

March 29-April 4, 2024

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## News from Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church

# The Exponent



### Stone Soup

FREE  
Community  
Meal!



DINE  
IN!  
Take out  
meals  
available

Friday, March 29

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Or until supplies run out!

Split Pea Soup with Ham

Fresh Fruit

Chocolate Pretzel Crinkle Cookies

Come inside the Social Hall and share a meal with others, or pick up a take out meal. Bags of non-perishable groceries will also be available. All are welcome!

Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church  
809 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Stoplight #2

(865) 483-6761

Special thanks to our Community Partners for  
making this Final Friday Monthly Meal possible:



Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge  
Kroger Marketplace



## Your ORUUC Ministerial Search Team is pleased to announce something big....on April 7.

With your diligent support to our faithful service, we have made a mutual selection with our new ministerial candidate. This means that in a sea of prospective searchers and “searchees,” we managed to find each other. **Please plan to attend church in person or online on April 7 for this important announcement and stay tuned for more!**

It seems amazing that it was nearly two years ago that I began my happy interim service at ORUUC. The church was still processing the ending of two valued, long-term ministries, and yet you had energy to welcome me and start a fresh chapter. And now, as we draw this shared liminal (in-between) time to a close, I’m so happy for the new beginning that you’re just about to embark on.

As I began in August 2022, I asked you to not just look ahead to the new settled minister you hoped for, but to “pay attention to the journey.” I believe you’ve really taken that to heart, and I’m so honored you let me be a companion on this journey of transition.

As you prepare for your soon-to-be-scheduled candidating week (squeeee, doesn’t it just make your heart sing with joy to anticipate it?) you might reflect on some questions we started with at the beginning of the transition process. Remember, there are no right or wrong answers, there are only YOUR

authentic answer to questions like, “what was your most moving moment here at ORUUC? When have you felt most deeply connected?” And, an important one: “What is it like when things are at their best at ORUUC?”

Take some time in the coming week to ponder and reflect on these. Maybe discuss with a few friends. However you do it, you’ll be taking such important steps along this continuing journey of transition. And as you prepare to meet your candidate, remember the words of William Bridges:

It isn’t the events that make a period of your life transitional. It is the deeper inner shifts ..., the inner turnings that you may not even recognize until you can look back and see ... that point [when] your footsteps curved off in a new direction.

Enjoy the journey, ORUUC! I’m honored to have shared this part of the road with you.

Rev. Lisa

Stone Soup volunteers have prepared another delicious free community meal! Stop by this afternoon between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. to dine in or pick up some homemade Split Pea with Ham Soup, Fresh Fruit, and Chocolate Pretzel Crinkle Cookies.

Thanks to our volunteers who plan, shop, prep, cook, bake, bag, greet, serve, and clean up every month, and to our community partners, the Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge, and Kroger Marketplace. Reach out to Jen Stark at [jen.stark@hotmail.com](mailto:jen.stark@hotmail.com) if you’d like to help!



# This Sunday, March 31

## A Tomb is No Place to Stay

Easter tells a story of brokenness, rife with suffering and shame. It is the ancient story generations have told again and again, written in blood. Perhaps this tale of fragility and darkness and wide-open wonder is especially relevant today. Interim Minister, the Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz, leads worship on this final Sunday in March.

**Worship with us at 10 a.m. in person or on ZOOM.**

**Zoom door opens at 9:45 a.m.**

**To Zoom: Please install the Zoom app on your device and use Zoom Worship Service Meeting ID: 946 8973 5846.**

**The Order of Service may be found [here](#).**

**Email or Text Prayer Requests to [prayers@oruuc.org](mailto:prayers@oruuc.org)**

*Covid-19 Update: Masks are not required in the building. We have masks and hand sanitizer available, and we encourage you to do what makes you feel comfortable.*

March 31, 2024

# A Tomb is No Place to Stay

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz  
Interim Minister

Transformation  
Worship Series  
Week 5 of 5

## Fifth Sunday Split the Plate Offering: [The Minister's Discretionary Fund](#)

After worship, please stay for coffee and treats in the Social Hall. Adult and Youth Faith Formation classes take place from 11:15 to 12:15. The Nursery is available during Worship and the Faith Formation Hour.

