

# 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**  
**June 2023**



Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
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
June 11	Rev. Rod Solano Quesnel	<i>Stone Soup [Celebrating Our Volunteers]</i> - When everyone contributes, we can convert scarcity into abundance.	Toni Janik
June 18	Rev. Rod Solano Quesnel	<i>Encourage [Flower Celebration]</i> - Flowers have the capacity to warm the heart, and when we share flowers, we give heart to our shared ministry.	Lorie Lyons
June 25	Carolyn Davies	<i>Howard Pawley Memorial Lecture - Canadian Medical Assistance Teams: Responding to Disasters Around the World</i>	Baylis Duo
July 16	TBA	TBA	Baylis Ensemble
Aug 13	TBA	TBA	Baylis Ensemble

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

As we approach Summer Solstice on June 21, there is much for our church to celebrate: not only a highly successful AUUction with its communal BYO-chili-bowl luncheon and competitive bids, encouraged by auctioneers John Upcott and Brent Campbell and collected by Mireya Campbell and Treasurer Helen Moore, on a variety of food, drink, artistic and other items to raise funds for special projects for the church, but also an excellent national CUC service with a focus on diversity and the Canadian Unitarian Council's new 8<sup>th</sup> principle. Several of us enjoyed this together in church. The only problem we faced was a delay of the audio portion relative to the video signal, but that seemed to be a problem with Zoom. The service was part of the Annual General Meeting of the CUC, and we were represented there virtually by our delegates Jane Innerd and Ray Stone. Here in Olin-da, we also celebrated increased sunshine to warm the Earth and generate more solar income and enjoyed the newly purchased laser projector for its brighter, clearer images of participants and lyrics/readings during the services, and for the increased participation in hymn singing and socializing with refreshments at the end of the services.

In June, we look forward to a return of the annual church picnic, this time organized by Mariette Preyde, to be held at the church on June 11, and to the return visit by nurse-practitioner Carolyn Davies for the Howard Pawley lecture to describe the recent work of the Canadian Medical Assistance Teams in Ukraine and elsewhere. This will complement our talk on Mothers Day, May 14, from Andriana Pitre of WESUN (Windsor-Essex Supporting Ukrainian Newcomers) about hosting Ukrainian refugees in our area. While fighting in Ukraine and Sudan demonstrates human ability to compete with the fires, floods and other destructive forces of climate change, earthquakes and other natural causes, at least government restraint shown in not deploying the world's vast nuclear arsenals, in discussing possible post-war reparations, in cooperating once again in exploration of our solar system, especially on Mars, and in slowing the growth of world population once we exceeded 8 billion, all this can give us hope for humanity's longer-term survival on this planet!

As we move into our summer season of monthly services on July 16 and August 13, watch for colourful night-time auroral activity induced by electron and proton collisions with our atmospheric molecules as plasma bursts from increasing solar-flare activity (as part of its 22-year sunspot cycle) are deflected by the Earth's magnetic field. You may have a better view of the aurora from a location whose sky is not dominated by Detroit lights to our north.

Bill Baylis, President

## Clergy Connection

I was glad to be with so many of you in-person for our BYOBowl Chili Lunch and aUUction on Apr. 22. Not only was this a very successful fundraiser, it was also a great community-building event, the kind that we have been so sorely missing, and of which we have a few more coming up, such as our **Picnic on June 11**.

As is often the case, May was a busy time in our Canadian denominational sphere. I attended the **CUC Symposium and Annual General Meeting** in person over the weekend of **May 19-21** – this was the first large-scale in-person CUC event since 2018! Thank you to Jane Innerd and Ray Stone, who represented us at the CUC Annual General Meeting via Zoom.

I was particularly pleased with the Confluence Lecture by Rev. Julie Stoneberg, who was until recently the minister at our Peterborough congregation. I found her offering both encouraging and challenging. I plan to make it available for all to view this summer and heartily recommend it!

I also attended the **UU Ministers of Canada (UUMOC)** gathering during the preceding week, which we had been unable to do in-person since 2019. I am grateful that Sue Markham hosted guest speaker Andriana Pitre, to speak about welcoming Ukrainian Refugees on May 14. Thanks also to Bill Baylis and volunteers who made a “watch party” possible for the live **National Sunday service “Bringing Promises to Life”**. The video for this service is also available online and is worth a rewatch.

