

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs...



NEWSLETTER September 2007

Yellow Springs Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Executive Board



[Left Front] **Debbie D.** (secretary), **Martha G.** (member at large), **Stacy A.** (past president).
[Back] **Mary D.** (president-elect), **George K.** (president), **Marianne W.** (member at large), **Louis S.** (treasurer).

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 point font with no formatting (bold, italic, etc...).

Send material to David K. at:
tau.athanasios@gmail.com

September Programming... ...at a glance:

September 2:

"Waters Flowing Together."
Produced by Mitzi M.

September 9:

**"Beyond Sicko: A Psychologist
Looks at Health Care in Cuba."**
Presented by Jeanne L.

September 16:

**"Should Unitarian Universalists
Become Activist Pacificists?"**
Presented by Howard T.

September 23:

**"Autumn Equinox Celebration
and Child Blessing."**
Presented by Toby K.

September 30:

"10,000 Times for Maturity."
Presented by Rev. Elaine Strawn.

September Program Calendar:

Sunday, September 2

8:30 AM: Spiritual discussion group, “Valid and invalid metaphysics.”

10:00 AM: **“Waters Flowing Together,”** produced by Mitzi M. This program of ingathering will feature our traditional end-of-summer ritual of combining water, collected from near and far, in a communal container. Members and friends—kids, too—are invited to share something about their summer activities and about the source of their water.

No potluck today. Instead we’ll have a Labor Day picnic of Monday at the home of Mary and Louis S. (see write-up for details).

Sunday, September 9

8:30 AM: Spiritual discussion group, “Consciousness.”

10:00 AM: **“Beyond Sicko: A Psychologist Looks at Health Care in Cuba,”** presented by Jeanne L. Jeanne spent five months in Cuba between 2000 and 2005 learning about the Cuban medical system, both as an observer and as a patient. She will share some of her experiences, impressions, and pictures and will discuss the impact of the U.S. embargo of Cuba on the health of Cubans and Cuban-American families. Dr. L. is Professor Emerita of Wright State School of Medicine and practices clinical psychology in Yellow Springs.

Sunday, September 16

8:30 AM: Spiritual discussion group, “Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs.”

10:00 AM: **“Should Unitarian Universalists Become Activist Pacificists?”** Delegates at the 2006 UUA General Assembly selected “Peacemaking” as the 2006-2010 Congregational Study Action Issue: “Should the UUA reject the use of any and all kinds of violence and war to resolve disputes between peoples and nations and adopt a principle of seeking just peace through nonviolent means?” Historically UUs have supported “just” wars but have also

adopted over eighty resolutions supporting peace, disarmament and conscientious objector status as part of our covenant to promote world community with peace, liberty and justice for all. UC professor of political science Howard T. will address the issue by considering whether UUs should adopt a policy that would oppose UN military intervention to stop genocide in Darfur, Sudan.

Sunday, September 23

8:30 AM: Spiritual discussion group, “What is a Myth?”

10:00 AM: **“Autumn Equinox Celebration and Child Blessing.”** This program, presented by Toby K., will focus on the Autumn Equinox and the various ways it is celebrated around the world. There will be a short ritual to show how modern Pagans celebrate the day. To follow will be a blessing of the children of the Fellowship.

Sunday, September 30

8:30 AM: Spiritual discussion group, “What is an Ego Death?”

10:00 AM: **“10,000 Times for Maturity,”** presented by Rev. Elaine Strawn, minister of the UU Church of Wayne County, OH. Her title is a reference to the Chinese ideal that one must do something 10,000 times to truly get it. The topic will deal with spiritual stages of maturation, a blending of some psychological frames with spirituality. And, hopefully, we will arrive at some ideas of why we have such aversions to religions which are more fundamentalist.

Coming in October

Sunday, October 7

8:30 AM: Spiritual discussion group, “Where do I Belong?”

10:00 AM: **“Aristotle's Children: When Faith and Science Lived in Holy Wedlock,”** presented George K., President of the executive board of the Fellowship.