Don't forget to bring any spare change you have to church today! Our younger UU's (preschool through elementary) will be searching for coin-filled plastic eggs during the egg hunt at 12:15 today (please remember to bring a basket!). church lobby. Thank you!



We invite you to join us on this Easter Sunday at 10 a.m. for Worship and Faith Formation Hour, followed by our Annual Egg Hunt and Bunny Trail at 12:15 p.m. for our younger UU's (preschool and elementary age). Don't forget your basket! Happy Easter!

## Fifth Sunday Split the Plate Offering: The Minister's Discretionary Fund

Every Sunday we share our offering 50/50 with a local agency chosen by our members during a vote at the Congregational Meeting each June. On months with a fifth Sunday, the Minister's Discretionary Fund is the recipient.

The Minister's Discretionary Fund is available to help church members who are in a moment of financial crisis. Through this fund, we've been able to pay a month's rent or mortgage to help ORUUCians to maintain their housing. We can pay for an unexpected medical, dental, or



prescription bill that would otherwise max out someone's finances. We've paid utility bills to literally keep the lights on. The Minister's Discretionary Fund also helps people in the larger Oak Ridge community with utility bills, food, and gas. When folks in need call the church for emergency assistance, this fund is where the money comes from to pay a bill or offer relief. The fund is completely confidential: If you're in need, only the minister need know, in order to access the fund. A bill can be paid safely and securely, with complete discretion. Thanks in advance for your generosity. Please GIVE HERE as you are willing and able, or text "ORUUC" to 73256. Please [GIVE HERE](#) as you are willing and able, or text "ORUUC" to 73256.

# March Worship Series

## Transformation



March 3: ***Kindling the Power of Transformation*** Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz

March 10: ***Be Like Water***  
Rev. Laura Bogle, Guest Minister

No Faith Formation classes during Spring Break. Multi-Gen Faith Formation Hour: Watercolors in the Social Hall.

March 17: ***Born of the Earth***

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz

No Faith Formation classes during Spring Break.  
Multi-Gen Faith Formation Hour: Air dry clay.

March 24: ***The Colors of Spring***

Learn about the Hindu festival of Holi and enjoy the colors of spring in this Multi-Gen service.

March 31: ***A Tomb is No Place to Stay***

Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz

**Join us for Sunday Worship at 10 a.m.  
in person and on Zoom**

*Youth and Adult Faith Formation classes meet from  
11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. every Sunday.*

*Nursery is available during Worship and the FF hour.*

# Announcements



**LAST CHANCE! Endowment Fund Grant Applications are due by this Sunday, March 31 at 5 p.m. Submit your application online here: [Endowment Grant Application - 2024](#) or pick up a paper copy in the church office.**



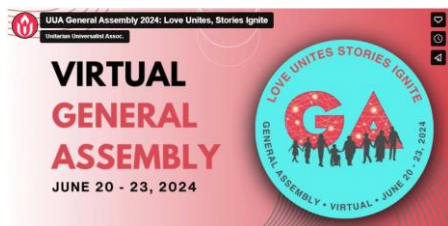
**UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
VIRTUAL GA • JUNE 20 - 23, 2024**

## General Assembly Volunteers Needed

ORUUC has the opportunity to send, virtually, six voting delegates to the General Assembly this summer. The Board is looking for a few church members who are interested in listening to and reading about various things being voted on, including the Article II Study Commission's proposed change to Article II.

