

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs...



NEWSLETTER April 2008

April Program Calendar:

Sunday, April 6

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, *“What is love?”*

10:00 a.m.: *“Where is the Love?”* Fellowship member Blythe P. offers this question along with her own thoughts and responses which will hopefully take listeners beyond their own neat and tidy answers.

11:30 a.m.: A potluck lunch follows the program. Please bring your own table service and a generous dish to share.

Sunday, April 13

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, *“I-You & I-It relationships.”*

10:00 a.m.: *“Love Your Mother Earth”* Earth Day is April 22nd, and we will celebrate the 28th anniversary of this event on two successive Sundays. In Part 1, we will learn some of its history and reconnect with our UU Nature Heritage. Denise C. and Ruth L., UUFYS members, will share some nature experiences and help us deepen our connection with the earth. Through songs, discussion, rituals and gifts from the earth, we will learn how we can grow as stewards of our planet in our home and community and connect with the joys of our environment. Social Justice Committee is sponsoring a Luncheon after the program!

Sunday, April 20

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, *“Quest for individuality and identity.”*

10:00 a.m.: *“Earth Day: What’s Gone Right”* Part 2 of our Earth Day celebration features Fellowship members, Al S. and Dick R. Dick will detail some of the many environmental successes achieved over the last hundred years. These include improvements in air and water quality and increased numbers of deer, coyotes and other wildlife. Al will share some of his amazing demonstrations involving water and chemicals.

Sunday, April 27

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, *“Music as food for the soul.”*

10:00 a.m.: *“It’s Always Gettysburg, Poems of Social concern”* by Jack Burgess, Chillicothe writer and poet. Jack will share some of his poems and thoughts about war and other social issues.

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It's "Souper Sunday". Plan to stay for soup, bread and conversation.

Coming in May Sunday, May 4

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "Freedom, Peace, & Redemption."

10:00 a.m.: Bob Brecha and Reggie Stratton will discuss alternate energies.

11:30 a.m.: A potluck lunch follows the program. Please bring your own table service and a generous dish to share.

UUFYS LEADERSHIP

After service Sunday morning 03-16-08, Mary C., Judy W. and I got together for a Leadership Development Committee meeting. We had been tasked by the UUFYS board to come up with a slate of members for consideration as candidates to fill board and committee chair vacancies for next year. As we went through the membership directory, it soon became apparent to us that there was clearly a wealth of members we considered appropriate to fill these vacancies. As a consequence, we decided to put a request in this month's newsletter looking for member UUFYS'ers who are interested in leadership roles in the Fellowship.

So, with that in mind, we would like you to think about this possibility – over the next few weeks, Mary, Judy and I will be contacting members for consideration as candidates. If you have an interest in preserving and perpetuating liberal theology, we would definitely like to hear from you. Let me put this another way. Over the past several years, I have struggled with a growing sense of futility that our cherished UU attitude of religious tolerance is being trampled and battered by misguided reactionary forces, in our country and beyond. My frustration is that I also see this sense of futility in my conversations with other UUFYS members. When I look for a remedy to counter these forces, I quickly recognize this is not going to change unless we help to make it change.

We are looking for "A FEW GOOD PEOPLE." Won't you please consider stepping up to the plate? Don't wait for the call – instead, make the call. We can use your skills and talent to help lead our fellowship to a brighter future.

Peter W.

Plant Exchange

Spring really is coming -- the Spring Equinox is March 20 and Easter is March 23 this year. It's time to put seeds in the dirt, even if the dirt is in the house on a windowsill. Hopefully, those seeds will sprout profusely and we will all have extras. So, let's exchange them! Bring your surplus garden and house plants and seedlings to the meeting house on Sunday, April 27, to share and exchange with your fellow gardeners. For info, call Mary S.

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs is published monthly. To submit material for the newsletter please do so by the 15th 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**

Summary of UUFYS Board Meeting Minutes February 10th, 2008

Present: Mary D., Louis S., Debbie D., Martha G., Blythe P., and Marianne W.

Absent: Judy W.

The meeting began at noon with the following member issues.

Marianne shared her concern about the lack of UUFYS program information in recent editions of the Yellow Springs News. Martha will follow up.

Al S. said that despite occasional defensiveness, he thought the board had done “a good job” at the 2/3 congregational meeting regarding a former fellowship member. Following that meeting the board had tentatively approved his Rwandan Student and Teacher Visitation Project. This will involve two students and two teachers visiting Yellow Springs; the Morgan Family Foundation has been requested to provide the money for this project and Al is arranging matching funds. UUFYS will serve as a 501(c)(3) pass through agency.

Holly K. expressed appreciation for the board’s 2/3 congregational meeting and said she found it “real positive.” However, she also feels concerned about the seeming division between older and younger congregation members and would like to see this resolved in keeping with our UU principles.

Peter W. reinforced what Holly and Al had said about the 2/3 meeting. He has found this situation and the recent resignations of two board officers from UUFYS membership “very distressing.” He wondered if anything could be done to promote healing among members and this was discussed.

