

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs...



NEWSLETTER April 2009

April 2009 Program Calendar:

Sunday, April 5

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "Is time relative or relevant?"

10:00 a.m.: "Fulbrighters, Buddhism and Universalism" Dr. Sun Qi, currently a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence at Central State University, will discuss how she finds something in common in the nature of these three diverse topics. The context for this presentation will be the background of her experiences of life in China. Sun Qi is an associate professor of English literature at Tongji University, Shanghai, China.

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

Sunday, April 12

Sunrise: Singing up the sun at Ellis Pond, followed by brunch at Len and Mary C's home.

On Easter Sunday, April 12th, you are all invited to join the C.'s, at their home, for a potluck brunch following the Sing Up the Sun at Ellis Park. Those not wishing to sing that early can join us for breakfast after 7AM. Anyone is welcome. This will be our last opportunity to host this fun event as we will most likely be in Arizona until mid April. We have enjoyed doing it and enjoyed the good food and fellowship. See you on the 12th.

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "How do you feel about the concept of infinity?"

10:00 a.m.: "Easter Sunday" Join us for a special Easter celebration. He is risen! Join in the collective joy --whether you're a follower, a believer or not.

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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 pt New Times Roman with no formatting (bold, italic, etc...). Send material to David K. at: tau.athanasios@gmail.com

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Sunday, April 19

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, “What differences can you imagine if women ‘ruled the world’? Or do they already?”

10:00 a.m.: “Imagination, Art, and Environmental Education”, presented by Dr. Colette P., Professor of Art, Philosophy, and Environmental Studies and Coordinator of Sustainability Studies at the Nonstop Liberal Arts Institute. Using her own work as background and as example, Colette will discuss how art can be used to educate people without alienating them from discussions about environmental harm. While it is essential for people to understand those realities, it is also imperative that they not be frozen by the frustrating and depressing nature of information about environmental. She believes that art can circumvent the confrontational tactics often used in the delivery of environmental information.

Sunday, April 26

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, “Are you the same person now as you were ten years ago? Twenty? Thirty? How does living one's life fully change one's outlook on life?”

10:00 a.m.: “Faith and Climate Change”, presented by Dr. Leanne Jablonski, scientist, educator, pastoral minister, and director of the Marianist Environmental Education Center (MEEC), in Dayton. Jablonski will present information from The Climate Project, a program for faith-based communities led by Al Gore, that she attended last summer. She will also share personal reflections about what led her to become an

advocate for the environment.

Jablonski is a Marianist sister who holds a Ph. D. in plant ecology/global climate change from McGill University. For information about the Ohio Climate & Energy Campaign see the MEEC website, www.meec.udayton.edu

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

Coming in May, 2009 Sunday, May 3

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group

10:00 a.m.: Yellow Springs resident, Laurie D., will present “Timebanking”, a program about building an organized network of good will, using a service barter exchange system. How to use what you enjoy doing to benefit your neighbors and receive help doing what is difficult or inconvenient for you.

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

Spring has sprung!

Come enjoy the early signs of spring on a bike path nature walk led by Berger M., one of our most experienced and knowledgeable nature lovers on April 26 following Souper Sunday lunch. For more information or questions, call Debbie D. 767-7849 or Mary S. 767-1603.



Special Religious Education Offerings:

The Religious Education Committee offers members and friends of UUFYS the following extras for exploring your spirituality! On Sundays through May.

- Join us every Sunday morning at 8:30 for our Spiritual Discussion Group. Always lively and thought-provoking.
- Explore your artistic soul and find spiritual reflection while (1) Creating African-style Shekeries, (2) Producing Soulfully Altered Books and/or (3) Dirty Dying Beautiful Silk! Information is in the Gallery on the RE Bulletin Board, or talk to Blythe and Gayle.
- Running concurrently with the Arting Workshops (above) is an extended Discussion Group for continuing discussion and exploration of the service topics for those who just can't get enough!

Did you know?