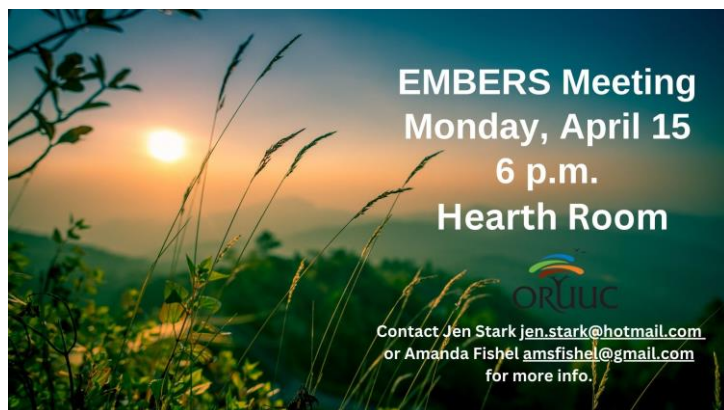
The date for GA is June 20-23 and this will be a completely virtual GA. You will attend from the comfort of your own home. Being a voting member is free (donation accepted), but this does not include the non-voting activities. Attending the conference and all other activities costs \$350 before May 15 and \$400 after that date.

ORUUC would like to send six (6) voting delegates. If you are interested in volunteering, contact the church office ([office@oruuc.org](mailto:office@oruuc.org) or 865-483-6761) by April 12. The Board must vote and turn in the names of our delegates by April 15. Thank you!



Join Mare Martell for a presentation on the Labor of Dying during Faith Formation Hour on Sunday, April 14. This talk will include topics surrounding palliative care and hospice, the stages of dying, and grief. Mare is a caregiver, end-of-life doula, and UU lay chaplain.

For more information, visit <https://lightoflove.net/> or reach out to Mare at [maremartell@lightoflove.net](mailto:maremartell@lightoflove.net).



**Update from EMBERS (The Earth Mindfulness Based on Earth Religions and Spirituality) Group:** EMBERS' regular meeting scheduled for April 8 is cancelled to accommodate those traveling for the eclipse. The meeting is rescheduled to Monday, April 15, 6-8 p.m., in the Hearth Room. For more information, please contact Jen Stark or Amanda Fishel.



**Richard Martel moved recently and would love visitors, mail, or email/phone calls!**

Richard Martel  
Victorian Square  
241 South Chamberlain Avenue  
Rockwood, TN 37854  
Phone(865) 314-6729 [Where2beaware@proton.me](mailto:Where2beaware@proton.me)

# Announcements



## Now on Exhibit in the ORUUC Gallery: Photographs by David Kocher

David began his adventures in nature photography when he realized at age 44 that he needed a hobby. He especially wanted to photograph wildflowers. He joined camera clubs and entered their competitions, read books, magazines, and photo traveler newsletters, attended workshops, and pored over Sierra Club calendars. David's photographs showcase some of his favorite places: the Smokies and Blue Ridge Parkway, Colorado Rockies, Glacier National Park, Canadian Rockies, Oregon's Columbia River Gorge, and Denali National Park in Alaska. His photographs will be on display through the spring.

Stop by to view this free exhibit during church office hours, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., or on Sundays. All are welcome!

<http://www.oruuc.org/current-exhibit>



Interested in helping with this year's Auction?  
Email Nancy Starr at [starroakridge@gmail.com](mailto:starroakridge@gmail.com).

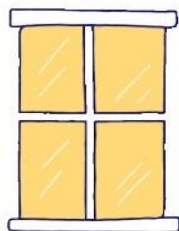


Thanks for the continuing donations to ORUUC's Non-Perishable Food Pantry! **This month's greatest needs are canned fruit, soups, pastas (mac n' cheese), and peanut butter.** Please bring your donations and leave them in the box in the church lobby, or in the box in the pantry, located in the kitchen. Thank you for helping us make this community resource possible!



Contact Steven Albright for more information. All are welcome!

## Caring for Each Other

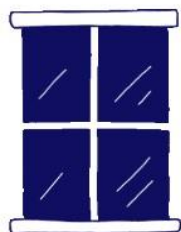


Are you going through a difficult time? Are you in a situation where support and caring are needed--someone to do grocery shopping, take you to a doctor's appointment, or provide a meal following an upcoming surgery? Contact the church office: (865) 483-6761 or [office@oruuc.org](mailto:office@oruuc.org) or a Caring Coordinator!

