

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs...



NEWSLETTER November 2006

Letter from the President

Dear Members and Friends

Many people are involved in doing small and large jobs for our Fellowship's operations. Maybe you are one of them. Your commitment as a volunteer is extremely valuable and very appreciated. I think each of you deserve a heartfelt "thanks" from everyone who benefits because of your work.

One member in our Fellowship is especially deserving of our gratitude and kind words. Al S. is a model example of putting the walk ahead of the talk. He has been involved in so many projects through the years that I can't make a list that does justice to his contributions. With love, willing hands, and open ears, Al put himself at the heart of grassroots efforts to build a better community and a better UU Fellowship. So, with all of his heartfelt energy and hard work in mind, I ask that each of you take time to thank Al for serving us in the role of the Fellowship's Ombudsman, a position that he has served well and of which he is stepping down. I will miss Al having this role for us, and recognize that his shoes will be hard to fill. Whether or not you were someone who asked for his leadership and guidance during his time as Ombudsman, you probably benefited from a distance, as his work was a service to all.

On behalf of myself and the members of the Board, I express a most sincere Thank You to Al S., a person representing values in action.

In Fellowship,

Stacy A.
Board President

November Programming... ...at a glance:

November 5:

"Dying Well (=Living Fully)"

November 12:

**"Class Is Not Dismissed:
Recognizing the Impact of
Social Class in Our Lives"**

November 19:

**"People of Love, People of
Faith: Unitarian Universalism
Yesterday and Today."**

November 26:

**"What's in your Memory
Bank?"**

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.

Send material to David K. at:

tau.athanasios@gmail.com

November Program Calendar:

Sunday, November 5:

8:30 AM: Spiritual discussion group, “Religious words versus our emotions.”

10:00 AM: “Dying Well (=Living Fully),” presented by Fellowship member Rubin B. “No one gets out of this life alive.” With that in mind, this presentation will explore individual choices for the last part of life. No matter what happens to us, we always have the choice of how to respond. The presentation will build on *Dying Well*, by Ira Byock, a man who has spent many years as a hospice doctor. In addition, it will incorporate what Rubin has learned in working with people who have life-challenging diseases, and their caregivers. The presentation will be experiential with an opportunity to explore thoughts and feelings on how to die well (and live fully).

11:30 AM: A potluck luncheon follows the program. Bring your own tableware and a generous dish to share.

Sunday, November 12:

8:30 AM: Spiritual discussion group, “The good and bad in pain and suffering.”

10:00 AM: “Class Is Not Dismissed: Recognizing the Impact of Social Class in Our Lives”, presented by Christine Smith, Associate Professor of Psychology at Antioch College. This Social Justice program is presented in response to a resolution passed at the UU General Assembly in St. Louis charging delegates “to work with their congregations to hold at least one program over the next year to address racism or classism, and to report on that program at next year's GA”. Addressing the injustices of classism is inherent in our first principle, which affirms the worth and dignity of every person.

Sunday, November 19:

8:30 AM: Spiritual discussion group, “How do we decide what is worth living for and what is worth dying for?”

10:00 AM: “People of Love, People of Faith: Unitarian Universalism Yesterday and Today.” A program of readings, songs, sharing and more—produced by our Fellowship president,

Stacy A.

4:00 PM: Annual Fellowship Thanksgiving Feast, followed by a program of storytelling.

Sunday, November 26:

8:30 AM: Spiritual discussion group, “Is the God idea necessary for Man to live?”

10:00 AM: “What's in your Memory Bank?” A panel discussion (of 44 minutes) focused on the frustrating problem of overcrowded or failing memory as we simultaneously grow older and wiser, with tips on how to slow the process or at least cope with it. Panelists will include Fellowship members Harold F., M.D., Rubin B., LPCC, Ann T., surveyor, and moderator Joel H. G., all of whom will welcome input and experiences from the congregation.

Coming in December

Sunday, December 3:

8:30 AM: Spiritual discussion group, “Is it social or individual choices that define gender roles?”

10:00 AM: Reverend Kat Hawbaker, minister of the Hopedale UU Community, Oxford, OH, will be our speaker.

11:30 AM: A potluck luncheon follows the program. Bring your own tableware and a generous dish to share.

