effect of the covid19 virus on my new reality was going to make nothing predictable. There were moments when alert to the change to my circumstances was ignited, most often when government and health restrictions were lessened, but then softened when the numerous periods of restrictions and closures were again reintroduced.

The recovery to the aftermath of this pandemic is at a cautious beginning, with the potential of greater social gatherings. With that there will be a collective need for both celebration and ceremony. The rhythms of life are starting to return to a new normal: people will move forward. I will be honoured when I am invited into those personal passages when they do.

I have some ground works underway to inform the public of the services offered by a lay chaplain. Obviously, this will involve social media so I want to be certain of the presentation optics before I race forward. I like to be a collaborator to include the views of my mentors, specifically others who are lay chaplains.

Assisting with a few congregational Sunday services on Zoom and offering a presentation on County Homelessness have given me a few chances to practice skills and garner additional knowledge, helping to improve my abilities.

I am thankful for the opportunity “you” have given me much to experience, grow and create. I am very aware that “you” have given me much to be responsible for.

Warmly,

Sue Markham (she/her)

Lay Chaplain



## “Going Squirrely” Chapter 2, No Squirrels Allowed!

Just in case you weren't aware, Squirrels *never* have “down time”. There is NO “Day of Rest”, no Sabbath, no statutory holidays or vacation, no shift work. There is NO time off “the job” (eating your flowers and veggies) for sickness, family emergencies, pandemics, or any of life's other dramas. And they don't need watches, as it doesn't matter what time it is, it is always time to eat your stuff!

When we last spoke, in “Going Squirrely 1”, I mentioned that I would let you know of the “dastardly plot”, The Plan, I was devising to defeat The Squirrels this coming growing season. In my many pandemic spare moments during the Winter and into the early Spring, I sharpened my pencil, and my mind, and sat down to design the perfect Spoiler. I decided to design my very own “portable” “Squirrel Spoiler”, as commercially made greenhouse enclosures did not meet my needs (only The Squirrels'). Trust me, I am no revered Architect, no Engineer, no Carpenter, and most certainly no Mathematician, so this was a true challenge! Luckily enough, being ever so humble, I hatched this remarkably brilliant idea, just before lumber had gone up by 25%, the *first time*. Fortunately, my lumber and screws order was filled and delivered to our carport, weeks before the first of many lumber price increases! It took many attempts to design what I believed to be an enclosure that was, hopefully, “Squirrel Proof”, having lots of experience in that field! What my design incorporated, was a series of “panels”, that would be screwed together by our handyman to form a 12 foot long (end to end), 6 foot high, and 4 foot wide (deep, side to side) enclosure, that could be taken apart and then stored in our storage area in the “off-season”. The “panels” were all framed by 2x4s and approximately 6 feet L x 6 feet H x 4 feet D. (See picture 1.)



That was the EASY part of the design...now I had to figure out what to cover these panels with, that would prevent those pesky varmints from getting into the enclosure. I spent many trips to many hardware stores to search out the perfect cover, and finally settled on heavy duty “garden wire” (sort of like Chicken wire, but stronger with very small  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch square holes). This would allow for sunlight and rain to get into the enclosure to nourish The Crops, but not allow The Squirrels to get in through these very small holes, in order to nourish themselves at my expense! So the decision was made to cover all the panels with this sized garden wire.

After building the individual panels, and creating an entry door at one end, our handyman stapled the lengths of wire to each panel, and the roof, then joined all the panels with long screws, and voila, The Squirrel Spoiler began to take shape. The enclosure fit nicely into a space on our walkway just off our back deck. The next challenge was to figure out how to maximize the space INSIDE the enclosure, so I could grow, on trial, as many varieties of veggies as possible. Because I do only container gardening any more, I had to account for that. I utilized an idea I used last year, for the beans and some other crops that could be grown in long window boxes, putting them up off the ground, on small sawhorses. The tomatoes (several different varieties) and red and yellow sweet peppers in large round containers, were set up on bricks, in the corners of the enclosure. (See picture 2.)

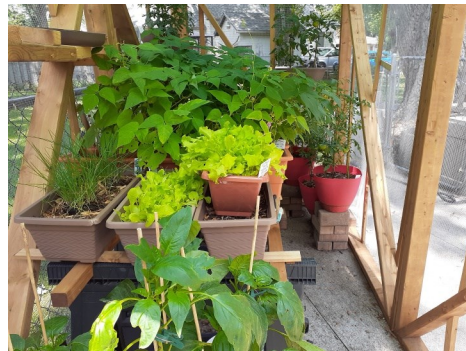


## **“Going Squirrely” Chapter 2 Cont’d.**



Later, I asked our handyman to put up a couple of shelves to house some of the lettuces in smaller window boxes. The final touch was displaying a NOTICE to all squirrels, that this was off limits! (See picture 3.)

It seems that, so far, my Squirrel Spoiler has indeed been a spoiler, not one squirrel has entered the enclosure’s hallowed halls yet! Congratulations, Judy 10, Squirrels 0! (See picture 4.)



From time to time, during dusk, when things are quiet and slow, and I take the pups out in the yard, I think I hear the Squirrel Committee whispering to each other; “Ok, how are we going to spoil Her grand design this year!?”. Let the challenge begin!

Judith L. Carter  
Comments Welcome!

### **Note from the Treasurer**

Thanks for your regular and periodic donations to support our church building and grounds and the cost of ministry.

Summer expenses are not much reduced since we have the added cost of grass cutting though electricity and gas costs are less without any heating costs. Our insurance costs came due in June.

Donations are similar to last year. Some churches pay for the work, such as supply of music, property management and secretarial duties, which our volunteers do. “Thank you” to our volunteers for the hours they contribute to the church functioning effectively.

Helen Moore