

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Owensboro

Tom Hicks, President

Rev. Dr. Claudia A. Ramisch, Minister

**MOTHER'S DAY
THOUGHT**
from UUA Worship Web

We come together today in praise and thanksgiving for the gift of life itself.
Someone gave birth to us and some of us have given birth.
All of us have been mothered in our time, all of us have mothered.
Let our time today be one of recognition— That we arrive from so many places:
Joy and delight, Wistfulness and longing and worry,
Unmet needs and unfulfilled dreams,
Loss and sorrow, loss and emptiness, loss and regret.
All that life is made of, mothers are made of too.
Rev. Mary J. Harrington



**GRANT DISBURSEMENTS:
1 MAY @ 10:30 am SERVICE**

The This Little Light Mini-Grant will be given to Cathy Mullins for expanding Kindermusik as a pilot program in OASIS this summer.

A Gift from the Porter Endowment will be given to Randi Howard for establishing the Foundation for Healing Through Arts. (See article for more info.)



**NATIONAL
DAY OF PRAYER**
Meditation with
Interfaith Sources
THURSDAY, 5 MAY
@ 6:30 pm
(after Tai Chi)

**INTERNATIONAL
AIDS CANDLELIGHT
MEMORIAL**
@ ZION UCC
Corner of 7th & Allen
Sunday, 15 May @ 6 pm



**GRADUATE SUNDAY
22 MAY**
Coffee & Donuts @ 10 am
Service @ 10:30 am
A Tale of Two Rebecca's

New Board Elected

Congratulations to our new officers and Board trustees:

- President, Tom Hicks
- Vice-President, Claud Porter
- Secretary, DuWayne Keenan
- At-Large Member, Richard Simon
- At-Large Member, Rebecca Hopkins

Our new Board will meet for the first time in May. Its first actions will be the appointment of Shannon Sanderson as our new Treasurer and of Linda Craig as our Congregational Life Chair. Then it will begin considering the information generated at the Annual Meeting with the Appreciative Inquiry Consultation. We expect that this will lead to a multi-year Plan and outreach efforts.



Appreciative Inquiry Consultation

Many thanks to all who stayed for lunch, meeting, and consultation on 24 April. It was a very energetic time and we appreciate both the time and input you gave us. We will bring the Board's work back to you ASAP!

Many thanks to Elaine Winstead who has served as our Treasurer since 2012. Prior to that she served on our Ad Hoc Committee and as President. We are grateful for all of her service--and her skill

at keeping us out of the hole these past several years!

Many thanks to Scott Payne for his service as a Board Member since 2013. Prior to that he served on our Ad Hoc Committee. We are grateful for his service--and for continuing to keep the yard looking sharp!

And Another Thing...

Thank you: Linda Craig, Tom Hicks, Rachael Kassinger, Charlot Martin, Rohnn Sanderson, Richard Simon, Jody Waterbury for all your efforts on Clean-Up Day!

Several more of you volunteered for outdoor jobs that you said you'd do when it's not raining! Thank you, too!



MAY ACTIVITIES	
01 SUN	Grant Disbursement, 10:30 am
03 TUE	Yoga & Meditation. 6 pm
04 WED	Home Office, 9 am-12 n Board Meeting, 6:30 pm
05 THU	Tai Chi, 6 pm Meditation for National Day of Prayer, 6:30 pm
07 SAT	Reiki by Appointment, 8:30 am
10 TUE	Standing Women, 11:45 am
12 THU	Yoga & Meditation. 6 pm
15 SUN	AIDS International Memorial @ Zion UCC, 6 pm
17 TUE	Women Clergy, 11:30 am Yoga & Meditation, 6 pm
19 THU	Home Office, 9 am-12 n Tai Chi/ Meditation, 6/6:30 pm
22 SUN	Graduate Sunday, 10:30 am
23 MON	Interfaith Potluck @ TBD, 6 pm
24 TUE	Yoga & Meditation. 6 pm
26 THU	ODCMA @ OHRH, 5 pm Tai Chi/ Meditation, 6/6:30 pm
27 FRI	Drum Circle, 6:30 pm
29 SUN	5th Sunday Potluck, 11:30 am Wendell Foster Service, 3:30 pm
31 TUE	HUUMA Cluster @ TJUU Yoga & Meditation. 6 pm

TWO GRANTS? YES!

This year we had just two applicants for our This Little Light Mini-Grant. Both of them are addressing domestic violence and sexual abuse through the arts. Both applicants offer victims tools to aid them in become survivors and thrivers. Both address the need for families and communities to be more educated on the issues--and more engaged in changing situations of violence. They "knocked our socks off" with their presentations to the Grant Committee! We really wanted to be invested in both projects.

So on Sunday, 1 May, the This Little Light Mini-Grant will be given to Cathy Mullins for expanding Kindermusik as a pilot program in OASIS this summer. And a Gift from the Porter Endowment will be given to Randi Howard to establish the Foundation for Healing Through Arts. Congratulations Cathy and Randi on your grants! Thank you for the healing and educational work you are doing in our community!



About Vesak Day

Siddhartha Gautama, also commonly known as the Buddha (enlightened one), lived in present-day India and Nepal between the sixth and fourth century BCE. His teachings focused on messages about compassion, peace and goodwill. Millions around the world follow the teachings of the Buddha today. The Day of Vesak commemorates Buddha's birth, enlightenment and death.

In 1999 the UN recognized internationally Vesak Day to acknowledge the contribution that Buddhism, one of the oldest religions in the world, has made for over 2500 years. This day is commemorated annually at the UN Headquarters and other UN offices and missions. In some countries, like India, it is a public holiday.

Washing the Baby Buddha

From <http://buddhism.about.com/od/buddhistholidays/a/vesakpuja.htm>

By Barbara O'Brien

According to Buddhist legend, when the Buddha was born he stood straight, took seven steps, and declared "I alone am the World-Honored One." And he pointed up with one hand and down with the other, to indicate he would unite heaven and earth. I am told the seven steps represent seven directions -- north, south, east, west, up, down, and here. Mahayana Buddhists interpret "I alone am the World-Honored One" in a way that "I" represents all sentient beings throughout space and time -- everyone, in other words.



The ritual of "washing the baby Buddha" commemorates this moment. This is the single most common ritual, seen throughout Asia and in many different schools. A small standing figure of the baby Buddha, with the right hand pointing up and the left hand pointing down, is placed on an elevated stand within a basin on an altar. People approach the altar reverently, fill a ladle with water or tea, and pour it over the figure to "wash" the baby.

DON'T FORGET:

WE'RE COLLECTING "OUR STUFF" FOR THIS YEAR'S SERMON SERIES.

Bring in something that matters to you

(or a picture of it if it's too big or too precious to bring)

and a description of its significance.

About every month, I'll draw out three and build the next week's service and sermon around them.

INTERFAITH MOMENT: Vesak, 20 May

(From www.timeanddate.com)



The UN celebrates Vesak Day (or the Day of Vesak) with Buddhist organizations and communities worldwide. Celebrations include:

- Cultural performances featuring song and dance.
- Plays about Buddha's life and teachings.
- Public messages given by religious and community leaders.
- Temples adorned with decorations and flowers on Vesak Day.
- Some community groups organize acts of charity, like releasing caged animals or donating food and gifts to the poor.



STANDING WOMEN CELEBRATES 10 YEARS AS AN OBSERVANCE FOR PEACE
Learn more @ <http://standingwomen.net>
We will gather for 5 minutes of silence in the Church Yard after Service on Mother's Day.
(We are the only site registered in Kentucky.)