

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF OWENSBORO

TOM HICKS, PRESIDENT

REV. DR. CLAUDIA A. RAMISCH, MINISTER

1221 Cedar Street... Corner of Cedar & Parrish

www.uuowensboro.org



Sometimes,
the most profound transformations
are the ones that emerge
out of the deaths
that we face in our lives.
It may be a literal death,
the hole left in your life
when a beloved has gone,
and you feel unmade by the loss.
It may be any one of
a thousand lesser losses-
the loss of a job or a friendship;
the death of a marriage or partnership;
a change in physical or mental ability;
even the death of a long-held dream.
These places of grief are barren places
in our lives,
God-forsaken places
that teach us sorrow and suffering
and lamentation.

...But feeling forsaken
is not the same as being forsaken.

The story of Easter tells us
that death doesn't win...

Love wins.

Like the saplings that sprout
among the ruins of a forest fire,
like the phoenix who is born
from its own ashes,
like the crocus that pokes
through the snow each spring,
like the banana tree...which dies,
but lives on in its children,
hope rises.

Hope rises up
even in the face of death.

Even in our wilderness,
we are never completely lost.

Rev. Ellen Cooper

CALL TO MEETING

ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTIONS

SUNDAY, 27 APRIL 2014

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SERVICE

BOARD APPROVES NEW FIVE-YEAR PLAN

On 26 January 2014, UUCO held a Congregational Forum to get member's input on the direction of programming and formation for the next five years. The process that day included evaluating past efforts against the Board's newly articulated Ends and Membership Themes.

After information was gathered at the Forum, the Congregational Life Committee and the Committee on Ministry "hung" the elements on a five-year framework. Their concern was particularly to make the ideas and preferences of members coordinate maximally with the annual Membership Themes.

At the March meeting, the completed plan was approved by the Board. It was unveiled for the

Congregation at Sunday morning worship on 9 March. (It is included on page 2 of this newsletter.) It includes some bold elements and exciting dreams. It keeps us engaged with the larger local community and the UUA while growing our strengths and skills.

I am pleased that our leadership is "on the same page" about providing plenty of opportunities for both personal development and outreach. I am also pleased they are planning and working for growth. I look forward to fruitful work for our benefit and as a positive influence in Owensboro!

Please take a good look at the plan before the Annual Meeting; our future really requires all of us~
Rev. Dr. Claudia A. Ramisch

EASTER ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY, 19 APRIL

CHRISTIAN SERVICE with Footwashing & Communion: 2pm
RSVP by 17 April to hermitstuff@bellsouth.net

SUNDAY, 20 APRIL

CHILDREN'S EGG HUNT: 9:30 am
SERVICE with FLOWER COMMUNION: 10:30 am

Bring flowers to share at service.

Potluck to follow.

Main dishes supplied: Bring salads, desserts, breads.



**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF OWENSBORO
FIVE YEAR PLAN: 2014-18**

	MEMBERSHIP	PROGRAMMING	LEADERSHIP	FACILITIES
2014	We will have a positive impact in Owensboro by growing in our ability to express Unitarian Universalism and minister in UUCO and in Owensboro.	Film festivals: Fairness Campaign, UU History (new DVD series from UUA, \$125 for 6) Ongoing RE on UU identity Local Food/Immigration: Book Group w/ UUA common read— <i>Behind the Kitchen Door</i> Visibility at public (non-UU) events	Prepare UUCO Handbook of bylaws, policies, Ends, Board school handouts Provide new member with study book	Gather information and current costs on repair & renovation of basement Do further research on professional fundraising
2015	We will have a positive impact in Owensboro by growing in theological and spiritual diversity.	Film festival: Religious Diversity Showcase Interfaith TY, Christmas Eve, Christian Holy Saturday	Training /Retreat for new Board members Establish mentoring relationships between new/previous Board members	Take out mortgage to cover basement repair and rehabilitation
2016	We will have a positive impact in Owensboro by growing in commitment to UUCO and UU values.	MLK Coffeehouse Film festival: Documentaires Bizarre Bazaar Book Groups/ UU curriculum— Repeat BYOT Interfaith educational panels	Short courses on UU History Retreat for Prospective Leaders	Integrate new facilities into programming
2017	We will have a positive impact in Owensboro by growing in multicultural presence.	Culturally themed Potlucks Cooking classes of different cultures Guest speakers from other countries & cultures International Center Series (invite communities)	Leadership-through-diversity summit with interfaith partners Offer pulpit exchange to Interfaith partners	Research options for renovation of, expansion of, and greening of facilities Prioritize phases
2018	We will have a positive impact in Owensboro by growing in multigenerational identity.	Concerts Expand Tai Chi Winter/Spring Retreat—Family/ Couple/ Lifecycle Common read across generations	Multigenerational Leadership Retreat	Assemble financing to begin Phase I of project as identified in 2017

**Interfaith Moment:
Mahavir Jayanti, 13 April 2014**

Jainism is the 4th most practiced religion in India. There are about 10 million Jains in India. Lord Mahavir was the 24th and last Tirthankar (prophet). This year his birth anniversary falls on 13 April. According to Jainism, all Tirthankars, also known as Arihants or Jinas, were born as human beings but have attained a state of perfection or enlightenment through meditation and self realization.

Mahavir was born in 599 B.C. as a prince in Bihar, India. At the age of 30, he left everything and became a monk. He spent the next 12 years in deep silence and meditation to conquer his desires and feelings. At the end he realized perfect perception, knowledge, power, and bliss. This realization is known as keval-jnana.

Mahavir spent the next thirty years traveling around India preaching the eternal truth he had realized. He organized his followers, into a four-fold order, namely monk (Sadhu), nun (Sadhvi), layman (Shravak), and laywoman (Shravika). Later they are all known as Jains.

