



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs Newsletter May 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

May Calendar

May 1 (Sunday): 10:00 a.m. Annual Meeting of our Fellowship. Join us in anticipation of another exciting year of rejuvenation and new developments. Learn about upcoming projects as we elect board members and approve our 2005-06 budget. A potluck lunch follows; bring food or beverage to share and your own table service.

○ The Older Group will study the Jewish underpinnings of our faith and the Younger Group will continue studying the UU principles. Child care is provided for children five and under.

May 8: The Older Group will study the Humanistic underpinnings of our faith and the Younger Group will continue studying the UU principles. Child care is provided for children five and under.

May 15: 10 a.m.: "Brown vs. Me — A Citizen-of-Color's Experiences in Two Southern Cities." Speaker will be Dr. Ruben Weston, retired professor and former chair of the Central State University History Department.
○ UU "Jeopardy" with the Older Groupers! The Younger Group will finish their study of UU principles and other aspects of our faith. Child care is provided for children five and under.

May 22 (Sunday): 10:00 a.m.: Coffee and informal discussion, at the Fellowship meeting house. Contact Sydney Welton, 767-8020, for information.

May 20-22 (Friday evening through Sunday): Annual Tar Hollow Camporee. (Registration deadline is Monday, May 9.)

May 29 (Sunday): 10:00 a.m.: In Memoriam — which of our collective dreams have been denied, deferred, or destroyed? We will recognize some commonly-held ideals which have toppled through the Depression, wars, and beyond.

○ The Older and Younger Groups will join to learn about great UU thinkers through a variety of activities. Child care is provided for children five and under.

June 5 (Sunday): 10:00 a.m.: A program produced by the fourth Thursday discussion group, based on articles in the UU World, the magazine of the Unitarian Universalist Association. The mission of the UU World is to "help its readers build their faith and act on it more effectively..."

Tar Hollow

Please mail in your Tar Hollow registration forms in the next couple of weeks. Don't forget to invite your friends. Registration forms can be printed off the www.UUFYS.org website or contact Hardy Ballantine at 767-7417, e-mail hardy@bookcrafts.com.

A Challenge from Patricia Olds

I've been thinking that UU members could use a telephone network for oldsters, shut-ins, and anyone who would like a friendly phone call — daily, weekly, or just occasionally, just to say hello and maybe ask about anything needed.

The Presbyterians have a system of weekly or bimonthly visits to Friends Care Center and a "buddy system" to check on folks who could use a daily visit or call. I'll be happy to coordinate if a few people will volunteer to assist.

— Patricia Olds

UU Wine Country Excursions

The UUs of Napa, California invite you to a unique opportunity to enjoy two of America's most scenic valleys, Napa and Sonoma.

We will help you choose from over 600 wineries and hundreds of world class restaurants, COPIA (the American Center for Food, Wine and the Arts), Jack London's home, Francis Ford Coppola's winery and movie museum, art galleries, miles of trails with breathtaking views and more.

Locally savvy UU guides will drive you to selected wineries, historic sites and mountain trails with breathtaking views. You will stay in UU homes for good conversation, good breakfasts and warm hospitality.

Our offer is limited to June, July and August. Plan three nights with two days of touring. Our fees are well below market rate for similar services. All proceeds benefit our Fellowship. We have limited openings, so contact us now for details. Tom Wilson (707) 254 7443 or e-mail twilson9@sbcglobal.net.

Note: E-mail Newsletter items to Ron Siemer: ronbear@sbcglobal.net. Deadline: May 19.

Be a Volunteer!

The spirit of UUFYS — or of any successful group — depends on the voluntary participation of its members. This is the time of year when we all need to think about how we can share our interests, skills, and energy to further the work of our Fellowship.

Talk with persons who are involved in types of work you have an interest in or would like to do. Attend a committee meeting. Ask any board member or committee member about his or her particular activities, and decide how your skills and interests would best fit into the needs and ambitions of the Fellowship.

At the Annual Meeting on May 1, volunteer forms will be available for anyone able and willing to volunteer to fill out before leaving. Those unable to attend the meeting will receive forms later.

Think seriously about how you can contribute. The important work of our Fellowship depends heavily on the energy and dedication of our volunteers.

Wanted: Gardening Volunteers

Would you like to burn 150 calories in 30 minutes, achieve peace of mind, and reduce stress?

If you would, then join the UU gardeners on Wednesdays (weather permitting), to work in the gardens. We design, plant, weed, and prune on Wednesday afternoons starting at 2 p.m. As (if) the weather gets warmer, we'll start earlier.

Not much skill is required, but it helps if you like to get your hands dirty. If you have questions, contact Judy Willimas or Mary Cargan.

Small Group Ministry

Anyone interested in becoming involved in a Small Group Ministry is invited to contact either Mary Cargan or Judy Williams, who will add your name to the list.

After our program on covenant groups, 16 persons signed up to participate in groups starting in the fall. We want to meet with everyone participating for an informal question-and-answer period after the UU service as soon as possible. We shall contact all participants when a meeting has been planned.

Sharing the experience of ministering to one another through covenant groups is a positive and learning experience.

One of the loveliest statements of personal dedication and quality was expressed by the Englishman Francis Bacon:

“I hold every man a debtor unto his profession, from the which, as men of course do seek to receive countenance and profit, so ought they of duty, by way of amends, to be a help and ornament thereunto.”

Social Justice Report for May 2005

Chris Kinter

We can take pride in our accomplishments so far and pick ourselves up from our disappointments.

In the area of education we promoted 20 Social Justice programs, covering areas including, homophobia, sexism, inclusion, diversity, homelessness, adoption, freedom, civil liberties, Black history, disability rights, and responsible investing. We even included a great field trip to the Freedom Center in Cincinnati in honor of Black History Month. This year at Tar Hollow, Peter Whitson will offer CPR classes for interested participants.

In the area of service we kept busy with rewarding projects. We helped create the Yellow Springs Inter-Faith Council, worked with Home, Inc. in affordable housing, and participated in the training of junior-high students with AVP (Alternatives to Violence Program). We are supplying volunteers for Accessibility Day, voter registration, OVPP, and the AACW Blues Fest.

We have initiated the first annual UUFYS Social Justice Lifetime Service Awards. Our first Lifetime Service Awards Dinner will be held at the May 1 potluck, and the first honorees are: Bev Viemeister, Willa Dallas, Meredith Dallas, Mary Chapman, Ray Olds, Jewel Graham, Valeska Appleberry, and Jim Parker.

Witness and Advocacy: We supported two Village council resolutions (opposing the anti-gay marriage act and recognizing the official card of Mexico, the MCAS). We also had an action table at the Little Art for the movie "The Corporation" and participated in peace vigils.

Our plate collections for the year raised \$200 to \$300 for local and national organizations we supported. We covered special requests for the Tsunami victims, OXFAM, and UNICEF and collected food and other personal items to be distributed to local shelters and food pantries.

Fellowship attendees at the SOJUCOM meetings and participants in the work of social justice included Chris Kinter, Chairperson, Peter Whitson, Ann Taylor, Bill Mullins, Hardy Ballantine, Lucia Livingston, Carla Steiger, and Joan Chappelle, Co-Chairperson.

Hardy Ballantine has agreed to serve as Co-Chair, and Joan Chappelle has agreed to become the new Chairperson for SOJUCOM for 2005-06.

I highly recommend getting active with SOJUCOM. It is very fulfilling work for causes important to the Fellowship and our local and world communities. SOJUCOM meetings are on the third Sunday of each month in room 1. ●

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs

P. O. Box 480

Yellow Springs, OH 45387-1480