



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs Newsletter February 2006

Love is the spirit of this Fellowship, and service is its law.
To dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another,
this is our covenant.

February Calendar:

Sunday, February 5:

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group: "Is there such a thing as 'spiritual community,' and, if so, what functions does it perform in your spiritual life?"

8:45 a.m.: Choir rehearsal

10:00 a.m.: "Aging and Intimacy" — Peter W. will introduce the topic and pose questions for discussion. This subject can be addressed from several perspectives — intellectual, emotional, or physical — and it touches on issues such as ageism and sexism. You know Peter; his presentation is bound to make the morning rock.

11:30 a.m.: Potluck lunch/brunch following the program. Bring food or beverage to share and your own table service. After lunch there will be a showing of the video, "Breakthrough Congregations 2005." This video shares the exciting stories of four UU congregations that were showcased at last year's UUA General Assembly, Fort Worth, TX.

Sunday, February 12:

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group: "What are your sources of evidence for spirituality and how do your sources square with science — e.g., modern cosmology and evolution? If there are conflicts how do you cope with them?"

8:45 a.m.: Choir rehearsal

10:00 a.m.: "African-American Women and Power Politics in New York City, 1944-1972," presented by Julie G., Assistant Professor of History at Antioch College. This Social Justice Sunday program honors Black History Month.

Sunday, February 19:

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group: "Is spirituality the 'center' of your life? If so, how is that manifesting itself?"

8:45 a.m.: Choir rehearsal

10:00 a.m.: "Lifeboats of Aspiration, Seas of Vulnerability." Is Unitarian Universalism a religion? Rev. Susan Ritchie, minister of the North UU Congregation, hears that question a lot, and it bothers her. She answers it by focusing on the very real guidance, comfort and hope that is both represented by and found in Unitarian Universalist congregations.

Sunday, February 26:

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group: "How do you recognize when you are 'off center' and recenter yourself?"

8:45 a.m.: Choir rehearsal

10:00 a.m.: "Fiscal Fitness and the Future of the Fellowship," presented by the Finance Committee.

Coming in March

Sunday, March 5:

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group: "America is acting as an imperial power. How do you feel about this and about how religion (especially UUism) is dealing with it?"

8:45 a.m.: Choir rehearsal

10:00 a.m.: "End-of Life Choices" — Marie L. of the Ohio Funeral Consumers Alliance, will be the speaker.

6:00 p.m.: Potluck dinner and game night at the meetinghouse, hosted by the Religious Education committee. Plan to enjoy appetizers, beverages, and conversation prior to dinner, which is scheduled for 6:30. Bring food to share, your own table service, and a favorite game. Last year's game night was great fun!

Note: Child care is provided in our Nursery every Sunday for infants to children up to age five.

Chamber Music thanks

The board of directors of Chamber Music Yellow Springs has expressed its gratitude to UUFYS for lending CMYS two dozen chairs for its concert in the Antioch College Theater on Sunday, January 22.

Note: E-mail Newsletter items to Ron S. :
ronbear@sbcglobal.net Deadline: Feb. 15.

Religious Education

February schedule

Nursery schoolers will be cared for by Ashanta R. and Malaika C. with the UU curriculum, "Celebrating Me and My World" and free play.

Jo W. will be teaching the 6-10-year-olds yoga and Hebrew bible stories.

The Older Group will be studying peace and social justice with Sylvia C., Byron D., and Stacy A.

RE News

Thanks to David T., Sylvia C., and Byron D. for teaching and otherwise helping out with the RE program in January.

Be a Secret Friend! All it takes to be a mystery friend to a younger Fellowship member is a willingness to provide clues to your identity once a week for four weeks and attend a Friends luncheon on the fourth Sunday. The fun begins in February! Please let me know if you'd like to participate in this interesting activity, which is designed to help us get to know each other better.

*Debbie D.
RE Director for Youth*

UUFYS is Fifty!

According to a clipping from the Yellow Springs News, passed on by Mitzi M., our Fellowship was formally organized in September, 1956. This news was contained in an article from November 22, 1962, describing the dedication of our then "new" building. Reaching our half-century mark is surely something to celebrate! We'll need a committee to plan an exciting celebration. If you have ideas and/or want to help, please contact Judy W., 376-3459, judy xenia@yahoo.com.

UUFYS choir will again sing at Friends Care Center

The choristers of the UUFYS choir will again perform at the Friends Care Center in Yellow Springs at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 12. Singers, chauffeurs, and helpers are needed. Contact Mitzi M. at 767-1988.

Art and Insulation

Do the walls in the meeting room look bare? Sometimes they do, and the Buildings & Grounds committee is asking your assistance to decorate them with hangings. We would like to beautify the walls and also provide sound insulation on the hard surface by using fabric art. If you can loan some textiles, please call Mary K.

Our Church Mice

The church mouse is the person quietly working in the background, who is rarely thanked but whose work is essential to our functioning. Here are a few of the wonderful people who keep us going:

- **Dean L., and Byron D.,** who man our sound system each week and keep it running;
- **Elizabeth D.,** who buys paper and cleaning supplies. We don't want to run out of those!
- **Patti O.,** who organizes the Sunday snacks.
- **The many people** who bring snacks without being organized.
- **Elizabeth A.,** who cleans up our bulletin boards.
- **Judy R.,** who schedules and trains our greeters, so they can warmly welcome new and old.
- **Donna C.,** who schedules rental and group reservations for the meetinghouse; she averts chaos.
- **Dick R.,** who finds tenants for the apartment and keeps all systems there shipshape.
- **Ann T.,** who buys great coffee and prepares it, and organizes the Souper Sundays.