- The second Saturday of each month, Greene County accepts old electronic waste (computers and smaller TVs) at the Solid Waste District location at 2145 Greene Way Blvd in Xenia.
- That site also accepts yard waste for free, but no help in unloading. Hours are 1- 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday. Trees and branches must be no larger than 4 feet long or 4 inches diameter.
- Phosphate chemicals that humans put into the water are a terrible burden on streams. Most laundry detergents no longer contain phosphates. However, most products for the automatic dishwashers still do contain phosphates – from 2 to 8%. What to do about it? Read the label and choose ones with lower percentages or none, or, wash dishes by hand.
- The county extension agent asks each of us to try to remove from our immediate area the invasive alien plants that threaten native Ohio plants. The most frequent are: Japanese (or Asian or amur) honeysuckle, garlic mustard and poisonous hemlock. This latter looks like Queen Anne's lace but grows 6 -8 feet tall; the stalks are purple at the bottom. It is truly harmful to animals; now is the season to dig it out or spray with weed killer. If you want help in identifying these invasive plants, ask Mary C., Joan E. or Mary S.

Help Us "Share and Care"

Need a highchair or port-a-crib during a visit from relatives? Got a gardening, cooking, home repair or automotive project for which you need a special tool? In a spirit of cooperation and in an effort to recycle and save money, let's create a database of specialty items which Fellowship members own and are willing to lend!

Send me a list of items you own that you would be willing to share with others in the Fellowship – from band saw to punchbowl to bolt cutter to pick-up truck. For each item include the following information:

- Category, such as: home repair, cooking, automotive, gardening,
- Item, with description
- Your name and contact information

Let's see how we can help one another!

Martha G.
280 Kingsfield Ct., YS, 45387
gardingmartha@yahoo.com

Minutes Summary
2/8/09 UUFYS Board Meeting

Present: Joan C., Mary D., Debbie D., Martha G., Jim R.
and Mary S.

Absent: Bengt G.

The meeting began before noon with the following member concerns:

--Helen P. recommended using half sheets of paper for the Sunday service program guide and announcements in order to save paper and printing costs.

--Al S. thanked the UUFYS Board for supporting his work with a school in Rwanda. He will provide a final report as a courtesy to the Board.

--Peter W. observed that although he was not sure as to the cause, there seems to be an improved, more positive attitude among UUFYS members. He reported his plan to provide CPR/AED training on 3/29/09.

The meeting began at 12:05 with chalice lighting, check-in and agenda review.

Members expressed a desire to reduce the number of meeting agenda items yet still effectively conduct UUFYS business. Members would also like to spend more time on the culture of the congregation in addition to policy issues.

--January board meeting minutes : Unanimously accepted.

--Treasurer's report: Mary S. reported that Helen P. is learning the Peach Tree accounting system. The 2008 tax statements and 2008-2009 pledge updates were sent to the congregation in 1/09. Members examined Year to Date (Actual) figures and noted that the board needs to be able to track expenses more accurately. Options for addressing this concern were discussed.

Old Business

--Finance Committee: This committee is working on the pledge drive campaign.

--Stewardship Committee (SC) : This committee is set to make a presentation about the upcoming pledge campaign to the Board on 2/22. On 3/15 the SC will present the proposed 2009-2010 budget to the congregation.

--Congregational Survey : Martha provided the final results from the 43 surveys completed and discussed highlights. These results have already been distributed to committee chairs. She will provide a narrative summary of the survey results for the March newsletter. The full results will be posted on the UUFYS web site.

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--B&G/Green Sanctuary/Presbyterian Church : Mary D. reported on activities of the Presbyterian Church. UUFYS board members do not see sharing space with the Presbyterian Church as a likely future path for our Fellowship, but does not want to close any options at this time. Debbie reported that the Green Sanctuary Subcommittee is requesting the results of the energy audit from the volunteer auditor.

--Emergency closures : These procedures will be published in the March newsletter. Information will be gathered about placing a message on the UUFYS phone machine when needed.

--Behavioral standards (Dangerous & Disruptive Behavior) : Draft standards and covenants were published in the January newsletter; no feedback was received. The policy was slightly amended and then members unanimously approved it. UUFYS Behavioral Covenants were endorsed as a companion piece to this policy.

--Conflict resolution guidelines : Members reviewed changes made by the CR subcommittee. The job description for the Conflict Resolution Team (CRT) was also discussed. Debbie noted that maintaining statistics about CRT activities could be helpful in determining the usefulness and effectiveness of the CRT as well as justifying any necessary training expenses to the congregation. Board members and the CRT will review these documents; congregational feedback will be sought following completion of this process.

--PR/Publicity: Ron S. has agreed to profile congregation members who are 90+ years old in upcoming newsletter articles. No one responded to a request for help with the Communications Committee/PR and public relations.

