

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs...



NEWSLETTER May 2007

Letter from the President

Dear Fellowship members and friends -

For this month's letter, I submit to you the full text of something I read from during a recent president's minute. That morning there was not time to read it aloud in full, and I want to share it with you. Thank you.

This belongs to You

The walls, floor and roof of this building, contain something special. Sometimes when you are here, as you are this morning, you can feel it. Sometimes when I am here by myself, I feel it. I have tried to place a name to this feeling, but I can't decide on one. So, instead, I think of the elements inside these walls that calls me here.

Compassion. That was the element that brought me here 5 years ago. I was at a very low point in life and wanted to connect with a good group of people. When I made a phone call, someone answered, and she spoke to me and to my situation.

Welcoming. When I first began attending, people noticed me and my son and took an interest in us. We were invited to various functions and events. We were treated as if we were friends of everyone. I still appreciate that to this day.

Passion. After my first two meetings here, I understood that the people of this fellowship have a passion for

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May Programming... ...at a glance:

May 6:

**“Community Supported
Agriculture”**

May 13:

**“Flower Communion and
Coming of Age Ceremony”**

May 20:

**“What Does It Mean to be
‘Fully Human?’”**

May 27:

**“Memorial Day: Remember-
ing Our Ancestors and Our
Children”**

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

May Program Calendar:

Sunday, May 6

8:30 AM: Spiritual discussion group, "Open Discussion."

10:00 AM: **"Community Supported Agriculture,"** presented by Andrew Manieri of Heartbeat Community Farm. Manieri's web site, www.localharvest.org, states: "We're a small (50-share) CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) growing a wide variety of fresh vegetables for the Yellow Springs area. We use only organic methods (though not certified, no need to with such a close customer base). In fact we're completely no-till. We're dedicated to becoming a truly sustainable farm."

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

Sunday, May 13

8:30 AM: Spiritual discussion group, "Gratitude."

10:00 AM: **"Flower Communion and Coming of Age Ceremony":** Flower communion is celebrated in Unitarian Universalist churches all over the world. Please bring a flower to place in the communal bowl, and take one home at the end of the service. The second part of the program will feature Blythe P. and the youth of the Coming of Age Program. They will give a brief description of their activities during the past nine months and will collect wisdom stones from the congregants. We can simply gift the stones, but, hopefully, we will also impart some brief wisdom that we have for the youth. Stones should be bigger than a grapefruit and smaller than a cantaloupe, please.

Sunday, May 20

8:30 AM: Spiritual discussion group, "Coping with injustice."

10:00 AM: **"What Does It Mean to be 'Fully Human'?"** Because many of the members of the Fellowship will be attending the annual weekend campout at Tar Hollow State Park, the morning service will feature an intimate, small-group discussion, facilitated by Jamie

B. There are no perfect answers to the question of what makes us fully human, but we will share our insights.

Sunday, May 27

8:30 AM: Spiritual discussion group, "Coping with the loss of friends and family."

10:00 AM: **"Memorial Day: Remembering Our Ancestors and Our Children"** This program, produced by Mary S., will offer an opportunity for us to honor those special individuals whose physical lives are over but who live on in our hearts and memories..

A "Souper Sunday" lunch follows the program. Contact Ann T., 767-1971, about contributing soup or bread, or sign up on the clipboard in the gallery.

Coming in June

Sunday, June 3

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."

Sunday, June 10

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.

CONNECT TO THE HEARTLAND . . .

. . . Heartland District of the UUA,
that is.

Now that the costly-to-produce *Heartline* newsletter is being phased out, you can have its successor, *Heartline On-Line*, delivered to your inbox for free. All you need to do is send your name, congregation [UU Fellowship of YS], and email address to office@heartlanduu.org.

And while you're online, why not check out www.heartlanduu.org, or the new www.uua.org, or even our old favorite www.uufys.org to see what else is happening?

[submitted by Charlotte B.]

(Continued from page 1)

standing out and making a mark on the world. Our Social Justice committee and its programs and community actions are very strong. It grabbed my interest from the first day -- has it grabbed yours?

I am a single father raising one youth by myself and one young boy with his mother. This fellowship, as progressive family orientated community, has risen to the challenge of guidance, care and education for all of the children who walk within these walls. During conferences at school when I am learning about my son's difficulty with some subjects, his teachers continue to comment on how much he talks about what he learns at our Fellowship, and he is comfortable in questioning their religious beliefs. He is one of the 25 youth who come here and get inspired to grow up making a difference in this world based on the Unitarian Universalist faith and our 7 Principles.

