



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs

Newsletter

March 2005

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.

We welcome people of all personal and family lifestyles.

March Calendar

Mar 6 Sunday 10:00 am - First Sunday - Honoring Women's History month, the program will feature important and influential women in our history. Produced by Tom Osborne and Stacy Arnett.

10:15 Sunday School

6:00 pm Potluck Dinner – Hosted by Member Services committee, the evening features high school senior Hilary Livingston's slide show of her work in Africa with The Malawi Children's Village. Hilary is seeking donations of first aid materials to ship to the children, or money for shipping costs. Bring a dish to share, tableware and a neighbor; social time from 6:00 to 6:30 pm.

Mar 13 Sunday 10:00 am "Socially Responsible Investing" by Hardy Ballentine. Learn how to use your money to achieve your beliefs.

10:15 Sunday School – Parents and children of the Younger group and Nursery will make and serve pancakes for Maple Syrup Sunday.

11:30 Coffee hour – pancakes and maple syrup.

12:00 noon Board meeting

Mar 20 Sunday 10:00 am Celebrate International Women's month with Mary Donahoe and Kirsten Larsen.

10:15 Sunday School

Mar 27 Sunday

Sunrise: Join us to 'sing up the sun' at Ellis Pond, with Easter songs from the UU hymnal! After, celebrate the rebirth of spring with a potluck brunch at the home of Len and Mary Cargan.

10:00 am "While Everyone Else Does Easter...." Elaine Strawn, minister of the UU Fellowship of Wayne county, Wooster OH, will present: Listening to the religious right, we are left with two possibilities. First, that our sins (which they list) are made ever greater due to Jesus' wretched suffering on the cross. Or second, we might believe in the Eschaton, via the novels on the end times

by Tim LaHaye. In the midst of that message, UUs have a tremendous responsibility to offer an alternative: one of hope, respect for all people, and deep belief in the democratic principle.

10:15 Sunday School

11:30 am Regular coffee hour

April Calendar

April 2 Saturday 9:00am – Work Bee for indoor and outdoor clean up and repair. See article below.

April 3 Sunday 10:00 am - **First Sunday** -

10:15 Sunday School

6:00 pm Potluck Dinner – At press time: Special production by Mary Cargan and Charlotte Battino.

Social and Faith Groups and Activities

Every Sunday 8:45 am - The fellowship Choir practices before the service. All singers are welcome – we especially need sopranos and altos now.

March 9 Wednesday 12:00 noon - Women's Luncheon - Hostesses are needed for March and April. Call Mitzi for info and to volunteer.

March 10 & 24 Thursday 12:00 noon – Men's Lunch – Every man is welcome at the restaurant lunches. Call Harold for info.

March 13 Sunday 2:00 pm UU day to **sing hymns** at Friends Care: help provide cheer and tunes.

March 24 Thursday 7:30 pm – The 4th Thursday drop-in discussion group resumes at the meeting house. Call Harold Fishbain for info on which article from World magazine we will discuss.

March 28 Monday 7:00 pm – Adult religious education group is still discussing Unitarian and Universalist history. For more information, call Stacy at 767-7943. Reading material for home study is available by request.

Fellowship Business

Ombudsman Position - by Mary Kosheleff

Have a problem with what's going on in the Fellowship? Don't like something happening at Sunday services and don't know which committee to gripe to? We have established a new position of ombudsman, to receive and investigate complaints, and Al Schlueter has taken on this task. Al may point you to an appropriate committee or take your anonymous message to a committee, Members Services or the Executive Board. Al is known for his respectful, supportive attitude and will treat your inquiries with complete confidentiality.

Give Life to Your Ideas!

The UUFYS Program Committee is looking ahead to summer Sunday programming and needs your help. We need you to sign up to produce, present, play music for or otherwise help continue our programming through the summer. Please submit your program ideas and preferred date (or dates) to Susan Gartner (767-2170) or Judy Williams (376-3459) for approval. The Social Justice Committee will be responsible for the 2nd Sunday each month. By signing up, you will be responsible as Program Producer for your Sunday's program. All topics must be consistent with Unitarian Universalist principles. You may elect to be your own Service Leader (emcee) for that particular Sunday or ask that someone else lead the service. Feel free to experiment with new ideas and rituals you wish would be incorporated into Sunday morning programs. Mitzi Manny, Minister of Music (767-1988), is available to help with music and/or hymn selections.

Ready to Become a Member of UUFYS? – by Mary Kosheleff

A meeting for prospective new members will be held Monday, March 7, 7:30 pm, at the home of Mary Kosheleff (767-1603). We will discuss principles of UUism, what this Fellowship offers and the many ways you can become involved in our activities. A ceremony to welcome new members will be held during the Sunday morning service, March 13.

Hurray! It's Work Bee Time Again!

Saturday, April 2, is the first fun work bee this year. Everyone is invited to lend a hand in repairing and cleaning the meetinghouse and grounds. Projects include: gardening and grounds clearing, painting the old entrance/cloak room and the gallery, cleaning and re-organizing basement storage, managing the kitchen storage areas, and the usual cleaning and polishing. Raindate April 16.

☆ Important Policy Change ☆

The Member Services committee has recommended a change in the current membership policy, which will delete the requirement for a minimum \$100 annual "dues". Please consider the proposed changes outlined in the February newsletter (or at www.uufys.org) and give your input to the committee or the board. The proposal will be presented for a vote at the May 1 Annual Meeting.