I was thrilled to attend the Battle of the Tacos event at The Bank Theatre on May 5. Two versions of the *birria* taco won – one was the people’s choice award, and another was the judge’s choice, which included Leamington Mayor Hilda MacDonald. There was also an award for the most inspiring story of newcomer entrepreneurship. All around, it was good food and good fellowship, followed by good mariachi music.

The visit by Bryan and Joanne Bedard in late April was very welcome and invited some of our members to share relatable experiences. The past season has also included conversations on spiritual practice and its place among different seasons, while also exploring aspects of our perception and how they inform our search for meaning-finding. In June, we make special recognition of our volunteers and the shared ministry in which we all participate.

Thank you for collaborating in ministry this year! May the summer months offer opportunities to continue these ministries, as well as to find respite.

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.

**May 25 10 am**  
Membership Committee Meeting

**June 8 7 pm**  
Board Meeting

**June 18 Noon**  
Sunday Services Meeting

**June 25 Noon**  
Social Responsibility Committee Meeting

**Aug 28**  
September Newsletter Reports Due

**Sep 21 10 am**  
Membership Committee Meeting

## Adult Religious Education

### Adult Religious Education

### The Sacred in Everyday Life

**Mondays @ 7:00 p.m., April 17, 24 & June 5, 2023**

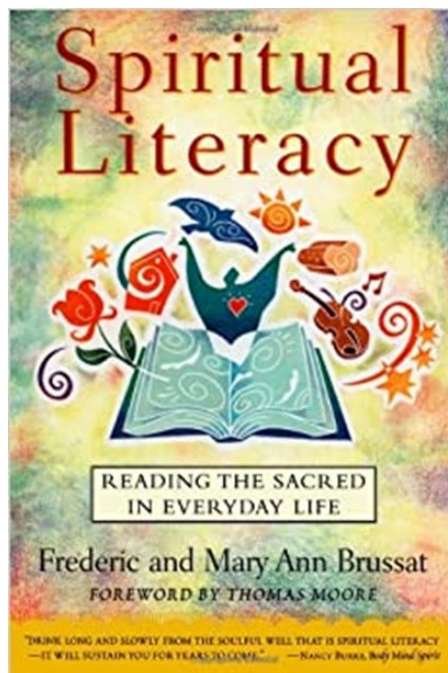
**Via Zoom**

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

Our AUUction on April 22, preceded by the Bring Your Own Bowl Chili Lunch, was a great success with proceeds of \$4,230. Thanks to everyone who donated items, purchased items, made chili and contributed in any way including attending. 35 attended.

Thanks to member Patrick Impens and his co-worker who built a ramp prior to the AUUction to enable greater accessibility to the church.

Thanks also to Lorie Lyons who did a spring clean of the gardens and raked the lawn in preparation for the first lawn mowing. The flowers are beautiful and the crab apple tree blossoms were in full bloom on Sunday, May 7.

Thanks to Bill Baylis who purchased a projector to improve and enhance viewing in the sanctuary.

Our church picnic will be held at the church on June 11.

Thanks for your ongoing offerings by cheque in the mail, etransfer, or cheque or cash at church. Thank you for continuing to do the work of the church.

Helen Moore

## Caring Committee Report

Life may not be the party we hoped for, but while we're here we should dance. A cheery hello to all especially those with June, July, and August birthdays. May you have fun celebrating with friends and family.

This is the last report before the summer break, therefore on behalf of the caring committee may this month of June bring you all joy, happiness, love and lots of sunshine.

Yes it has been said, " Anyone can be a father, but it takes someone special to be a dad." Wishing all dads a Happy Father's Day.

Submitted by: Linda Upcott

### Caring Committee Members

Carol Hylton

Carmen Smith

Anne Purtell

Linda Upcott



## Church Picnic

### Church Picnic

June 11, 2023

Directly following our church service we will be having a catered picnic. Please bring your own plates, cutlery, beverage and, if you choose to sit outside, a lawn chair. Lunch will be catered from Colasanti's. It will include chicken, broasted potatoes, cole slaw and pasta with tomato sauce.

