

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs...



NEWSLETTER November

From the UUFYS Board President:

Dear UUYS Fellowship members and friends,

Fall in southwest Ohio is certainly living up to its expectations. The beautiful maple-turn moon reached fullness this week, with flocks of migratory birds passing through and local birds grouping to leave us for winter. I managed to reap a few pear tomatoes and the last chard, kale and lettuce leaves from my garden to make a harvest salad last night, and I am reminded that amid the ups and downs of the world economy, the excitement of the election, and the struggle for peace and justice all over the world, nature quietly moves in her ancient cycles. I cannot help but think of this as a great source of hope, something steady and sure and always present, no matter how overwhelming my day might be.

This was a welcome reminder for me who, as president of our Fellowship, along with other members of our board, are making tough decisions that I want to share with you.

I'm writing this letter to inform you of the chal-

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NEWS □ IMPORTANT

Annual Thanksgiving Feast November 23, 4:00 p.m.

This year's Thanksgiving Feast is scheduled for the Sunday prior to the actual Thanksgiving holiday. Our tradition is that several people from the Fellowship cook the turkeys, and the rest of us bring all the other festive dishes. Please provide your own table service. Volunteers are needed to set up tables and chairs and decorate, to cook, and to help with clean up. Ideas for after-dinner entertainment are welcome. Address all comments, questions, and volunteer requests to Judy W. by phone (376-3459) or email (judyxenia@yahoo.com).

WORK BEE: the buildings and grounds committee will have a work bee Saturday November 8 starting at 10 AM. All are needed and we have a list of inside only items if the weather is bad so plan to come and help put up storm windows, clean windows, put things away for winter. We hope to be done in a couple of hours if we get a good turn out. Questions call Hank L. at 767-2708.

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs is published monthly. To submit material for the newsletter please do so by the 15th of each month. Please submit material as **non-formatted text** in your e-mail or as an MS Word attachment in 12 pt New Times Roman with no formatting (bold, italic, etc...). Send material to David K. at: tau.athanasios@gmail.com

November Program Calendar:

Sunday, November 2

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "The Real vs. the Imaginary or Intelligence vs. Intuition "

10:00 a.m.: "The Role of Race and Gender in the 2008 Election" Charlie F., Professor of Political Science at Wright State University, will discuss race, gender, and other factors of interest in this historic election.

Sunday, November 9

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "How do you find others who share your dreams? "

10:00 a.m.: "Household Gardens in Kossoye: A Service Project for Sustainability" Our speakers, Krista M. and husband Andy C., have recently returned from Ethiopia where they documented work in 114 small household gardens initiated through the Kossoye elementary school. The gardens are part of a project of Gondar University's College of public Health that seeks ways to counter the negative impact of globalization and modernization on women's and children's nutrition and to give young people a reason for hope. Andy, a professor at Capital University who has extensive experience in Ethiopia dating from childhood, is co-author with his father of "Health, Wealth, and Family in Rural Ethiopia"; Krista is director of the Tecumseh Land Trust.

Sunday, November 16

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "Whose secrets should never be revealed? "

10:00 a.m.: "The Gift of Life", a presentation about heart-healthy life styles by Fellowship member Peter W., Project Coordinator of For Your Health, an American Heart Association training center. This is a serious subject, but Peter infuses it with his quirky style of humor and

makes it fun. After the program and a light lunch, Peter will demonstrate the use of our newly acquired automatic external defibrillator (AED).

Sunday, November 23

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "How do emotions affect our decisions? "

10:00 a.m.: "A Worldwide Time of Thanksgiving," The Religious Education Committee will present a program reflecting a cultural array of giving and showing Thanks. Interwoven will be rituals representing native and urbanized societies.

4:00 p.m. Annual Fellowship Thanksgiving Feast.—turkeys provided; bring your own table service and traditional side dishes (details follow).

Sunday, November 30

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "Is dishonesty ever more ethical than truth? "

10:00 a.m.: "Creation Stories and What They Tell Us," presented by Martha G. and other Fellowship members. The program will include half a dozen creation stories from around the world.

It's "Souper Sunday". Plan to stay for soup, bread and conversation.

Coming in December Sunday, December 7

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "Forgiveness."

10:00 a.m.: To be announced.

11:30 a.m.: A potluck lunch follows the program. Please bring your own table service and a generous dish to share.

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lenges we are having with our 2008-09 budget.

As you told us in our visioning process last spring, we Unitarians have many dreams--dreams of expanding our programs, both the Sunday programs and special programs such as Social Justice and Religious Education; of developing our leadership training; of fully supporting the work of our hard-working committees and volunteers; of increasing our membership; of developing a green building with green habits of energy use; of widening our influence in the larger YS community with activities that express our seven UU principles; of continuing to explore options for expanding our space to meet the needs of our community; and many more.

At present, we are lacking the funds to fully meet these dreams. For the 2008-09 budget that we proposed, we are 20% short this year on member support or pledge income, and this means our committees and programs have to cut back on their activities and outreach.

Some examples are: (1) Social Justice will cut community-building projects such as the African-American theatre festival, hosting the Wototo Children's Choir, helping with local food pantries, and others; (2) Religious Education will not purchase new curricula for the youth and children, not offer the "coming of age" program this year, and not develop the Adult RE program; (3) Building & Grounds committee will not gravel the parking lot and fill in the pot holes or develop the budget for expanding our space; (4) Sunday Programs committee will not raise the honorarium paid to outside speakers and ministers to the level offered by other UU Fellowships which may result in fewer outside guest presenters; and (5) Leadership committee will not be able to educate and develop leaders of our Fellowship through training programs and conferences.

We urge members who have not yet pledged for 2008-09, to do so now. We ask that members who have not yet finished fulfilling their 2007-08 pledges, do so now. We respectfully recommend that members consider increasing their 2008-09 pledges and/or sponsoring a particular event, project, program, or other need in our Fellowship. (An example is the heart defibrillator we just purchased which was generously funded by one of our members.) And finally, we welcome you to join us on committees or ask us how you might help with the daily management and leadership of our Fellowship by donating any amount of time you have.

Many blessings in this glorious season,

Mary D.
President

Announcement: Community Thanksgiving!

The UU Fellowship is baking turkeys for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner which is held this year on November 27th at the Presbyterian Church. Serving begins at 2:00 pm. The dinner is open to the public, all are welcome! Vegetarian and Vegan options are also provided. The UU Fellowship is also being asked to bring side dishes and help with the event itself. Bring a side dish (salad, vegetable, dessert) and stay if you wish. Sign up sheets are in the foyer. For further information contact Ruth L. 767- 2708 or Joan C. 767-4463.

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.



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