

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF OWENSBORO

JULY 2018 NEWSLETTER



SPOTLIGHT ON RACE CONVERSATIONS SERIES

Contributed By: Rev. Dr. Claudia A. Ramisch

The Race Conversations began almost a year and a half ago as a cooperative effort of NAACP, AAUW, Human Relations Commission, Black Expo, ODCMA, the Public Library and other occasional sponsors—including NonViolent Owensboro and IUU. It has taken many forms from book discussions to panel offerings to movies (13th, John Lewis: Get in the Way) to speakers to workshops (e.g. Bystander Training.) Local officials, community leaders, educators, lawyers, representatives of the Student Governments at the high

schools, and citizen-activists have been presenters and attendees.

The goal is to get to know each other better by talking about the experience of being a racial minority in Owensboro, the juxtaposition of the national issues with local ones, the subtleties of oppression that white folks don't even notice, and current trends in race relations. I found them valuable. It's always good to hear people's experiences and check my own filters on what's going on.

Generally events have been held at the Library, but due to renova-

tions right now, we are temporarily meeting at the Neblett Center. Attendance has ranged from 5-55, and has drawn all ages and races. Meetings are roughly every 1-2 months. Last month space was tight and the Neblett Center wants to get us in the right room so this particular conversation asks for a reservation through the library: 270-684-0211, ext 4. .

FUN CLUB JULY MEET-UP
Summer Session @ Artists Tribe
2226 Veach Rd
6-8 pm

Meditation Moment/UUA
A Prayer Among Friends
by John Daniel

Among other wonders of our lives, we are alive with one another, we live here in the light of this unlikely world that isn't ours for long. May we spend generously the time we are given. May we enact our responsibilities as thoroughly as we enjoy our pleasures. May we see with clarity, may we seek a vision that serves all beings, may we honor the mystery surpassing our sight, and may we hold in our hands the gift of good work and bear it forth whole, as we were borne forth by a power we praise to this one Earth, this homeland of all we love.

JULY EVENTS

01 SUN	Bag Lunch Intro to InterSpiritual Meditation Series (S) 9:30 am
02 MON	NonVlt O'boro 7 pm
03 TUE	Yoga & Meditation 6 pm
05 THU	Home Office 2-4 pm Board Meeting 5:30 pm
07 SAT	Reiki by Appt 8:30am
08 SUN	Bag Lunch Spiritual Mentoring 9:30 am
10 TUE	Yoga & Meditation 6 pm
12 THU	Race Conversation Immigration @ Neblett Ctr 6:30 pm
15 SUN	Lunch Out Summer BizBaz 1-5 pm
16 MON	Global Give-a-Kid-a-Hug-Day 6:30-8 pm
17 TUE	Yoga & Meditation 6 pm
18 WED	NonVlt O'boro Steering 5 pm
22 SUN	Bag Lunch Spiritual Mentoring 9:30 am
24 TUE	Yoga & Meditation 6 pm NonVlt O'boro Film 7:30 pm
25 WED	NonVlt O'boro Film 6:30 pm
26 THU	NonVlt O'boro Film 6:30 pm
28 SAT	FUN CLUB (Y) Summer Session @ Artists Tribe 6-8 pm
29 SUN	Potluck
31 TUE	Yoga & Meditation 6 pm

Claudia's Vacation:
23 July-3 August, and August 6-7

Interfaith Moment

The Martyrdom of the Bab, July 9

This Spring, we spent time examining gateway imagery. The founder of the Baha'i religion was known The Bab (the Gate). He is seen as the gateway of the Baha'i religion, as he told his followers that a greater one would come after him, pointing the way to the Baha'ullah. In June, we studied the basics tenets and history of the Baha'i religion, and connected it to our annual Denounce torture event, as the Baha'i have endured merciless persecution. For spreading his message, the Bab was executed in Persia on July 9. This day is celebrated as a holy day by the Baha'l, known as The Martyrdom of the Bab.

