

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Congregation of Owensboro



JANUARY EVENTS

**JAN 6: SUNDAY
BREAKFAST POTLUCK**
Chalice Center @ 9:30 am

**JAN 8: TUESDAY
CAREGIVER'S LUNCH**
Chalice Center @ 12 n
RSVP by noon Monday 1/7

**JAN 15: TUESDAY
INTERFAITH STUDY**
Chalice Center @ 12 n

**JAN 19: SATURDAY
MLK COFFEEHOUSE**
Sanctuary @ 7pm
Entertainment begins @ 7:15 pm

REGULAR MEETINGS

**AD HOC COMMITTEE
Meetings Resume:**
Wednesdays, 1/9, 1/16, 1/23 & 1/30
Chalice Center @ 6:30 pm

MEDITATION
Sanctuary, Thursdays @ 6:30 pm

WELCOME
Catholic GLBT Support
Group Planning Team



10th Annual MLK Jr Commemorative Coffeehouse



Every January for years, often on a cold and blustery night, we gather to reflect on the state of the American spiritual union. How are we doing on living out our best values? Have we made our dreams come true in the lives of ordinary Americans?

The lens for this reflection is the life and ministry of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The vehicle for the consideration is the Commemorative Coffeehouse. The Coffeehouse is the brainchild of Charlot Martin. It includes original skits written by Charlot and acted by members and friends of the Congregation, good old fashioned hootenanny and civil rights music, poetry readings, excerpts of Dr. King's writings or speeches, and time for socializing.

This year, Martin Luther King weekend is also Inauguration Weekend. The theme of the week's festivities is *Faith in America's Future*. **Saturday, 19 January** is a National Day of Service. Make plans now to help the community that day and then attend the Coffeehouse in the evening!

The 10th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Coffeehouse will have as its theme: **WE WILL RISE**. It dovetails nicely with the national theme and our own Congregational work. Charlot is already hard at work; Scott Payne has also volunteered to help with the creative work. It promises to be a thoughtful and hopeful evening... not to mention, fun!

Admission to the event is still just \$3. Popcorn is included in the price of admission! As always, the sale of coffees, teas, cookies, and goodies will benefit our neighbor, the HL Neblett Community Center.

Doors open at 7 pm; entertainment begins at 7:15 pm and concludes at 9 pm. So you can get some sleep and be back for church the next morning of course...

What do you need to do?

1. Mark your calendar now.
2. Volunteer to participate in the Charlot Martin Players. (It's a hoot!)
3. Contact Linda Craig (570-0323) or Charlot Martin (woodfingers@aol.com) to volunteer your services.
4. Bake cookies or make treats.
5. Work part of the evening. Play part of the evening. Contribute to making the world a better place.

ON A WINTER MORNING By Rev. Barbara Cheatham



It is a good morning
to be together!
When winter's darkness spreads
across the land,
and cold seeps
through our thickest coats,
we hurry here,
drawn by the warmth
of faces familiar and new,
to the welcoming walls
of this house.
Here, for this hour,
we open ourselves
to new understanding,
reassurance, and hope,
for this is a place
where truth, love,
and challenge meet.



INTERFAITH MOMENT WORLD RELIGION DAY: 3RD SUNDAY IN JANUARY Begun by the Baha'i in 1950

ABOUT THE BAHAI FROM www.bahai.org

"The Baha'i Founder was Bahá'u'lláh, a Persian nobleman from Tehran who, in the mid-nineteenth century, left a life of princely comfort and security and, in the face of intense persecution and deprivation, brought to humanity a stirring new message of peace and unity. Bahá'u'lláh claimed to be nothing less than a new and independent Messenger from God. His life, work, and influence parallel that of Abraham, Krishna, Moses, Zoroaster, Buddha, Christ, and Muhammad. Bahá'ís view Bahá'u'lláh as the most recent in this succession of divine Messengers.

The essential message of Bahá'u'lláh is that of unity. He taught that there is only one God, one human race, and that all the world's religions represent stages in the revelation of God's will and purpose for humanity. In this day, humanity has collectively come of age. As foretold in all of the world's scriptures, the time has arrived for the uniting of all peoples into a peaceful and integrated global society."

