

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs...



NEWSLETTER June 2007

Letter from the President

Dear Members and Friends -

The annual meeting will be held on June 10th. This will signify the conclusion of the 2006-2007 fiscal year with the Fellowship, and with this comes the beginnings of the next year. George K. will assume the position of president, and I will be serving as past-president. Working with George has taught me that he is multitalented, vision oriented, comprehensive in his views of Unitarian Universalism, and seriously committed to caring for the people of our Fellowship. We will all greatly benefit having this wonderful person in the position of leadership and stewardship of our fellowship.

Throughout the last year we have been together through comfort and challenges, sometimes with reason as our guide and sometimes only knowing the risk. In the last year the contributions of everybody's interest and energy has kept this unique Fellowship strong and progressive. Each one of you who reads this has been a part of this greater and better Fellowship. Thank you.

This has been a "banner year" for us in many areas. 2006 marked the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Unitarian Fellowship of Yellow Springs) later to be renamed as the Unitarian Universalist...). We celebrated this anniversary with special programs, meals, and the loving company of many who were there at the beginning. We are here now due

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June Programming.... ...at a glance:

June 3:

"Is Religion Dangerous?"

June 10:

"Leadership Sunday: Fellowship Annual Meeting"

June 17:

"Mothers' and Fathers' Day"

June 24:

"Summer Solstice"

July 1:

"Inauguration Address"
a presentation by George K.

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

June Program Calendar:

Sunday, June 3

8:30 AM: Spiritual discussion group, "Ways to God."

10:00 AM: **"Is Religion Dangerous?"** presented by Earl Wurdlow, Facilitator for the UU Humanists at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus. Wurdlow says, "This would be a message that looks at the critiques of religion made by Sam Harris and Richard Dawkins. I will argue that when all religions of the world are perceived as simply differing ways of inculcating ideals within human beings, much of the criticisms of Harris and Dawkins become much less significant. In short, the transmission of ideals is the objective, even when historical trappings and baggage appear to come along with the explicitly stated ideals."

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

Sunday, June 10

8:30 AM: Spiritual discussion group, "How important is Theology?"

10:00 AM: **"Leadership Sunday: Fellowship Annual Meeting,"** Celebrate the 5th UU principle, which affirms "the use of the democratic process within our congregations", by attending this meeting. Vote on issues and elect new Fellowship leaders. Discuss the proposed budget, ask questions, participate or just observe.

After the meeting, plan to attend the brunch provided by the Social Justice committee. At this time awards for lifetime achievement in social justice will be presented.

Sunday, June 17

8:30 AM: Spiritual discussion group, "Morality & Ethics."

10:00 AM: **"Mothers' and Fathers' Day,"** presented by Mitzy M. Attendees will be invited to share stories and memories honoring their parents.

Sunday, June 24

8:30 AM: Spiritual discussion group, "Dealing with Fear."

10:00 AM: **"Summer Solstice,"** an introduction to this ceremony which celebrates and honors the earth. The program will be presented by Ian S. and others who identify themselves as pagan UU's.

Coming in July

Sunday, July 1

8:00 AM: **"Inauguration Address,"** a presentation by George K., the Fellowship's newly installed president.

UUFYS Executive Board

President: Stacy A.

President-Elect: George K.

Past President: Judy W.

Treasurer: Louis S.

Secretary: Kathryn V.

Members-At-Large: Joy F.

**Board Members will
be available on
6/10 at
11:40 AM to hear
congregant
concerns.**

Social Justice Activities for June

Sunday, June 3rd.

The Yellow Springs Inter-spiritual Council will host a concert of sacred music 2pm at St. Paul Catholic Church on Phillips Street. The concert features musical selections from the Religious Society of Friends, us (the UUs), Sufi Carava, Grandmother Drum Healing Circle, St. Paul Catholic Church, the Baha'i Faith, and the Methodist Church of YS. Hope you all can make it.

Sunday, June 10th.

The Social Justice Lifetime Service Awards Luncheon will take place following the Annual Meeting. Help celebrate the work of our new awardees.

