

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF OWENSBORO

MAY 2019 NEWSLETTER



MAY EVENTS

There are many events this month to inspire the spirit and educate the mind, both at our church and around Owensboro.

The Theatre Workshop of Owensboro will be presenting *The Miracle Worker* at Empress Theatre this month. This production tells the true story of Helen Keller. Tickets can be bought at <http://www.theatreworkshop.org/tickets/>. Also in Owensboro this month, the Daviess County Public library will be

hosting the screening of *Reclaiming Uncle Tom: The Josiah Henson Story*. The event will be held at Blanford Hall (in the Humanities Building) of Owensboro Community and Technical College, on March 13th at 7 pm. For more information on this event, see https://visitowensboro.com/event/redeeming-uncle-tom-the-josiah-henson-story-screening/?instance_id=114055.

Here at IUU, we will be presenting our This Little Light grant on Sunday, May 5th (see last page). Sun-

day, May 12th, we will be having a Standing Women Circle after church service.

Meditation Moment/UUA Give All to Love by Ralph Waldo Emerson

Give all to love;
Obey thy heart;
Friends, kindred, days,
Estate, good-fame,
Plans, credit and the Muse,—
Nothing refuse.

It requireth courage stout.
Souls above doubt,
Valor unbending,
It will reward,—
They shall return
More than they were,
And ever ascending.

'T is a brave master;
Let it have scope:
Follow it utterly,
Hope beyond hope.
It was never for the mean;

CONSCIENTIOUS SHOPPER?

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

MAY EVENTS

02 THU	Yoga & Meditation 6 pm Nat'l Day of Prayer 7:15 pm
03 FRI	SPARKodc Follow-up 12 pm
04 SAT	Reiki 8:30 am Gamers 6 pm
05 SUN	This Little Light during service Grant Sunday Potluck
06 MON	NonVlt O'boro 6:30 pm
09 THU	Yoga & Meditation 6 pm
12 SUN	Standing Women after service Bag lunch
13 MON	Redeeming Uncle Tom @ DCPL 7 pm
16 THU	NonVlt O'boro Steering 5 pm Yoga & Meditation 6 pm
19 SUN	Lunch Out (Y)
23 THU	ODCMA @ OHRH 9 am Yoga & Meditation 6 pm
26 SUN	Graduate Sunday Bag Lunch
28 TUE	Women Clergy 12:30 pm
30 THU	Yoga & Meditation 6 pm

REMINDER: May's potluck has been moved up to the first Sunday, May 5th, so that we can celebrate with the recipients of this year's This Little Light Grant.

Interfaith Moment

Dr. Claudia Ramisch, On Faith column, *Owensboro Messenger Inquirer*, 27 April 2019

It's Springtime! There are so many spiritual "power" moments in this season: Ridvan (Baha'i), Buddha Day (some Buddhists), Easter (Christians), Ramayana and Rama Navami (some Hindus), Mahavir Jayanti (Jains), Passover (Jews), Ostara (Pagans), and Vaisakhi (Sikhs). As it happens, our Muslim neighbors join us this year by preparing for Ramadan. Each in our own way, as people of faith, are paying attention to the rhythms of our Tradition as well as big themes like life and death; struggle, enlightenment and liberation; fasting and feasting; the cost of truth and service. Each Tradition has deep stories to study, all of us have soul work to do. I'm always heartened when these powerhouse times coincide because I know we're all being stretched and enriched.

Even with this lush spiritual environment, the world didn't stop turning! Another week passed with disaster and disorder: the loss of life and community in Syria, Afghanistan, Yemen, and Central and South America; the memories of Columbine twenty years later on the day of Sri Lanka's tragedy; Notre Dame burning in Paris. In juxtaposition to these, there's also been moxy and visionary investment: Refugees, migrants, and internally displaced persons keeping up their struggle and reminding us of the need for more justice; the bees (!) of Notre Dame—colonies started to improve the environment of France—surviving the fire; the Turpin children stepping out with fresh dreams even as their parents were sentenced to life in prison. Here at home, Impact 100 and Next Gen announced they'll nurture our community far beyond their previous grant amounts.

Just as we all pursue holiness and health through a specific worldview and Tradition, we also identify with and address different news stories at different times. That's okay; there's plenty of need to go around!

The National Day of Prayer is situated in this religiously powerful season and our social setting. The National Day of Prayer is designated by the United States Congress. 36 U.S.C. § 119 says: "The President shall issue each year a proclamation designating the first Thursday in May as a National Day of Prayer on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups, and as individuals." The modern law formalizing its annual observance was enacted in 1952 (signed by Pres. Truman) and amended in 1988 (signed by Pres. Reagan.) Earlier days of fasting and prayer had been established by the Second Continental Congress from 1775-1783, by Pres. John Adams in 1798-1799, and Pres. Lincoln in 1863.

From ancient times, people of faith have loved their homelands. What began as, "O God, make us stronger than our attackers," "Don't strike us dead for our stupidity," and "Give us all the stuff we need" evolved into three things espoused by the enduring Traditions of the world: 1) We're all in relationship to each other. 2) There's a tricky balance between personal and communal rights and duties that we must tend thoughtfully. 3) Our best ethics should inform our corporate actions--which also matter to the world at large. Of course, people of faith are concerned for their nations! It's where we live together. More than that, it's key to our identities, our cultures, and our dreams of flourishing. We are fortunate to live in a country that doesn't homogenize those things.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

COMING UP THIS MONTH:

ON FAITH (CON.)

Prayer, that is, giving deliberate attention to the Mysteries of life, takes many forms including silent meditation. Clearly there's more nonsense and chatter than needed out there; humans are good at filling the space around us with worry, gossip, rumor, fear, prejudice, and condemnation and obscuring the Mystery that sustains us. But beyond our chatter, the Mystery of life remains a symphony of fierce beauty, love, ongoing change, and justice. When we take time to "be still" and listen to that symphony, we're as energized as when we observe our Tradition's holy days. When we take time together to connect to that symphony, we also connect to each other.

There are several opportunities for engagement on the National Day of Prayer, Thursday, 2 May. Two of them are: The Circle of Good News Bible Reading to be held at the Courthouse at 11:30 am. (More details can be found online.) And an Interfaith Meditation to be held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Owensboro at 7:15 pm. Of course, groups of friends and individuals can stop anywhere and pray or meditate for the wellbeing of our nation. There's plenty of need to go around!

I'm convinced we're better citizens for taking time together to

remember our nation, and all it represents. Opening our spirits to One greater than any of us-greater than any theology or political orientation-combined with attention on our nation, opens the door to prayerful citizenship. Prayerful citizenship is not about a specific issue or Tradition or agenda, but is about working for our nation with our spirits both open and connected to our neighbors. Without being strident, let us be strong, prayerful citizens! May all hear the symphony of fierce beauty and love. May all live and practice their Traditions in peace. May justice characterize our land.

THIS LITTLE LIGHT GRANT 2019

This time every year, we give out our This Little Light Grant. This grant is made to an individual or non-profit organization in Daviess County "who present an application for a project that improves the quality of human life in Owensboro-Daviess County." Last year's winner was The Foun-

ation for Healing through the Arts. This year's winner is the Third Baptist Youth Group, who are doing excellent work on addressing bullying. If you haven't yet contributed your member contribution of \$18.25, please give that to Tom.

LAST MONTH'S CORNER...



Spring brings New Members



Ostara Play 2019