

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs...



NEWSLETTER December 2007

Grass-roots Sustainable Communities

On Sunday, November 25th, Lottie and Leonard B. spoke about their past decades of research and work for grass-roots sustainable development in Honduras. While they have worked with and for the efforts of many organizations, most of their focus has been on two programs they have developed and continued to maintain themselves for the past 15 years. Both create educational opportunities for rural youth, as they have found these to effect immediate, positive and lasting change among the participants.

“Futures” is a scholarship program which helps young ladies attend Jr. &/or Sr. High School in Honduras. At present it costs \$120.00 to support one of these girls for one year. Most of them are from small towns or rural villages and would not be able to attend school without a scholarship.

Their second program, called “Biblioteca Leonardo” is a literacy program that places “box” libraries in rural schools. Each box has 50 Spanish children’s books. The schools participating in this program have no library books of their own, nor do their communities have libraries of any sort. Each year the boxes are rotated among the schools. At present a box of 50 books costs about \$200 to assemble.

Lottie & Leonard B. can be reached at their home address:

1254 Las Brisas Lane
Winter Haven, FL 33881 Phone 954 298 0780
or at their email address: lotlen@yahoo.com

December Programming... ...at a glance:

December 2

“Atheism: You May Say I'm a Dreamer But I'm Not the Only One.”

December 9

“A Mediator's Travels through Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, and Kenya.”

December 16

“Holiday Stories and Songs.”

December 23

“Unitarian Universalist Diversity.”

December 30

“Walk the Earth with Love and Gratitude.”

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

December Program Calendar:

Sunday, December 2

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, “The use of fear in faith communities: Islam and Christianity.”

10:00 a.m.: “Atheism: You May Say I’m a Dreamer But I’m Not the Only One”. Fellowship member Peter W. will lead an open discussion about the virtue and failings of a force to reckon with in today’s march to theological intolerance and conflict. UUFYS members will offer their thoughts on atheism.

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

Sunday, December 9

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, “The will to power: Adler and Nietzsche.”

10:00 a.m.: "A Mediator's Travels through Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, and Kenya", presented by George B. He will speak of his six weeks of travel through Central and Eastern Africa conducting workshops for mediators. He also visited the place in Tanzania where he served in the Peace Corps many years ago.

Sunday, December 16

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, “The search for meaning in life.”

10:00 a.m.: “Holiday Stories and Songs”, the Fellowship’s traditional intergenerational holiday program, produced by Mitzi M., Minister of Music and Celebrations. The latter part of the program will be devoted to singing favorite Christmas carols, by request.

Sunday, December 23

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

10:00 a.m.: “Unitarian Universalist Diversity.” Presented by fellowship member David K. who will talk about the diversity within Unitarian Universalism and specifically within UU congregationalism.

Monday, December 24

7:30 p.m. Candle Light Service. Join us for the UUFYS 2nd annual candle light service.

Sunday, December 30

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

10:00 a.m.: “Walk the Earth with Love and Gratitude” Created from elements of the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism, this program will include music, stories, songs and readings to awaken your energy and enliven your spirit. The program, produced by Stacy A., will be led by youth and members of the Fellowship.

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

Coming in January

Sunday, January 6

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, “Genealogy of Morals.”

10:00 a.m.: The speaker for this program will be Unitarian Universalist minister, Rev. Richard Venus, who currently serves the First Universalist Church of New Madison, OH.

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

Green Sanctuary

By Stacy A.

Dear Members and Friends -

The UUFYS is committed to recognizing the 7th Principle both in our individual lives and concerning the operation of our Fellowship. We have a small committee that is working to establish compliance with the UUA's Green Sanctuary program, although at this stage it is not officially trying to win any "awards" by doing so. Below is the draft of a policy to be voted on by the Executive Board. You can send your input or comments to stacyuufys@aol.com.