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to their work, commitment, and vision. Not enough thanks can be expressed to these special people. 2006 also marked cooperation between two important elements of our Fellowship: the Social Justice committee and the Religious Education program. It is no secret that under the leadership of Joan C., SoJus Com has been exploring how far reaching we can be in the world. It is also no secret that the RE program, ably kept strong by Debbie D.'s hard work, has retained more youth than in many years past. This past year is when the two groups worked on common projects and were so successful that the goals were exceeded! Congratulations to all of the youth and adults that have been so integral to the re-blossoming of these efforts! Lets do it again and bigger!

When you have attended the Sunday morning programs/services, have you noticed anything different, such the number of chairs we need to have ready? There are more than 3 years ago (and thanks goes to Chris K. for exploring the possibilities of seating all the people). Also, a loving thank you to Mitzi M. and the members of the choir for all of the new and beautiful songs that we are coming to learn and sing. Mitzi is one of the most precious people in my life, and if you know her, you will agree. The attendance of youth and children every week has been a blessing. Having kept record for the past several months, I can tell you that we average 14 on any given Sunday meeting, with a maximum of 25. These are the smiling faces you see in the hallway grabbing a sweet treat, the ones you 'sing out' as they go to class, the ones who with some trepidation light our chalice, the ones who are the next generation of people with your values. Welcome them, mentor them, encourage them. All of our best can become theirs to use only if we continue to share with them.

The members of the Board, the members of all the committees, the volunteers, the custodian and two RE employees of the Fellowship have put spirit into action. All of their efforts contribute toward this greater reward, of which each of us receive. We have a "can-do" attitude, and all the means to keep going. Whatever your personal view on what the Fellowship should do, be grateful that we are able to do so much. This is our strength as a Fellowship, as a part of the larger community, and as part of the special Unitarian Universalist denomination.

When we act within our beliefs, we make a difference that is profound. The first words of our Covenant are "Love is the Spirit of this Fellowship...) and I believe that from those words we can accomplish anything.

Thank you,
Stacy A.

Natural Villages

Friends here we are flying into summer and before we know it will be fall. But before I totally blow off the Summer I want to make a plea for assistance and material for my trip to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation with natural Villages Cultural Restoration Systems. For those who have not heard of Natural Villages. They have been invited to build earth friendly affordable housing at the village of Wounded Knee on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

What I plan to build locally is a resource bank to support them. My job is to source a number of items in support of their efforts. The items currently on my list are Aluminum Patio doors, 32 sheets of ¾ inch plywood sheeting, industrial rubber roofing, 5 gallon buckets (50 min or as many as I can haul up there) 25 pounds of 8 penny nails. The tool list is not quite as daunting. Shovels, picks, a chain saw that may be lying around and you don't want your mate to ever run it again, wheel barrows, spare inner-tubes for wheel barrows. Doors and thermal windows are also on the wish list but the need for setting up the storage areas before we ship this stuff northwest. We also need phone cards for our Ogallala Directors to offset the cost of communications with anyone in the outside world. I can't wait as my writing skills come together to describe the incredible poverty these people deal with on a daily basis. The house we plan to finish this summer is for Leola One Feather. She is an Elder and Medicine Woman for the people of Wounded Knee. She is supporting a large number of her extended family created by the conditions she deals with every day. To see the work completed and to get a better understanding of what Natural Villages is all about check out their web-site at www.naturalvillages.org

To celebrate my/our support of this wonderful organization we are organizing a drum circle dance party fundraiser on June 23rd 2007. This also happens to be my birthday and I plan to really crank up the atmosphere at the Fellowship to welcome all who come to the event.

I will be leaving for Pine Ridge on June 25th with two nephews and a friend. We will take my truck and a trailer with material. For any information on the event or the planning of the event please call **Chris K.** at 937-409-4108 or take me aside any Sunday with ideas or the like.

Covenant Groups

Our third year of covenant groups has ended this past week. We had over 25 people until December with 20 of them continuing to meet in covenant groups through May. It is a hard to explain what a rewarding experience it is for those who have participated. Sharing your beliefs, doubts, questions, and concerns about topics of interest and really listening to each other makes an impact.