Bahai hold many principles and goals in common with Unitarian Universalists. Take a look at their website some time this month.

Baha'i Prayer for Harmony

- In striving to recognize the primacy of Fire and Light, I feel kinship with my Zoroastrian brothers and sisters.
- In striving to obey the Ten Commandments, I feel kinship with my Jewish brothers and sisters.
- In striving to be kind to neighbor and the needy, I feel kinship with my Christian brothers and sisters.
- In striving to be compassionate to creatures great and small, I feel kinship with my Buddhist - Jaina brothers and sisters.
- In striving to surrender myself completely to God Almighty, I feel kinship with my Muslim brothers and sisters.
- In the recognition that wisdom flows from enlightened masters, I feel kinship with my Sikh brothers and sisters.
- In remembering that serving people should be the goal of religion, I feel kinship with my Bahai brothers and sisters.
- In my respect and reverence for Nature that sustains us, I feel kinship with my Native American brothers and sisters.
- In feeling that these and more are all paths to the same Divinity, I feel kinship with my Hindu brothers and sisters.
- In my love and laughter, joy and pain, I feel kinship with all my fellow humans.
- In my need for nourishment and instinct to live on, I feel kinship with all beings on the planet.
- In my spiritual ecstasy with this wondrous world, I feel kinship with the Cosmic Whole.

Inspired by the Parliament of World Religions

Composed by Dr.V.V. Raman: at The Cape of Good Hope, SA: 1999

AD HOC COMMITTEE RESUMES WORK

Throughout November and December, the Ad Hoc Committee began working in small groups. Each group met on its own schedule to review the policies and bylaws of the Congregation through one of three lenses: Safe Congregation, Governance, and Theology.

On 5 December, the Ad Hoc Committee met to begin work on a Mission Statement for the Congregation. (Preliminary efforts are posted in the sanctuary for you.) A Mission Statement takes the *internal* commitment we make to each other in the Covenant and describes our relationship with the *outer* world. It uses bold and aspirational language to express what difference we make in the world at large.

These two activities complete the "Discover" Phase of Appreciative Inquiry. The information from last summer's AI Interviews, the work of the subcommittees, and the preliminary Mission Statements will all be brought back to the work table beginning on 9 January.

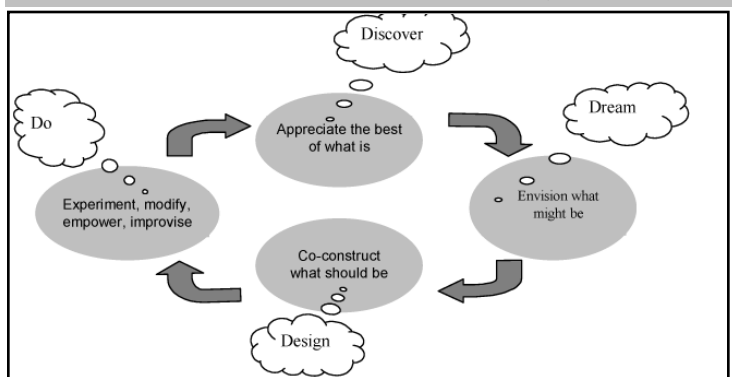
As they reconvene, the Ad Hoc Committee will integrate all of the preliminary work in the *Dream* and *Design* Phases of Appreciative Inquiry.

The *Do* Phase really happens when the Congregation votes on the proposals from the Committee, elects new officers, and begins to put the new policies and plans into effect. Certainly, we are looking forward to that!

However, the *Dream* and *Design* phases are really exciting because they allow us to articulate our best learnings about our internal needs and to refine our mission in Owensboro. This time will also include completing our 18-month Worship Experiment and crafting a new Five Year Plan. As the *Dream* and *Design* work unfolds, expect regular Sunday updates. Also expect to be asked for input and assistance.

One other thing: When the Ad Hoc work is completed, the *Do* Phase relies on all of us. Please be sure to keep up with things so that we are prepared together for resuming the work of the Mission of the Congregation.

THE 4-D'S OF APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY



PERSONAL MESSAGE

Thank you for the many gifts, cards, and Christmas blessings. I appreciate all the goodies and kindnesses!

Claudia