The ultimate objective of this teaching is how one can attain the total freedom from the cycle of birth, life, pain, misery, and death, and achieve the permanent blissful state of one's self. This is also known as liberation, nirvana, absolute freedom, or Moksha.

Mahavir explained that from eternity, every living being (soul) is in bondage to karmic atoms as accumulated by its own good or bad deeds. Influenced by karma, the soul is habituated to seek

pleasures in materialistic belongings and possessions. These are the deep- rooted causes of self-centered violent thoughts and deeds, anger, hatred, greed, and such other vices. He preached right faith (samyak-darshana), right knowledge (samyak-jnana), and right conduct (samyak-charitra) together will help attain the liberation of one's self.

At the heart of right conduct for Jains lie the Five Great Vows:
Nonviolence (Ahimsa)- not to cause harm to any living beings
Truthfulness (Satya)- to speak the harmless truth only
Non-stealing (Asteya)- not to take anything not properly given
Chastity (Brahmacharya)- not to indulge in sensual pleasure
Non-possession/Non-attachment (Aparigraha)- complete detachment from material things
 Jains hold these vows at the center of their lives.



At the age of 72, Lord Mahavir died and his purified soul left the body and achieved complete liberation. He became a Siddha, a pure consciousness, a liberated soul, living forever in a state of complete bliss. On the night of his salvation, people celebrated the Festival of Lights (Dipavali) in his honor.

He taught the idea of supremacy of human life and stressed the importance of the positive attitude of life. Lord Mahavir also preached the gospel of universal love, emphasizing that all living beings, irrespective of their size, shape, form, how spiritually developed or under-developed, are equal and we should love and respect them.

Article Courtesy of Harakh Maru, Tri-State Jain Community



Thank You, 2014 Veggie Feast Team

Full Team & Donations Listed on Bulletin Board in Sanctuary

CAREGIVER'S LUNCH
THU, 3 APR
RSVP by WED @ 12 n to
hermitstuff@bellsouth.net

APRIL EVENTS

TUE, 01	COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY, 4:30 PM
WED, 02	CONGREGATIONAL LIFE, 6 PM BOARD MEETING, 6:30 PM
THU, 03	CAREGIVER'S LUNCH, 12 N TAI CHI, 6 PM MEDITATION, 6:30 PM
SAT, 05	HABITAT CAN COLLECTION REIKI APPOINTMENTS
TUE, 08	INTERFAITH STUDY, 12 N
THU, 10	VOAD, 2 PM TAI CHI, 6 PM MEDITATION, 6:30 PM
SAT, 12	FAMILY RE, 9 AM NATALIE'S BABY SHOWER, 3:30 PM
TUE, 15	SOUP & SALAD CARRYOUT, 11:30 AM
THU, 17	HUUMA CLUSTER @ ROUGH RIVER, 9 AM- 2PM TAI CHI, 6 PM MEDITATION, 6:30 PM
SAT, 19	CHRISTIAN SERVICE, 2 PM
SUN, 20	CHILDREN'S EGG HUNT, 9:30 AM FLOWER COMMUNION, 10:30 AM POTLUCK AFTER SERVICE
MON, 21	EARTH DAY DRAMATIZATION: DR. SHORE AS JOHN MUIR, 7 PM
WED, 23	FAIRNESS COALITION, 6 PM
THU, 24	ODCMA @ OHRH, 9 AM TAI CHI, 6 PM MEDITATION, 6:30 PM VDAY DRESS REHEARSAL
FRI, 25	EMOTIONAL CREATURE, 7 PM
SAT, 26	EMOTIONAL CREATURE, 7 PM
SUN, 27	ANNUAL MEETING, AFTER SERVICE
WED, 30	DRUM CIRCLE, 6:30 PM

EARTH DAY 2014: EVENTS IN OWENSBORO ALL EASTER WEEK

Watch for further details on
non-UU events.

Mon, 21 Apr @ UUCO:
Dr. Richard Shore plays
John Muir on Muir's birthday!
Presentation @ 7 pm
Birthday Cake to Follow
PLUS
Jerry Hash: CFL/LED Display

Tue, 22 Apr @ Hampton Inn Downtown
Malcolm Bryant
Educational Tour of the
LEED Certified Facility @ 7 pm

Wed, 23 Apr @ the Public Library
Film (TBD)

Thu, 24 Apr, @ HL Neblett Center
Vivian Partridge @ 3:30 pm
Teaching: Tai Chi Moves for
Endangered Species

Thu, 24 Apr @ HL Neblett Center
Window Box Gardening @ 6 pm

Fri, 25 Apr @ the Public Library
Film (TBD)

Sat, 26 Apr @ Tapscott Corner
Love the Earth Demonstration @ 2 pm

Sun, 27 Apr @ the Green Belt
Peter Kobella
& OCTC Environment Club
Hike @ 2 pm



DO YOU KNOW WHY WE SELL EQUAL EXCHANGE FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS?

Fair Trade respects workers
and the earth-- and allows us
to sell organic goods
without undercutting
any local producers.
A couple other facts:

- Our newest EE coffee is One Harvest, a "story coffee" from a co-op named Tierra Nueva in Nicaragua. The story is that through the co-op, women participate in leadership training and have formed a credit union that gives loans specifically to women farmers.
- The EE coffee, Congo, is priced a little higher because it not only benefits its producing farmers but the Panzi Hospital. Panzi Hospital in the DR Congo *annually* treats over 2000 survivors of sexual assault with medical care, counseling, and after-care (e.g. job preparation.)

And a fun religious fact:

- All Equal Exchange coffee is not only organic, but kosher!