The business portion of the meeting began at 12:20 p.m. with chalice lighting, a reading shared by Martha, check-in, and agenda review.

Executive Session The board met in executive session.

Old Business

- Review of meeting minutes: The 1/13/08 board meeting minutes were amended to reflect Mary’s participation on the Stewardship Committee. The minutes unanimously passed as amended.
- Heartland luncheon: Mary, Louis, Debbie and David Kling plan to attend a 2/23/08 luncheon with the Heartland District Board of Trustees.
- Treasurer’s report: Louis indicated that we have taken in 60% of our income for the year and spent 58% of allocated funds.
- Committee chairs submitted their 2008-2009 “dream” budgets. This year’s initial request of \$65,900 is an increase of \$6,200 over the 2007-2008 budget. UUFYS lost about \$6,000 in yearly income in apartment rental, although a portion of this has been recouped on building rentals. It was noted that the Building & Grounds request has increased \$2,500 over the current budget amount. The board added \$700 to the RE budget for leadership development. The final 2008-2009 budget request was set at \$66,600.
- Al S.’s project was briefly reviewed and was unanimously approved.

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- Financial matters: Louis presented resolutions to update the authorized signatories on the UUFYS Charles Schwab account and WesBanco bank accounts.
- Committee Oversight and Coordinating Council: It was explained that the purpose of Coordinating Council (CC) is to facilitate communication among committees, encourage interaction and cooperative action among committees, and educate members about what other committees are doing in the fellowship, with a possible eye to recruiting new committee members in the future. A tentative meeting of CC was set for 2/24 at noon; Marianne will organize this.
- Stewardship Committee: Sydney W. is currently the only non-board member of this committee despite many requests by Louis to fellowship members for help with the pledge drive. Due to this lack of response, it was decided that the entire board would jointly serve on the committee and undertake this major task. Louis shared a schedule for the pledge drive. Blythe volunteered to create a slide show for the Stewardship Sunday presentation.
- Space Usage and Building & Grounds Program: Martha is helping to organize the B&G Sunday program regarding the architect's report set for 2/24.
- Board vision and report to the congregation: Members decided to use the 3/30 Sunday service board program as an opportunity to share about the board's vision for the future, various options for growth, and progress to date; attendees could then form small groups for discussion and feedback to the board.
- Board Transitions and Responsibilities: Marianne was referred to Mary Sims about questions she had regarding her responsibilities as liaison to the Communications Committee.
- Tar Hollow: Concern was expressed about the lack of action by this committee; Mary will follow up. Blythe and Debbie will help with committee recruitment.
- Personnel: An outside cleaning company gave about the same price (\$3,380) for cleaning the facility (including the basement) that the janitor charges (\$3,244). The Personnel Committee decided that Todd will be asked to clean the basement for the same pay that he currently receives, and he will be given the right of first refusal on the fellowship janitorial work.
- Building Rental: Martha presented a building rental contract used by the Greene County Public Library. Based on elements of this contract she will draft a contract for UUFYS and send it to board members for review.
- Fellowship behavioral standards: Debbie will ask Toby about her progress on researching this topic.

New Business

- Tributes to Officers: Debbie will write a tribute about Stacy A. and prompt David K. about writing one for George K. for inclusion in an upcoming newsletter.

The following topics were tabled until a future meeting:

- Leadership Development Committee.
- 50th Anniversary photo album project.
- Green Sanctuary.
- Review of 7/07 board retreat goals.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie D., Secretary

~~Religious Education Notes:~~

- *These are exciting times for Religious Education.* The youth of the fellowship recently took a trip to the local Hindu Temple in February, and that was a great success. We may take a follow-up trip by the end of the year.
- **Sunday morning discussion group.** Please do not forget that there is a Sunday morning (8:30 AM) adult spirituality discussion group. Child care has been extended at the fellowship (open from 8:30 AM until 12:30 PM) to accommodate those who wish to attend but who have small children. Please attend, we would love to have you!
- Debbie D. is organizing a **Covenant Group for parents.** If you are interested please contact her at: s024dlddd@hotmail.com
- The **Building Your Own Theology** (Adult RE) group has been on hiatus but will be starting again. This is a three part series and we are about half-way through the first. If you are interested in this excellent program please contact David K. at: tau.athanasios@gmail.com
- **Its Secret Friends time!** The program will be a little different this year. The youth have come up with ten questions. If you want to participate in the program answer these questions and send them to David K.:

1. What is your favorite pastime?
2. What is your favorite color?
3. What is your favorite movie?
4. If you could choose another name what would it be?
5. If you could live anyplace where would it be?
6. What is your favorite type of music?
7. What is your favorite food?
8. What is your favorite holiday?
9. What is your favorite weather?
10. What is your favorite book?

Spring Blessings!

David Kling — tau.athanasios@gmail.com

Announcements

Office Hours

Starting March 31st, the new office hours will be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00am to 1:00pm. The deadline for the Order of Service will remain on Wednesdays by 5:00 pm. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Toby K., UUFYS Administrative Coordinator, at: ladyoceanstar@gmail.com Thank you!

