

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs...



NEWSLETTER April 2007

Letter from the President

Dear Fellowship Members and Friends,

Can it be that time already? Time to think about pledging money to the Fellowship for the next fiscal year? Well, yes, it is. Although the Annual Meeting will be held on June 10, 2007, we will start talking about money and the Fellowship budget on April 1st. More than likely, you are reading this after that date in April, and you may be wondering why I am addressing the subject and what the point is. Great! Lets explore the issue.

All churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, meditation houses, and even Unitarian Universalist Fellowships require some amount of money to operate outside what can be accomplished by volunteers donations of time and services. Unless an organization is small enough to fit all of its members inside the dimensions of a typical living room, there will be some costs to keep the necessary functions operating. Add a few more people, and a few more good ideas, and then a little more money is needed. When the dollar needs are met, the goals are more easily accomplished, and the message of that organization expands. Response to a need brings a larger connectedness and more potential.

Unitarian Universalism welcomes people of many backgrounds, beliefs, ethnicity's, family structure, and much more. By general definition, Unitarian Universalists are seekers rather than followers. We set our denomination apart from others through our questions regarding issues that oth-

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Attention, Fellow Congregants!

Please continue sending your wisdom into those wonderful rocks you're growing! They started as wee seed pebbles, not unlike wisdom grows from a seed thought or experience. You gave them back full of growth hormones and they morphed into larger bits of solid, rock-strong morsels of knowledge and wisdom still gathering strength. Continue tending to them until Sunday, May 13, when we ask you to bring them to us for gifting back to the youth along with a bit of wisdom to gift them as well... by that time, they should be large enough to put in our labyrinth, but small enough for you to carry w/o undue stress (no larger than a canteloupe, but larger than a grapefruit. Thank you, Blythe!

Announcement — April 8th

All Unitarian Fellowship members and those from the community are invited to a Easter morning potluck breakfast after the Sing Up The Sun event at Ellis Park, which begins at 6:30am. Singing Up The Sun is an annual happening for those willing to greet the new day with song. The singing is led by Mitzi M.

See you there.

— Submitted by Mary C.

March Program Calendar:

Sunday, April 1:

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, *"Dogma, Ritual & Experience."*

10:00 a.m.: **"Taking Care of Business (No Foolin)"** This will be a two-part program featuring a presentation from the Conflict Resolution Team and a presentation from the Stewardship Committee to kick off the 2007-2008 Pledge Drive. All Fellowship members and potential members are strongly encouraged to be there.

11:30 a.m.: A catered lunch will follow the program. Bring your own table service. Contributions of dessert and beverages would be welcome additions to the meal.

Note: This day marks the kick-off of Carpooling Month, a project of the UUFYS Social Justice Committee.

Sunday, April 8:

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, *"1st Hand & 2nd Hand Spirituality."*

10:00 a.m.: **"Mountain Top Removal: Environmental Degradation and Social Injustice,"** presented by Dave C. of the Mountain-top Removal Road Show.

Sunday, April 15:

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, *"Recovery of Personal Authority."*

10:00 a.m.: **"Undoing Racism as a Unitarian Universalist Principle,"** presented by Christine S., Associate Professor of Psychology at Antioch College. This Social Justice program is presented in response to a resolution passed at the UU General Assembly in St. Louis charging delegates "to work with their congregations to hold at least one program over the next year to address racism or classism, and to report on that program at next year's GA". Addressing the injustices of racism is inherent in our first principle, which affirms the worth and dignity of every person.

Sunday, April 22:

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, *"Primal Encounters with the Transcendent."*

10:00 a.m.: **"The Trouble With Earth Day,"** presented by Nick B., Executive Director, Glen Helen Ecology Institute.

Earth Day Activity, following the program: "Family Outdoor Cleanup and Beautification." Enjoy a sandwich lunch, provided by Social Justice; then change into clothes suitable for working on the Fellowship's outdoor space. *Love your Mother Earth!*

Sunday, April 29:

8:30 AM: Spiritual discussion group, *"Spirituality, Resonance or Feeling?"*

10:00 a.m.: **"Music Sunday,"** in which instruction on songs from *Singing the Journey* will be taught. We will also be singing some of the hymns that have become our favorites. If you have a favorite hymn that you would like to be included please let Mitzi M. know!

