

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF OWENSBORO

MARCH 2018 NEWSLETTER



Spiritual Mentoring Series Starts This Month

Starting Sunday, March 18, we will be running a Spiritual Mentoring Series. This will run the last two Sundays in March, and the middle two in April (the 8th and 15th). These will be sessions of about an hour in length, and will start at 9:30 am, before regular church services.

Those who have been regular faces for many years will remember these sessions, as they are the revised versions of ones this congregation ran in 2007 and 2008, while Rev. Claudia was working on her dissertation. This is the portion titled *Introduction to Theological Reflection*. The full series,

Theology as a Second Language, first ran from 2009 to 2010. It included the introduction, four modules on traditions, then a series called *Introduction to Interfaith Dialogue*. Revisions have been conducted by Rev. Claudia under a grant from the Louisville Institute, received in 2014. All that remains to revise are the four modules on traditions. In fact, the process was started with the tradition mapping the congregation conducted this past summer.

For newer members and friends, it is important to know that a curiosity of other faiths and an educated search to deepen one's own faith is

an integral part of Unitarian Universalism. In fact, our 3rd Principal is: "acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;" while our 4th is: "a free and responsible search for truth and meaning." These sessions provide such an opportunity. It is a wonderful journey that is not to be missed.

Meditation Moment/UUA

"Creating Fire"

By Stephen M Shick

Is the fire going out?
Not in your belly,
for you are still alive,
but in your soul,
that place

where dreams
fuel commitment

where longings
shape action

where meaning
flames purpose

where passion ignites
and rekindles
your life fire.

If your soul smolders
dream on
till you flame
like a chalice of hope.

MARCH EVENTS

03 SAT	Reiki 8:30 am
05 MON	NonVlt O'boro 7 pm
06 TUE	Yoga & Meditation 6 pm ODCMA Active Shooter Trning @Brescia 6:30 pm
10 SAT	Gamers 6-10 pm
13 TUE	Yoga & Meditation 6 pm
14 WED	Home Office 2-4 pm Board Meeting 5:30 pm
18 SUN	Spiritual Mentoring 9:30 am
20 TUE	Yoga & Meditation 6 pm
21 WED	NonVlt. O'boro Steering 5 pm
22 THU	ODCMA @ OHRH 9 am
25 SUN	Spiritual Mentoring 9:30 am
27 TUE	Women Clergy 12:30-2 pm Yoga & Meditation 6 pm
30 FRI	Easter Decorating 2 pm
31 SAT	Christian Easter 2 pm RSVP to Claudia

CONSCIENTIOUS SHOPPER?

Consider the following great gifts:

Soup Reservations

Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, or Chocolate

Products by UUCO Artists

Interfaith Moment

Holi, March 3

Holi is known as The Festival of Colors. Worldwide, it is observed by Hindus, Jains, and Sikhs; in India, it is observed by nearly everyone, regardless of religion. A Spring and Harvest festival, it is also associated with the legend of Prince Prahlad, as well as a legend of Lord Krishna's youth.

Paraphrased from the Hindu American Foundation (HAF), the legend of Prince Prahlad is a tale of the reward of virtue. Despite being the son of the Demon King Hiranyakashyap, Prince Prahlad was a faithful devotee of Vishnu. Because Prahlad refused forsake Vishnu, his father tried to have him killed many times, all unsuccessfully. Eventually the job fell to his father's sister, the demon Holika. Immune to fire, she tried to hold the boy inside flame to murder him. To her surprise, her immunity to fire was lost because she used it for evil. She perished, and Prince Prahlad was saved by Vishnu.

The legend of Lord Krishna's youth that has become associated with Holi concerns his uniqueness and playfulness. According to HAF, when he asked his mother why he had blue skin unlike his playmates, his mother playfully suggested throwing color on them. Taken by the idea, Lord Krishna started the tradition of throwing color during the Spring festival.

Besides the streets being filled with clouds of colored powder and streams of colored water shot at passersby through water guns, the joyousness of the festival is also shown in the relaxation of social rules and distinctions (class, caste, gender). Everyone is fair game.

For more information, please visit the following links: http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/hinduism/holydays/holi_1.shtml, and <https://www.hafsite.org/media/pr/holi-toolkit>.



"Indian Widows Celebrate Holi," from *The Guardian*, March 22 2016.

www.theguardian.com/world/gallery/2016/mar/22/indian-widows-celebrate-holi-festival-in-pictures#img-2

COMING UP THIS MONTH:

NEW BEGINNINGS: 30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY AND MARCH EVENTS

This year marks the 30th anniversary of New Beginnings Sexual Assault Support Services, our regional rape crisis center. In addition to a celebratory dinner that was held in January, they have released a 30th Anniversary Film that documents the numerous services they have provided to thousands of clients in our community. It can be found on their Facebook page, and here <https://vimeo.com/247694017?ref=fb-share&l>.

Some of the vital services they have provided include crisis calls, counseling sessions, support during hospital and police interviews, and laundry kits. In addition to that, they have provided nearly 14,000 education and professional training opportunities over the last three decades.

This coming month, they have two such opportunities. The first is called “#youtoo,” a community educational event held in Rogers Hall at Kentucky Wesleyan College, on Wednesday, March 7 at 6:30 pm. It is a free event, featuring a multi-disciplinary panel discussing sexual assault and harassment. For more information, see <https://www.facebook.com/events/1450221528436994/>.

The second event is a professional training seminar for therapists and social workers called, “The Magic of Play: Basic Training in Child-Centered Play Therapy.” While it is

geared towards professionals and provides Continuing Education Units, there are 10 spots open to students. It is being held at the Owensboro Health Regional Hospital, on March 15-16. The last day for registration is March 9. For more information, see <http://www.nbowensboro.org/seminars/>.

For more information on New Beginnings, see their website <http://www.nbowensboro.org/>, or their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/New-Beginnings-Sexual-Assault-Support-Services-369150508659/>.

COLOR BLAST 5K:

March is Disability Awareness Month. Saturday, March 17 the Color Blast 5K will be held at Moreland Park in Owensboro. This is an annual 5K event that benefits five local non-profit organizations that seek to support those with disabilities. These organizations are Puzzle Pieces, GRADSA, Dream Rider’s of Kentucky, the Wendell Foster Center, and Team Karlie.

What sets the Color Blast 5K apart is that it is a fun and noncompetitive 5K, in which participants wear white and are doused with colored powder every mile. It ends in an After Party with food and music.

For more information go to <http://www.colorblast5k.org/>. To sign up, go to <https://runsignup.com/Race/>

[KY/Owensboro/ColorBlast5k](http://www.nbowensboro.org/ky/owensboro/colorblast5k). Scheduled just two weeks after the colors of the Holi festival, this is quite a fun, supportive, and public-spirited way to spend St. Patrick’s Day.

LAST MONTH’S CORNER...



Charlot’s Makeover



Beguiling Peggy



Charlot-It Bears Repeating