For More Information:

- Pick up a copy of the complete text of the proposed changes (from room 1).
- Contact Charlotte Battino at 767-1854 or at rubin.battino@wright.edu.

Great Training Opportunities! – by Mary Kosheleff

The UUFYS values training, to strengthen ourselves and our activities. Pertinent opportunities abound, from UUA, our Heartland district and in the local community. Here's the latest scoop:

-- April 8-10: Heartland district spring conference and annual business meeting, at First Unitarian church in Cincinnati, for youth and adults. Workshops address everyday issues faced by UU congregations, such as music, adult RE, the 'culture war', couples communication, resource management, more. Fee \$90, registration deadline 3/25; hotel room 1-4 people \$85 by 3/18. Home hospitality deadline 3/31. Details at www.heartlanduu.org.

-- June 23-27: UU General Assembly in Ft. Worth, Texas. We can send two delegates, who vote on UUA business and the statements of conscience, plus other participants. At GA, the air is electric with hundreds of workshops, lectures, performances, worship services, dances and more; Pete Seeger will be honored. Grab the chance to share ideas with thousands of UUs from every state, from 7:00am to 10:00pm. Registration \$260 3/1-4/30; \$305 after. Details at www.uua.org/ga.

-- July 13-20 or July 23-30: Midwest Leadership School of UUA, at Beloit College in Wisconsin. Opportunity for personal, spiritual and leadership growth through individual reflection and facilitated interaction with other UUs. Registration of \$595 covers tuition, room and board; deadline 4/15.

-- Fall 2005: Leadership Institute of Yellow Springs is sponsored by OSU. Weekly meetings train participants in personnel, financial and organization skills for community service or elected office.

We encourage everyone to participate in these wonderful opportunities; partial funding by the Fellowship is available. Contact Charlotte Battino for details and application forms.

Children's Religious Education for March – by Debbie Downey, RE Director for Youth

- On Sunday mornings the Younger Group (ages 6-10, taught by Raina Daniels) and Older Group (ages 11-14) will continue learning about Unitarian Universalist principles through music, stories, and craft activities. Childcare is available in the Nursery for children 5 and younger.

- On 3/20, children in the Younger Group and Nursery will make and serve pancakes for Maple Syrup Sunday. On 3/27, Easter Sunday, the children will decorate eggs and the Older Group will have an Easter egg hunt for the younger children.

Social Justice Committee News and Plans – by Chris Kinter

Volunteer opportunities:

-- Home Inc has raised the roof and put on drywall at their latest affordable home on Dayton and High. Please check with Ann Taylor at 767-1971 or Al Schlueter at 767-7468 for the next volunteer opportunities there.

-- Solidarity Ohio, which formed in response to the passage of Ohio Issue 1 (the Defense of Marriage Act), is looking for more volunteers in areas of education and changing the system and laws.

Buildings & Grounds Activities

-- Thanks to Rubin Battino for purchasing and modifying a cabinet to permanently set up our audio equipment, and to Syd Welton, Dave Turner and Chris Kinter for putting the cords through the wall!

-- Please remember that during full membership activities such as Sunday morning, we ask you to enter the grounds from the SOUTH entrance to the circular drive. This allows pedestrians to use the bridge near the handicapped spaces and cross the northern driveway without being run over.

UU Magazine for Children

Learn and grow together with *uu&me*, the only UU magazine for children. A quarterly aimed at 6-12 year olds, it includes stories about real-life decisions kids make, religious beliefs around the world, nature activities that nurture good relationships with the earth, plus games, puzzles and crafts. It's \$17.95; subscribe at www.uua.org/uume/subscribe or mail check, parent's name and child's name to CLF-uu&me!, 25 Beacon St, Boston MA 02108.

Do You Know Our New Members? – by Dick Fowler

You've probably already met her, because **Patti Owen** has been active in UUFYS since the first day she brought her sparkling offspring, James and Kara, to the meetinghouse. Born in Ethiopia, with parents who were active in UUism, Patti has lived most of her life in Springfield, where her father taught at Wittenberg. A 2002 graduate of Clark State with a major in early childhood education, Patti has hobbies which include photography, scrapbooking, reading, music, drawing, meditation and rock concerts! (Go girl!) Her life now is busy driving the children to activities and helping her husband Randy construct their new home.

Miami Valley “Great Read” – by Martha Gardin

The Dayton area is beginning the “big read” discussion groups soon. Be prepared by reading “Nickle and Dimed – On (Not) Getting By in America” by Barbara Ehrenreich, and stay tuned for meeting times and places.

Directory Update

We want to issue an up-to-date directory soon. Please check your listing and tell Mary Kosheleff of any changes.

Let's Go to Summer Camp!

The UU Lake Geneva (Wisconsin) Summer Assembly at Aurora University is July 3-July 9 this year. It brings together 600 UUs of all ages for sport, religion and 170 workshops. Double occupancy rooms range from \$235 to \$495 each, plus \$100 registration fee. APPLY NOW! Space fills up VERY quickly – housing assignments start March 15. Get info at www.lgsauu.org or ask Mary K for the brochure; see Byron and Sylvia for a rave review.

Goodness is the only investment that never fails. - Henry David Thoreau.

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P.O. Box 480

Yellow Springs OH 45387-1480