Draft Environmental Management Policy for the YS UUF

The YSUUF is a religious organization committed to reducing its impact on the environment. We are committed to continual improvement and reduction of our environmental impact. To that end we will:

- Establish objectives that consider the impact of our operation on the environment as part of our annual plans.
- Comply with applicable laws and regulations.
- Develop understanding among our congregants of the environmental issues related to our Fellowship's operation and use.
- Promote conservation of resources by reuse, recycling and adopting processes that conserve the use of materials, energy, and water.
- Strive to reduce waste generation in current and future operation of the Fellowship.
- Consider ecological sustainability in the planning of new activities, building projects, and Fellowship operation.
- Communicate this policy to congregants and the public.
- Implementation of this policy is a primary Fellowship objective.



Socks and More Socks!!

The Tuesday Covenant group will be collecting new socks and underwear for adults and children for residents of the Interfaith Hospitality Network's Day Center. These items are always needed so any help by the Fellowship will be greatly appreciated. Please look for a container and sign in the front hallway. We will collect items until Christmas. Many thanks for your help.

Your Belief is Worthy of My Respect

Dear Members and Friends -

During the time I have served as a member of your executive board, I was privileged to get comments, suggestions, and criticism about any number of things pertaining to our Fellowship. Although I am young enough to know the importance of the wisdom directed at me, I am not personally wise enough to give all the time and attention to every concern as I know it should be. Therefore, thank you for your patience with me.

Often I spend Sunday afternoons calling people, checking in on how their experience was during that morning's program. During one recent discussion, a phrase came to light that immediately resonated as a true Unitarian Universalist statement. To establish context, we were talking about the different factions of "religious/non-religious" attitudes among our Fellowship members. Inside that dialogue, these important words were spoken : YOUR BELIEF IS WORTHY OF MY RESPECT.

Please ponder what the real meaning is of those words - inside that sentiment are the elements of healing our wounds, the understanding of our differences, and the progression of our collective vision for this Fellowship. Together we can accomplish so much - if we are separated, then we remain so.

Thank you - Stacy



[Left Front] **Debbie D.** (secretary), **Martha G.** (member at large), **Stacy A.** (past president). [Back] **Mary D.** (president-elect), **George K.** (president), **Marianne W.** (member at large), **Louis S.** (treasurer).

Below is the TENTATIVE agenda for the December board meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Sunday 12/9 at noon at the Fellowship. Prior to the meeting the Board will meet with congregation members and friends to address their concerns.

- Chalice lighting and check-in
- Review of the November minutes
- Treasurer's report
- Office Proposal Update from Administrative Coordinator
- Building rental policies and procedures
- Apartment/Space use/Report on the progress of the B&G Committee & architect
- Media publishing policy
- 50th Anniversary photo album project
- Green Sanctuary Committee
- CRT vacancy
- Committee oversight and volunteer recruitment
- Board transitions and responsibilities
- Stewardship Committee
- Leadership Development
- Situation involving a former member

UUFYS Board Meeting Minutes from October 14th, 2007



Present: Stacy A., Mary D., Debbie D., Martha G., George K., and Marianne W.

Absent: Louis S.

The meeting was preceded by listening and responding to the following member concerns:

- Al S. talked with a former member who complained about a lack of response to a letter to the Board. Al was assured that this was on the Board's agenda today.
- Joel G. expressed concern about limiting public participation at Board meetings.
- Peter W. did not think that Board meetings should be open to the public. Regarding other matters: a) he suggested that the Board consider having Fellowship members serve as interns to the Board. b) he noted that the chair storage at the east end of the meeting house posed a fire hazard. c) It was decided that the wheelchair should be kept in the coat room. d) he complimented the Board on a "wonderful job."
- Toby K., Administrative Coordinator, discussed her recommendations for making the UUFYS office more functional and efficient. (Pat S., her supervisor, was also present.) The total cost for requested items was approximately \$1,050. The Board will consult with the Treasurer before making a decision about purchases.

The business portion of the meeting began at 12:40 p.m. with chalice lighting, check-in, and agenda review.

--The 9/9/07 board meeting minutes were unanimously approved with a minor change.

--As Louis was absent, the treasurer's report was given qualified approval.

--The open meeting draft policy was published in the September newsletter and posted at the Fellowship building. The board approved the policy with minor revisions.

