

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF OWENSBORO

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 7

TOM HICKS, PRESIDENT

REV. DR. CLAUDIA A. RAMISCH, MINISTER



FOUNDATION FOR HEALING THROUGH THE ARTS

presents

The Vagina Monologues
@ UUCO

9, 10, 11 Feb @ 8 pm
Admission \$10
\$5 with Student ID

A Memory, A Monologue,
A Rant, A Prayer
@ Zion UCC

24, 25 Feb @ 8 pm
Admission \$10
\$5 with Student ID

90% of proceeds go to:
New Beginnings
10% goes to V-DAY Charity

The Foundation was one of last year's
This Little Light grant recipients.



Love is the aspiration, the spirit that moves and inspires this faith we share. Rightly understood, love can nurture our spirits and transform the world. May the flame of [our] chalice honor and embody the power and the blessing of the love we need, the love we give, the love we are challenged always to remember and to share.

Rev. Maureen Killoran



REFUGEES IN KENTUCKY REFUGEES IN OWENSBORO

On Sunday, 22 January, I attended a meeting at Owensboro Christian about Refugee Resettlement Ministry. The local Resettlement Partner is the International Center and they need the broader community to make their work effective. Attendees at this meeting represented the Ursuline Sisters of Mt. St. Joseph, Catholic, Protestant, and non-denominational churches, the Islamic Center, and UU's.

In the past decade, over 25,000 refugees have been resettled in Kentucky; 3,400 in Fiscal Year 2015. The process of resettlement is arduous and involves UN agencies and at least three Departments of the US government. One gentleman from Somalia was seated at our table. He and his family have been in Owensboro for just 65 days--after spending 19 YEARS in limbo in a refugee camp in Botswana. This length of wait is not unusual.

The top five countries of origin for our refugees are: Cuba, Burma, Congo, Somalia, and Iraq. Recent suspensions of resettlement will mean that many people, from these countries and others, who have been through extensive vetting--and may already have paid for expensive travel to the States--will have to start the process over.

Friends of the Congregation are caught in this dilemma so this isn't an issue that only touches us because of moral convictions!

Once a refugee actually makes it here, they are expected to be working and paying their own bills in 90 days. It is an incredible expectation, but most refugees meet it--in fact, they have an 85% job retention rate at 90 days. As with most immigrants, they are ready to work and consistent in attendance. The work of the International Center and its partners is to help get as many pieces as possible in place before the new resident arrives--and to assist in their transition. New partners and volunteers are always needed! This is where we come in.

We have signed up to collect supplies for childcare during English language classes. The needs are very specific and readily available at the grocery or dollar stores. Please bring:

- Cheerios/ Oat rings
- Goldfish crackers
- Diaper wipes
- Diapers in sizes 4 or 5

This collection will run throughout February. I hope we will repeat it in the Summer. Our goal is to collect at least 1 item per member. Thank you in advance for helping our newest neighbors, Claudia

FEBRUARY EVENTS

WED 01	HOME OFFICE 12:30 PM Board Meeting, 6:30 pm
SAT 04	REIKI BY APPT, 8:30 AM SOUP DAY, 11:30 AM
TUE 07	YOGA & MEDITATION, 6 PM
THU 09	VAGINA MONOLOGUES, 8 PM
FRI 10	VAGINA MONOLOGUES, 8 PM
SAT 11	VAGINA MONOLOGUES, 8 PM
TUE 14	YOGA & MEDITATION, 6 PM INTERFAITH STUDY, 7 PM
THU 16	RACE DIALOG: DCPL, 5:30 PM
TUE 21	WOMEN CLERGY, 12:30 YOGA & MEDITATION, 6 PM
THU 23	ODCMA @ OHRH, 9:30 AM
SUN 26	QUIET HOUR, 2:30 PM
MON 27	HOME OFFICE 12:30 PM INTERFAITH POTLUCK, 6 PM NON-VIOLENT O'BORO, 7 PM
TUE 28	YOGA & MEDITATION, 6 PM



SOUP SATURDAY
1st Saturday
Of each Month

HOW IT WORKS

You make a reservation by noon on the Wednesday before Soup Saturday. (Tell us how many quarts you want.)

