

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs...



NEWSLETTER August 2008

Two New Programs

Starting in August two new programs will be added to our monthly calendar:

A UU Pagan Ritual
&
A UU Christian Communion Service.

See August Program Calendar on page 2 and additional information on page 5 for additional information.

Save Water!

This is a reminder to bring back a sample of water from your travels (or save local water if you stay home). On September 7th, we'll celebrate our annual ritual of combining waters in a communal container and sharing our summer experiences with each other.

August at a glance...

Sunday, August 3:

“Courage At Any Age”

Sunday, August 10:

“Catholic Social Services' Refugee Resettlement in Miami Valley”

Sunday, August 17:

“Seeking Peace and Pursuing It”

Sunday, August 24:

“Reflections from Abroad: Six Months in Senegal”

Sunday, August 31:

“To be announced”

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

August Program Calendar:

Sunday, August 3

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "Open Discussion."

10:00 a.m.: "Courage At Any Age," a storytelling program presented by Martha M., a UU from Cincinnati. We'll celebrate some examples of those who have stood up against injustice and challenge ourselves to follow their examples. Hear fascinating accounts of three African Americans during the turbulent 1950s to 60s; a sixteen year old high school student, a six year old first grade student, and a forty-two year old office worker/seamstress. Learn how their determination to no longer accept oppressive segregation led to some of the most provocative and important events in America's civil rights movement.

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

Saturday, August 9

5:00 p.m.: "Lughnasadh." Celebrate the First Harvest Festival of Lughnasadh which is the first of three harvest festivals honored by most Pagans and various Earth-Centered paths. Our ritual celebration will honor our ancestors, the spirits of nature, the Shining Ones, and the Harvest itself.

Sunday, August 10

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "Charity & Social Justice as ministry."

10:00 a.m.: "Catholic Social Services" Refugee Resettlement in Miami Valley," Media J., Refugee Case Manager at Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley, will tell us about their Refugee Resettlement Program which assists refugees from Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, and other places. Media will give a slide presentation about how CCSMV staff and volun-

teer sponsors help refugees to find housing, employment, literacy education and how they provide support in other orientation and acculturation issues so that refugee families can be self-sufficient. Media, an Iraqi of Kurdish descent, is a 2006 graduate of Antioch University McGregor and lives in Bellbrook.

Sunday, August 17

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "The Greater Jihad: The Struggle Within."

10:00 a.m.: "Seeking Peace and Pursuing It: From Yellow Springs to Israel and Back: A Dialogue with Father (Jay R.) and Son (Mori)." The program will include pictures from Israel. Jay has a Ph.D. in International Relations, had a Fulbright Fellowship in Israel in 2006-7; and is director of the YS based international conflict resolution consulting firm, The ARIA Group (www.ariagroup.com). Mori (18) is a sophomore at Middlebury College in Vermont studying International Relations with a focus on Middle East politics and languages. He recently returned from a 2-month sojourn in Israel (including one week in Egypt and two weeks in an Arab Village in Israel).

Sunday, August 24

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "Sexuality & Spirituality."

10:00 a.m.: "Reflections from Abroad: Six Months in Senegal." Nathania D. will show pictures and talk about her personal experiences living in a foreign culture. She worked on projects involving community and urban agriculture in Senegalese society. Nathania is a senior at Kalamazoo College in Michigan, majoring in International Relations and Political Science. She is the granddaughter of UUFYS members Willa and Meredith D.

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Saturday, August 30

5:00 p.m.: “UU Christian Communion Service.” Join us for a liturgical celebration honoring Jesus Christ within the Unitarian Universalist Christian tradition.

Sunday, August 31

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, “Embracing the Unknown.”

10:00 a.m.: “To be announced.”

Coming in September

Sunday, September 7

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, “Classism.”

10:00 a.m.: “Waters Flowing Together,” produced by Mitzi M., Minister of Music and Celebration. This program of ingathering will feature our traditional end-of-summer ritual of combining water, collected from near and far, in a communal container. Members and friends—kids, too—are invited to share something about their summer activities and about the source of their water.

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

Let’s Support Our Local Radio Station

By Mary S.

WYSO is a great radio station for a college program – it’s much more eclectic than the other NPR ones I’ve heard while traveling to and from the west coast. But because of the closing of Antioch College, WYSO’s future may be more tenuous than we realize, especially because for years it’s had great difficulty finding funds for those interesting programs.