Then also, are the many, many, volunteers. People who give from their heart. People who care about the operations of this place. I know what time I give each week, and it pales in comparison to the devotion shown by many whom I could name now, but that is not why they do their work, nor is it why I am speaking to you this morning.

This place belongs to you. The social justice efforts, the religious education, the great programs on Sunday morning, the potlucks, the workbees, the celebrations, the sorrows, the friendships, and all of the elements that make this a Fellowship. These belong to you. These have worth to you.

Unitarian Universalism is a denomination that attracts unique people who choose to seek rather than be blindly led. When I came to this Fellowship, I was seeking and wandering. From being in your special community, I have found a place where I belong that welcomes my search as I help others along their search. My son has found his calling here. We continue to do better and broader work as we encourage and support one another.

I can't tell you any more that will be more inspiring or change your mind when I ask you for a generous pledge. You know what your experience has been. Each of you has a story like I have mine. Prior to my personal benefit from being an active part of the fellowship, I would have never given five dollars to any congregation. Why? They wouldn't need it. This Fellowship does need it. It needs you. This Fellowship belongs to you. All of its elements, all its possibilities. And we depend on all of its people. When we act together using the elements of compassion, welcoming, and passion, we achieve so much and the benefits continue to grow.

Thank you.
Stacy A.

You're Invited

You are invited to a series of two meetings about membership in this Fellowship, to be held in May. (We are currently deciding on the time that is convenient for the largest number.) Anyone who decides to become a formal member then will be able to vote at the Annual General Meeting on June 10.

The two meetings will have this agenda:

- What church experiences you've had before and what you are seeking from UUFYS.
- What this fellowship offers and a discussion of UU theology.

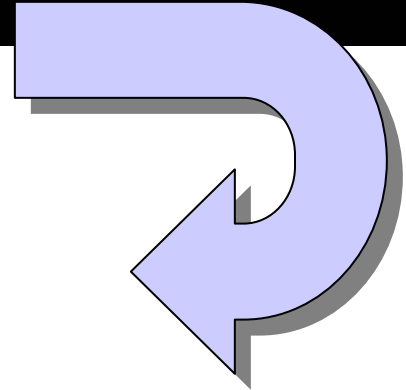
The meetings should last about 90 minutes each. After the classes, we will hold a short ceremony during a Sunday service, to honor all new members. Also, you are welcome to attend the classes and then not become a member.

We have not held such meetings in about a year, so I hope you all can join in these discussions. If you can't or don't want to attend at this time, that's perfectly acceptable -- after all, one of the good things about UUism is freedom of choice. But these meetings will help you feel more connected and involved in the fellowship. If you plan to attend, please let Mary S. know.



Pancake preparation. Photo courtesy Peter W.

Attention to those interested in
Joining the Fellowship! Please
Read ...



Pancake feasting. Photo courtesy Peter W.

NOTICE



The Dayton International Peace Museum announces the opening of **Children of War**, an exhibit on loan from The National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum in Chicago, IL. The exhibit will run from April 15, 2007 to July 15, 2007. The exhibit features over 70 photographs, lithographs, and paintings created during and after the Vietnam conflict by American veterans of the war.



Religious Education at Yellow Springs UU Fellowship

A special thanks to ALL the volunteers for the Secret Friends Program! This is the “short” run of the Secret Friends Program, but depending on volunteer feedback the program may be modified and implemented later in the year. Let Kathy or David know what you liked about the program and how you think it can be improved! A Luncheon for participants in the Secret Friends Program will be held at Noon on May 6th!

Last month on April 29th the Coming of Age Program spent the day at YMCA Camp Kern. There were many opportunities for the group to be challenged in the various activities we participated in. Climbing a rock wall looks much easier as an observer! Photos of the program are on this page as well as on page 7 of this newsletter. The Coming of Age Program will be celebrating a retreat in May starting on May 4th and continuing until May 6th.

A special thanks to Blythe P. for leading the Coming of Age Program, and to Sharon R. for her continued assistance. Special thanks to Chris K. for assisting with the younger class in April.

NEEDED:

- A nursery teacher is needed.
- A teacher for the younger group (6 — 12) is needed.
- A teacher to assist with the older group (13+) is needed.
- Please see Kathy & David if interested in assisting with Religious Education!

Happy Learning!

David K.

Kathy R.

Directors of Religious Education



Coming of Age Program. Photos Courtesy Blythe P.
Additional Photos on page 7.