We make a yummy lunch for you.

You pick it up and pay for it.

You eat a yummy lunch.

PARTICULARS

THIS MONTH'S SOUP: TOMATO BASIL

Reservation Lines:

Linda @ 270-570-9323

Claudia @ 270-683-1462

Price: \$8/qt

Carryout @ UUCO Chalice Center

11:30 am- 1 pm on 4 Feb.

Exercise the Club Option and Save!

CLUB OPTION

Soup Saturday Order Form

Order & pay in advance and save \$0.50/ qt

Yes, you can order all 12 months for just \$90!

Order form & list of soups @

www.uuwensboro.org

CONVERSATIONS ON RACE: THE PRICE OF PRISON

Serious community conversations on race began last fall with the discussion of Ta-Nehisi Coates' book, *Between the World and Me*. The effort is being co-sponsored by the AAUW, NAACP Local Branch, Human Relations Commission, Black Expo, and the Ministerial Association. The Daviess County Public Library has graciously hosted these events. Participation in MLK events around the city also furthered this blossoming work.

Now, these groups will screen the acclaimed film, *13th*, by Ava DuVernay followed by facilitated conversation with Richard Jones, at the library on Thursday, 16 Feb. beginning at 5:30 pm. The film is a documentary on the disproportionate impact of incarceration on communities of color and the link back to slavery through the lens of the 13th Amendment.

Mark your calendar now! A light meal is included in the evening.

INTERFAITH MOMENT TU B'SHEVAT By Rabbi Naftali Silberberg From chabad.org

The 15th of the month of Shevat is the New Year for Trees, known as Tu b'Shevat. According to Biblical law, there is a seven-year agricultural cycle, concluding with the Sabbatical year. When the Holy Temple stood in Jerusalem, on years 1, 2, 4 and 5 of this cycle, farmers were required to separate 10% of their produce and eat it in Jerusalem. This tithe is called Maaser Sheni, the Second Tithe, because it is in addition to the 2% which must be given to the Kohain, and the 10% which is given to the Levite.

On the 3rd and 6th years of the cycle, instead of eating the Maaser Sheni in Jerusalem, they gave this second tithe to the poor, who were permitted to consume it wherever they wished. On the Sabbatical year, no tithes are separated. All produce which grows during this year is ownerless and free for anyone to take.

It was therefore of vital importance to ascertain when the new year started for produce. Our Rabbis established that a fruit which blossomed before the 15th of Shevat is produce of the previous year. If it blossomed afterwards, it is produce of the "new year."

Why is this so? In the Mediterranean region, it takes approximately four months for the rains of the new year to saturate the soil and trees, and produce fruit. All fruit which blossom beforehand are a product of the rains of the previous year, and are tithed together with the crops of the previous year.

Although this day is Rosh Hashanah for trees, we attach special significance to this holiday because "Man is [compared to] the tree of the field" (Deut 20:19). Through cultivating strong roots – faith and commitment to G-d – we produce many fruits—Torah and Mitzvot.

On this day it is customary to partake of the fruit with which the Holy Land is praised (Deut 8:8): grapes, pomegranates, figs and dates, and olives.



If tasting any of these fruit for the first time this season a special blessing is said, the Shehecheyanu blessing. It is recited on joyous occasions, thanking G-d for "sustaining us and enabling us to reach this occasion." This blessing is recited before the standard blessing recited on fruit. Due to the festive nature of the day, we omit the petitions for forgiveness and confession from the prayers.

More Info: www.chabad.org



Thank UU cast of thousands for the wonderful MLK Coffeehouse! Charlot, you were awesome (of course)!