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

Background Information for the September 16th Program: "Should UU's Become Activist Pacifists?"

UUA legislative assistant Adam Gerhardstein of First Church in Cincinnati helped prepare for the Commission on Social Witness a 32-page Resource Guide on "Peacemaking", available at: http://uua.org/csw/issues_pm_resguide1A.htm The Guide presents 11 possible study questions and seven possible actions addressing violence at the personal, congregational, civic and global level. Between now and 2010 UUs will consider adoption of a Social Witness Statement of Conscience that might affirm a "Just War" policy or reject violence in any form. The first Congregational response query asked: "What needs to be included in the statement of conscience so that it is complete?"

WANT TO BE MORE INVOLVED?

Because we are a volunteer or lay--led fellowship, our organization is actually run by the committees. (Don't tell the Board members, please.) If you want to be more involved in creating and implementing the good works and programs for young and old offered by UUFYS, join a committee! Even if you are not fond of monthly meetings, there are one-time, ad hoc and occasional tasks that need your hands, creativity and experience. Committees meet on the same days each month, at the meetinghouse, and you are welcome to sit in on a meeting to try it out. Here is the schedule of meetings and the date of the next one:



Buildings & Grounds: Maintains the physical plant. 2nd Tuesday, 7:30 pm - Sept 11.

Program: Creates and produces Sunday programs. 4th Sunday, noon - Sept 23.

Social Justice: Chooses and implements activities on diversity, non-violence, etc. 3rd Sunday, after the service. - Sept 16.

Member Services: Help One Another, covenant groups, welcomers, publicity. 1st Sunday, noon - Sept 2.

Religious Education: Develops and maintains adult & youth RE. Meets as needed.

Finance: Works with Treasurer, creates annual budget, solicits pledges. 3rd Thursday, 7:30 pm - Sept 20.

You are invited to choose one and put it on your calendar!

Tentative Agenda for the 9/9/07 Board Meeting:

- Discussion of the policy for open Board meetings
- Review of the August minutes
- Treasurer's report
- Apartment rental/space use
- Report on the progress of the B&G Committee and architect
- Personnel Committee concerns
- Newsletter publishing policy
- 50th Anniversary photo album project
- Green Sanctuary Committee
- Committee oversight



July 8th, 2007 UUFYS Board Meeting Summary

Submitted by Debbie D., Secretary

Present: George K., Stacy A., Mary D., Louis S.s, Martha G., Marianne W., and Debbie D.

The meeting was preceded by listening and responding to the following member concerns:

- Mitzi M., Minister of Music, reported that she had several boxes of religious music in her home and requested help moving them to the Fellowship.
- Charlotte B. brought a number of procedural, record keeping and committee issues to the board.
- Peter W. stopped by to wish the Board well as new officers start their terms.

The business portion of the meeting began at 12:15 p.m. with chalice lighting and check-in.

- Open meetings: In response to Charlotte's concern about whether Board meetings would be open or closed, it was decided that the Board would draft a policy about this.
- Review of meeting minutes: The 6/3/07 minutes were unanimously approved following a motion by Stacy, seconded by Louis. The minutes of the 6/10/07 annual meeting were passed on a motion by Mary and a second by Stacy with 6 yeas, and 1 abstention by a member who was not present at the meeting.
- Treasurer's report: Louis presented the annual treasurer's report for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. He reported a shortfall in income from Tar Hollow and the apartment rental. These shortfalls were covered by under-spending by Leadership Development (\$5,000), Religious Education (\$1,800) and Member Services (\$1,800). Hence, there will be about a \$10,000 carry over into the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