Old Business

--Apartment/Space Use and Report on the Progress of the B&G Committee and Architect: Martha reported that Building & Grounds workbee participants cleaned out the apartment and basement storage areas. An architect has been hired 4-5 hours and the first meeting with him was on 10/9. He will be doing "a bubble drawing" of functional areas, providing ideas about how we can meet our space usage goals, and create an estimated budget within the next 6-8 weeks.

--Personnel Committee: Members have been impressed by Toby's quick adjustment and high level performance thus far.

--Media publishing policy: Board members will review the current newsletter publishing policy and make suggestions about broadening it into a general media policy.

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--Committee oversight and volunteer recruitment: Committee chairs will be asked to provide board members with meeting dates and agendas, as well as meeting minutes. Committees will also be encouraged to post their meeting agendas at the Fellowship to boost congregation involvement. Debbie reported that a volunteer recruitment form was distributed at a September Sunday service and nine responses had been received.

New Business

--Board Transitions and Responsibilities: As Louis will be absent for an extended period, check signing in his absence was discussed. The Board also discussed communications, especially in situations of urgency and limited response time.

--The Stewardship Committee is responsible for the annual pledge drive and fund raising. George and the past president (Stacy) and president-elect (Mary) will meet to discuss this committee and leadership development.

Executive Session

The Board met in Executive Session to discuss a situation involving a former member.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Debbie D., Secretary



Covenant Groups

If you have been thinking about joining a covenant group for the first time or wish to re-join a group after the holidays there will be that opportunity beginning in January, 2008. There are two groups meeting presently on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, led by Judy W. (the 2nd and 4th Tuesday) and Dick R. and Denise C. (the 1st and 3rd Wednesday). If you have any questions please speak with the facilitators or to Mary C., coordinator. Everyone is welcome.

UUFYS Media Publishing Policy — DRAFT

This policy is meant to augment the Newsletter Publishing Policy adopted by the UUFYS Board on April 18, 2004.

In any media used by the Fellowship, including printed items such as the newsletter, and the UUFYS web site, as well as in articles or news items promulgated by other agencies or organizations (e.g., local newspapers), the following will be adhered to:



Special attention will be given to protecting the identity and confidentiality of children (anyone under the age of 18) at the Fellowship. Images of children on the UUFYS web site shall be in the “Members Only” portion and available only to those with the required password.

A signed permission form must be completed by the parent(s) or guardian(s) of any child whose picture, photograph or personal image is included in any UUFYS publication, web site, or as far as is possible, in any articles or news items promulgated by other agencies or organizations (e.g., local newspapers).

The Director of Religious Education is responsible for ensuring that said permission forms are on file for every child who participates in Fellowship programs for children and youth. Said permission forms should be updated annually.

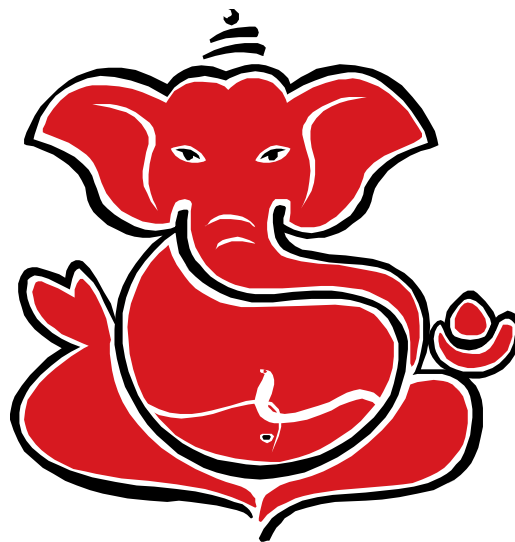
Religious Education Notes.

By David K.

The Religious Education Committee welcomes fellowship member Jamie B. to the committee!

Some exciting activities are underway. The younger group has been diligently studying Hinduism under the tutelage of teacher Stacy A. and they are building a statue of Hindu God Ganesha. Both the younger group and the coming of age program youth are gearing up for a trip to the local Dayton Hindu Temple the first of next year.

The *Building Your Own Theology* adult RE group that meets every other Thursday evening at the Fellowship has been going well and is close to half way completion of the first of a three module program. Each module is ten sessions. The second module will be started after the first of the year when the first module is finished and at that time additional people can sign up for the *Building Your Own Theology* program.



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.



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