Now is the time to think about your involvement in the coming year. The groups meet twice monthly from September through April with an opportunity to stop in December. We have four!! facilitators who want to lead groups next year. Look for sign-ups sheets at the Fellowship this summer and put your name and preferred meeting day/evening. The group facilitators choose which time fits best with their schedules so not everyone can be accommodated day/evening wise. We will have a more formal information meeting in the Fall but until then talk to Judy W., Stacy A., Mary C., Dick R., and Joy and Harold F. They will be happy to answer your questions. Have a good summer and hope to see you in covenant groups in the Fall.

Mary C.
Small Group Ministry Coordinator

Rest in Peace — Doris Elaine Seward

Doris Elaine S., 34A Knight Terrace, Ohio Masonic Retirement Village, Springfield, Ohio passed away in her sleep Sunday, May 20.

Doris was a loving wife of 62½ years, a devoted mother and grandmother with many friends in any community in which she lived in Kansas, Upstate New York, Columbus, Ohio and at the Ohio Masonic Home in Springfield, Ohio. She was formerly a member of the Columbus North U. U. Congregation and the U. U. Fellowship at Yellow Springs, Ohio.

Surviving Family Members are husband Ronald G. S.; daughters Nancy E. B. (Gregg B. and grand-children Sandra & Justin) Bowling Green, OH; Cynthia G. J. (Will J.) Ellensburg, WA; sons Leland G. S. (Mary Ann S.) Leesburg, VA, Stanley R. S. (Sheila), Columbus, OH; Brother Keith W. M.D. (JoAnn) Whitby Island, WA; grandson Ronald Lee S. (Ileana Seward and great-grandchildren Jimmy and Katie) Morrow, Ohio; and grand-daughter Ashley Duke (Ben) M., MS; and several nieces and nephews and their children. There will be a private Memorial Service for family members only. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to the Ohio Masonic Home, 5 Masonic Drive, Springfield, OH 45504.

Slate of Nominees for Election at the Annual Meeting — June 10

The Leadership Development committee, consisting of Chris K., Judy R. and Judy W., is pleased to submit the following list of candidates for next year's board:

- **President-elect:** Mary D. (a three-year term; second year as president and third year as past president).
- **Secretary:** Debbie D. (a two-year term).
- **Member-at-large:** Martha G. (a two-year term).
- **Member-at-large:** Marianne W. (a one-year term, completing the term of Debbie Downey who will move to the position of secretary).

Current members of the board who will continue to serve during 2007-2008 are George K. (president), Stacy A. (past-president), and Louis S. (treasurer). Leaving the board are Judy W. (past president), Joy F. (member-at-large), and Katherine V. (secretary). Many thanks are extended for their service to the Fellowship.

Stacy A., in fulfilling one of his duties as past president, will chair next year's Leadership Development Committee. Nominees to serve with Stacy on the committee are: Mary C. and Peter W.

We are truly grateful to all these individuals who are willing to devote their time and talents to making our volunteer-run Fellowship a success.

