

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs...



NEWSLETTER October 2006

Letter from the President

Members and Friends -

I hope that like me, the month of September has been one that brings to you thoughts of the ending of summer, the beginning of Autumn, and the time to begin a new focus to current events. This is the traditional time of harvest. This is also the time to test new possibilities.

This is the month that the Board will begin presenting programs to engage the entire congregation in a discussion about where we want to be going as a Fellowship. The first will come on October 1st when we introduce the need to establish a Vision for the Fellowship. We set November 5th for a Raising the Roof program, December 3rd for a congregational engagement program, January 7th for a second congregational engagement / resolution program. A special Congregational Meeting for a vote will be held in March. These are important dates. Keep them circled on your calendar. I, along with every current member of the Board, feel that it is of utmost importance that we hear from every member in regards to establishing a Vision for the next few years so that (1) our dear Fellowship may continue to do all the things we are known for even better, (2) we are ready to reach out to those around us who can join us in spirit and pursuit of social justice, and (3) all members of all ages have something from us to support themselves on their own path and own search.

I want to speak to everyone reading this Newsletter who is uncomfortable with the undercurrent of Change going on. First, your feelings, ideas, and traditions are respected by me and others who seem new to you. I don't want to initiate changes to fulfill my ego or that aren't

(Continued on page 5)

October Programming....

...at a glance:

October 1:

"Fifty Years of Liberal Religion"

October 8:

"The Real Iran: Before you call me enemy, find out who I am."

October 15:

"China: Prospects and Challenges"

October 22:

"Unitarianism and Antioch College"

October 29:

"Christian Peacemaker Teams: An Alternative Vision of Peace in the Middle East"

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

October Program Calendar:

Sunday, October 1:

8:30 AM: Spiritual discussion group, "A Theory of Romantic Love"

10:00 AM: "*Fifty Years of Liberal Religion*", presented by George K., president-elect of our Fellowship. George will explore the need for a liberal perspective in religion throughout the history of our denomination. In particular, he will address the question of why a group of individuals from Yellow Springs decided to form this Unitarian congregation. His presentation will include looking back at our history as well as considering the importance of liberal religion, now and in the future.

12:00 PM: 50th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon. Everyone is invited (food and beverages provided by the 50th Anniversary Fund).

Sunday, October 8:

8:30 AM: Spiritual discussion group, "Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs"

10:00 AM: "*The Real Iran: Before you call me enemy, find out who I am.*"

This Social Justice Program will be presented by Steve Fryburg, Director of the Dayton International Peace Museum. The Dayton Museum is planning a sister Peace Museum in Tehran. The Social Justice Committee sponsors several programs yearly which focus on the 6th Unitarian Universalist Principle, "the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all".

Sunday, October 15:

8:30 AM: Spiritual discussion group, "Outgrowing your Religion"

10:00 AM: "*China: Prospects and Challenges*", presented by Professor Mohsen Khani of the Sinclair Community College's Geography Department. Dr. Khani went to China as a Fulbright scholar, and his power point presentation will cover much of his work there. He will also discuss U.S.-China relations.

Sunday, October 22:

8:30 AM: Spiritual discussion group,

"Dream Phenomena"

10:00 AM: "*Unitarianism and Antioch College*," presented by Scott Sanders, archivist at Antioch. Scott will discuss the influence and impact of Unitarianism on the first half of the college's history.

Sunday, October 29:

8:30 AM: Spiritual discussion group, "The margins of belief"

10:00 AM: "*Christian Peacemaker Teams: An Alternative Vision of Peace in the Middle East*," presented by Jim Satterwhite, professor of History and Political Science at Bluffton University, Bluffton, OH. Jim will share his vision of peacemaking, as informed by his personal experiences during summers spent working with Christian Peacemaker Teams in Chechnya, Serbia, and Hebron, West Bank.

Profile of a Speaker

October 29, Jim Satterwhite

Jim Satterwhite grew up in Japan, the son of Baptist medical missionaries.

