

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs...



NEWSLETTER July 2007

In tribute to Stacy A., Judy W., and Joy F.

Stacy has completed terms as president and president-elect; he will be continuing on the board as the immediate past president and is interested in working with the Finance Committee. Although a relatively new member of our Fellowship, he has not hesitated to shoulder immense responsibility. He is smart and has skills in many areas -- no job is too small or too big for him. In addition, he is caring and kind, and brings a very special dimension to our group -- the qualities of the new breed of graduates from the likes of Starr King. He holds much deep, thoughtful wisdom and his enthusiasm for Unitarian Universalism is contagious!

Judy has recently completed three one-year terms as past president, president, and president-elect. In addition she has served as a long-time board member, been our Program Chair, participated in covenant groups, been an RE teacher and director, and held many other positions of responsibility in our Fellowship over the past 20-30 years. She frequently shares programs and stories that delight the hearts of adults and children alike. Judy is a gentle, welcoming presence who is caring, dependable, energetic, and sensitive. She is deeply dedicated to the Fellowship and brings a friendly warmth and loving kindness everywhere she goes.

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July Programming...

...at a glance:

July 1:

“Inauguration Address”

a presentation by George K.

July 8:

“Rwanda, An Omen for Our Future?” Presented by Al S.

July 15:

“Restoration” Presented by Trudy

July 22:

“Universalism for Unitarians”

Presented by Rev. Chuck T.

July 29:

“Coming of Age: Show and Tell.”

Presented by Blythe P. and the
Coming of Age Youth.

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs is published monthly. To submit material for the newsletter please do so by the **20th** 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

July Program Calendar:

Sunday, July 1

8:30 AM: Spiritual discussion group, "Facing fear with support and without support."

10:00 AM: **"Inauguration Address"** Presentation by George K., the Fellowship's newly installed president.

11:30 AM: A potluck luncheon follows the program.

Sunday, July 8

8:30 AM: Spiritual discussion group, "What is 'good' and what is 'bad' on either side of the 'I versus Thou' boundary?"

10:00 AM: **"Rwanda, An Omen for Our Future?"** Presented by Al S. Al will talk about some of the factors underlying the 1994 Rwandan Genocide and associate them with the direction of events in the USA and the rest of the world. His observations are from visits to Rwanda during the past two years and are focused on overpopulation, environmental degradation and climate change.

Sunday, July 15

8:30 AM: Spiritual discussion group, "William James's "Science of Religion": Are there Ideas common to all religions?"

10:00 AM: **"Restoration"** Presented by Trudy W., based on the healing that she received from God through Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit while she was facing what could have been two fatal events (the illness and the shooting) last year in 2006.

Sunday, July 22

8:30 AM: Spiritual discussion group, "How do I become 'whole'?"

10:00 AM: **"Universalism for Unitarians"** Presented by Rev. Chuck T., minister of the UU Fellowship of Lima, OH.

Sunday, July 29

8:30 AM: Spiritual discussion group, "The puzzle of 'ethics' and 'morality.'"

10:00 AM: "Coming of Age: Show and Tell."

Join us as we revisit our COA Program through slides and stories with Blythe P. and the Coming of Age Youth

Coming in August

Sunday, August 5

8:30 AM: Spiritual discussion group, "Catechisms and their problems."

10:00 AM: **"Are We Really Made in God's Likeness?"** Blythe P. presents her answer to this question and poses some of her own.

Fund Control Policy

Solicitation of funds of any kind by written or verbal announcements at any UUFYS function or facility must be sponsored by a standing committee and cleared by the board of trustees beforehand. In those cases in which such approval is granted, the funds so collected shall be handled by the UUFYS treasurer and a special bookkeeping account will be set up to capture the value of these funds.

The Board would like feedback from members on this policy and should be voting on the policy at an upcoming meeting (probably August or September).

Please direct any questions you may have to Louis or Charlotte.

UUFYS Executive Board

President: George K.

President-Elect: Mary D.e

Past President: Stacy A.

Treasurer: Louis S.

Secretary: Debbie D.

Members-At-Large: Martha G.& Marianne W.

Covenant Group Signups

The Small Group Ministry program started in our Fellowship with a pilot group in September, 2004. We have just completed our third year of covenant groups with at least 1/3 of the Fellowship members and friends involved. It is time to consider joining the covenant group experience starting the week of September 10th, 2007. To help in understanding what covenant groups are and whether that experience is for you please consider the following:

1. A covenant group is a dialog between group members meaning we share from our own experiences, are willing to listen to others, and expect to learn from others. It is where we seek bonds with each other, explore our own spiritual journey, and strengthen our sense of community. Those seeking a therapeutic counseling experience are better served in another type of group. We listen but don't give advice or "fix" the person.
2. Each group writes its own covenant which is a promise and a commitment we make with each other.
3. Each member is responsible for attending all sessions, being on time, participating as fully as possible, keeping what is shared confidential, and leading one of the sessions.
4. Lastly, for most of those participating in the groups it has been a time of renewal, acceptance, and vitality.