--50th anniversary photo album project: This project was handed over to Donna C. who is an expert in archival photo preservation. Marlene M. started the project but has not had time to finish it.

--2008 board retreat goals : Joan provided members with the Vision and Goals of the board developed at its 2008 retreat.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Debbie D., Secretary

The next Board meeting will be held on Sunday, 4/12/09 at noon at the Fellowship. Prior to the meeting the Board will meet with congregation members and friends to address their concerns. Agenda items will include:

- Chalice lighting and check- in
- Review of the March minutes
- Treasurer's report
- Finance Committee (investment policy)
- Stewardship Subcommittee
- Leadership Development Subcommittee
- B&G/Green Sanctuary Subcommittee
- Progress on 2008 board retreat goals
- Conflict resolution guidelines

Pledge Drive for 2009 – 2010

The UUFYS has offered a fantastic array of Sunday programs in the last year – professors, scientists, ministers, our own talented members and many others, young and old – meeting the needs of members and visitors who seek a deeper experience of life in a caring community. At the same time, we shared our rich traditions with our youth and with the outside world through our charitable gifts and our presence and activism in the community.

All these require funds to keep ‘being there.’ So, each spring season the Board asks members and friends to pledge financial support to the Fellowship for the upcoming year. After that we are able to establish a budget and determine which projects can be implemented.

The projected expenses for the upcoming year are shown on this chart. (The ad-

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Proposed Bylaw Change

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS AND BOARD

All elected members of the Board shall serve two-year terms. The President, Treasurer and two at-large members shall be elected in even-numbered years. The Secretary and two at-large members shall be elected in odd-numbered years.

This section formerly read: All elected members of the Board shall serve two-year terms. The President, Secretary, and two at-large members shall be elected in odd-numbered years, and the Treasurer and two at-large members shall be elected in even-numbered years.

This bylaw change is being proposed because of the unforeseen outcome of a 2008 bylaw change in which members voted to amend the presidential system at UUFYS. In June 2008 members changed the bylaws and approved a two-year term for president. This was a departure from our previous system of presidents serving three-year terms as President-Elect, President, and Past President. (The rationale for this change was that a three-year term created considerable burn-out among our leaders.) In June 2007, Mary D. was elected to a presidential term under the old system. In order to complete her term the bylaws must be changed so that a new president can be elected in an even-numbered year (2010) rather than in an odd-numbered year as previously stated.

Submitted by Debbie D., Secretary
UUFY Executive Board

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ministrative and maintenance overhead costs have been apportioned among the programs they support.) The Board and the Stewardship committee have been frugal with your money, keeping costs low. However, it still costs \$135 each day to provide the programs and services that help and comfort you.

The largest part of the \$49,400 goes to Sunday morning programs at 36%, followed by Religious Education at 20%. Social Justice and Member Services have each requested 14% of the budget for next year.

You have each received a packet of materials about these programs and this budget. Please consider how much you and your community receive through the Fellowship's programs and services – then pledge an amount of financial support that will keep these services available for you and others!

Seedling and Seed Exchange

You're invited to share your garden on Sunday, April 26. Please bring your unneeded seedlings, seeds, cuttings, bulb divisions etc. to the meeting house for a plant exchange. If you label the plants with their names and some instructions on caring for them, there will be more chance of successful growing. If you add your name to the label, we will smile and think of you when we look at the flowers or eat the tomatoes!

Want to Be a Happy Camper?

Several UU-affiliated organizations offer summer camp experiences for adults or families, which are open to both UUs and non-UUs.

AMUUSE is in its 39th season as a community of single adults. Their week-long programs offer opportunity to meet new people, expand your horizons and feel personally enriched in a supportive atmosphere, on the shore of Lake Michigan. One is June 14-19 and the other August 9-15. For details, registration form and to pay on-line, go to www.AMUUSE.org, or call 847-816-3356. Brochures are available at the meeting house, in the parlor.



Sing Up the Season!

Please join our annual ceremony to commune with nature, mark the spring season and observe the Easter dawn. On Sunday, April 12, come to Ellis Pond a little before sunrise, dressed quite warmly. (The exact time is given in Bill F.'s column in the Y.S. News.) We will joyfully greet the day with Easter hymns. (Afterward, the C.'s invite us to a potluck brunch at their nearby home.)

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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