There is a way we can support WYSO financially and at the same time help ourselves. That is, we could collect your donations to WYSO at the meeting house and then pay the money to WYSO as “underwriting” funds. For \$20 each time, WYSO would announce our name and location plus a few sentences of description about an upcoming program. This would let people all over the listening area learn about the Fellowship while our members support WYSO. As chair of Member Services committee, I believe this public information would be a boon to people searching for an open, welcoming denomination like ours.

Let your money for WYSO work twice – make your check to UUFYS but mark it in big letters “For WYSO” and it will benefit both us and the radio station. (Thanks to Richard D. for the idea!)

Minutes Summary

June 8th, 2008 UUFYS Board Meeting

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

Absent: Louis S.

Member observer: Mary S. sat in on the meeting, which was moved from the fellowship building to the Sims household due to plumbing problems and the uncomfortably high temperature at UUFYS.

The meeting began at 12:20 p.m. with a check-in and agenda review. It was noted that Mary D., Louis S. and Martha G. will not be present at the 6/22 annual meeting.

Old Business

- Pledge drive: Members of the board chose fellowship members and friends to call about pledging for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.
- July meeting date: The July meeting date was set for July 13 with Martha G. to be chair because Mary D. will be out town. Plans for a board retreat are to be made at that meeting.
- Review of May minutes: The minutes of the May board meeting were unanimously approved as written.
- Treasurer's report: Mary moved and Blythe seconded to accept the treasurer's report for May. Motion carried.
- Follow-up survey: It was decided that there was not time to prepare a survey for the upcoming annual meeting. Martha will work on survey questions for board consideration at the board retreat. With respect to our needs for additional space, Mary reported that she had been approached about working out some arrangement with the Presbyterian Church. Mary S. stated that the Presbyterian minister had engaged her in conversation about the same topic. Swapping buildings was mentioned as a possibility.
- Annual meeting: Concerns about reaching our pledge goal by the 6/22 annual meeting were expressed. Martha will prepare various options for cutting the budget and suggested involving the congregation (only those who have pledged) in voting on budget cuts. Other methods of raising funds were also suggested.
- Coordinating Council: Marianne will arrange the next meeting in June or July.
- Volunteer recognition: Fellowship volunteers will be recognized during Blythe's "Gratitude" service on 6/29. Judy will shop for the ice cream social to follow.
- Tar Hollow: Blythe reported that Tar Hollow profits were approximately \$1900 this year, with attendance of around 120. Next year will be the 45th year for our Tar Hollow Camporee and Blythe expects that it will be bigger and even better.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie D., Secretary
and Judy W., Member

A Moderated Forum About The 2009 UUA Presidential Elections

Next year at General Assembly we UUs are electing a new president for our association. After the first official candidate forum at GA in Ft Lauderdale it was decided that we need “**neutral online territory**” where the **platforms of our two candidates can be discussed** *publicly* in a *civil* manner. The transcript of that event with its mix of scripted remarks and unscripted answers to specific questions seems like a decent starting point. Other documents will follow as they become available. Since this will be neutral territory perhaps even the candidates themselves will chime in with clarifications or commentary. But most importantly, we hope for input from you!

Please visit this new **moderated forum - and post your opinions!** The address is:

<http://uuapresidentialdebate2009.wordpress.com> or: <http://tinyurl.com/5ghmzk>



**UUA President
Candidate:**
Rev. Peter Morales

Personal Website:
<http://moralesforuuapresident.org>



**UUA President
Candidate:**
Rev. Laurel Hallman

Personal Website:
<http://hallmanforuuapresident.com>

Starting in August

The Religious Education Committee is sponsoring two additional programs at UUFYS:

**A UU Pagan Ritual
&
A UU Christian Communion Service.**

The goal is to have a UU Christian & a UU Pagan service each month in an effort to meet the spiritual needs of the fellowship members and guests. For more information please contact R.E. Director David K. at:

tau.athanasios@gmail.com

Below is the tentative agenda for the August board meeting:

- Check-in and agenda review
- Review of July minutes
- Treasurer's report
- Pledge drive and 2008-2009 budget
- Space usage and B&G including discussion of Presbyterian Church space exchange proposal Building rental
- Personnel
- Coordinating Council
- Fellowship behavioral standards
- Conflict resolution guidelines
- Purchase of a defibrillator
- Board retreat
- 50th Anniversary photo album project
- Green Sanctuary Committee

Submitted by:
Debbie D., Board Secretary

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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