A "Souper Sunday" lunch follows the program. Contact Ann T., 767-1971, about contributing soup or bread, or sign up on the clipboard in the gallery.

Coming in May

Sunday, May 6:

10:00 a.m.: **"Community Supported Agriculture,"** presented by Andrew M. of Heartbeat Community Farm.

A potluck lunch will follow the program. Please bring your own table service and a generous dish to share.

PLEASE READ Newsletter Guidelines

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs is published monthly. **To submit material for the newsletter please do so by the 20th of each month.** Please submit material as non-formatted text in your e-mail or as an MS Word attachment in 12 point font with no formatting (bold, italic, etc...).

Send material to David K. at:

tau.athanasios@gmail.com

Religious Education

Youth Religious Education in April

- Childcare will be provided for our youngest children in the Nursery by Ashante R. and Lauren W. using the “Celebrating Me and My World” curriculum.
- The Younger Group is in need of an instructor. Anyone interested in volunteering please contact either Kathy R. or David K.
- Blythe P. continues to lead the youth in a Coming of Age program using nature activities, crafts and ritual to help them continue developing values and a strong sense of identity.

Adult Religious Education in March

The **8:30 AM Sunday** Spiritual Discussion Group will be focusing its February discussion on Unitarian Universalist spirituality. The 8:30 AM Spiritual Discussion Group is a great opportunity for anyone interested in discussion and dialogue on various topics of interest to the members of the Fellowship. The topics for March are:

April 1st: Dogma, Ritual & Experience.”

April 8th: “1st Hand & 2nd Hand Spirituality.”

April 15th: “1st Hand & 2nd Hand Spirituality.”

April 22nd: “Primal Encounters with the Transcendent.”

April 29th: “Spirituality, Resonance or Feeling?”

Adult Religious Education Workshop on Emerson

Five members have expressed an interest in participating in a workshop entitled “The Living Legacy of Ralph Waldo Emerson.” The curriculum celebrates the life, work, and contribution of Emerson to our Unitarian Universalist heritage. The 80-page curriculum, published by the UUA, is designed to be studied in six two-hour sessions. Call **Lowell W.** at 376-3459 if you are interested in joining the group.

Religious Education News

The Secret Friends Program is starting in April. We NEED adults and youth to participate in the program. To learn more about the Secret Friends Program please contact Kathy or David.

If you would like to participate in Religious Education at the Fellowship, either to assist with youth education or with adult education please contact Kathy or David at:

krwhitehorse@yahoo.com
tau.athanasios@gmail.com

The Religious Education meeting for April is scheduled for April 15th at 11:45 AM. If you are interested in attending please see David or Kathy.

David K. & Kathy R.
Co-Directors of Religious Education

UUFYS Executive Board

President: Stacy A.

President-Elect: George K.

Past President: Judy W.

Treasurer: Louis S.

Secretary: Kathryn V.

Members-At-Large: Joy F., & Debbie D.

Social Justice UPDATES

Next Year's Plans for Social Justice:

At our April and May SoJus meetings our committee will begin planning our activities, actions, advocacy and Sunday Programs of the 2007-2008 year. Now is the time for joining the committee and being a part of the program.

You can be as active as time allows. We need new and vital energy to make a difference locally and more globally.

APRIL IS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MONTH AT UUF.

We will be highlighting the need to address Global Warming by asking every UUF member to CARPOOL TO FELLOWSHIP DURING APRIL!

T-Shirt Design Contest for Youth. We will announce the top design winners and begin the process of making T-shirts that our youth can wear when out in the community doing environmental SoJus projects. We need folks to help get the T-shirts made by Earth Day.

SoJus is inviting everyone at UUF (young and old) to join **Glen Helen for an Earth Day.** Potluck and Garlic Mustard Pull on Sat April 21 from 12 to 4. Meet at the Glen Helen Building Auditorium. This is a great community nature project. Save the Glen for our grandchildren!

