

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF OWENSBORO

JUNE 2018 NEWSLETTER



DENOUNCE TORTURE OBSERVANCE

Sunday, June 24 at 3 pm, our 14th annual Denounce Torture Prayer Vigil will be held here at IUU. We will gather to pray for the end of torture in all its forms. The guest preacher will be Dr. Elaine Wright, of Brescia University.

In addition to the prayer vigil, we will be hosting a lecture as part of our annual Denounce Torture Observances. This year's lecture will be a panel on Transgender Awareness, and will feature advocates Dixie Collinson, Emma Latta, and Deanna Smith. Representatives from both New Beginnings and The Foundation for Healing Through the Arts will also be present.

The panel will be held at IUU, on Tuesday, June 26 at 6 pm.

Transgender people face increased rates of poverty, homelessness and violence. This is especially true of transgender women of color. It can be difficult to assess the scope of the problem due to inconsistent reporting and frequent misgendering of victims by police. However, according to an article published by *The New York Times* last year, the murder rate of transgender women of color in the US is over 4 times higher than the national average. That article can be found here: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/09/us/transgender-women-killed.html>.

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Human Rights Campaign is an lgbtq+ rights advocacy group that tracks reported instances of violence against transgender individuals in the US. They keep a list of transgender individuals that have died a violent death due to either hate crimes or increased risk status (i.e. higher levels of poverty and homelessness bring increased murder rates). Sadly, here is this year's list so far, may they rest in power: <https://www.hrc.org/resources/violence-against-the-transgender-community-in-2018>.

FUN CLUB JUNE MEET-UP
Porch Fest
JUNE 9, 3-9 pm.
Griffith Avenue, between Frederica and Robin Road, Owensboro
Meet/Park at IUU

CONSCIENTIOUS SHOPPER?
Consider the following great gifts:
Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, or Chocolate Products by UUCO Artists

**Meditation Moment/UUA
Prayer of Hope and Healing
by Chrystal Hogan**

To the God of our own understanding, the spirit with whom we commune this morning – we ask that our minds be open, our hearts welcoming, our arms embracing. We lift up those whose lives are touched by sadness, by illness, by worry, or by loneliness. May they find comfort, hope, and healing strength in this community and the larger community. We celebrate those whose lives are whole and well. May they share their strength with those in need and find warmth and love in the sharing of their spirit. And let us take a moment to silently reflect in the spirit of prayer.

JUNE EVENTS

02 SAT	Reiki 8:30 am
03 SUN	Pride Picnic @English Park 12-8 pm
04 MON	NonVlt O'boro 7 pm
05 TUE	Yoga & Meditation 6 pm
06 WED	Home Office 2-4 pm Board Meeting 5:30 pm
09 SAT	PorchFest via Fun Club @Griffith Ave 3-9 pm
12 TUE	Yoga & Meditation 6 pm
17 SUN	Spiritual Mentoring 9:30 am
19 TUE	Women Clergy 12:30-2 pm Yoga & Meditation 6 pm
20 WED	NonVlt O'boro Steering 5 pm
24 SUN	Spiritual Mentoring 9:30 am Potluck Denounce Torture Vigil 3 pm
26 TUE	Denounce Torture Panel 6 pm

Claudia's Travel Plans:

@ Elmwood's Retirement in Louisville
June 10

Interfaith Moment

Laylat al Qadr June 11, starting sundown June 10

Laylat al Qadr, known as the Night of Power, is a very important Islamic holy day. It simultaneously stands connected to the past as a remembrance, and lives in the present as a sacred opportunity for prayer. As a remembrance, it commemorates the first night the Prophet Muhammed received the divine revelation that is the Qur'an. However, this night reaches into the future just as much as it stretches into the past, as it is considered a powerful night for prayer.

In a *Huffinton Post* article titled, "Why Laylat al Qadr is One of the Holiest Nights of Ramadan," the importance and power of this night is illustrated through a quote from the Qur'an:

The Quran mentions Laylat Al Qadr in one of its chapters, the Surat Al-Qadr:

We have indeed revealed this (Message) in the Night of Power:

And what will explain to thee what the night of power is?

The Night of Power is better than a thousand months.

Therein come down the angels and the Spirit by Allah's permission, on every errand:

Peace!... This until the rise of morn!

Even the date of Laylat al Qadr is shrouded in mystery. All that is known from the Qur'an and the Hadith is that it takes place near the end of Ramadan, so there are differing opinions. *BBC Religions* has this to say:

Lailat [sic] al Qadr takes place during Ramadan. The date of 27 Ramadan for this day is a traditional date, as the Prophet Muhammad did not mention when the Night of Power would be, although it was suggested it was in the last 10 days of the month.

Because of this, many Muslims will treat the last 10 days of the month of Ramadan as a particularly good time for prayer and reading the Qur'an.

For more information, you can find the *Huffinton Post* article here: https://www.huffintonpost.com/entry/laylat-al-qadr-2017_us_594a78c6e4b00cdb99cbb8aa. The *BBC Religions* entry can be found here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/islam/holydays/lailatalqadr.shtml>.

COMING UP THIS MONTH:

PRIDE PICNIC

June is Pride month, and Sunday, June 3 is the 4th annual Tri-State Alliance hosted Owensboro Pride Picnic. The picnic will be held at English Park and runs from noon until 8 pm. English Park is located at 2 Waterford Ave, off of 2nd street, in Owensboro.

The TSA Owensboro Pride Picnic is a family affair, complete with a kid-friendly drag show. It is a pot-luck event, so bring a dish if you can. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be grilled on-site, donations appreciated. This year the picnic will have a water slide for the young/at heart.

We will be one of the many organizations to have an information table at the picnic. We will be leaving to set up the table after church, and will take it down around 5 pm. Please consider helping to set up our table or taking a turn in staffing it.

The Tri-State Alliance also hosts the Evansville Pride Picnic, which is on Sunday, June 10 this year, at Burdette Park. In addition to organizing Pride events, TSA also hosts many LGBTQ+ events, educates, advocates, and provides support services. An ex-

ample of these are the LGBTQ+ Youth groups, the Transgender Support group, and the AIDS Holiday Project. If you are interested in learning more or donating time or money, visit their site at: <http://tsagl.org/about.html>

FAITHIFY REMINDER

There is less than two weeks on our Faithify campaign to raise money to waterproof our basement. If we don't meet our goal, we receive no funds. Please share our campaign on your social media, with your friends, etc. Here is the link: <https://faithify.org/projects/owensboro-interfaith-center-preparation/>.

This would be the first step towards founding the Owensboro Interfaith Center. Remember, spiritual education may not be dry, but its home should be.

LAST MONTH'S CORNER...



This Little Light



Standing for Peace