

# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs...



## NEWSLETTER February 2010

### February 2010 Program Calendar:

#### Sunday, February 7

**8:30 a.m.:** Spiritual discussion group.

**10:00 a.m.:** *To be determined.*

**11:30 a.m.:** A potluck lunch follows the program. Bring a generous dish to share and your own plate.

#### Sunday, February 14

**8:30 a.m.:** Spiritual discussion group.

**10:00 a.m.:** "A Lifetime of Making Music With Both Black and White Keys," presented by Joan

H. Joan H. was a student of Walter Anderson's and maintained a fifty-year friendship with him. They first met when she arrived at Antioch College as a freshman. He was then head of Antioch's Music Department. When hired in 1946, he set an important precedent, being the first African American head of a department in any non-black college in the U.S. It was significant enough that the New York Times carried a notice of the event.

Born in Zanesville, Ohio, "Andy" was from a family of nine children, with grandparents who were slaves. Although for the most part he had a happy youth, he was still faced with racist encounters throughout his life. He dealt with each one with determination to right the wrong, and often won people over to a new way of thinking.

He was active in the civil rights movement in Yellow Springs, and played a number of other important roles in the village during his 19 years here.

Joan picked up the writing of his biography when another local woman, Mary P., who had started interviewing him, suddenly died. Because of Joan's longtime interest in music, her special friendship with Andy, and the desire to tell his unique and powerful story, she went ahead with the project. "Playing On All the Keys: the Life of Walter F. Anderson" was finally published just after he died in 2003.

#### Sunday, February 21

**8:30 a.m.:** Spiritual discussion group.

**10:00 a.m.:** "Our Patchwork Religion," Blythe P. and the RE Committee will share a view of our UU family, values and beliefs and how we are a diverse group stitched together with love and a strong sense of our principles.

#### Sunday, February 28

**8:30 a.m.:** Spiritual discussion group.

**10:00 a.m.:** *To be determined.*

#### Coming in March 2010

**Sunday, March 7**

*(Continued on page 5)*

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](mailto:tau.athanasios@gmail.com)

## Playing for Change!!

Mark your calendar 03-21-10 at noon. After the regular service the SJ committee will be playing a DVD for change. "Playing for Change," is a multimedia movement created to inspire, connect, and bring peace to the world through music. The idea for this project arose from a common belief that music has the power to break down boundaries and overcome distances between people. No matter whether people come from different geographic, political, economic, spiritual or ideological backgrounds, music has the universal power to transcend and unite us as one human race. And with this truth firmly fixed in our minds, we set out to share it with the world. If you would like more information about, "Playing for Change," go to <http://www.playingforchange.com/> for more information or ask Peter W. about it.

## March 7, 2010

The first Sunday in March we invite you to participate in a vegetarian potluck. Practice up on your favorites and bring recipes to share. Just how delicious can we get!!!

**Help Wanted #1:** The Fellowship Board is looking for an archivist to work with the Board secretary over the next few months. The task is to ensure we have official records of By-Laws, Fellowship policies and appropriate reference materials kept up-to-date and in one place. (In the past, files from the Secretary, Treasurer and committees tended to be kept at people's homes.) These files could be either hard (paper) copies or, better yet, a mix of readily-available papers and electronic copies which would save space. If you are interested in helping, please call Joel G., 767-9026.

**Did You Know?** The telephone at the UUF Meeting house is set up with the lowest monthly rate possible. That is, we get 30 free calls a month to our local area, which seems to be only Yellow Springs and Xenia. Calls to this area above the 30 free ones cost 8 cents a minute.

However, calls outside the local area – i.e., "toll" calls to Fairborn, Springfield and further distances – cost us 37 cents a minute from the first one. That means a 10-minute call costs \$3.70. Please have mercy on the UUF budget and make only essential calls from the meeting house phones – and keep them short.

## Announcements!!

**Help Wanted #2:** Did you know that the UUFYS has a Communications Committee that produces the monthly newspaper, the Web site and the Directory? The purpose of the committee is to report official business (such as the calendar of Sunday programs and minutes of Board meetings), foster community (the Directory which lists members and friends) and provide information to people who are exploring UUism in this area (the beautiful Web site at [uufys.org](http://uufys.org).)

This committee needs a new chair. Qualities needed for such a leader are:

- An ear to the ground, to know what the Board and committees are doing that members should know about (working with David K );
- An eye to publicity, to improve and expand the Web information (working with Joel S ), and,
- A nose to the grindstone to ensure members' data (phone, email, etc.) is shared in the Directory and email lists (working with the admin assistant Helen P.)

If you have skills and energy for this rewarding task, please call Mary S., 767-1603.

**Minutes**  
**11/8/09 UUFYS Executive Board Meeting**

**Present:** Mary D., Joan C., Mary S., Dick F., Greg T., Joel H. G., Bengt G.

The meeting got underway at 12:13 p.m. with Peter W. appearing for the 15-minute public portion with two requests: one that we obtain a mechanical lighter to replace matches for lighting the chalice [since done], another to find someone to manage the kitchen compost bin on a regular basis (since determined that the project was initiated by the Spiral Scouts but later discontinued)..

Mary S. (treasurer) and Louis S. (finance chair) presented a discussion of our financial status and continuing hunt for a socially responsible, "green" oriented, and hopefully profitable investment fund. Mentioned were the Vanguard funds, 70% of which are said to be slightly above the national average of such investments. Louis and Mary will confer [since done] with other members of the finance committee including Dick R., Mary D., Sydney W., Charlotte B., and Judy R.

