

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs...



NEWSLETTER *October 2008*

Religion vs. Spirituality

By David K.

It is not uncommon to hear discussions about the terms religion and spirituality, and frequently these terms are discussed as being in opposition to each other, as one versus the other. Is this relationship between religion and spirituality necessary? I'm not sure the two terms are in opposition, but rather different sides of a similar coin.

My perspective on religion is that religion is a communal experience. Certainly Unitarian Universalism is a rich religious tradition centered in congregational experiences throughout our post-modern era, but also witnessed throughout history in the Unitarian and Universalist strains within our tradition. The congregational structure of our religious tradition with its theology of covenant building is important in understanding the

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October at a glance...

Sunday, October 5:

“Exploring our Theological Worlds.”

Sunday, October 12:

“Nonstop Liberal Arts Institute: An Update on How It's Going.”

Sunday, October 19:

“Religious Tolerance vs. Religious Respect.”

Sunday, October 26:

“Halloween Around the world.”

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

October Program Calendar:

Sunday, October 5

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "Thinking Theologically."

10:00 a.m.: "Exploring our Theological Worlds," presented by fellowship member David K. who will discuss our different theological worlds and how they shape our perspective.

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

Sunday, October 12

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "Modern vs. Post-Modern."

10:00 a.m.: "Nonstop Liberal Arts Institute: An Update on How It's Going," presented by Antioch professors, Dennie E. and Anne B.

Saturday, October 18

5:00 p.m.: "UU Christian Communion Service." Join us for a liturgical celebration honoring Jesus Christ within the Unitarian Universalist Christian tradition.

Sunday, October 19

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

10:00 a.m.: "Religious Tolerance vs. Religious Respect," by Rev. Amy R. The minister of Miami Valley UU Fellowship will preach on the subject of tolerance vs. respect.

Saturday, October 25

5:00 p.m.: Samhain. Come and celebrate the Pagan harvest festival of Samhain honoring our

ancestors and the Pagan new year.

Sunday, October 26

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

10:00 a.m.: "Halloween Around the world," presented by fellowship member Toby K. and members of the RE Committee on various Halloween customs around the world.

Coming in November Sunday, November 2

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "Can one person make a difference?"

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.

October Philosophy Film Series

Harold and Maude

Synopsis from IMDB.com:

Harold is a depressed, death-obsessed 20-year-old man/child who spends his free time attending funerals and pretending to commit suicide in front of his mother. At a funeral, Harold befriends Maude, a 79-year-old woman who has a zest for life. She and Harold spend much time together during which she exposes him to the wonders and possibilities of life.

Showing will be 7:30 at the UUFYS Hall on Wednesday, October 22.

Minutes Summary
8/10/08 UUFYS Board Meeting

Present: Mary D., Debbie D., Martha G., Joan C.,
Jim R. and Mary S. **Absent:** Bengt G.

The meeting began with the following member issues:

--In response to a request from Blythe P., RE Committee chair, the board granted an extension until 9/14 for committees to respond to budget cuts, and to provide a committee mission statement, job description, and 2008-2009 goals.

--Peter W. suggested addressing the budget shortfall in part by putting out a collection basket at fellowship potlucks/meals. Board members noted that attendees sometimes feel obligated to contribute and do not attend such events if they do not have sufficient funds.

Old Business

--Review of 7/20/08 board meeting minutes: Unanimously approved.

--Treasurer's report: UUFYS has approx. \$92,000 in cash, stocks, and CDs. Changes have been made to increase our investment income and reduce accessibility of liquid funds (for security purposes). The loan fund policy as amended was approved with one abstention.

Old Business

--Pledge drive and 2008-2009 Budget: Discussion was postponed until the Sept. board meeting after receipt of proposed funding cuts from committees.

--Coordinating Council: The CC met on 7/27. Blythe would like to increase the number and frequency of spiritual services (including rituals and more experiential activities) to once monthly. Board members are supportive of looking at this idea. The board had no concerns about pagan services held at the fellowship as this provides a worship outlet for our pagan members and friends.

--Congregational Survey: Questions about spirituality/religion and general questions (e.g., "What does your committee want to know from the congregation?") will be included.

--Space usage and B&G: Members decided to let B&G determine the imminence of undertaking repairs/replacement of the underground water line between the building and the well. Martha brought up the issue of the memorial garden as a few trees have died and the question of maintenance of memorial plantings and replacement of dead ones has arisen.