Apartment for Rent

The basement walk-out apartment in the meetinghouse is available for rent. It is one bedroom with kitchenette, all utilities included, for \$500 per month plus one month deposit. It is quiet, has good neighbors and has a beautiful view! See Byron D. for information and to view the apartment.

Social Justice News and Updates

A Review of Fall Activities

- Sunday Programs: we continue presenting Social Justice issues at Sunday Programs as they address our UU Principles and Covenant. Programs on Iran, Islamic Women, China, and the Sudan help us learn more about our world community.
- Donations to Service Organizations: this past Fall we collected change for the UUF Social Justice Endowment, AACW, and the Dayton International Peace Museum. In November we will donate to the United Nations Population Fund and in December it will be the local Interfaith Hospitality Network (housing and services for the homeless). At the December SoJus Committee meeting we will decide the next year's 12 service organizations that we will support. Give us your suggestions and/or come and vote for your favorite international and local charities.
- Social Justice Activity this Fall: unfinished is the mailing for the campaign for a Moratorium on the Death Penalty. Pat O. needs help with addressing envelopes and Joan needs help with cover letters to finish this project.
- We registered dozens of voters, got 8 new recruits for the Accessibility Committee, and we have 40 more signatures to get Universal Health Care on the Ohio ballot for next year. We also voted to support an Antioch student with his project to raise money for medications and refurbished hospital equipment for a hospital clinic in Nepal. We raised money for a school in Rwanda where Al S. has visited and taught. The children of the Fellowship raised \$700 for the school as their social justice project.
- Finally we sponsored, along with Human Relations Commission, an ACLU forum on the threat to civil liberties and the abuse of power by the government.
- The Social Justice Committee meets the 3rd Sunday of each month at the Fellowship following the morning program for 1 hour. Join us, give us feedback about our events and let us know that you are doing to promote peace, liberty, and justice for all.

Calendar of Upcoming Activities of Social Justice. Please sign up to help plan and carry out the following:

- Every Sat. Peace Vigil. Corner of Limestone and Xenia Ave. 12:00 to 1:00 PM.
- Thurs. Nov. 23rd. Community Thanksgiving. Interfaith Council. Presbyterian Church, 1:00 to 3:00 PM.
- Tues. Dec 26th. AACW Kwanzaa Celebration. Ask for details.
- Mon. Jan 15th. MLK Jr. Birthday Celebration. Downtown YS parade and gathering. Ask for details.
- Wed. Jan 17th. Community Blood Drive. UUF, Odd Fellows. Glaesner Community Center, W. Jackson Rd. 3:00 to 6:30 PM.
- Sometime in Feb. Lasagna Dinner and Forum for College Students and Community. Interfaith Council 6:00 PM Presbyterian Church.
- Feb. Coretta Scott King Birthday Celebration. Ask for details.
- Sat. April 14th. Guess Who's Coming to Dinner. AACW etc. 6:00 PM Mills Lawn School.

To be scheduled: the Peace Mobile, Bucket Drummers, and more Home Inc. volunteering.

Joan C.

Chair for Social Justice Committee

Religious Education

November RE Plans

- Childcare will be provided for our youngest children in the Nursery by Ashante R. and Lauren W.
- The children who are 6-11 years of age will be studying Old Testament Bible stories with Jo W.
- The youth 12 years and older will be participating in a Coming of Age program including ritual, nature activities, crafts and discussion with Blythe P.

Please note: On November 26 (the Sunday after Thanksgiving), the standard classes will not be held. However, childcare for our little ones and activities for the older children will be provided.

Religious Education News

Thanks to the following RE volunteers during October: Eliza W., Martha G., Stacy A., and Shelly A. Very special thanks to Al S. for hosting a dinner at which the children gave the director of the Rwanda school \$600 they raised in support of three disadvantaged youth (see below).

Congratulations to the youth, children and helping adults who made the Rwanda fund raising project a resounding success! The children initially set a goal of raising \$200 to support one disadvantaged youth during this school year, however they raised \$600 which was given to the director of the Rwanda school at a dinner on 10/11/06. Thanks to all the kids for their work on the car wash and yard sale days and to all the adults who contributed time and materials to these activities. Special thanks to Al S., Eliza W. for their leadership on these endeavors.