Board members agreed with the choice of Hank L. for the new state-of-the-art heat pump to replace our ailing, antiquated one. (Subsequent to this meeting, Hank made arrangements to have the system installed on November 30 and December 1, with a tutorial on settings and features of the new system the afternoon of the second day. All this was actually completed on Dec 4.)

Joan C. reported on plans for increasing and retaining membership. The Board had previously discussed ways to interest booth visitors at the two annual Street Fairs (and how to greet them upon arrival at the Meetinghouse). The Board is now planning to have two members of a new 5-person membership team survey recent visitors who've stopped coming to programs, as well as long-time members who hardly ever come these days. Also discussed: Tasking the Leadership Development Committee to work on programs to prepare potential leaders of the Fellowship--eg, by promoting Heartland District/UUA training programs..

The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Joel H. G., secretary.

**Minutes (amended version)**  
**12/13/09 UUFYS Executive Board Meeting**

**Present:** Mary D., Joan C., Mary S., Dick F., Greg T., Joel H. G.

**Absent:** Bengt G.

The meeting began at 12:05 p.m.

No congregants appeared for the 15-minute public portion.

The Board approved the November minutes (unanimously).

Treasurer's Report: Mary S. described how funds had been shifted during the early part of the month. A \$15,000 CD that had been invested in WesBanco matured in December and was disposed as follows: Roughly \$2,500 was applied to the \$11,900 cost of the new heat pump, and another \$6,000 was used to start a new investment fund at Vanguard. The approximately \$6,500 remaining was transferred to our checking account at WesBanco because we were low on cash funds for day-to-day operating expenses. Mary also reports that FinCom is exploring which Vanguard fund would be suitable for investing another bank CD, currently valued at slightly more than \$10,000, that will mature in January. Interest for such CDs are only about a quarter of a percentage point for 3-6 month deposits. Our feeling is that stocks are still moderately priced and that there will be better growth in mutual funds than in CDs.

Greg gave an initial report on the 11/29 Coordinating Council meeting saying that individual committees have done a good job of identifying Fellowship goals that they can participate in.

Mary D. reported that we have not yet heard from Jim R. and Byron D. about any progress the Leadership Development committee has made.

Action: Joel was asked to send newsletter info to David K. about Brian M. memorial service on Jan. 23.

The Board lauded the holiday decorations donated and hung by Veronica D., and agreed to thank her with a suitable outpouring of gratitude. Greg discussed the sound system with his colleagues on the Board and the need to add operators to give the present ones a break now and then.

Finally, the Board discussed the current efforts of the retention task force in surveying members who have left the Fellowship and those who don't come nearly as often as they used to. Mary D. proposed a "family discussion" in which the entire congregation could voice opinions on whether (and how) to change the format and lengths of Sunday programs. According to Dick F., many members seem to be getting antsy as the clock ticks toward or past 11:30.

The meeting concluded at 1:12 pm.

Submitted by Joel H. G., secretary.

<p>The next Executive Board meeting will be held on Sunday, February 14, AT 11:45 AM at the Fellowship. The first fifteen minutes of the meeting will be available to congregation members and friends to address their concerns to the board.</p>	<p><b>Agenda items will include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chalice lighting and check-in</li><li>• Review of January minutes</li><li>• Treasurer's Report</li><li>• Leadership Development</li><li>• Stewardship 2010</li><li>• Membership Ad Hoc: Actions</li><li>• "Memorial" assistance</li></ul>
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## **UU Study Guide on Ethical Eating Reaches larger community.....**

"Church harbors a market in winter" is the headline on the front page of the Jan. 7th issue of the Yellow Springs News. Why would you be interested? Well, try this one, "Since last September Jason C., member of the Methodist Church, home of the new winter Farm Mkt., has led a discussion group on environmental sustainability as well as spirituality. " They have been meeting ea. Sunday using our U.U. Ethical Eating \*study guide, yes, the study guide provided to our UU congregations.

Soc. Jus. Com. brought speakers, visuals, our own discussion group, plus a 14 book library to support this UU Study Action issue. Thank you Soc. Jus. Com. and esp. Ruth Lapp for sharing our resources. Here is community extending beyond our walls. Yea for the Unitarians again!

But, as worthy as a study action is and as well as it is brought to us, still many of us are not aware of what Ethical Eating\* actually is. To some it smacks of imagined deprivation, suffering, lawyers, and no darn fun at all.....so how can we lend ourselves to learning more while enjoying community, superior food, exploring more humane animal practices, and truly loving our planet back to life?

Learn more now by going on line to: [socialwitness@uua.org](mailto:socialwitness@uua.org) and, in left margin, look under Ethical Eating Food & Environmental Justice Study Guide clicking on Study Guide.

Open the Study Guide to Table of Contents. These short articles are written by excellent people and cover a wide range of issues that will surely intrigue you Call Sylvia at 767-7395 to share ideas and join in our exploring.

*(Continued from page 1)*

**8:30 a.m.:** Spiritual discussion group.

**10:00 a.m.:** *To be determined.*

### **Coming up in March — May**

**“Patchwork Religion: A Group Series Discussion”** For 12 weeks we will read the book, Patchwork Religion (by Lavond Staveland Ells), discussing each chapter while exploring our own pathways through spirituality and religion. Cost for this Series is \$15, the price of the book. If you are unable to purchase the book but would like to take part in the Group, please let us know. The RE Committee will have extra copies available. See Blythe for details: We will be meeting each Sunday at noon, for approximately 2 hours, beginning with the first Sunday in March. We'll be meeting every Sunday through the end of May except for Tar Hollow Sunday. If enough people are interested, we will add an additional Series during the week.

**Tar Hollow! Coming up soon!!!** Please contact Blythe if you wish to help plan and organize this year at the park.

## 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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