Here is what BBC Religions has to say about The Martyrdom of the Bab:

This major holy day is celebrated on the 9th July at noon and commemorates the events surrounding the death of the Báb in 1850.

The Báb (a title meaning 'the Gate') had many followers but his beliefs did not meet with approval from the leaders of the state religion in Persia, and they decided he should be taken from prison and put to death.

One of his young followers begged to be allowed to share his fate, and this wish was granted.

An Armenian firing squad lined up and shot at the Báb and his follower, but when the smoke cleared, the young follower remained there unharmed and the Báb had gone.

The Báb was found back in his cell, and the soldiers were so shaken by the 'miracle' that they refused to try to kill him again so a new regiment had to be called for.

This time, when the squad opened fire the Báb and the follower died, and their bodies were thrown into a moat outside the town.

The Báb's followers rescued the bodies, and years later, the remains were buried on Mount Carmel in Israel, in a shrine that is now a place of pilgrimage for Bahá'ís worldwide.

It isn't hard for UU's to see a kinship between ourselves and the Baha'i. As religions that value equality and have an interfaith core, we have much in common. There are lessons to be learned from the Martyrdom of the Bab, from both the first attempted execution and the final execution. Standing for one's beliefs, even beliefs as seemingly benign as peace and equality, is not a risk-free activity. It is important to note that while miracles such as the Bab surviving the first attempt at execution can happen, so can the inevitable. Even more important to note is that events we may not at first consider miracles because of their inherent tragedy, such as the death of the Bab and countless other martyrs throughout history, can go on to have miraculous and transformative effects. People may be silenced, but ideas are much harder to kill.

To read the above article in full, visit <http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/bahai/holydays/martyrdombab.shtml>.

COMING UP THIS MONTH:

New Lunch Schedule - Introducing Bag Lunches

Our previous lunch/potluck schedule is changing. We will now be doing Bring Your Own Bag Lunches on the first and second Sundays of the month. The third Sunday we will patronize a local restaurant. The last Sunday of the month remains Potluck Sunday. On months with five Sundays, Bag Lunch Sundays will be the first, second, and fourth Sundays. The third Sunday will always be Restaurant Sunday, while Potluck Sunday will always be the last Sunday.

The lunch schedule was discussed at the May and June Board meetings. We realized that while we value patronizing local businesses to support our community, lunch is also a time to build bonds within the congregation. By having lunch out all but one Sunday a month, we were taking for granted financial status and assuming everyone had the means to dine out each week. By reducing the number of Sundays we go out for lunch, we can be more inclusive.

We invite everyone in the congregation to Bring Your Own Bag Lunch Sundays. Come enjoy the company and conversation.

This could also increase income for our church, as the Board has agreed to donate the difference from what they would have spent at a restaurant and what they will spend on bag lunches from home. The Board invites members that have regularly had lunch out with us to do the same.

Bizarre Bazaar Summer Edition

Every winter, we host a Bizarre Bazaar (BizBaz, for short), where we invite local artists to rent space and sell their wares. This is not only an opportunity for us to holiday shop, but to support local artists, some of which are members of this congregation. July 15 we will be having our first Summer Edition Bizarre Bazaar, from 1 to 5 pm. Don't worry, we will still be having our 2018 Holiday BizBaz in December.

Looking for the perfect birthday or wedding gift, or perhaps you want to add some art to your life? You will find it here. You can find repurposed jewelry, bags, vintage clothing, and crocheted items. From IUU, Charlot will be selling her artwork, Linda will be doing Druid card readings and Reiki, Jo will be selling her keepsake boxes, Jordan will have his tie-dye, and Claudia will have her Hermit Stuff art (calendars, greetings cards, etc).

For refreshments, there will be tea, coffee, and baked goods. Our Summer Edition BizBaz will also feature a performance by local musician Collin Horn. If you are interested in renting space as a vendor (\$35), helping set up, or just want more information, please see Linda Craig.

LAST MONTH'S CORNER...



Transgender Awareness Panel



Denounce Torture Service