If you plan to come, please RSVP to Mariette to assure that enough meals are ordered.

Anyone wishing to bring a salad or dessert to share is welcome to do so. It is not necessary to notify anyone in advance.

See you there!  
Mariette Preyde



## “Squirrels Won, Judy Zero”



A number of you have asked me how my “arm-wrestling” with The Squirrels has gone over the past 3 years, since I designed and had our handyman build a portable “Garden Enclosure”. The one and only GOAL of the enclosure being to keep The Squirrels OUT, and away from eating our veggie plants, after years of them ravaging our produce! Some of you may recall my previous editorials regarding my efforts of trying to “one-up” The

Squirrels. I am glad to inform you, that, as in the past, The Squirrels have WON, but just in a different way, with a change of perspective, and heart, *on my side*.

It is not hard to be MAD at The Squirrels for all they did in the past. But, if we lean into, and dig deeply into our spirituality, we *can* learn to ACCEPT that Squirrels, like all of Mother Nature’s critters, have needs too. They have to eat, just like us. And they have a right to some space on this Earth, in our diverse environment! Did I really say that? After two years of The Squirrels not being able to break into the garden enclosure, I am satisfied that, mostly, I have won that battle. But, of course, there’s always the potential for a very, very smart Squirrel, (who would have qualified as a full scholarship Engineering student), to mastermind a break-in, after careful planning and deliberation of the vulnerable places (and there are some) of the enclosure.

After the awful ice storm we all experienced in our areas, at the end of February, and the resulting impact not only on us, but on our bird friends and The Squirrels, I began to slowly have a change of heart, as there was very little for them to eat after the storm. Luckily, most of our feeders survived the storm, but we did notice, with so many branches of our trees felled, there were fewer places for them to hide and keep warm in those very cold and nasty days and nights. Especially for The Squirrels, who lost their safe, warmer, hiding places in holes of the dead branches. The birds and Squirrels, like us, seemed traumatized, and “off kilter” for a long time, following the storm. It has taken them months to seem less stressed, and more comfortable with their new environment. I am happy to say that I believe we made a significant contribution to bringing them back to a more “normal” routine, by providing more feeders and locations, more food choices, and increased feeding times for things like stale bread feeding. Of course, this makes for a more expensive hobby, but at least in the short-term, I am happy to budget a bit more for this cause.

**(Continued on next page.)**

## “Squirrels Won, Judy Zero “

Every morning, just as dawn is arriving, I have noticed a family of four baby squirrels, waiting for me to put out the food for them, top up the bird feeders and throw out some bread. About 2 weeks ago, I noticed a couple of little noses sticking out of a hole in one of the branches that remains on our huge Maple, that sits at the edge of our back deck. They always seem to be looking down at me, then at their little watches, wondering what took me so long...and why did I stop to feed the dogs and get the coffee going, before coming out? I put a few peanuts in the shell in a seed holder that is attached to the big Maple, and shortly after I go inside, I see them playfully exit their lair, and run circles around the tree, as they chase each other down to the peanuts. Their Mother has, at some point, taught them how to patiently chisel away at the peanut, in order to get to “the prize” inside. It is fun to watch them grow and hone their skills, without much supervision from Mom. I know I shouldn’t be encouraging them, but I can’t help myself! After all, cute is cute!

Respectfully submitted,  
Judith L. Carter

### 6th COVID Vaccine Availability

The Chief Medical Officer of Health recommends that you get your COVID-19 spring booster dose as soon as possible, if it has been more than six months since your last vaccine dose. Individuals aged 65 years and older are at a higher risk of severe COVID-19 illness.

Please note, it is recommended to wait at least six months before booking your next booster dose appointment if you have had a confirmed COVID-19 infection or developed symptoms after close contact with someone who tested positive.

You can book your booster dose through:

- The Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900
- The COVID-19 vaccination portal at <https://www.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/>
- Public health units using their own booking system <https://www.phdapps.health.gov.on.ca/phulocator/>
- Participating pharmacies at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/vaccine-locations>
- Indigenous-led vaccination clinics