### Caring Coordinators for April

Amanda Fishel [amsfishel@gmail.com](mailto:amsfishel@gmail.com) 865-804-7033

Ellen Faby [elfab418@gmail.com](mailto:elfab418@gmail.com) 865-363-1092



Please call at least two days in advance to allow time for Caring Coordinators to find a volunteer to provide the care that you need. Our ability to provide transportation is limited. If your appointment is routine and/or can wait, please reschedule it rather than call a Caring Coordinator. Thank you for reserving our Caring Volunteers for those situations that address serious needs that cannot wait.

## Margarete Ohnesorge Memorial Service Saturday, March 30 at 2 p.m.



Margarete Ohnesorge, age 89, of Oak Ridge, passed away on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at Commonwealth Senior Living, attended by her daughter.

She was born Margarete Kirchner on April 18, 1934, to the late Gerhard Kirchner and Erna Vogt, in Bremen, Germany. In 1950, she moved to California at the age of sixteen. Once living in the States, Margarete preferred to be considered American. In 1962, she moved to Oak Ridge with her husband, Jim Ford. There she had her first child, Jimmy, who passed away in 1968 from leukemia.

Margarete was an avid photographer who joined the Carbide Camera Club in 1975. After 23 years of marriage, Jim passed away at age 50 in 1984. Margarete then went back to school to qualify as a Health Physics Technician and found work at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in bioassay.

Margarete met Walter Ohnesorge at ORNL and they married in 1991. They were kindred spirits who loved being outdoors as much as possible. After Walt retired, they traveled and went hiking more than ever. Margarete's photography captured their wonderful experiences together until Walt passed away in 2013.

Margarete was preceded in death by son, Jimmy Ford; first husband, Jim Ford; second husband, Walter Ohnesorge; sister, Erika Nash; and brother, Peter Kirchner. Survivors include children, Susan Ford and Kenneth Ford, both of Tennessee, and sister, Heide Taylor, of Australia.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to TennGreen Land Conservancy at [tenngreen.org](http://tenngreen.org).

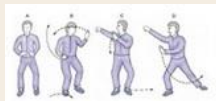
Margarete was a member of Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church. **The family will host a memorial service at the church at 2 pm on Saturday, March 30, 2024. Margarete's ashes will be interred at Oak Ridge Memorial Park.** Online condolences may be left at [www.weatherfordmortuary.com](http://www.weatherfordmortuary.com).

## Ongoing Activities at ORUUC



### Line Dancing

**Sundays at 3 p.m.** We learn a variety of dances: country, jazz, waltz and cha-chas. Through our dancing, we bring together total strangers in the community and develop close friendships with the willingness to share individual talents with others. A donation of \$3 per session is suggested. For more information, contact Jo Curran or Steven Albright. **There will be no Line Dancing this Sunday. Happy Easter!**



### Tai Chi

**Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 11 a.m. – 12 noon**

We minister to health & stability through learning & practicing tai chi. Help maintain & improve balance, strength, and blood pressure, and reduce knee, arm, shoulder & back pain. For more information call Janet Hoegler at 865-963-5115.



### Ukulele Group

Our scheduled meetups in April are Saturday, April 6 and 20 at 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We'd love to have you join us! Abbie Moore [abbie.moore@icloud.com](mailto:abbie.moore@icloud.com).

## Social and Volunteer Opportunities



### Zentangle Group Sundays 5 to 7 PM

Introductory and Continuing Classes \$10 including starter supplies (cash only)  
For more information, contact Nancy Starr, Certified Zentangle Teacher  
865-483-8684 (landline)  
865-742-9993 (mobile/text)  
[starroakridge@gmail.com](mailto:starroakridge@gmail.com)

**There will be no Zentangle this Sunday. Happy Easter!**

### Ecumenical Storehouse Pick Up Saturday, April 20, 9 a.m.-12 noon Volunteers needed!



Each month, ORUUC picks up donations for Ecumenical Storehouse, which supplies furniture and household goods to those in need. There are many ways you can help! Please contact Martin Bauer at [bauermlb@gmail.com](mailto:bauermlb@gmail.com) for more information.