Following graduation from the University of South Florida in 1969, he performed two years of Civilian Alternative Service as a Conscientious Objector with [Church of the] Brethren Voluntary Service (BVS), teaching English in Czechoslovakia and Poland. After two additional years with BVS, Jim attended the University of Washington, Seattle, where he attained his M.A. and PhD in East-European Studies. He came to Bluffton University in 1984.

Since 1996 Jim has spent nine summers working with Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) in violence-reduction efforts -- in Chechnya, Serbia, and seven consecutive summers in Hebron, West Bank. He will be reflecting on his experiences as they inform an alternative vision of peacemaking. (A more theoretical study of CPT's vision of an alternative approach to peacemaking can be found in his article, "Christian Peacemaker Teams as an Alternative to 'Redemptive Violence'" in the journal, *Peace and Change*, 31:2, April, 2006)

Religious Education

Fall Religious Education Plans

- Childcare will be provided for our youngest group by Brenda J. We are still looking for at least one more nursery worker if anyone is interested.
- Jo W. will be returning this year to teach the younger group. She will continue the curriculum from last year which teaches about Bible stories.
- Blythe P. will start the Coming of Age program for the older youth that want to participate.

Religious Education News

- Thank you to the following RE volunteers during September: Eliza W. and Stacy A.
- A big thank you to Joy F. and Harold F. for hosting our second annual campout. The kids and adults had a great time. Thank you to Steve and Debbie J., Stacy A., and Joy and Harold F. for purchasing food for the event. Thank you to Debbie D., Blythe P., and Stacy A. for camping out and chaperoning the event. Lastly thank you to all adults and youth who attended for the campfire and the campout. It was great to see so many people at this fun intergenerational event.
- Eliza W. hosted a toy sale/fundraiser for the Rwanda project. Thanks to Eliza, Debbie J., and our youth volunteers we raised much needed funds to sponsor scholarships for Rwandan children. Also, thank you to Lucille G. who contributed books so that every child that attended the sale could receive a free book.
- As mentioned above, Blythe P. is starting the Coming of Age program. Any youth in the older group are encouraged to participate. Please contact Blythe for more information and to sign up for the program.

Director Religious Education Resignation

As many of you already know I am resigning from the DRE position. I am moving to Seattle with my daughters, Josephine and Madeline. I will be working at a nursery near Bellvue and living in the Central District of Seattle.

I want to thank everyone who has helped me with RE during the past few months: Stacy A., Debbie D., Eliza W., Steve and Debbie J., Blythe P., Al S., Judy W., Jo W., Chris K., Joy and Harold F., and others.

I have enjoyed working with the fellowship youth immensely. I am going to miss everyone and I hope to get involved with a UU group in Seattle. I would like to keep in touch so please contact me annpetricola@hotmail.com or at 705 24th Ave Apt. 12 Seattle, WA 98122. I know that RE programs will continue to grow and expand. There are many new faces attending fellowship and RE classes. Please make an effort to welcome all newcomers and youth in particular. Thank you and best wishes.

Ann P.

FinCom Update: Database Software & the Financial Secretary

There are many different theologies and it can be a difficult task to gain agreement in religious communities. Within every church there are areas of disagreement or interpretation. However there is one area on which virtually every religious body is in agreement. Most will agree that managing church finances is a complicated and difficult task. These days most churches have several boxes of software that they have tried and finally stashed away in some closet. One or two have even offered to give *us* their old software.

The Finance Committee determined early in 2005 that we should develop a data base and an accounting system. The accounting system would enable us to keep track of our assets and how we spend our money. The data base would enable us to track the status of pledges. This would require at least two persons. (At the time we had a Financial Secretary who kept track of pledge income, a Treasurer who paid the bills, and a Bookkeeper who maintained records on the Quicken program.)

In the new system, the easiest function to set up was an accounting program named Peachtree, based on standard double entry accounting procedures, and now mastered by Louis S. as Treasurer. The Finance Committee is confident in this system, although there is a continuing effort by Louis to improve and simplify the procedures.

Historically there have been a number of data base systems developed. All of these programs have a rather long and complex learning curve. The committee has found the ADBM program to be able to produce the kind of reports we need and manage the pledge payment data to our satisfaction, but it is a DOS based program. There is a Windows version of ADBM, but the Windows version is highly more complex and difficult to learn. Finding someone who could master the program was the next step.