BUDGET MESSAGE

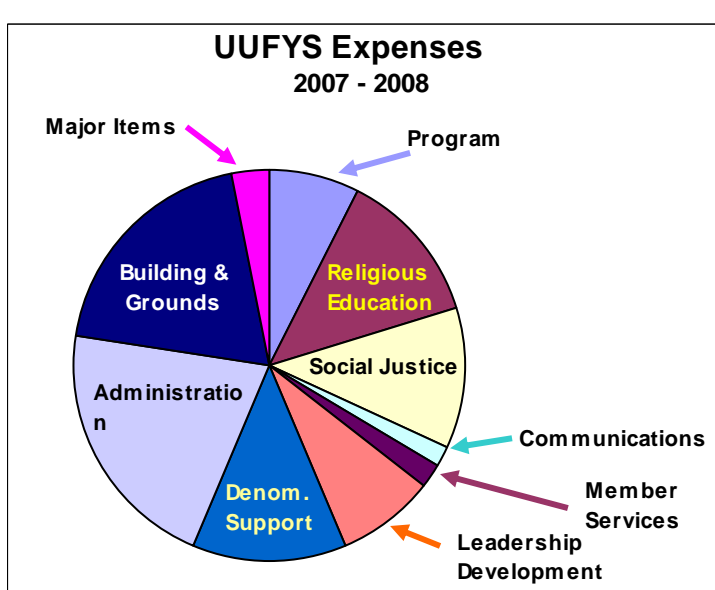
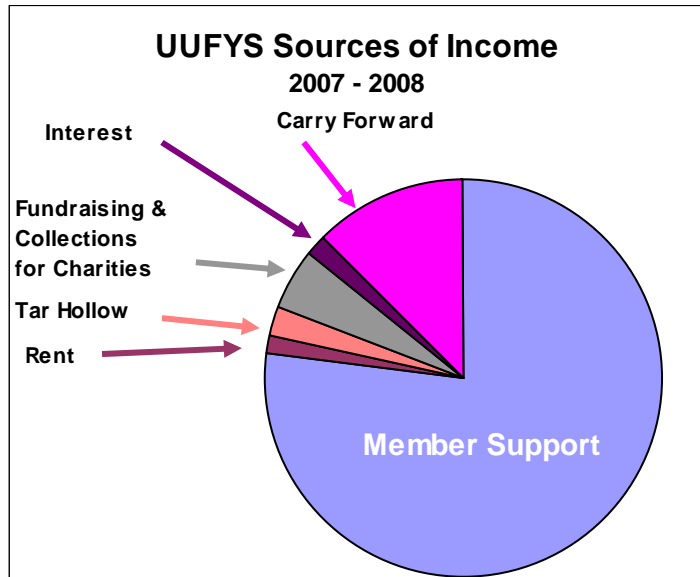
The budget is a numerical statement of what we plan to do in the year ahead. Approving it is one of the key responsibilities of membership. The budget you approve will be one of the most important determinants of what we can achieve together in the coming year. Please review the numbers carefully, ask questions, and come to the Annual Meeting on June 10 prepared to vote. As you compare the original budget requests presented on April 1 with the recommended changes published here, you will notice several important differences:

- **The level of member support pledged is considerably less than the amount originally budgeted.**

Six weeks later, we have pledges totaling \$43,442 from 85 members and 8 friends. We have not yet heard from 17 members. The budget is based on a total of \$45,000 (down \$12,200 from the original figure).

- **The Board has approved a total of \$7,200 in cuts in the operating budget, leaving a deficit of \$5,000. It has retained the part-time administrative position.**

Reductions (small and not-so-small) were made in the budget for speakers and music (additional hymnals); RE teachers, youth conferences, and the coming of age program; social justice service, education, and advocacy; the Directory; member support and the Help-One-Another network; social events; the Heartland Annual Meeting; Board and Finance Committee expenses and software; and B&G purchased services and insurance.



- **Subsequent to Board action, the Finance Committee determined that it would be prudent to plan for additional revenue shortfalls of \$5,500.**

Net income from Tar Hollow is dropping by small amounts yearly, and we have experienced losses in budgeted apartment rental income. Given the difficulty of maintaining a reliable income stream from the rental and the pressure for more space for RE and other programming, it seemed unwise to continue to rely on the apartment as a source of

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2007 — 2008 Budget

	2007-08	
OPERATING REVENUES	Budget Requests	Recommended Changes
Member Support	57,200	45,000
Donations to UUFYS	800	800
Fundraising for UUFYS	0	100
Rent: Apartment -- DISCONTINUED	5,000	0
Rent: Building	900	900
Fundraising: Tar Hollow (net)	2,000	1,500
Fundraisers & Collections for Charities	3,000	3,000
Interest Income	1,000	1,000
Surplus from 2006-07		7,400
<i>Total Operating Revenues</i>	\$69,900	\$59,700
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Program	6,600	4,400
Religious Education	9,100	7,650
Social Justice	7,700	7,000
Communications	1,100	950
Member Services	1,500	1,300
Special Events	200	0
Leadership Development	5,200	4,800
Denominational Support	7,500	7,500
Administration	13,900	12,600
Building & Grounds	12,300	11,700
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	\$65,100	\$57,900
Major Items & Set-Asides	4,800	1,800
<i>Total Expenses and Set-Asides</i>	\$69,900	\$59,700
CARRY-FORWARD OR (DEFICIT)	\$0	\$0

“The budget you approve will be one of the most important determinants of what we can achieve together in the coming year. Please review the numbers carefully, ask questions, and come to the Annual Meeting on June 10 prepared to vote.”

