

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Owensboro



JUNE ACTIVITIES

01 WED	Home Office 9-12n Board Meeting 6:30pm
02 THU	Tai Chi 6pm Meditation 6:30pm
04 SAT	Reiki by appointment Com. on Ministry 10am
07 TUE	Yoga & Meditation 6pm
09 THU	Tai Chi 6pm Meditation 6:30pm
11 SAT	Living Library @ DCPL 1-5pm
14 TUE	Yoga & Meditation 6pm
16 THU	Home Office 12-3pm Tai Chi 6pm Meditation 6:30pm
17 FRI	Denounce Torture Concert 7:30pm
19 SUN	Denounce Torture Prayer Vigil 6:30pm
21 TUE	Women Clergy 11:30am Yoga & Meditation 6pm
23 THU	Tai Chi 6pm Meditation 6:30pm
24 FRI	Drum Circle 6:30pm
26 SUN	Pride Picnic 12-6pm Panther Creek Park
28 TUE	Yoga & Meditation 6pm

Rev. Dr. Claudia Ramisch will be attending the UUA General Assembly in Columbus, 22-26 June, and visiting her mother in Maumee, 27-30 June. Tom & Peggy will have emergency contact info if you have a need!

THAT TIME OF YEAR...

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The UUA's General Assembly can be a cross between a festival, a political convention, and a prayer experiment. And it happens every year! This year GA will be in Columbus, OH with the theme of Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect. One of the tracks of workshops is dedicated to interfaith awareness and skills.

Many workshops and prayer opportunities are offered throughout the Assembly, but the official business of the Assembly is business. Reports on the work of the Association, reviews of budgets and bylaws, debate of proposed Action-Study Issues, and election of Trustees and Committee members will fill between 14 and 15 hours of our meeting.

This year, we will be considering four proposals for a new Study/Action Issue. This means we will be debating which issue we are willing to commit 3+ years to studying and working with in the hopes of composing a Statement of Conscience on the issue. A Statement of Conscience is a document with the highest "authority" in Unitarian Universalism. It is a

carefully crafted and considered statement of how we understand a significant contemporary issue and the possible actions we have agreed would make a difference in addressing this issue. The process is long and arduous and involves as many UU's as possible--hence the weight it carries.

The four proposals for the next Study/Action Issue are:

- Climate Change and Environmental Justice
- A National Conversation on Race
- Ending Gun Violence
- The Corruption of Our Democracy

I will be a delegate at the proceedings so I am interested in what you think and prefer so that I can represent you in my votes. If you want to read the complete proposals, you can find them on the bulletin board in the sanctuary or here:

http://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/2016_agenda.pdf

You can also review the rest of the business agenda at the link above. I will be leaving for GA on the morning of the 22nd, so let me know what you think before then.

Thanks! Claudia



Excerpt of A FATHER'S DAY PRAYER by Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt

For all who have warm and loving relationships with their fathers and children,
we give thanks.

For those who for whatever reason did not know their fathers,
we will try to remember that this can be an uncomfortable day for you.

For those whose relationships with their fathers or children is painful or complicated,
we support you.

This Father's Day, we lift up our gratitude for all kinds of fathers,
and for the amazing ways fatherly love
transcends blood lines and legal categories [and genders.]



CONGRATULATIONS!

GRADUATES (left picture)

Rebecca Hopkins (l) and Rebecca Bea Thwaites (r) were honored at the Service on 22 May. Both women graduated from college this semester. We wish them well in their chosen fields!

GRANTEES (two right pictures)

Two grants were given at Service on 1 May:

Randi Howard (l) accepted \$500 from the Porter Endowment for the development of the Foundation for Healing through the Arts. Cathy Mullins (r) accepted \$500 from the This Little Light mini-grant program for the expansion of Kindermusik into OASIS. We are very excited to be invested in these projects and look forward to seeing them change Owensboro for the better.

12th ANNUAL DENOUNCE TORTURE EVENTS

June is chockfull of special concerns: Men's Health Awareness, Pride Month, Summer Solstice, and our Denounce Torture Observances in conjunction with UN Denounce Torture Day (26 June.)

Beginning with the 10th Anniversary of these events, we have focused on creating healthy communities and affirming life in ways that will stop torture before it begins. Speakers and presenters have addressed this in many ways. This year we have two special events:

FRIDAY, 17 JUNE, 7:30 pm, CONCERT, \$10

Heath Eric will present a one-man show on surviving abuse and neglect and the resulting personal chaos and coming out on the other side as a functional, compassionate, and responsible man. The show is entitled, "The Dreamer: A Story of Hope, Love, and Survival." Heath rates the show as PG-13--not acceptable for young children. Tickets are on sale at HeathEric.com for \$10. Heath includes music, storytelling, lights and media in his presentation.

SUNDAY, 19 JUNE, 6:30 pm, PRAYER VIGIL

Sr. Rebecca White, an Ursuline sister of Mount St. Joseph will be our guest preacher for the Candlelight Prayer Vigil. Sr. Rebecca has wrestled deeply with the issue of torture because of her community relationship with survivor, Sr. Dianna Ortiz (author of "The Blindfold's Eyes") and her concern over violence in society. She offers a compassionate and challenging view of what we need to face up to and do to end the use of torture.

Both events are open to the public; please invite neighbors and friends to join us! Both events will need volunteers; check Sign-Up Central for specifics.



INTERFAITH MOMENT: RAMADAN (Begins 5/6 June)

(Excerpt from: ww.bbc.co.uk/schools)

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, and a time when Muslims across the world fast during the hours of daylight. Fasting during Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam. The Qur'an was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad during this month. The actual night of revelation is known as Lailat al-Qadr ('The Night of Power').

Fasting is intended to help teach Muslims self-discipline, self-restraint and generosity. It also reminds them of the suffering of the poor, who may rarely get to eat well. It is common to have one meal (the suhoor), just before sunrise and another (the iftar), directly after sunset.

Because Ramadan is spent with friends and family, the fast will often be broken by different Muslim families coming together to share the evening meal (iftar.)

The end of Ramadan is marked by a big celebration called 'Eid-al-Fitr', the Festival of the Breaking of the Fast. Muslims celebrate the end of fasting and thank Allah for the help and strength He gave throughout the previous month to help them practice self-control. The festival begins when the first sight of the new moon is seen in the sky.

In some communities, there are special services outdoors and in Mosques, processions through the streets, and of course, a special celebratory meal-- eaten during daytime, the first daytime meal in a month. Eid is also a time of forgiveness, and making amends.

During Eid-al-Fitr, Muslims dress in their finest clothes, give gifts to children, and spend time with their friends and family. At Eid it is obligatory to give a set amount of money to charity to be used to help poor people buy new clothes and food so they too can celebrate.

NB: The Islamic Center of Owensboro will have community Iftar dinners every Friday evening during Ramadan. We are invited--please let me know if you plan to attend so I can notify them and learn what would be appropriate to bring.