RE and SoJus are planning a **Family Lunch and Spruce Up Our Fellowship Outdoors Workbee.** This will take place after the Earth Day Program (with Nick B., Glen Helen Director) on Sunday, April 22nd. Wear work clothes.

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner. A Community Builder. Sat, April 14th. Sign up to host at your home, or sign up to be a guest but do it soon. Call Joan for more details. 787-7056 or email me.

Eyes Wide Open. The Outdoor Display to honor the Ohio forces and all the Iraqi civilians and forces who have died in the past 4 years in Iraq. Antioch College Coretta Scott King Center from Fri. April 13 through Sun. April 15. Call Ona H. at the CSKC to volunteer during the time the boots and shoes are displayed on the lawn.

If you are doing Social Justice work in the name of UUF please coordinate with the SoJus Committee for support and continuity.

Joan C.

Building & Grounds News.

Spring is here and now we get to begin to pull together the ideas of winter and carry them out for the spring. No! I'm not talking about reconstruction or tearing down walls or even putting in that 5 story parking garage in the back.

No it's time to think about the annual Spring Work-bee. This Work-Bee promises to be an Old School Affair with food and prizes and free trips to the sunny shores of the ice free Artic. OK, I was pulling your string about the free trip and the prizes too. But, we plan on having great time with a great meal to break up the hard work of getting the Fellowship ready for the coming busy year. The great Work-Bee list will be posted in the parlor and another copy in the Gallery to give everyone the opportunity to visualize what your valuable physical service can be for the Fellowship. So, pull out your calendar, mark Saturday the 5th of May with the following May 12th as the backup rain date.

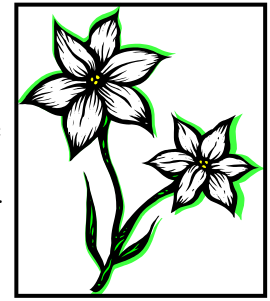
Now friends, I want to thank all my fellow committee members for all the ideas that have come to me over the winter. Many of these ideas miraculously grew into full fledged plans for a pseudo mega church. Yet all we were looking for were all the ideas to look as possibilities for opening our arms wider to welcome those visitors who have come to hear our message and perhaps consider becoming a new member of UUFYS. I know it seems like Fellowship has grown so fast we haven't been able to keep pace with the new folks. When we take into consideration what a nice problem we have it makes the alternative quite silly.

Now of course I feel the need to address those of you fine souls who heard all these ideas and thought we were ready to sell our souls or our Fellowship to deal with this growth issue. I can assure you that is not the case and it makes me feel so wonderful that so many of you care enough for this Fellowship to be so emotional about their concerns. That their passion has overwhelmed their reason and rumors were rampant all over the Fellowship

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TAR HOLLOW CAMPOREE

May 18 – 20, 2007



Spring is here! It's time to sign up! Tar Hollow time is only six weeks away. The Yellow Springs Unitarian Fellowship would like to invite everyone to join us on our 43rd annual outing to Tar Hollow State Park. Fair weather or foul – we always have a great time.

We use Tar Hollow's group camp area, which has a lodge with full kitchen, many rustic cabins with bunks for up to eight people, bath houses with hot showers, a lake for swimming, boating and fishing, wooded trails, a mountain bike trail and nearby a miniature golf course. All meals will be provided.

Registration: Please complete the registration form on the reverse side and return it with your check not later than **Monday, May 7th**. If for any reason you must cancel your registration, we'll refund your money, if notified by May 14th. Our planning for meals, assigned duties, etc. depends upon your cooperation.

Financial Aid: Funds are available if financial assistance is needed; please note on the registration form the amount you would be able to pay.

