

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs...



NEWSLETTER February 2008

What Does B&G Do, Anyway?

By Mary S.

By now you've noticed the hum of activity in the basement of the meetinghouse, with both the adult study groups and the older youth moving up and down the stairs to two newly refurbished classrooms. This gives all our classes more flexibility – a comfortable lounge room for discussions and a work table & television room for other activities. At the same time, toddlers in the nursery have moved closer to the bathrooms and kitchen. Thank David K. (the Religious Education director) and committee members Hank L., Dean L., Greg T. and Mary S. and volunteers Steve J., Debbie J. and Shelley A. for their achievement in painting, electrifying, moving and tile laying. (Apologies to anyone left off this list.) Please go and admire their work! We still need someone to make or donate two wooden screens to hide some of the basement infrastructure – talk with Mary S.

At the same time, after much consultation with the interested parties we've established a new office for our administrator and restored the meeting room for committees. The new office has both a new phone line (courtesy Hank L.) and a wonderful new satellite dish for connecting with the wider world via internet. We've added a high speed printer to the computer, which we calculate will save money on printing costs for the Sunday bulletins, the Newsletter, and the Directory of members. The office continues to offer a copier, if you need a few additional

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February Programming... ...at a glance:

February 3

"Surviving Death: Fact or Fantasy?"

February 10

"The Empowerment of Women and the Elimination of Racism"

February 17

"Love Makes the World Go Round"

February 24

"Space --The Final Frontier"



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

February Program Calendar:

Sunday, February 3

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "Differences."

10:00 a.m.: "Surviving Death: Fact or Fantasy?" presented by Dr. Sweet, Professor of Philosophy at Clark State Community College. Many people who clinically die are resuscitated. Some of these people claim to have had strange and remarkable experiences between the time of their "death" and their resuscitation. These near-death experiences (NDEs) involve traveling through a tunnel where a being of light instructs the subject to return to life. The question that these experiences raise is whether they provide good evidence for life after death. Dr. Sweet will critically examine various hypotheses that have been offered as explanations of the content of NDEs.

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

Sunday, February 10

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "Is it possible to make a difference?"

10:00 a.m.: "The Empowerment of Women and the Elimination of Racism", presented by Jewel G., Antioch College Professor Emerita and former president of the YWCA International. This program will explore the need for women to move from a position of inferiority to empowerment and strength. And the work before us to undo racism, which still weakens any progress we can pursue as a nation or community.

Sunday, February 17

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "Wisdom: Where does it come from?"

10:00 a.m.: "Love Makes the World Go Round," Our Valentine's Day Program. Toby K. will tell us the origins of this special day, and we will

all sing love songs — old and new. You can request any that are special to you. Just tell Mitzi and we'll try to include them. Kevin K. will be playing the piano.

Sunday, February 24

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "Reason: Is it always useful in religion?"

10:00 a.m.: "Space --The Final Frontier": Members of the Buildings & Grounds committee will discuss their research into ways to solve the Sunday space crunch for this thriving congregation. The panel will discuss pros and cons of renovating the former one-room school house versus renting or building an alternative building, and the funds necessary to do either one. Presenters will be Louis S., Rubin B., Mary S. and Sydney W.

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

Coming in March Sunday, March 2

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "The impact of women on our lives."

10:00 a.m. Amber V., director of the Women's Center at Wright State University, will speak about women in higher education, the history, the problems and how we are doing today.

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

Important Notice:

SPECIAL MEETING WITH THE BOARD:

Following the program on 2/3/08, Board members will be available to answer questions and address concerns about the situation involving a former UUFYS member and resolution of that matter. Interested Fellowship members and friends are invited to attend.

V-Day at Wright State University

Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance at Wright State University will host V-Day 2008 on February 15th, 16th, and 17th. V-Day was started by Eve Ensler, the award-winning author of *The Vagina Monologues*, as an outlet to raise money and awareness about violence committed towards women and girls. In the ten years since V-Day's founding, thousands of V-Day events have been held in 120 countries, and they have raised over 50 million dollars for local beneficiaries. Every year, V-Day has a theme, and a fund is set up to raise money for a specific cause. Every V-Day event around the world is asked to give 10% of its proceeds back to V-Day for this fund. This year, the 10th anniversary year of V-Day, the fund is for the Katrina Warriors – a group of women dedicated to rebuilding New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. Wright State's V-Day will send 10% back to V-Day, and the remaining proceeds will go into our Sexual Assault Prevention and Education Fund. Our goal is to raise \$5,000.00 so that this fund can be turned into an endowment fund that will be used for sexual assault prevention and education on the Wright State campus. In order to raise this money, FMLA is hosting three different V-Day Events:

- February 15, 8:00pm to 12:00am – V-Day Ball. This is a fun and casual dance, to help kick off the festivities. Tickets are limited to WSU students and one non-student guest.
- February 16, 3:00pm and 7:00pm – *The Vagina Monologues*. A talented group of WSU students and faculty is doing two performances of the award-winning play *The Vagina Monologues*. It is funny, gut-wrenching, whimsical, thought-provoking, outrageous, and beautiful. But most of all, it's not something to miss out on.
- February 17, 3:00pm and 7:00pm – *A Memory, a Monologue, a Rant, and a Prayer*. For the 10th anniversary of V-Day, Eve Ensler has collected a brand new bunch of monologues written by notable feminists, authors, and journalists. Don't miss your chance to be a part of history, and be one of the first to see this groundbreaking performance.