Social Justice News

Join the Social Justice Committee. We need you.

SOCIAL JUSTICE LIFETIME SERVICE AWARDS

Our Social Justice Committee is looking for the Social Justice Lifetime Service Award Nominations for 2007. Please nominate one or more UUF members or community members you feel deserve to be honored for his/her longtime work on Social Justice.

A one or two page nomination letter to the Social Justice Committee might include:

- What the nominee has done over the years to promote and address the cause and/or causes they have been passionate about.
- How she/he has affected humankind.
- What were the activities involved in addressing their causes or issues.
- Time, energy, mobilizing, networking, etc.
- Other awards or recognition she/he has received for the work done.
- Add any thing else you think deserves to be mentioned about this person's dedication to shape change and justice.

Some of our members who have previously been awarded are: Ray O., Bill M., Willa and Meredith D., Joan C., Mary C., Bev V., and Jim P.

There are so many who do such good work, members of UUF and those who do not belong to the Fellowship. We need to honor them for their selfless work for talking the talk and walking the walk. Please sign your letters and get them to Joan C. **before SUNDAY, MAY 27TH.**

SPRING SING: June 3rd

Don't forget to mark your calendars to attend the Interfaith Spring Sing on Sunday June, 3rd at 2pm in St. Paul's Catholic Church on Phillips St. in Yellow Springs. Many faith choirs, groups, individuals will present a program of songs and

music from their faith perspective. Our very own choir will represent the UUFYS. It is good fun for all! You might want to volunteer to help on that day also. Signups are on the table across from the snacks in the Gallery.

A Word of Praise for All

Many thanks for everyone who has done the hours and hours of work needed to keep social justice a way of life at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs. Our committee appreciates each of you for your participation at all the community building dinners, and the forums, marches, vigils, letter writing campaigns.

We have appreciated the budget allowed to do our work and have used these resources well.

Thank you all, your Social Justice Committee

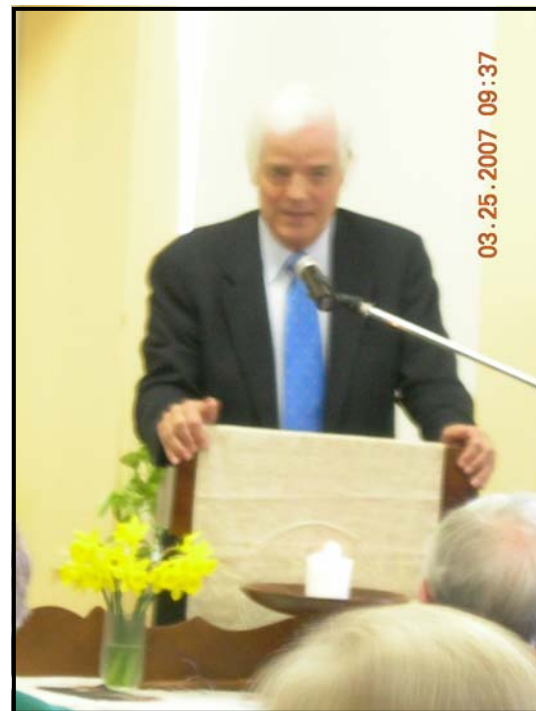


Photo of Nick Clooney speaking about the situation in Darfur. Photo courtesy Peter W.

Just Coffee

There is a very successful alternative to illegal immigration for Mexican coffee growing families living in the Chiapas region of Mexico. Just Coffee, a cooperative of coffee growing families, was formed in 2002 to provide 100% organic, shade grown, high mountain coffee at a fair price. Just Coffee is a Fair Trade Plus business meaning the entire coffee production process from cultivating seedlings to roasting and packaging the product stays within the cooperative.

As a repeat visitor to southwestern Arizona I became aware of the product which is presently being sold through their website and through churches in the Tucson area. There is a real possibility that Just Coffee will be sold in grocery stores in the near future. As of 2006 Just Coffee supports and provides health care for their 37 member families. There are many other families waiting to join. As sales increase more families will be supported.

Just Coffee offers 100% Arabica, Robusto, Marago and decaffeinated coffees, both ground, whole bean, and green bean. The coffee is delicious and freezes well. If there are individuals or organizations interested in buying Just Coffee products please call their sales office in Douglas, AZ, toll free, at 1-866-545-6406 or visit their website at sales@justcoffee.org.



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.,
& 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.



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs

P.O. Box 480

Yellow Springs OH 45387-1480