As nothing official has been received from the Presbyterian Church about a possible space exchange, some members wondered whether follow-up was required. Debbie argued that this was necessary so that: 1) we can determine whether this is an option for our congregation, and 2) we can move forward with other proposed changes to accommodate and/or facilitate growth if they are more viable. Mary D. will contact the Presbyterian Church to gather more info including data on yearly maintenance and operating expenses.

--Building rental: Martha accepted revisions to the proposed rental contract. She will gather data on what other churches are charging to rent out their space. Mary S. will find out whether our liability insurance covers alcohol consumption on the premises. Building security was discussed.

--Personnel: Action requests to the Administrative Coordinator should be copied to her supervisor, Pat S.

--Fellowship behavioral standards: Reviewed by members as drafted by Debbie.

--Purchase of a defibrillator: Paid for by a grant and a fellowship member. It will be located in the coatroom. Mary S. will work to arrange training classes.

--2008 board retreat: Agenda items for this retreat on 8/24 include 2007-2008 accomplishments and 2008-2009 vision and goals. Items of interest include spirituality/religion at UUFYS Sunday services, the purpose of the congregational survey and how to utilize the results in planning for our future, governance and our committee structure, growth issues, and volunteer participation.

New Business

--Tragedy at the Knoxville, Tennessee UU Church: For the September newsletter Mary D. will write a message to the UUFYS congregation about this event and what the UUFYS board is doing to address safety issues at our fellowship.

--10/25 training: Mary S. will obtain information about the Heartland District training "Beyond Time and Talent: A New Approach to Shared Ministry."

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie D., Secretary

UUFYS Board Agenda for October:

- Chalice lighting and check-in
- Review of September minutes
- Treasurer's report
- Budget
- Coordinating Council
- Congregational survey
- Space usage/B&G
- Building rental
- Personnel
- Fellowship behavioral standards
- Conflict resolution guidelines
- Defibrillator training
- 50th Anniversary photo album project
- Green Sanctuary Committee
- Board retreat: Goal setting
- October training opportunity

From Mitzi:

Marianne N.'s new address is:

Marianne N.
415 Chunns Cave Rd.
Apt. 3H
Asheville, NC 28805

Service at Friends Care Center
October 12th at 2:00pm.

We will need a few people to help distribute hymns and sing. Please contact Mitzi M. if you can help.



strength of our Unitarian Universalist faith. The character of religious pluralism is a hallmark that most of us embrace as part of our religious tradition.

These aspects of Unitarian Universalism represent the “Religion” side of the coin.

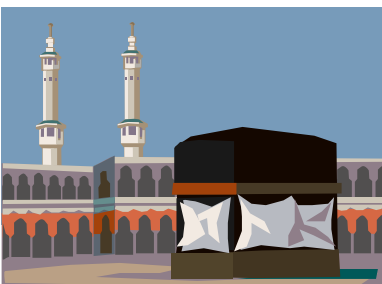
Spirituality is the other side of the coin, and represents the individual beliefs of Unitarian Universalists.

Within our faith we have a wide range of spiritual expressions. A quick look at the UUA website will show that there are UU Christians, Humanists, Pagans, Deists, Buddhists, Jews, Hindus, Muslims, Atheists, and others.

These individual traditions offer a wealth of spiritual sources for Unitarian Universalists and feeds individuals needs for fulfillment and answers to tough questions.

Not all Unitarian Universalists believe in God, and not all Unitarian Universalists believe in no-God, and I would guess that each of us has our own unique spiritual expression of truth. What we do share is our,

“Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.”



It is the environment that we cultivate within our congregation that allows each of us the freedom to responsibly search for truth — our own spiritual truth. My spiritual truth will probably be different from the truths discovered by others, but my acceptance and encouragement should flow from my commitment to our covenant to love.



The terms Religion and Spirituality

need not be viewed in conflict with each other. They need not be viewed as incompatible. Both terms are simply reflections of a whole that we all share in, and that we all reflect. We value the right of conscious, and we strive to build community based on peace, liberty,



and justice. Our individual spiritual expressions are the result of the religious tradition promoted by Unitarian Universalism. It is the interdependent web of ALL existence that binds the two terms together in a complementary relationship.

In our broken world of “us vs. them” the dichotomy of “religion vs. spirituality” need not be another division, but rather a source of inspiration and wonder.

Blessed Be!



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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