Tickets for all events are \$10.00 presale (if purchased before February 14th) or \$15.00 at the door. Please see Toby K. for presale orders, or if you'd like to just make a donation to our fund.

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copies for a meeting. To make multiple copies of long projects, please send them electronically to Toby before Thursday at 10 a.m.

Buildings & Grounds committee also has changed leadership: Chris K. has stepped down and Hank L. has stepped up as chair of the committee. Dean L. continues as secretary, to lend order to the sometimes paperwork-challenged members of the committee.

The committee continues seeking ways to solve the Sunday morning space crunch. Last spring two fact-finding subcommittees were established for this: one to look at renovating our current building to hold more people; the other to search for a location in town that would hold more members and save gasoline. In a few months, the pros and cons of their results will be presented to the congregation in a Sunday program. Stay tuned! The Stay-in-Place-and-Renovate group thanks Martha G., who donated the silent auction-won services of an architect. B&G recently received drawings from the architect, who took our ideas on modifying the meetinghouse and put them on paper, plus a few of his own. The Move-Into-Town subcommittee would welcome your ideas on a possible alternate location in Yellow Springs. If you have contacts in the management of Vernay Labs or Antioch College, please talk with Mary S.

Minutes Summary 12/9/07 UUFYS Board Meeting

Present: Mary D., Louis S., Debbie D., Martha G., George K., and Marianne W.

Absent: Stacy A.

The meeting was preceded by listening and responding to the following staff update:

Toby K., Administrative Coordinator, reported that UUFYS is now Internet capable through Wild Blue. Needed passwords can be obtained from her. She is donating a copy of the 2007 Microsoft Office software package to the Fellowship. She and Louis continue to research printer options. The office has partially moved to the Nursery due to the computer/Internet wiring.

Executive session

The business portion of the meeting began at 1:05 p.m. with chalice lighting, check-in, and agenda review.

--Review of meeting minutes: The 11/11/07 board meeting minutes were unanimously passed with one abstention.

--Treasurer's report: Louis reported that we are through 42% of the fiscal year and are at about that

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

February meeting: The next Board meeting will be held on Sunday, 2/10/08 at noon at the Fellowship. Prior to the meeting the Board will meet with congregation members and friends to address their concerns. Tentative agenda items will include:

- Chalice lighting and check-in
- Review of the January minutes
- Treasurer's report
- Apartment/Space usage/Architect's Report
- Board transitions and responsibilities
- Committee oversight & Coordinating Council
- Stewardship Committee
- Leadership Development
- Board vision & report to Fellowship
- Review of 7/07 board retreat goals
- 50th Anniversary photo album project
- Green Sanctuary Committee
- Tar Hollow
- Situation regarding a former member

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percentage in terms of income and expenses. As Fellowship accounts are maintained at WesBanco, a safety deposit box will be opened there. Report unanimously accepted.

New Business

--Resignation of Board member: The Board discussed Stacy A. resignation from the board and the Fellowship as a whole and expressed concern about his welfare. The Board will request a volunteer to complete his board term through June 2008. Stacy's resignation was accepted unanimously.

Old Business

--Apartment/Space usage: We continue to await the architect's report.

--Media publishing policy: The board approved the media publishing policy without any changes. This policy was published in the December newsletter for member feedback. (No feedback was received.)

--50th Anniversary photo album project: A deadline of 3/1/08 was set.

--Green Sanctuary: No information was available.

--Committee oversight: Marianne will draft a Board statement to Fellowship committees regarding the following: 1) committee agendas and meeting minutes are to be regularly distributed to Board members; and 2) committees are encouraged to post their agendas on a meeting house bulletin board for communication purposes and to foster interest and attendance at their meetings.

--Board Transitions and Responsibilities: Additional discussion was tabled.

--Stewardship Committee: George will address the congregation about this committee's important work during a President's Minute on 12/16. The 2007 committee will be asked by Louis to serve again. Depending on the outcome of these requests, Debbie will publish a Board request for volunteers.

--Leadership Development: It was noted that three Board positions will need to be filled for the term beginning 7/1/08. These include President-elect, Treasurer, and Member at Large. Development of the 2008 committee is underway.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie D., Secretary

The Charity for February:

Unitarian Service Committee ---
Services as the Social Justice Arm of the UU's on a National Basis.



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs

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