Old Business

- Apartment: The tenant has been evicted. It will cost about \$2,000 to refurbish, and discussions about possible uses of the apartment space are underway.
- Personnel Committee:
 - Martha G., chair of the Personnel Committee, reported that Personnel Committee (PC) members now include Holly K., Pat S. and Dick F.; Charlotte B. will continue through the hiring of an administrative staff person. The PC will screen applications for this position and interview the final candidates. The Board will review the resumes and meet the top two finalists for 10-15 minutes prior to making a hiring decision. The expected start date for this position is mid-September.
 - The board met in Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.
- Fund Control Policy: This policy was reviewed, discussed and passed unanimously.
- 50th Anniversary: Debbie shared a quote of \$537 provided by Marlene M. for creating photo album(s) of UUFYS photographs and other memorabilia. Louis will send Marlene a check in the amount of the quote so that she can start her work ASAP.
- Newsletter publishing policy: The Board discussed the matter of the need for a proofreader. It was decided that the newsletter content and tone would be monitored over the next few months, the deadline should be the 15th of the month according to previously set policy, and that a decision about this issue would be made in September.
- Fellowship survey about space needs: Martha reviewed the survey results (which were reported in the August newsletter).

(Continued on page 5)

Public Participation at UUFYS Board Meetings

DRAFT POLICY

Meetings of the UUFYS are held at noon on the second Sunday of the month, at the Fellowship building, or at other times and locations as announced.

It is the intent of the Board that congregants wishing to address comments or ask questions of the Board have the opportunity to do so. Therefore, the first 15 minutes of each Board meeting has been designated as a time for public comment.

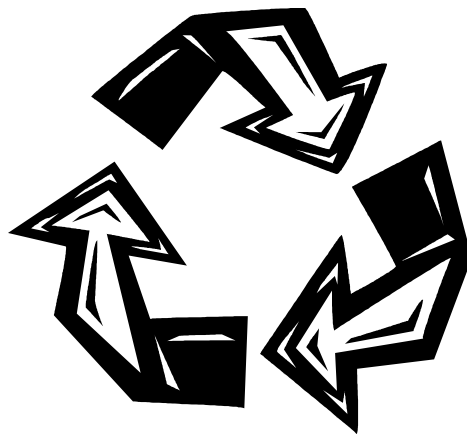
Each speaker is given a number of minutes proportionate to the number of speakers (e.g., three speakers would have five minutes each) to share his/her views with the Board. The Board will accept comments or suggestions in writing or set up an additional meeting between the speaker and the Board president should the standard meeting time not be sufficient.

It should not be expected that the Board will take immediate or official action on any subject brought before it without having time for review or study of facts or matters presented.

Fellowship members and friends may choose to observe part or all of Board meetings at any time other than during executive session. Following the close of the public comment portion of the meeting, observers are not permitted to comment or participate in any way in Board meetings. Observers' names shall be noted in the meeting minutes so as to have a complete record of meeting proceedings.

Toward a Green Sanctuary:

The executive board has acted on the message of the 7th Principle to work toward certification of our Fellowship building as a Green Sanctuary per guidelines set by the UUA. We have already met some of the requirements. Recycling, composting food waste, lowering energy usage, reducing waste in general, are easy to do but there is more to accomplish. This will be a great step "walking the talk" as Unitarian Universalists. Stacy A. is coordinating the effort, and may be asking for your help.



(Continued from page 4)

The Board met in Executive Session to discuss a matter pertaining to a former Fellowship member.

New Business

- New Board member orientation: New Board members requested information about policies, minutes of past Board meetings, and a roster of committee chairs and current committee members.
- Antioch College closing: Concern was expressed about this lamentable situation. Board members were encouraged to be actively involved in efforts to maintain the college as a viable institution.
- A Board transition meeting for former, continuing and new members was held on 7/22; 2006-2007 accomplishments and 2007-2008 goals were discussed.

Agenda items for the August meeting were discussed. The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Fund Control Policies

June 3, 2007

Fund accounting as used by UUFYS sets up funds as LONG TERM LIABILITIES on the books of the organization. The corresponding asset entry to these liabilities is to increase the various bank deposit or investment accounts.

What is not done is to fully implement fund accounting by setting up income and expense accounts for each individual fund. To do so for an organization the size of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs would be clumsy and burdensome for the people keeping the records.

Also not done is an attempt to match the precise balance of the fund with its own bank account or investment account. Again to do so would create additional work for the record keepers without providing any additional benefits.

