

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Owensboro



JANUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

Tom Hicks, President

Rev. Dr. Claudia A. Ramisch, Minister



Highlights from MLK Coffeehouse 2016

**ON THE BRINK OF THE NEW YEAR
REV. LOIS VAN LEER**

Chalice by John Cooley



We light this chalice on the brink of a new year
Letting go of what has been.
Open and hopeful for what may come.
Renewed, restored, ready
To live Life fully anew,
May we move forward with intention.



A UUCO EXCLUSIVE

**THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR
COMMEMORATIVE COFFEEHOUSE
14th EDITION**

**Featuring the Charlot Martin Players
(of course)**

Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend has many events—all around town—recognizing the inspiration Martin Luther King still offers us and challenging us to stay on course with the unfinished work of civil rights, peace, and the elimination of poverty. Although Charlot admits the Coffeehouse, “Is a really good way for liberals and progressives to vent about social issues,” the evening really does more than vent. Our event shares the inspiration and aspiration of MLK through political satire, music, poetry, and congregational singing.

I have to tell you, if you've never attended this event, your MLK Weekend has been incomplete. Lucky for you, we're doing it again! And we'd like for you to be involved. It's really simple:

- Contact Charlot and volunteer to join the Players or offer another talent for the evening (music, poetry, essay, dramatic presentation?) She'll provide the script and the instructions to Players. Charlot: charcarve@gmail.com

- Sign-up in the Sanctuary to work the evening or donate homemade baked goods. Or contact Linda for the same reasons: lilyangelrose@aol.com
- Invite your liberal and progressive friends—and your conservative friends who like thought-provoking and funny social observations.
- Donate to the HL Neblett Community Center for their ongoing services and outreach.

I hope to see you on Saturday, 14 January at this premier event; come prepared to laugh heartily and think deeply. And then we'll get back to work on the issues~
Claudia

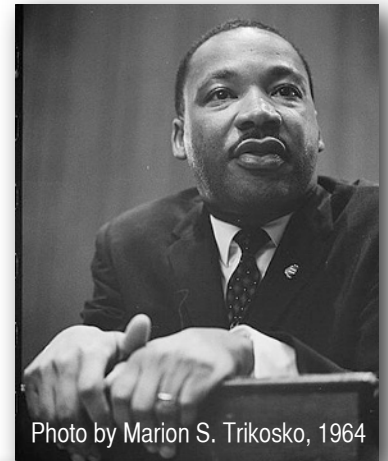


Photo by Marion S. Trikosko, 1964

A WORD OF HOPE; A WORK OF JUSTICE

MLK Commemorative Coffeehouse

Sat, 14 Jan @ UUCO, \$3 at door

Doors open @ 7 pm/ Entertainment @ 7:15 pm

Concessions to benefit HL Neblett Center

| January Events | |
|----------------|---|
| SUN, 01 | Burning Bowl Service |
| TUE, 03 | Yoga & Meditation, 6 pm |
| WED, 04 | Home Office, 12:30 pm Board Meeting, 6:30 pm |
| SAT, 07 | Reiki by Appointment |
| SUN, 08 | Breakfast Potluck, 9:30 am |
| TUE, 10 | Yoga & Meditation, 6 pm Interfaith Study, 7 pm |
| SAT, 14 | MLK Coffeehouse, 7 pm |
| TUE, 17 | Women Clergy, 12:30 pm Yoga & Meditation, 6 pm |
| THU, 19 | ODCMA @ OHRH, 9 am |
| MON, 23 | Home Office, 12:30 pm Interfaith Potluck @ OHRH, 6 pm |
| SAT, 28 | Quiet Hour, 9 am |

INTERFAITH MOMENT: MAGHI, 14 January

Maghi is celebrated culturally in India as the beginning of a new agricultural year. Hindus and Sikhs also celebrate the day religiously. For Hindus, it is appropriate to visit the Mandir, bathe in the river with sesame oil, give to charity, and offer special meditation. For Sikhs, it is one of three feasts named by the third guru, Amar Das. His teaching is recorded in the Guru Granth Sahib:

'People take baths on the 1st day of Magh; you should take the bath of service of the guru; in holy congregation remember God's virtues, listen and give discourse of them to all. This way the ill-effects of wrongdoings of past births will be negated and vanity will leave the mind. Desires and wrath and dog-like greed will no longer afflict the mind. Those who walk the righteous path are praised by the world; this is acceptable spiritually rather than bathing at the sixty eight pilgrim centers, observing all superstitions and observing non-violence. This understanding comes to those to whom the Creator kindly gives; this makes them truly wise. People purify themselves by baths in the month of Magh, but those are truly purified receive guidance from and follow the guru.'