**Eggs and Pegs are back!** Play cribbage, eat breakfast, have fun **Sunday, April 7!** These get togethers will be held the first Sunday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the Social Hall. Questions? Talk to Brandon White, Christina Elliott, Jane Flanagan, or Shelaine Curd.



ORUUC is always looking for members to add to its Caring Team! **Contact Rachel in the church office (865-483-6761) or [communications@oruuc.org](mailto:communications@oruuc.org)** if you would be willing to be called upon occasionally to

- Provide transportation to Sunday services, evening events at church, or medical/dental appointments
- Run errands or grocery shop
- Provide/deliver meals
- Visit
- Perform minor home repairs
- Provide computer repair and support
- Haul items by truck
- Provide pet care
- Help with Memorial Service receptions
- Support new parents
- Perform yard work
- Sit with someone during Worship



**Pack "Food for Kids" with Second Harvest at First United Methodist Church of Oak Ridge.** This program provides backpacks with non-perishable foods for preschool and elementary students to take home on weekends. **The next packing date is Monday, April 15 starting at 12 noon.** Questions? Contact Coordinator Cara Weigel at 865-481-8108.

# Family News



**Bring your spare change to church this Sunday for the annual egg hunt!** There is a collection basket in the lobby. ORUUC teens will fill plastic eggs with the coins, then hide the eggs around the church grounds for preschool and elementary-age children to find during the egg hunt at 12:15. When all eggs have been discovered, the children will empty the change into their baskets, then choose which Split the Plate organizations to donate to, while learning a bit about each one as they decide. It's a wonderful tradition! **Parents of younger UUs: Please remember to bring a basket Sunday to participate in the egg hunt!**



**ORUUC is starting a banned book library in the Middle School room!** If you are willing to donate any banned books you already have, please leave them in that room or in the church office with a note specifying that they're for the banned book library. Questions? Contact Multigenerational Director Whitney Cole.



Meets monthly at various churches in Oak Ridge. Visit

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/371268369619360> or email

Anne Backus [backusanne@comcast.net](mailto:backusanne@comcast.net).



**Mother Goose with ORUUC's own "Father Goose" Michael Raymond!** Babies through preschoolers will have fun singing, clapping, dancing, and moving with their parents, grandparents, or other caregivers.

**First and Third Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Oak Ridge Public Library Meeting Room**

*Don't miss the next gathering April 4 and 18!*

View and sign up for the Oak Ridge Public Library's newsletter here:

<https://mailchi.mp/oakridgetn/orplfeb24>



Childcare is provided for children ages 10 and under for church meetings and events. Please complete this form **TWO WEEKS** in advance:

<https://form.jotform.com/231284551294053>. Thanks!



Check out ORUUC's monthly Family newsletter, *Connecting in Spirit*, by visiting <https://www.oruuc.org/connectinginspirit>.



# Community News

The League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge welcomes the community to Lunch with the League Tuesday, April 2 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at ORUUC. All are welcome to bring their lunch or purchase a boxed lunch for a nominal fee. Coffee and tea will be served. The presentation will begin at noon.



## How the Truth of Lethal Injection Could End the Death Penalty

The League is honored to present Professor Corinna Barrett Lain, the S. D. Roberts & Sandra Moore Professor of Law at the University of Richmond School of Law and recipient of the University's Distinguished Educator Award, the highest award the University bestows. Professor Lain is one of the nation's leading authorities on the death penalty and has published numerous articles, essays, and blog posts about lethal injection over the last decade.

Professor Lain is one of the leading voices on criminal justice in Virginia where she teaches trial court judges, conducts annual training sessions for the Virginia Indigent Defense Commission's public defenders and is the lead speaker at the Virginia State Bar's annual criminal law seminar. She also sits on the esteemed Virginia Criminal Justice Conference, a reform body that includes a Virginia Supreme Court Justice and several members of the Virginia Court of Appeals, and whose charge is to recommend and draft criminal justice reform proposals for legislative consideration.

Professor Lain is a former prosecutor, and former sergeant in the Army, where she served as a truck driver.