Presently the UUFYS presently has 16 fund accounts on the books. Of those 13 are listed as active and 9 have funds available. Funds with zero balances do not print out on the balance sheet whether they are designated as active or inactive.

The use of monies from the funds is controlled by the donor or representative for the fund. Presently the Board of Directors has three funds under its direct control, Building Major Maintenance Set Aside Fund, Building Fund, and Social Justice Fund.

Funds with non-zero balances shall have a Fund Use and Control Document filed with the Finance Committee.

Stewardship of Assets

Present thinking by most UU treasurers and financial managers is that the assets of their organizations be invested in financial instruments with medium risk. To be too conservative and invest only in bank savings accounts or bank CD's is not proper stewardship of the assets entrusted to the financial manager. Indeed, the bank savings account rates are presently below the rate of inflation. This means the assets are losing purchasing power with the passage of time. Bank CD's pay rates that are just 2% to 2.5% above the rate of inflation. With a slight increase in risk, the yield on investments may be improved another 2% to 3%.

Current Inflation Rate

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ave
2007	2.08%	2.42%	2.78%	2.57%									
2006	3.99%	3.60%	3.36%	3.55%	4.17%	4.32%	4.15%	3.82%	2.06%	1.31%	1.97%	2.54%	3.24%
2005	2.97%	3.01%	3.15%	3.51%	2.80%	2.53%	3.17%	3.64%	4.69%	4.35%	3.46%	3.42%	3.39%
2004	1.93%	1.69%	1.74%	2.29%	3.05%	3.27%	2.99%	2.65%	2.54%	3.19%	3.52%	3.26%	2.68%
2003	2.60%	2.98%	3.02%	2.22%	2.06%	2.11%	2.11%	2.16%	2.32%	2.04%	1.77%	1.88%	2.27%
2002	1.14%	1.14%	1.48%	1.64%	1.18%	1.07%	1.46%	1.80%	1.51%	2.03%	2.20%	2.38%	1.59%
2001	3.73%	3.53%	2.92%	3.27%	3.62%	3.25%	2.72%	2.72%	2.65%	2.13%	1.90%	1.55%	2.83%
2000	2.74%	3.22%	3.76%	3.07%	3.19%	3.73%	3.66%	3.41%	3.45%	3.45%	3.45%	3.39%	3.38%

(Continued on page 7)

To all of my friends at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs.

I want to thank the Fellowship for the expressions of sympathy and condolence that have been shown to me upon Doris's passing. Unfortunately, folks at the Fellowship never really knew the vital, vivacious and energetic person with whom I shared 62 1/2 years. In an unfortunate and tragic automobile accident in 1996 Doris suffered a fractured skull and serious brain concussion resulting in hematoma and requiring brain surgery. She was life flighted from the scene of the accident to Grant Hospital in Columbus and we nearly lost her. The residual effect of that accident caused a serious loss of short term memory and an inability to remember numbers. This was ironic because she was a Town Budget Officer and managed the budget for the Town of Sweden, New York, working closely with numbers for many years.



Doris was the kindest, sweetest and noblest lady I ever knew and even in her infirmity was an effective wife, mother and grandmother to her family. Our loss is overwhelming and profound and we miss her more than words can express. Doris's grandchildren created a web page in her memory which contains a slide show of pictures and the text of the private Memorial Service which can be accessed at:

www.dorisseward.blogspot.com

More than \$1,300.00 has been contributed to her memorial fund at the Masonic Home. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your kindness.

Ron S.

(Continued from page 6)

Proper stewardship of the assets of the organization means the future needs of the organization for liquidity must match the nature of the investment. The appetite of the organization for risk must be determined and appropriate investments made.

Determining the Income of a Fund

The income attributable to a fund shall be determined as follows:

1. The realized investment income of the organization for the year shall be determined. This is interest plus realized capital gains.
2. This income shall be prorated to each fund using a value for the fund of the value at the beginning of the year plus the value at the end of the year divided by two. If a fund has a zero balance at the beginning or end of the year, then no income shall be attributed to that fund.
3. The fund income shall be entered when the books are being closed for the fiscal year.