For Sikhs, the celebration also includes remembering the Forty Liberated Ones who were martyred protecting Guru Gobind Singh in 1705. (It is typical of Sikh celebrations to include both happy and sad memorials.)

sadhsangat.com & allaboutsikhs.com

www.uowensboro.org

THIS LITTLE LIGHT MINI-GRANT

Once again, it's time to choose the committee for our grant program. In 2008, UUCO received a UU Heartland District grant called a Chalice Lighter Grant. Chalice Lighter Grants come from a self-funded District program. Members in regional UU churches pledge 8–15¢ a day to help worthy projects elsewhere in the District.

We began to dream about how we might do something similar for worthy projects right here in Owensboro. This seemed a natural way to offer 'our selves and talents' to the 'larger community' and to live out our principles. So later in 2008, our Board of Trustees approved a mini-grant program. It was established in our bylaws in 2009 and the first grant was given in May, 2010. It is based on members pledging 5¢ a day (\$18.25/ year) to the program and it is called This Little Light.

Through these mini-grants, we partner with other dreamers in Daviess County who are invested in improving the quality of human life.



2016 Grantees:
Cathy Mullins & Randi Howard

Total funds available for annual disbursement are \$500. At least one grant is to be made each year. Grants can be made to individuals, non-profit organizations, churches, school clubs, charity or civic groups in Daviess County who present an application for a project that improves the quality of human life in Owensboro-Daviess County. Projects must address one of these issues in a new way: Domestic Violence, Hunger, Homelessness, or Literacy.

Preference is given to projects that enhance the self-sufficiency of those served or that have an extended reach into the community. Preference is also given to projects with sustainable or repeatable plans. Grants are not given to "keep the lights on" for already established work or projects. The application period is from 16 January-15 February 2017.

Any member is eligible to serve on the Grant Committee. Volunteers are sought on the 1st Sunday of the year and names are drawn from a hat to form the Committee. Three members, the President, and the Minister serve from 15 February until the award decision is made (no later than 15 April.) The commitment includes reading applications, attending a meeting to choose which applicants will be interviewed, attending interviews, and making the decision on the award. It is a very short-term commitment and a very rewarding experience. Please think about putting your name in the hat on 1 January!

See our website for a complete list of previous grantees and to read the application packet. If you know someone working on one of the mini-grant's concerns, please encourage them to apply.

SOUP CLUB FUNDRAISER

Beginning in February, UUCO will be offering a monthly soup fundraiser. The goal is to raise funds for waterproofing the basement. The process is simple: Sell at least 30 quarts of soup monthly at \$8/ qt. for an annual profit of \$2600. Linda is working on the soup list and recipes right now. We need you to cook a pot of soup several times in the course of the year and invite friends and neighbors to sign up for the Club. You know we have great cooks... Details are coming soon! Please help!

UUA BOARD NEWS

The next UUA Board of Trustees meeting will be 27–28 January in Boston. Board packets are posted at uua.org before the meeting for your review. A number of significant issues are "in-process" in the Association: A new commitment to the Black Lives of UU (BLUU) Movement, consideration of a plan to change the formula for Annual Program Fund payments to the UUA from a per-member cost to a percentage of a congregational operating budget, and changing the way General Assembly business meetings are conducted.

THANK UU
Gloves & Socks Collection
TOTAL: 8 hats
26 pairs of gloves/mittens
73 pairs of socks
For Salvation Army
& St. Benedict's Shelter

Corner of Cedar & Parrish/ Owensboro KY 42301