

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs...



NEWSLETTER November 2009

November 2009 Program Calendar:

Sunday, November 1

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, 'EITHER you're with me OR you're against me. Where is the middle?'

10:00 a.m.: "Halloween from the Other Side: Honoring Those Who Have Crossed Over." The service will focus on an oft-forgotten aspect of Halloween, honoring our ancestors. Fellowship members, friends, and visitors are encouraged to bring stories, and if possible, pictures or possessions of past relatives, friends, or simply someone who has had an impact, for good or ill, on their lives. Additionally, costumes are joyfully encouraged!

11:30 a.m.: A potluck lunch follows the program. Bring a favorite dish to share and your own plate.

Sunday, November 8

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "What's wrong and/or right with eating meat?"

10:00 a.m.: "How Animal Exploitation Leads to Oppression of Humans"

David Nibert, professor of sociology at Wittenberg University, will discuss how human use of other animals--especially as food--is intertwined with widespread exploitation of, and violence towards, people. Nibert examines the history of oppression of humans and other animals and suggests this interlocked oppression continues to the present.

Sunday, November 15

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "What's with bombing the moon? When is science blind? And does it need to be?"

10:00 a.m.: "What's New in the Right-to-Die Movement?", presented by Judy Snyderman. She will
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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

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discuss the latest developments in physician assisted suicide laws in the United States and also briefly touch on the situation overseas. Her main emphasis will be on the current cases in Georgia and Arizona, where in each case four members of Final Exit Network have been arrested. Judy is a Board Member of Final Exit Network and also a member of Compassion and Choices. She has cared about our right to "death with dignity" for as long as she can remember, joining Hemlock sometime in the 70's.

Tuesday, November 17

7:00 p.m.: The UU Pagan discussion group, led by Brian S., meets at the Fellowship meetinghouse.

Sunday, November 22

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "What exactly is socialism? Bring your definitions."

10:00 a.m.: "Gnosticism," a presentation/sermon by UU seminarian, and UUFYS member, David K. An overview of the most common themes of Gnosticism will be offered through discussion of the Gnostic text The Hymn of the Pearl.

4:00 p.m.: Annual Fellowship Thanksgiving Feast. Bring a favorite holiday dish to share and your own plate (details follow).

Sunday, November 29

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "Which of our 'Five Disturbing Emotions' offer the best opportunities for growth? Passion, Aggression, Ignorance, Pride, Jealousy?"

10:00 a.m.: "Making Mistakes", a sermon presented by UU minister, the Rev. Richard Venus. "Mistakes are the very base of human thought," writes the biology writer Lewis Thomas. "If we were not provided with the knack of being wrong, we could never get anything useful done. We think our way along by choosing between right and wrong alternatives, and the wrong choices have to be made as frequently as the right ones.

We get along in life this way. We are built to make mistakes, coded for error." Rev. Venus thinks Thomas is speaking about life, but is also offering some helpful wisdom about "sin."

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

Coming in December, 2009 Sunday, December 6

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group.

10:00 a.m.: Our speaker will be Fellowship member James C., who does management consulting and practices law.

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

Annual Thanksgiving Feast November 22, 4:00 p.m.

This year's Fabulous Fellowship 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 traditional side dishes. Invite friends and extended family members to share the bounty and good cheer of this harvest celebration.

We'll need volunteers to set up tables and chairs and decorate the tables, to cook the turkeys, and to clean up afterward. Ideas for after-dinner entertainment (games, singing, dancing, talent show?) are welcome. To volunteer for any tasks or to organize entertainment or coordinate games, please contact Judy W. by phone (376-3459) or email (judyxenia@yahoo.com).

Social Justice News

Our UUF Social Justice Committee meets the 3rd Sunday of each month and welcomes new members and feedback from all of you.

This year we are continuing to study and act on the UUA Study/Action issue: Ethical Eating. We had a huge display on ethical eating at the Oct. Yellow Springs Street Fair and many people stopped by to comment, pick up handouts or collect a free shopping bag and/or free tap water. We have a great library of materials for our congregation concerning animal rights, slow food, healthy foods, package labeling etc. and will try to get it shelved and available during November. Please try to bring healthy local snacks and potluck foods to the fellowship and set a good example for our youth.

The service organizations we chose for the next year are the same 12 we have had this year and are chosen for the diversity of populations served and the service they offer. Thank you all for your support each Sunday to these very needed organizations as they are more in need of help than ever before.