Please show your appreciation to these wonderful people the next time you see them! If you have other nominations for church mouse, please tell Mary K.

Women's February Luncheon

Extend your Valentine's Day by one day! The UU Women's luncheon will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 12:00 noon, at the home of Joy F.

Soup and drinks are provided. Bring salad or bread and wear something red!

Social Justice Committee

For your activism calendar:

Thursday, February 16, 6 p.m., Presbyterian Church, Yellow Springs: Lasagna Dinner for college students. We need UUFYS members to sign up for making parts of the dinner for the students, setting up, and cleaning up: see sign-up sheet on the snack table at the Fellowship. Thank you to all who help with this.

Thursday, February 16, 7 p.m., Presbyterian Church, Yellow Springs: Interfaith Council Forum: "Evolution, Intelligent Design, or Both? What should be taught in public schools?" (This is one of our Partnership activities to promote respect for differences.) See you, your friends, and your teenage children or grandchildren there. Stacy A. will be moderator.

March 12, 2006: Deadline for nominations to the 2nd Annual Social Justice Lifetime Service Awards. Submit your nomination by letter in an envelope addressed "Award Nominee" and place it in the Social Justice mailbox in the of the Fellowship. Please nominate UUFYS members who have made a difference in addressing injustice, inequities, and prejudice. Include the work your candidate has done, for how long and the difference they made. The three areas of Social Justice are:

1) Social Justice Service. Acting locally. This includes working to undo oppressions and the isms in our own community; building a community where everyone counts and can embrace one another; breaking down

barriers to opportunity; securing and making safe our local Earth, air, and water; celebrating diversity, and so on.

2) Social Justice Education. Talking the talk. Creating opportunities to explore the issues of social injustice and develop the skills to address the solutions. This includes producing UUFYS Sunday Programs with informed speakers, offering community forums, lectures, small group discussions, pamphlets, street fair booths, action tables, and flyers in which accurate information and views are expressed.

3) Social Justice Advocacy and Witness. Walking the walk. Addressing the root causes of injustice and moving toward systemic solutions. This includes lobbying, demonstrating, marching, letter writing and organizing for change and solutions on the larger level. Contacting legislators, local officials, corporate boards, and other key players are parts of advocating and witnessing.

The deadline is March 12! Let's hear from you. Past honorees are Willa D., Mary C., Jewel G. Yolie M., Jim P., Valeska A., Bev V., Ray O., and Meredith "Dal" Dallas.

Let us know how we are doing and what you and the rest of us need to be doing.

Joan C.
Chair, Social Justice Committee

See Chicago in June!

The congregation of Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist invites you to join them for a weekend getaway to the city of Chicago, June 2-4 this year.

For the two nights of your stay, you'll be hosted by members of Countryside's friendly and welcoming congregation in the northwestern Chicago suburbs. Your weekend will include hearty dinners with entertainment, breakfast at your host's home, and a full-day visit to the city.

The highlight of the weekend will be the city's celebrated architecture. Countryside has arranged for their guests to enjoy two of the best architecture tours Chicago has to offer. See the soaring towers of the downtown area, acclaimed landmarks, and the new Millennium Park, which features the work of world-renowned architects, planners, artists, and designers.

After a busy Saturday in the city, you'll appreciate the peaceful setting of Countryside's award-winning building and prairie garden. For details on this unique opportunity, e-mail ccuu@ccuu.org or call 847-359-8440, ext. 1.

Public Statement Policy

The final version of the UUFYS Public Statement Policy, which has, in various iterations, graced the pages of the *Newsletter* for several months, has at last been approved by the Fellowship and is now official policy.

On January 2 the Policy was presented to the UUFYS congregation for a yes or no vote. The yesses won.

PTL. -Ed.

New UU hymnal

We have purchased 60 copies of *Singing the Journey*, the new supplementary hymnal that was introduced to the congregation at the January 22 Sunday service. They were purchased with money from the Mary C. Memorial Fund.

We could use more copies of the new hymnal. Perhaps some of our members would be willing to spring for one or two each; the price is \$16.00. Please let Mitzi know if you are interested in such a venture; we could place an order with the UUA Bookstore for a number of books in a single shipment. Phone Mitzi at 767-1988.

It was a joy to hear the lusty performance of all the new songs the choir and I introduced in the January 22 service.

Chalice lighter program

To participate, one must promise to make a contribution three times each year. The purpose of the call is to help a UU church in our Heartland District to improve its facilities and "grow" Unitarian Universalism.

I have posted on our bulletin board a list of churches that have benefited from the Chalice Lighter contributions since the summer of 2003.

The current Chalice Lighter call is to benefit the Heritage UU Church in Cincinnati. They have experienced steady growth and want to develop an outdoor community gathering place, which would provide for their growing number of children in their RE and YRUU group a healthy, stimulating, and spiritual area in which to play and socialize.

More Chalice Lighters are needed. Please participate.

Mitzi M.

Food donors: a reminder

The Greene County Fish Pantry needs donations of every kind of non-perishable food for Greene County families. Donate at least one item each Sunday at the meetinghouse (a box for this purpose is located in the gallery) or in cash to Donna Cottrell at 129 W. Davis St., Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387.

Donna C.

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