Covenant Group Signups

The Small Group Ministry program started in our Fellowship with a pilot group in September, 2004. We have just completed our third year of covenant groups with at least 1/3 of the Fellowship members and friends involved. It is time to consider joining the covenant group experience starting the week of September 10th, 2007. To help in understanding what covenant groups are and whether that experience is for you please consider the following:

A covenant group is a dialog between group members meaning we share from our own experiences, are willing to listen to others, and expect to learn from others. It is where we seek bonds with each other, explore our own spiritual journey, and strengthen our sense of community. Those seeking a therapeutic counseling experience are better served in another type of group. We listen but don't give advice or "fix" the person. Each group writes its own covenant which is a promise and a commitment we make with each other. Each member is responsible for attending all sessions, being on time, participating as fully as possible, keeping what is shared confidential, and leading one of the sessions. Lastly, for most of those participating in the groups it has been a time of renewal, acceptance, and vitality.

There will be ongoing opportunities to experience a sample covenant group beginning on Sunday, August 19, following the service. There will be an informal lunch available for those who wish to take part. Anyone interested in finding out more about covenant groups, including former group members who wish to share input, please contact Judy W., Mary C., Stacy A., or Dick R. for information and to let us know if you will be there so we have some idea for lunch preparation.

Sign up sheets will be available in the foyer starting in August along with a list of commonly asked questions and answers about Small Group Ministry. Be sure to include the days/evenings when you will be available. At this time there are four facilitators available to lead groups in the Fall.

"If it is language that makes us human, one half of language is to listen. Silence can exist without speech, but speech cannot live without silence."

Mary C.



Pastels by Nina: Artist's Reception Saturday September 15, 5 – 7:00 p.m.

Since her last show at the Fellowship in 2002, Nina T. has exhibited her pastels and pencil drawings in fifteen solo and juried exhibits in university galleries, restaurants and churches and also published an art calendar and greeting cards. During twelve years as a resident of Yellow Springs, she was a clinical social worker, member and President of the Fellowship.

IS SUMMER GONE ALREADY?

You're invited to come **celebrate Labor Day**, the return to school and the end of summer on Monday, Sept 3, from 5:00 pm.

It's at the home of Louis and Mary S.

Bring your walking shoes, skates or bikes to enjoy the adjacent bike path and bring your potluck picnic basket to enjoy good food and good company. A grill, veggie burgers and veggie brats, soft drinks and ice tea will be provided. If you have a croquet set or badminton to loan for this, call Mary.



PLEASE COME FOR DINNER

One of the biggest UUF social activities is the monthly Dinner for 8 potlucks, which run from October through May each year. When you sign up on the form below, you'll be assigned to a group of compatible people, who choose a date and a host for each month's get-together. Some hosts announce a theme for their dinner and coordinate the dishes, others make it a true potluck. Either way, it's a fun, inexpensive chance to get to know your fellow UUs better and to enjoy a great night out. Be daring -- sign up today!

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs

2007 — 08 POTLUCK Groups -- Dinners for 8

A social activity for UU's – Groups meet in members' homes for monthly dinners.

Names of family members participating:
(If children included, give ages.)

Phone:

Address:

Email:

Any } Accessibility: _____
special } Food allergies/diets: _____
requirements } Vegetarian: _____
for } Transportation: _____

Number of adults your home can accommodate: _____ (i.e., _____ hosts + _____ guests)

Are the entrance and bathroom of your home **accessible**? Yes No

If no **children** listed above, check one: Children welcome Prefer adults only

Would you **drive others** to the dinners? Yes No

NOTE: Please return this to Syd and Betty Welton no later than Sunday, Sept 16. They will set up the groups so you may start meeting and eating in early October. Please indicate if any of your preferences cannot be compromised, such as size of group, tolerance for meat, etc., because it is not always possible to honor all your requests.

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