We have some exciting issues to present at our 2nd Sunday Social Justice programs and how they pertain to our Principles and Purposes. They include: animal rights, homelessness, the Service Committee of the UU's, issues of race, women's rights, and environmental justice. We welcome your ideas and have attended to your social justice requests outlined in this year's congregational survey.

Our service actions and community building projects this year include working with numerous local groups on the Community Thanksgiving Dinner (we really need everyone at UUF to con-

tribute time or homemade dishes), local forums on justice issues, working with the youth on a Clean Up Day in the village, and other activities we will let you know about as they get planned.

Members of our SoJus Committee include: Denise C., Ruth L., Jeanne L., Marianne W., Ann T., Peter W., Sylvia C., Al S., Elizabeth D.

Joan C., and Bobbi T.. Co

-chairs are Denise and Joan. Contact any one of us with your ideas or come to our meetings.

Welcoming at UUFYS

Welcomers have been scheduled for the remainder of 2009. They are Joyce M. and Helen W. for October, Elizabeth D., Esther H., Hank or Ruth L., and Judy W. for November, and Brian and Tami S. for December. The list of exactly which dates is on the credenza. For 2010 we have Sandy L. and Sam Y. for February and Sylvia C. for April. Needed are people willing to welcome newcomers and members for January, March, April, and May. The choir helped us out last summer and I am hopeful that we will do so again. Also needed are people willing to fill in if need be.

Welcoming is a service that we do for ourselves and for the larger community. Our faces are the first new people see and how comfortable they feel about us often rests on that first impression. All of us can be welcomers at some time during the year. Speak to me when you see me at the Fellowship and I will be more than happy to sign you up. Thank you in advance.

September 13, 2009 Minutes UUFYS Executive Board Meeting

Present: Mary D., Joan C., Mary S., Dick F., Greg T., Joel H. G.

Absent: Bengt G.

The meeting got underway at 12:14 p.m. with no other congregants appearing for the 15-minute public portion.

After the chalice lighting, check-in, and fine-tuning of the agenda, the Board turned to the August minutes, which had only been circulated as a draft. Because there had been only minor typos, it was agreed to vote their approval. **Action:** Joel said he'd email the corrected copy to all Board members, as well as the Newsletter editor.

The Treasurer's brief report centered on our investment policy and the choice of an additional index fund. **Action:** Mary D. to contact the Finance Committee for a meeting to obtain additional input on this topic.

Greg, who had served as chair of the August 27 Coordinating Council meeting, gave a thoughtful and comprehensive report on the activities of the seven major committees (RE, Program, B&G, Member Services, Communications, Social Justice, and Conflict Resolution (the End of Life Committee was not represented)). Among B&G's issues covered: Possibly carpeting the sanctuary and other ways to improve acoustics, recent plumbing problems, additional parking possibilities, and several greening plans. Member services reported on recruiting new members, and equally important, identifying retention problems. Social Justice--besides producing nearly one-fourth of all Sunday programs--also has the main responsibility for our biggest outside events, notably the Village street fair booth and the Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

Member Services report: Mary S. passed around copies of some of the 14 different brochures,

cards, and flyers that she had received from the UUA. This new supply of printed material is expected to be invaluable as handouts both to new visitors at Sunday programs and at the two annual street fairs. Also discussed: signing up volunteers early enough to attend a brief tutorial before the October 10 event, probably on Sunday Oct. 4. It was felt that volunteers should be better prepared to discuss not only our beliefs, but also the main theme of our booth, which this time will be "ethical eating." The Board also revisited the ongoing problem of members crowding the entrance and the parlor during arrivals, along with suggestions for improving the flow. **Actions:** Mary S. to mention to Blythe P. the possibility of updating our own brochure specifically about the R.E. program. Joel to relay the Board's approval of the R.E. Committee request to expand child care to 8:30 a.m. from the present 9:45 a.m. on an as-needed basis.

Board Retreat (August 30): Mary D. handed out copies of the Fellowship's accomplishments and goals discussed at the retreat, and said she was sending an abbreviated version to David K. for the October Newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m. Cordially submitted, Joel H. G., Board Secretary.

YELLOW SPRINGS COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER

Sponsored by the Yellow Springs Inter-spiritual Council. On Thursday, November 26, 2009 from 2:00 - 4:00 PM at First Presbyterian Church 314 Xenia Avenue. Traditional, Vegetarian, and Vegan. Everyone welcome.

UU Fellowship is supporting this effort, 6 Volunteers needed to roast turkeys, to greet, set up and clean up SEE SIGN UP SHEET IN FOYER. Bring a side dish to share or drop one off at the church starting at 1PM or drop off at Ruth L.'s 767-2708.

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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