Assigned Duties: Everyone will be asked to help out in some way, e.g. preparing meals, washing dishes, building campfires, babysitting, supervising the waterfront, and cleaning up. On Sunday afternoon everyone is asked to stay until 3:00 P.M. so that we can be sure that the lodge and cabins are cleaned to the ranger's specifications. In a later mailing you will receive maps, a list of things to bring, and your duty assignment. I'll try to honor your requests, but first come first served. So get your registration form in early!

Car Pooling: If you need a ride or have extra room in your vehicle, please note this on the registration form. We'll try to match riders and drivers.

Young People/Guests: Some youngsters wish to attend Tar Hollow but their parents are unable to do so. While it is most agreeable for a family to invite a young friend to go with it, it is another matter for a youngster to ask a family to "sponsor" him/her to go to Tar Hollow. Please discourage this matter of asking to be "sponsored." We ask that each of your children limit her/himself to one guest. Parents will exercise responsibility over their child's behavior and that of her/his guest.

Liability Waiver: If you are bringing a guest under the age of 18, please have his/her parent fill out and sign the **Medical Release form**. Also please fill out and sign the **Liability Waiver** and mail these forms with your registration.

Fun: Let's start setting our expectations for a warm, sunny beautiful weekend and anticipate a time of fun and fellowship.

Hardy B., 767-7417, e-mail: hardy@bookcrafts.com

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that it must have seemed some spirit had taken control of the common senses of the B&G committee and we had become a Shadow Board. We, I can assure all who still have concerns on this issue, are willing to work that hard on wasting our time. So please be at peace and be confident that we are looking for all the possibilities we must have to deal with our space issue in a very deliberate, conservative, frugal, thoughtful, and tasteful manner. We are willing to do the legwork to find these options. We are most definitely open to anyone who has ideals, visions and inspirations which will help us move forward with the process of creating cost effective space to hold a few more people.

So hopefully many of you will be beating down the door to offer your ideas, back, and skills or whatever you have to offer this spring and take this chance to be a productive member or friend for the spring Work-Bee for the Fellowship as any in recent history.

Feel free to pull me aside and ask me anything about the Fellowship Building and Grounds Committee you want (You may really have to pull me aside and get me to stop talking. I've been called Windy in the past)

I look forward to hearing all you have to say. (No really, I am)

Yours in Fellowship,
Chris K.

"April is the cruelest month" ?

In this season of annual financial stock-taking, as we file our individual tax returns, it's also time to look at the Fellowship's year-to-date "fiscal fitness report." Here's how we're doing as of the end of March.

	2006-07 Budget	9 Months Actual	
REVENUES			
Member Support	\$42,000	\$39,595	94%
Rentals	6,400	3,223	50%
Fund Raising	5,100	(364)	-7%
Plate Collections for Charity	3,000	2,467	82%
Donations to UUFYS	500	749	150%
Other Income	402	1,632	406%
Darfur Hats	0	1,264	
Total Revenues	\$57,500	\$48,566	84%
EXPENSES			
Programs	\$5,400	\$4,213	78%
Religious Education	8,700	4,746	55%
Social Justice	7,500	5,984	80%
Communications*	1,500	581	39%
Member Services*	1,900	637	34%
Special Events*	1,400	503	36%
Leadership Development*	7,200	(460)	-6%
UUA Support	7,300	7,242	99%
Building & Grounds	11,700	8,356	71%
Administration	2,200	1,615	73%
Capital Items: (Prjctr & Tbls)	1,000	817	82%
Set-Aside Maintenance	1,700	0	0%
Total Expenses	\$57,500	\$34,234	60%
Net Income - 9 months	0	\$14,336	
* Combined as "Fellowship Community Development" in 2007-08 Budget * Combined as "Fellowship Community Development" in 2007-08 Budget . * Combined as "Fellowship Community Development" in 2007-08 Budget * Combined as "Fellowship Community Development" in 2007-08 Budget.			

Member support is running ahead of schedule. With approximately \$9-10,000 in outstanding pledges still to come in, plus hoped-for net income of \$2,000 from the Tar Hollow weekend in May, we expect to receive enough to cover the shortfalls in rental income and the \$3,000 fundraising project which didn't happen.

