

WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK

The Official UN Observance in the 1st Week of February



Blessings of Diversity February 3, 2025, Theme Hope, Hosts the Baha'is of Lucas County

Ten Faith Traditions presented. 42 attended.

World Interfaith Harmony Week Registered Event



Display



Display



Jennifer Welcome



Candlelighting



White Crow -
Native American



Bonadea - Pagan



Jean – Pagan
Poem



Dipti - Hindu



Vani – Hindu Song



Devorah – Jewish



Attendees



Attendees



Attendees



Shokai - Buddhist



Beth- Christian



Awatef - Islam



Lauraine - Cherag



Jennifer, Lauraine
– Baha'i Song



Rev. Tim – Unitarian
Universalism



Judy – Unitarian
Song



Judy – Cherag,
Gayan



Social Time



Barb Vani John



Kathy Vani



Peggy, Susan,
Devorah

The MultiFaith Council of NW Ohio sponsors these services monthly, September through June, in diverse faith spaces. Each host selects a theme. Authentic local representatives of 10 faith traditions present readings and artistic offerings on the theme.

The MultiFaith Council Vision, Mission, and Covenant:

Vision: “The Vision of the MultiFaith Council of Northwest Ohio is to be a significant force and model of multifaith collaboration by addressing critical issues that meet regional needs and by enriching the cultural fabric of the area”

Mission: “It is the Mission of the MultiFaith Council of Northwest Ohio to provide community leadership and facilitate programs that draw together diverse faiths and foster mutual respect, friendship and cooperation in service to the region”

Covenant: “I vow to consciously grow in the understanding and compassion that will encourage me to live peaceably with all of my neighbors” The Covenant was adopted at our first MultiFaith Habitat for Humanity Build and continues to guide us.

The above image is a collage of photos taken by Behrooz Modarai, Baha’i, and Melanie Christiansen, Unitarian Universalist, at the Blessings of Diversity Service Feb 3 on the theme Hope, hosted by the Baha’is in the Lourdes University, Franciscan Center Boardroom. The Baha’is of Lucas County are a small, but very active group. They have no local building, so they rented space and decorated it with

Local representatives of 10 faith traditions (Native American, Pagan, Hindu, Jewish, Buddhist, Christian, Islamic, Baha’i, and Unitarian Universalist) presented readings and music or poetry on the theme Hope. We are locally in need of hope, given times fraught with hate, violence and division. Forty-two people attended the service. Several attendees commented on how much they had learned.

Our local Druid, who presented an original poem, commented in an email, “Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this important work. I am touched by the kindness and compassion that I feel at these gatherings. In hearing the words and voices of others, it deepens my own devotional work. Thank you for making this possible. I must say that the other songs and poems are so beautiful and timely.” Our classical Hindu singer always concludes with, “Thank you for this opportunity to pray with you.” The daughter of one of our local Imams presented Qur’anic readings and an original acrostic poem,

High aspirations, although I don’t know where to start
Opportunities impatiently waiting for me to uncover
Pondering the benevolence exuding from every heart
Endless success we will achieve together

As one of the Cherags leading the service, I presented a Haiku that I wrote and did a painting on this theme.



“Hope Rising”

**We have to keep Hope
Rising towards Divine Light
Kindle your own flame**

Art and Haiku © 2025 Judy Lee Trautman

We try to keep these services about an hour. But people stayed for social time and refreshments for a long time. We feel a need to join together in unity.

Judy Lee Nur-un-nisa Trautman

Chair Emerita of the MultiFaith Council of NW Ohio & Greater Toledo Compassionate Community;
Cherag Sufi Ruhaniat International; Honorary Board Member North American Interfaith Network,
professional artist.