Lunch with the League welcomes League members and nonmembers alike to this informative presentation. The League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge is a nonpartisan political organization for men and women. It encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. For more information, visit <https://my.lwv.org/tennessee/oak-ridge>.



Sold Out

Friday, March 29

### The Scarboro 85 Present: The Fisk Jubilee Singers in Concert

A Night of Joy and Celebration

Sold Out

Explore similar events

Tonight's concert featuring the Fisk Jubilee Singers from Nashville is SOLD OUT! If you were fortunate enough to get tickets, enjoy! If you were unable to get tickets, but you'd like to learn more about the history of this amazing group, and where you might be able to see them in concert, visit <https://fiskjubileesingers.org/>.

For more information on efforts to honor the Scarboro 85, contact John Spratling at 865-363-9759 or [jspratling@orn.edu](mailto:jspratling@orn.edu), or visit <https://scarboro85monument.com/>.



ORUUC received several letters of appreciation from community organizations that are Split the Plate recipients.

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning received \$1,581.49 in Split the Plate contributions from ORUUC in 2023. TCWP is dedicated to protecting natural lands and waters by means of public ownership, legislation, or cooperation of the private sector. Its efforts focus on the Cumberland and Appalachian regions of East Tennessee, but may extend to the rest of the state and the nation. For more information about TCWP, visit <https://tcwp.org/>.

The Free Medical Clinic received \$867.50 in Split the Plate contributions in 2023. In 2023, the organization recorded over 12,000 patient encounters, providing \$7.8 million worth of care to rural and minority, low income and uninsured neighbors. For more information on the Free Medical Clinic, visit <https://www.fmc.org/>. Thank you, ORUUC!

# This Week at ORUUC



## **Friday, March 29**

9am Stone Soup prep  
11am Tai Chi Practice  
5:30-6:30pm Stone Soup  
Community Meal

## **Saturday, March 30**

2pm Memorial Service for  
Margarete Ohnesorge

## **Sunday, March 31 EASTER**

### **10am Worship**

11am High School  
11am Together in Spirit  
11:15am Newcomers  
11:15am Reflections  
12:15pm Egg Hunt  
12:30pm Buddhism Study Group  
3pm Line Dancing (Canceled)  
5-7pm Zentangle Group (Canceled)

## **Monday, April 1**

11am Tai Chi Practice

## **Tuesday, April 2**

11:30am League of Women Voters  
Lunch with the League  
6pm Depression & Anxiety Group

## **Wednesday, April 3**

6:30am Breakfast Rotary  
11am Tai Chi Practice  
11am Circle of Trust VIII  
1:30pm Executive Team Meeting  
7pm Choir Practice  
7:45pm Band Rehearsal

## **Thursday, April 4**

12:30pm Lunch Bunch

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**To view the church calendar anytime,  
visit <https://www.oruuc.org/members-section>  
Need password help? Contact  
the church office!**

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ORUUC is still collecting plastic lids for a potential future project. Please leave donated bottle caps and lids in the yellow tub in the church lobby. Questions? Ask Steven Albright or April Dixon.

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## **ORUUC Board of Trustees 2023-24**

*President: Jason Fishel*  
*Past President: Michele Thornton*  
*President-Elect: Kara Raymond*  
*Secretary: Nathaniel Bass*  
*Treasurer: Brandon White*  
*Members-at-Large:*  
*Freddie Nechtow*  
*Charles Davis*  
*Jami Garner*  
*Jen Stark*

## **ORUUC Executive Team**

*Rev. Lisa Romantum Schwartz*  
*Whitney Cole (for Christine Rehder)*  
*Amanda Fishel*  
*Donna Maloney*  
*Jeannie Cuevas, Office Administrator*

## **Coming in April...a new worship series:**



**April 7 is Stewardship  
Sunday! Stay tuned for  
details!**

**The deadline to submit news for  
the next *Exponent* is  
Wednesday, April 3 at noon.  
Please send news, comments, and  
feedback to Rachel at  
[communications@oruuc.org](mailto:communications@oruuc.org).**



809 Oak Ridge Turnpike  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830  
Contact us at 865-483-6761  
<http://www.oruuc.org/>

