

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF OWENSBORO

AUGUST 2012

REV. DR. CLAUDIA A. RAMISCH, MINISTER

CLAUD PORTER, LEGAL COUNSEL

**TALENT SHOW
& MAN CAKE AUCTION**
Saturday, 4 August @ 7 pm

SANCTUARY
SIGN-UP NOW WITH PEGGY
@ 685-0924

**CAREGIVER'S
LUNCH**

Tuesday, 7 August @ 12 n

Chalice Center

RSVP by 6 Aug to
hermitstuff@bellsouth.net
or 683-1462

**INTERFAITH
STUDY GROUP**

Tuesday, 14 Aug @ 12 n

INTERFAITH MOMENT: PRAYER OF STUDENTS as school begins again

Saraswati is the Hindu goddess of knowledge, music, and all the creative arts. She is called the Mother of the Vedas and the repository of Brahma's creative intelligence. She is also called Vak Devi, the goddess of speech. Dressed in white, Saraswati holds a mala and a palmleaf scroll, indicating knowledge. She rides a swan or a peacock while playing music on a veena. Students call on Saraswati to perform well in examinations. This sloka (mantra) of Saraswati can be recited daily to improve memory and concentration in studies at all times. May all our students and teachers have a successful academic year!

**Oh Goddess Saraswati, goddess of knowledge,
We pray to you as humble souls to fill our minds
With your kind blessings and knowledge which you have aplenty.
Om! Let me meditate on the goddess of speech,**

Oh, wife of Lord Brahma, give me higher intellect, and let Goddess Vani illuminate my mind.

From the Hindu Society of the National University of Singapore



SAFE CONGREGATION TRAINING

Ad Hoc Committee resumes work 15 August

The next phase of Ad Hoc work begins 15 August with a review of the Behavioral Covenant and the summer's work on Appreciative Inquiry interviews. Safe Congregation training begins 22 August and continues through mid-October. Safe Congregation training includes input, role plays, and activities to explore issues and practice the skills of right relations in a church setting. Skills of Non-Violent Communication are folded into these materials prepared by the UUA. All denominations presently have some form of 'Safe Environment' or 'Shielding the Vulnerable' training, but Unitarian Universalist congregations have been in the forefront in shaping and sharing this training for members and groups using their facilities.

"The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has been a leader in creating both resources and recommended processes to help make congregations safe and welcoming places... Although no policy or knowledge of the issues can absolutely guarantee safety

in your congregation under all circumstances, congregations can take pro-active steps to create environments that are safe and prepared. Developing a Comprehensive Safe Congregations Policy is a significant and meaningful process to educate the congregation and build safer communities." (www.uua.org)

In short, we are encouraged to assure that all congregational policies for daily operations are rooted in Safe Congregation attitudes and skills so that both individuals and the organization are protected. We are reminded that no matter our size, we need a broad-based understanding of the scope of issues in order to both write and follow policies that are faithful expressions of our covenant and bylaws--and assure organizational health.

Before we continue the Appreciative Inquiry process and review our bylaws and policies, we will first review Safe Congregation principles and practices. We will give special attention to how Safe Congregation culture shapes policies regarding Responsible Staffing, Protection of Children, Volunteer Qualifications and Background Checks, Gender/Sexual Security, Disruptive Behavior, and Building Security (among others.) Watch for more info!

Rev. Dr. Claudia Ramisch returns from Sabbatical to the pulpit on
Sunday, 5 August. Thank you to all who have covered duties in June and July!