There will be ongoing opportunities to experience a sample covenant group beginning on Sunday, August 19, following the service. There will be an informal lunch available for those who wish to take part. Anyone interested in finding out more about covenant groups, including former group members who wish to share input, please contact Judy W., Mary C., Stacy A., or Dick R. for information and to let us know if you will be there so we have some idea for lunch preparation.

Sign up sheets will be available in the foyer starting in August along with a list of commonly asked questions and answers about Small Group Ministry. Be sure to include the days/evenings when you will be available. At this time there are four facilitators available to lead groups in the Fall.

“If it is language that makes us human, one half of language is to listen. Silence can exist without speech, but speech cannot live without silence.”

Mary C.

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Joy has been a Board member and stalwart leader of the Help One Another Committee, among other activities over the past several years. She is a steady, caring, solid person who knows just the right thing to do or say when others are in crisis. She consistently shares generously behind the scenes of our congregation and is truly one of those members who ensures that our Fellowship runs smoothly. Additionally, she is friendly, energetic, a good listener, and shares her views without giving offense to others. She is true, honest, warm and has a great sense of humor – Joy lives up to her name!

What a trio! Thank you all for your hard work and heartfelt efforts. We're so glad you're part of the fabric of this Fellowship.

Minutes UUFYS Board Meeting — June 3rd 2007

Present: George K., Judy W., Joy F., Louis S., and Debbie D.

Absent: Stacy A., and Kathryn V.

The meeting was preceded by a potluck dinner at Joy's house and began at 6:45 p.m. with chalice lighting and check-in.

- Review of meeting minutes: The 5/6/07 minutes were unanimously approved following a motion by Judy, seconded by Joy.
- Agenda review: Two items were added under old business – 50th Anniversary and Pat O.
- Treasurer's report: Louis reported that revenues vs. expenses were down \$500 for May. However, this is not a major concern as revenues are up \$11,372.54 for the year. George voted to accept the Treasurer's Report; Debbie seconded. Unanimously accepted.

Old Business

Personnel Committee: Martha G., chair of the Personnel Committee, attended and reviewed a new congregational survey about Fellowship space needs. This survey will be distributed at the annual meeting on 6/10/07 with a deadline of 6/30/07 for completion.

Martha also reported that Personnel Committee (PC) members now include Holly K., Pat S. and Dick F.; Charlotte B. will continue through the hiring of an administrative staff person. Discussion of the interview process for this position was tabled until the next meeting.

A request for assistance has been received by the Board from the Co-Directors of RE. As this matter involves clarifying and resolving employment-related issues, the Board delegated it to the PC for immediate follow-up. Debbie will send Martha the DRE job description and notify David K. and Kathy R. that Martha will be contacting them on behalf of the PC to address their concerns.

Endowment for Social Responsibility/Designated funds: Louis reviewed the draft of the Fund Control Policy. He noted that UUFYS has 16 designated funds including the Endowment for Social Responsibility. It was suggested that funds with a zero balance and inactive for two years should be eliminated from the books. The draft policy will be published in the July newsletter for congregational review. When passed, this policy will apply to all fund accounts.

50th Anniversary: Board members noted with pleasure the recent Yellow Springs News article about UUFYS. Debbie and Joy reported about their progress on organizing Fellowship photos. Marlene M. has agreed to create albums of these photographs and other memorabilia. She will provide a quote in the next 2-3 weeks. Approximately \$700 remains in the anniversary budget for 2006-2007; additional funds can be designated as needed during the next fiscal year.

Pat O.: The Board recently responded to a request from Pat that she be allowed to attend Sunday service. The Board reiterated its policy (through a letter from Joy to Pat) that prior to any such attendance, she must contact the Board and satisfactorily resolve Board concerns about recent past events.

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New Business

Preparation for annual meeting: The service program was reviewed and changes were made. Additional changes will be made in conjunction with the Board president; Debbie will contact him about this. July 22nd was tentatively set as the date for Buildings and Grounds to report on the results of the congregational survey about space needs, disseminate other relevant information, and gather additional data about congregation attitudes.

Newsletter publishing policy: The Board determined that a newsletter co-editor was needed to ensure publication accuracy, format, tone and cohesiveness. George so moved and Debbie seconded. The motion passed with one no vote. Joy will ask Sandy Love to fill this position. George will notify David K. of this change and remind him that as a matter of policy the newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month.

July meetings: The next Board meeting will include newly elected members and will be held on **Sunday 7/8 at noon** at the Fellowship. Prior to the meeting the Board will meet with congregation members and friends to address any concerns. Agenda items will include:

Chalice lighting and check-in

Welcome to new members

Review of the June minutes

Treasurer's report including results of the pledge drive and info regarding

the apartment rental

Fund control policy for designated funds

Personnel Committee – 1) hiring of an administrative staff person (including discussion of the interview process and on-line email service); 2) results of the congregational survey regarding space needs; and 3) resolution of DRE concerns.

50th Anniversary

Green Sanctuary Committee

Newsletter publishing policy

A Board transition meeting for old, continuing and new members will be held on **Sunday 7/22 at 6:30 p.m.** at Debbie's house. A potluck dinner will precede discussion of 2006-2007 accomplishments and 2007-2008 goals. Debbie will notify new Board members about these meetings following the 6/10 election.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie D.

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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