



# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF OWENSBORO

TOM HICKS, PRESIDENT

REV. DR. CLAUDIA A. RAMISCH, MINISTER

MAY 2014

MAY ACTIVITIES	
01, THU	Caregiver's Lunch, 12 n Tai Chi, 6pm/ Meditation, 6:30 pm
03, SAT	Habitat Can Collection Reiki Appointments
07, WED	Congregational Life, 6 pm Board, 6:30 pm
08, THU	VOAD @ Logsdon, 2:30 pm Tai Chi, 6 pm/ Meditation, 6:30 pm
11, SUN	Standing Women @ Legion Park, 2 pm
13, TUE	Interfaith Study, 12 n
15, THU	HUUMA Cluster, 9 am-2 pm Tai Chi, 6 pm/ Meditation, 6:30 pm
17, SAT	Family RE, 9 am
22, THU	ODCMA @ OHRH, 9 am Tai Chi, 6 pm/ Meditation, 6:30 pm
23, FRI	Drum Circle, 6:30 pm
24, SAT	Rummage Sale
28, WED	Fairness Coalition, 6 pm
29, THU	Tai Chi, 6 pm/ Meditation, 6:30 pm
30-31 FRI-SAT	Intercultural Diversity Workshop, TJUC/Louisville

## ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

A new Board was elected on Sunday, 27 April. Congratulations to our new VP, Scott Payne and our new Trustee, Claud Porter! They will be serving two-year terms. Continuing Board members are Tom Hicks (President,) DuWayne Keenan (Secretary,) and Eleanor Gray-Coe (Trustee.)

A special thank you to Andrew Colley who completed his latest term in April. Andy has served on the Board (several times in our history,) been our Treasurer, served on the Rejuvenation Committee, and served through the Ad Hoc process. He also represents us in the Interfaith Study Group. We are grateful for Andy's continued, dependable service to the Congregation!

Tom Hicks reported that the Board's biggest accomplishments for the year were the completion of the five-year plan and attendance at 'Board School,' an in-house study process on the change of governance structure to establish a solid foundation for future growth. He noted that the new member class was one of his fondest moments of the year. And he reminded us that a significant piece of this year's work will continue as Claudia takes her Sabbatical and completes the project approved in the Louisville Institute's Pastoral Study Grant.

Congregational Life submitted a written account of all their activities for the year. It featured our preparation of the elements used in a water communion at General Assembly (in Louisville, June 2013,) our participation in the Owensboro Fairness Coalition, and a couple of new interfaith partnerships (with the Heathens and the Human Relations Commission.)

The Treasurer reported that our basic bills have gone up slightly, but we have been able to keep pace. She described us as "stable" for the moment. However, we do not yet have donations in for the mini-grant.



## ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE CONT.

The Committee on Ministry reported on its work preparing the Congregational Forum (Jan, 2014) and a pending proposal to reduce the minister's work hours in the new fiscal year (1 Oct) if our income hasn't improved. This will align us with UUA just compensation guidelines.

The Minister presented a written account of her activities this past year; her workload averaged 60+ hours per week. One new activity was a monthly Family RE on Saturday morning using folktales from different religious and cultural traditions. She also reported that the Board has approved making application for Welcoming Congregation status once the education process is complete and the assembly has voted on it. It is her hope this will be done by the time the new fiscal year begins.

## INTERFAITH MOMENT: DECLARATION OF THE BAB

ARTICLE FROM [www.bahai.us](http://www.bahai.us)

The Báb—born Siyyid `Alí-Muhammad in Shiraz, Persia (now Iran)—announced on May 22, 1844, that He was the bearer of a Divine Revelation which would prepare humanity for the advent of the Promised One of all religions. On the evening of May 22, Baha'is throughout the world commemorate the Declaration of the Bab through prayers and programs where the story of His declaration may be retold. It is one of nine holy days in the Bahá'í calendar when Bahá'ís suspend work or school.

That Promised One, the Báb declared, was destined to usher in the age of justice, unity and peace promised in Judaism, Christianity, Islam and all the other world religions. Bahá'u'lláh announced in April 1863 that He was the Divine Messenger the Báb had promised.

The Báb's announcement in the middle of the 19th century came at a time when many Christians were expecting the return of Christ based on their reading of Biblical prophecy. Simultaneously, half way around the world, in the Middle East, many followers of Islam were also expecting their Promised One to appear. It seemed as if a new spiritual age was about to begin. Those who had met the Báb were struck by the beauty of His being and grace. His voice, particularly, when chanting the tablets and prayers He revealed, possessed a sweetness that captivated the heart.

Against the backdrop of widespread moral breakdown in Persian society, the Báb's assertion that He was the Bringer of a new Revelation from God and His call for spiritual and social renewal aroused both hope and excitement among the masses and hostility among the religious and political leaders of His day. He quickly attracted thousands of followers.

Soon the Báb and His followers were persecuted by the religious and political leaders. The Bab was imprisoned, exiled, beaten and finally executed. The followers, by the thousands, were tortured and martyred. Their extraordinary moral courage in the face of persecution was noted by a number of Western observers, including Leo Tolstoy. They were deeply affected by the spiritual drama that was unfolding in what was regarded as a darkened land.

Despite the opposition, the Báb's religion survived. Most of the Báb's followers embraced Bahá'u'lláh's announcement that He was the One promised by the Báb. The religion, known as the Bahá'í Faith after Bahá'u'lláh's declaration, continued to expand although persecutions also continued. Today, Bahá'í has more than five million followers from every part of the world, drawn from every class of society and nearly every religion. In the United States, it now has about 160,000 adherents.



ON THIS MOTHERING DAY,  
MAY WE REMEMBER  
THE GREAT MOTHER  
THAT SUSTAINS US,  
WHOSE BODY  
IS THE VERY SUBSTANCE  
OF OUR EXISTENCE  
THE VERY GROUND WE WALK UPON,  
THE VERY SOURCE OF OUR BEING.  
FROM WHATEVER PLACE  
OF THE SPIRIT  
WE COME TODAY...  
LET US ONCE AGAIN,  
ENTER INTO A TIME OF SILENCE,  
KNOWING THAT IT IS IN SILENCE,  
WHERE GREAT THINGS  
FASHION THEMSELVES.

REV. KATHLEEN ROLENZ