While our income exceeds expenses so far this year, there are a number of expenses which hit the books in the spring, so that apparent surplus will not survive the year at the current level. All-in-all, April feels like a good time for us. We're on track, on plan, on budget for the current year. Within the confines of our current resources, our current physical space, and our mostly volunteer staff resources, we're doing well.

Are we ready for a great – or a modest – leap forward? Stay tuned.

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ers simply accept and through taking action based on social consciousness and social justice. Each and every time we act within our family, community, society and world structure from the guidance of the 7 Principles we affect the energy of the cosmos and the well-being of friends and strangers. Taken collectively, this is no small impact. Taken collectively, this is our Principles in action.

What we enjoy about our Fellowship today began 50 years ago, and has been built on by hearts and hands and minds that are directed toward the challenges of the day and the promise of tomorrow. I don't have the data about adult and youth attendance from 50, 40, 30, or even 20 years ago, but I know that since I have been attending, the numbers have increased to a steady average of 60-70 adults and 17-19 youth every Sunday. All of these people come for many reasons (just ask a few). The fact that attendance is high means that people are personally invested in the experience of our Fellowship. Many of us contribute our personal time to duties that are sometimes unnoticed but important. Many of us feel strongly that this UU Fellowship embodies the values that we want recognized in the larger world. If you can relate to that belief, that experience, or even if you are unsure about the total picture I have described, it is time to consider "connecting the dots."

Make a pledge to the Fellowship. Not what you gave last time, but a little more. Express your commitment to the power of our Fellowship as the growing voice of liberal religion in our part of the world. Express your desire to welcome the people that want to be a part of our congregation, and to serve the people that you share time with every Sunday. Based on what each of us give is the greater potential for all of our goals to succeed. From this Fellowship, ask for what you need. To this Fellowship, give all that you can. With this Fellowship, experience the greater possibility that is within our collective resources.

Thank you, Be well,
Stacy A.

Minutes of Executive Board Meeting.

- The Board agreed we want to be included in the series of articles the Y.S. News is publishing about local churches, but did not name anyone for that. Contact is Mary S.
- Martha G. submitted the final report on the recent congregational survey, discussed it and, with Board concurrence, sent it to the web master to make it available for the public.
- Treasurer Louis S. stated that expenses are on target for this point in the year and we are holding \$12,000 in checking, with no unpaid bills. (Other amounts are in savings and CD's.) The value of the building will be readjusted at the end of the year to the county appraiser's value. The Board approved a change in accounting procedure to permanently designate funds for major maintenance, the Memorial Society, a future building fund and a new endowment for Social Justice.
- The Board approved the proposed budget for the year starting July 1, which is \$52,700. To fund it, Finance committee will use the same procedure as last year: run a pledge drive in April to meet this proposal and then revise figures, if necessary, before July 1. Debbie D. will talk with RE committee about using the downstairs apartment for classrooms and can the RE budget cover the campus ministry for this year.
- New business: The Board agreed to include in the budget enough funding to hire an administrative staff person, for 10-15 hours per week. Martha G, Louis S, and Charlotte B will draft a job description and the plan for advertising and hiring.
- The Board approved a new "Authority for Spending Levels," which requires committees to obtain Board approval for large expenditures; requires two signatures on checks \$600 and up; and says committees may hire contractors but only the Board may hire employees. This will prevent problems with cash flow and protect the Fellowship from unbudgeted obligations and accidental long-term commitments.
- The Conflict Resolution Team process was expanded to say any fellowship member may meet with one of the CRT members to ask how to proceed with a conflict. The CR team will make a short presentation April 1.
- Stacy A. is chairing the Stewardship committee, which will run the pledge drive.
- The 50th anniversary birthday party was successful and the committee worked well together. Joy and Debbie will suggest a date and type for another event in June.
- The campus ministry held at Rockford chapel on Sunday evenings has some attendees, of whom two are former UU youth leaders. This project is included in next year's budget.
- Candidates for Board positions: Members discussed changing the term for Board president from one year to two, to simplify recruiting and build on experience. No decision was reached.

The Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs

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