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income.

Offsetting this loss, FinCom cut another \$3,000 from the budget -- a \$2,000 set-aside from current income for renovations and a \$1,000 purchase of a projection screen for the sanctuary – leaving an additional deficit of \$2,500. (The latter decision was facilitated by Al S.'s donation of a used screen, which is already in place and ready for use).

- **The recommended budget would cover the potential \$8,000 deficit by using the \$7,400 balance anticipated from the current year's operations and additional pledges from some of the 17 individuals who have not yet responded.**

Updated (11 month actual) figures will be available for your consideration a week prior to the Annual Meeting. If you are one of the “finance geeks” among us, you are welcome to stop by the office for a copy of the 2-page, 7-column version of the budget. Let's discuss the numbers over coffee before June 10.

-- Charlotte B., for the Finance Committee

GLBT SUCCESSES

The UUA has long advocated for equality for gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender people. Now, their issues are not just national – they are international as well. Fairness is making big wins across the globe – in the last few months alone, three more countries took major steps toward relationship recognition for same-sex couples. How's your international GLBT IQ? See if you can identify the countries below:

1. Originally the center of the Aztec empire, today this city is home to a prominent gay neighborhood. A law passed in 2006 allows resident same-sex couples to enter into civil unions, which provide equal inheritance rights and other benefits.
2. Homeland of the most indecisive of Shakespearean princes, this country was the first to decisively stand up for equality. It instituted registered partnerships for same-sex couples in 1989, paving the way for many other European countries.
3. In 2005, this country – known for burnt sienna landscapes, running bulls and the wanderings of Don Quixote – made marriage an equal right for all couples, gay and straight alike.
4. This country – strewn with maples, moose and mountains – offers full marriage equality and is an international GLBT tourist destination.
5. This country's new constitution begins: “Recognize the injustices of our past.... Believe that this country belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity.” This constitution is one of a handful in the world that specifically bars discrimination based on sexual orientation. In 2006, this country extended full marriage equality to same-sex couples.
6. By Jove! This country allows same-sex couples to enter into civil partnerships that confer the same benefits as marriage. When Parliament passed the bill, there was very little protest – just plenty of talk about how best to celebrate a prominent gay musician's wedding!
7. Sadly, this country is behind the international trend. Although one state offers marriage equality and several states offer other forms of partnership recognition, mean-spirited anti-marriage amendments have swept across the country. But things are looking up – in 2006, voters in one state defeated an anti-gay amendment for the first time in this country's history.

Find out more at www.hrc.org, the web site of the Human Rights campaign.

Answers: 1. Mexico City, 2. Denmark, 3. Spain, 4. Canada, 5. South Africa, 6. United Kingdom, 7. United States.

Religious Education

The Secret Friends program and the Secret Friends Luncheon was a success. Many thanks to everyone who participated in the program. Please share your feedback with David & Kathy to help us in planning future programs like this one.

The Coming of Age curriculum is coming to an end, and special mention should be made to the extraordinary job that Blythe P. has done in making this program such a success. The ropes course, the retreat, and the labyrinth at Tar Hollow have been successful and meaningful to the participants in the program.

What to look forward to in the Summer? A gaming group is scheduled to be formed for the youth and interested adults. The intent of the project is to teach UU principles in a relaxed fantasy gaming setting (ie., Dungeons & Dragons). If you are interested in this contact David.

Another project to be initiated in the Summer is a Religious Text Study Group. The intention of this group is to explore religious texts in a group discussion setting. If you are interested in this please contact David.

Happy Learning!!

David K. & Kathy R.
Directors of Religious Education



From the COA Retreat.



From the COA Retreat.



The Labyrinth at Tar Hollow.

Photos by Blythe P. Many Thanks
to Blythe for all she does!

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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