Special Thanks to Dean L.

We all want to say that if there were a medal for superb service that this committee awarded, Dean L. would win it hands down. His work on this committee in all of its activities has been above and beyond. He worked on his own doing many things that we just heard about afterwards -- such as painting the exterior of this building. His work with the audio system was exemplary. Dean -- you will be missed. THANKS and THANKS again, from all of us.

Tentative agenda for the April UUFYS Board Meeting:

- Chalice lighting and check-in
- Review of the March minutes
- Treasurer's report and other financial matters
- Board vision & report to Fellowship – program 3/30
- Space usage and B&G program on 2/24
- Stewardship Committee and upcoming pledge drive
- Leadership Development
- Committee oversight & Coordinating Council
- Board transitions and responsibilities
- Building rental
- Personnel
- Fellowship behavioral standards
- Tar Hollow
- Review of 7/07 board retreat goals
- 50th Anniversary photo album project
- Green Sanctuary Committee
- Situation regarding a former member

TAR HOLLOW CAMPOREE

May 16 – 18, 2008

Please join the Yellow Springs Community for the 44th annual Tar Hollow Camporee sponsored by Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs, May 16-18, 2008!

Tar Hollow's group campsite includes; a huge lodge with two large fireplaces, modern kitchen, rustic cabins with bunks, a meadow for camping, co-ed bath houses with HOT showers, a swimming lake with canoes, hiking and much much more! There will be both guided and unguided activities. And, Saturday night is the big talent show and campfire. So, bring your friends, family, neighbors, as well as board games, playing cards, puzzles, books and senses of fun and adventure and join us!

When: Arrival: 4:00 p.m. Friday evening, May 16, 2008 Checkout: Immediately following group photo at 2:00 p.m, Sunday, May 18.

Where: Tar Hollow State Park

What's included: Cabin rental and all meals on Saturday and Sunday brunch

Assigned Duties: Part of the Tar Hollow experience is everyone working together as a community. Everyone 6 and older will have a job. Additionally, everyone will be responsible for cleaning their cabins and helping clean the bathhouses.

Young People and Young Guests: It is great for a family to invite a young friend to come along; we discourage bringing a youngster you don't know well. You are responsible for the child's safety and behavior. We ask that each child limit her/himself to one guest. Parents must supervise the behavior of **all** the children they bring.

Registration: Completed registration forms and payment are due no later than Monday, May 5. Make checks payable to UUFYS (full refunds are available if reservations are cancelled PRIOR to May 12).

A confirmation packet will be sent to you with a map to Tar Hollow, list of items to bring, your assigned duty/ies, and a Liability Waiver and Medical Release Form for each person. If you are bringing a guest under 18, please have his/her parent complete and sign the medical release.

Car Pooling: If you need a ride or have extra room in your vehicle, please note this on the registration form.

Unfortunately, Tar Hollow is not wheelchair accessible.

Registration for Tar Hollow Camporee May 16 – 18, 2008

Your Name: _____

Your Address & Phone: _____

Names of Adults (12+years): _____

Names & ages of children 3-12: _____

COST

Adults (12 +): 2 nights, all meals: ____ @ \$40 = \$ ____; **1 night, 3 meals:** ____ @ \$30 = \$ ____; sub total: ____

Children: 2 nights, all meals: ____ @ \$30 = \$ ____; **1 night, 3 meals:** ____ @ \$20 = \$ ____; sub total: ____

Infants under 3 are free. Please make check to UUFYS. Total: \$ _____

DUTY SIGN-UP

All adults and children over 6 are to sign-up. Jobs are on a first come first serve basis. Write the name (s) of the person interested in the job on the space provided. Cleaning tables are an ideal job for young children.

	<u>Fri night snack</u>	<u>Sat breakfast</u>	<u>Sat lunch</u>	<u>Sat dinner</u>	<u>Sat night snack</u>	<u>Sun brunch</u>
Kitchen:						
Cook (16 & older)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Set-up & Serve (12 & older)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Clean tables (6-12 year olds)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Wash dishes (16 & older)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Waterfront Safety (18 & older):

Friday evening (4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.): _____ Saturday morning (9:30 a.m.-12p.m.): _____

Saturday afternoon (1:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.) _____ Sunday morning (9:00 a.m.-10:30a.m.): _____

Haul wood; build fires & Saturday night bonfire: _____

OTHER

Can you provide an activity or an act for campfire? Do you wiggle your ears to "When I See an Elephant Fly?" Can you play "Dixie" on a blade of grass? Do your stories make folks giggle, guffaw or stay awake at night? What? Let us know! _____

Need ride: Yes No Provide transportation for _____ additional people & baggage.

Please direct all questions to Mary S.: (937) 767-1603

**Mail to: Mary S., 1333 Corry St., Yellow Springs, OH 45387
Deadline is May 5th**

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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