Debbie D.
Interim RE Director

From Sandy L.:

Thank you, everyone, for all your cards, letters, and Unitarian prayers, as one person put it. (I am sure Unitarian prayers are very effective – in fact, I can testify to it!) And special thanks to those who have brought food. I'm getting ready to start a second round of chemotherapy and some days are good, some aren't, so it's hard to get to Fellowship events. I want all of you to know how special you are to me and to Sam, and I miss you!

**Happy 50th anniversary.
May we have many more.**

Thanksgiving Feast November 19, 4:00 PM

This year's fabulously delicious Fellowship Thanksgiving Feast is scheduled, as always, for the Sunday prior to the actual Thanksgiving holiday. Our tradition is that several men of the Fellowship cook the turkeys, and the rest of us bring all the other festive dishes. We'll need volunteers to set up tables and chairs and decorate the tables, to cook the turkeys, and to clean up afterward. The after-dinner entertainment will be a program of story telling. If you'd like to tell or read a story, perform a skit, or sing a song that tells a story, please contact Judy W. by phone (376-3459) or email (judyxenia@yahoo.com). All ages are encouraged to participate.

UUFYS Executive Board

President: Stacy A.
President-Elect: George K.
Past President: Judy W.
Treasurer: Louis S.
Secretary: Vacant
Members-At-Large: Joy F. & Debbie D.

From Joy F.:

HEALTH MATTERS

There are two important ballot issues to decide on November 7th. Regarding Issue 4 (a proposed constitutional amendment), R.J. Reynolds, the tobacco manufacturer, has launched a slick campaign to keep smoke in restaurants and many public places and workplaces. It is a pro-smoking bill masquerading as a public health initiative. This issue overturns smoke-free laws already in place in Columbus and 20 other Ohio cities and prevents anyone from ever passing a smoke-free law without an amendment to the constitution.

Issue 5 (a voter-initiated state law) defends your right to breathe smoke-free air in all restaurants, public places and workplaces--protecting us from the dangers of secondhand smoke. It is supported by the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, the American Lung Association, the Ohio PTA and more than 500 public health and public interest groups.

As it turns out, if both issues pass, Issue 4 automatically defeats Issue 5, so it is important to vote **NO** on Issue 4 (dubbed "Smoke Less Ohio"--but don't be fooled!) and **YES** on Issue 5 (the Smoke Free Ohio initiative).

(Information excerpted from several issues of the Dayton Daily News).

From Lowell W.:

I would like to remind the fellowship that the mandatory periodic Principles review is now on-going in the UUA's Committee on Assessment (COA) in a two year process. Any recommended changes to the principles will probably be voted at the upcoming General Assembly meeting in June in Portland Oregon. The committee is currently accepting suggestions at: COA@uua.org.

Our First Fifty Years

Our 50th Anniversary Fellowship celebration on October 1st brought a number of early and long-time members to help us commemorate the occasion. They included Paul and Jewel G., Dorothy C., Paul and Eileen W., Mary A. and Laurel (C.) H. What a treat to hear firsthand about the early days of our Fellowship and to sense the very real dedication and commitment of our earliest members.

Thanks to Debbie D and Joy F. for organizing the event; Judy W. Rubin B. Joy and Debbie for salads, bread, and large anniversary cake! A very special thanks goes to Steve and Debbie J. for a wonderful lasagna. And last (but not least!) thank you to George K. for a timely and inspiring message on "Fifty Years of Liberal Religion."

Look for upcoming events that will help us round out our year of celebration.

CARPOOLING FOR SUNDAY SERVICES!

- There is now car-pooling available.
- Meeting place is the north end of the Yellow Springs Community Health Center parking lot.
- The Yellow Springs Community Health Center is between Marshall and Herman streets on Xenia avenue.
- Please arrive at the lot by 9:30 AM to offer rides or to park there and join someone else for a ride.
- People wishing to attend the spiritual group discussions at 8:30 AM should arrive by or before 8:15 AM.
- This is a self-governing operation, which means that no one is in charge of it.
- If you have questions or suggestions please call Jim R. at 767-7645.



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs

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