Fortunately the Committee has found in the person of Steve J. someone who not only

understands the program but is willing to assume the responsibilities and duties of the Financial Secretary.

Steve has begun the exercise of learning to design a file, manage data, create custom reports, and generally master the program. Steve will begin assuming the duties of Financial Secretary and will work under supervision for an extended period of probably several months. At the end of September he will be compiling a quarterly report to place in the hands of pledging members. He will be maintaining a record of the date, the check number, and the amount, and will scan a copy of the check for a complete audit trail of all receipts.

If you have a question about your quarterly statement, you may contact Steve on Sundays, or by phone at 767-1514, or by email at leb-zoo@netzero.net.

We owe Steve a debt of gratitude for his willingness to accept these responsibilities.

Coming in November

Sunday, November 5:

8:30 AM: Spiritual discussion group, "Religious words vs. our emotions"

10:00 AM: "*Raising the Roof*," a report from the Fellowship team that traveled to Angola, IN, for a three-day workshop sponsored by the Heartland UU District.

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.

News from Buildings and Grounds committee:

JOIN THE FALL WORK BEE!!

Buildings and Grounds committee will hold a WORK BEE for all members and friends - male or female - on Saturday, October 21, starting at 10:00 am. You are invited to join the fun of lowering the south gutter, painting the east porch, designing and digging a drainage ditch for the parking lot, washing windows and hanging the storm windows, painting the apartment railing, general fall housecleaning, etc. There're enough smaller tasks for everyone, and when you finish one of course you can supervise the others. The committee chair, Chris K., is researching costs for other projects, such as repairing roof flashing. In the near future, we also will solicit volunteers to help paint the front lobby and hallway.

Dean L. is systematically looking at the safety and health issues of our meeting house. In September, he tested the water from our well, which of course serves the apartment tenants also. The water is within all health safety limits, but naturally is very hard.

The Finance committee has established a fund for Building Expansion, in light of our growth in membership. You may donate to it through the Fellowship treasurer, Louis S.

The committee's next monthly meetings will be: Monday, October 2, Monday November 6 and Wednesday December 13, at 7:30 in the meeting house. Everyone is welcome to attend, to join or to submit questions in advance to the secretary, Rubin B.

(Continued from page 1)

meaningful to the health of our Fellowship. I don't come at the job of president with an agenda that topples the established way of doing things every Sunday. I simply and honestly believe that Unitarian Universalism is a Liberal Religion that deserves more credit, more attention, more presence, and more people than it has today. I believe that we have a great opportunity and indeed a responsibility to open our special Fellowship (still Lay-Led, after all these years) to people near and far who want this kind of connection, extended family, and home. What makes Unitarian Universalism important to you? What makes this Fellowship important to you? I want to know - please come and talk to me so that I can better understand what makes our community work. I am betting that what has been substantial for you may also have common bond with many people that we have yet to reach.

In Fellowship, In Faith, with Love, with Commitment

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- Stacy A.

Musical Ministry:

Hymn sing at Friends Care Center: Sunday, October 8, 2:00 pm. It's the UUFYS congregation's turn, and singers and helpers are needed!

Choir rehearsal each Sunday morning at 8:45 am. No auditions required - everyone is truly welcome.

Thanks to Judy R. for suggesting that memorial donations in the name of her mother, Doris D., be used to purchase additional copies of the new hymnal "Singing the Journey." Thirteen more copies have been ordered.

Please let me know if you have any time constraints or other problems in getting out the October edition.

**Special Invitation:
50th Anniversary Celebration October 1st, 2006**

Please join us in commemorating 50 years of Unitarian Universalism for our Fellowship from our founding in 1956. We will have several events acknowledging this milestone throughout the next several months, but October 1st marks our first celebration.

We hope you will attend our morning service at 10:00 am with a program entitled "Fifty Years of Liberal Religion."

At 12 noon you are invited to a luncheon sponsored by our 50th Anniversary Fund, honoring early and long-time members of our Fellowship. Enjoy old pictures and anecdotal accounts of early Fellowship days. Hope to see you there!



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs
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