

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs...



NEWSLETTER October 2009

October 2009 Program Calendar:

Sunday, October 4

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, ‘Is there a difference between living IN the world and being OF the world?’

10:00 a.m.: “Obama - Real Change on National Security?” Does Obama really differ from Bush on national security – or does he only sound different? For the answer, come hear Chris Link, executive director of the ACLU of Ohio, as she speaks about President Obama’s policies on surveillance, indefinite detention, and other national security issues. Link will separate the rhetoric from the facts and tell you what you can do to hold Obama accountable to his campaign promises.

Christine Link has held the post of Executive Director of the ACLU of Ohio for nearly 20 years, making her one of the most experienced directors among 53 ACLU affiliates.

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

Sunday, October 11

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "What exactly is it that separates human beings from animals or even plants?"

10:00 a.m.: "Polyamory", also known as Ethical Non-Monogamy, will be presented as a viable alternative in today's world of relationship options. Four members of UUFYS will share their understanding and practice of this lifestyle alternative, and will explain abundant love and choosing compersion over jealousy.

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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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Sunday, October 18

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "Who cares, and why?"

10:00 a.m.: "Council on Aging: Services and Support for Seniors and Their Families"--Karen Puterbaugh, Executive Director of the Greene County Council on Aging, will talk with us about caring for the older adults in our lives and obtaining support for ourselves and others who are caregivers. She will discuss the challenges we face when our older loved ones have some type of dementia, and will present strategies to reduce the stress for both the senior and the caregiver.

Karen Puterbaugh is a licensed social worker and has a Master of Urban Administration. She has been involved with the Greene County Council on Aging for almost twenty years and was hired as the organization's first paid staff member in February 1999.

Sunday, October 25

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "What is the affect of the means of communication on the spiritual messages of the present and the past?"

10:00 a.m.: "Invasive Plants, Native Plants, and the Wisdom of Nature", presented by Carol W. C. The plants that we have imported from other countries have escaped cultivation and are causing problems for our wildlife, native plants, pollinator insects, and ultimately ourselves.

Carol C., a graduate of Wittenberg University and formerly a medical technologist, has made the study of problems of invasive plants her specialty as a Penn State Master Gardener.

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

Saturday, October 31

7:00 p.m. Happy Halloween! Come share fellowship, fun and the festival of Samhain. The RE Committee is the host of this event which combines its monthly Pagan Spiritual Group get together, Fall Sleepover for youth, and a ritual celebration of this ancient hallowed eve.

Coming in November, 2009: Sunday, November 1

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group

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. Please bring your own table service and a generous dish to share.

Minutes
8/9/09 UUFYS Executive Board Meeting

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

Absent: Bengt G.

In the opening 15-minute public portion of the meeting, Sylvia C. discussed her unhappiness that some recent program topics have not dealt directly with Fellowship interests or have taken the form of "history lessons." She said programs might be more pertinent if we had more UU guest ministers than we've had in the past. Greg T. commented that more programs tied to Unitarianism-Universalism might sit well with one-time visitors who often make snap decisions on whether to return. Joan C. suggested that we routinely start adding the most closely related UU principle to each program's Order of Service, or use some other device to show "why we're producing the program."

Action: Joel G. to discuss these and other possibilities with Judy W., program chair.

Mary S. presented a treasurer's report on income and spending as of June 30; it was approved by a voice vote. The Board continued discussing the need for finding a safe, socially responsible investment fund for some of the Fellowship's assets, possibly with the help of congregation members with investment savvy.

A proposal to double the allowable Fellowship checking account balance to \$10,000 was accepted. Joel G. was the sole nay vote, suggesting that there were alternative ways to avoid overdrawing our account.

After countless hours in recent months of writing, editing and revising the Fellowship's first Conflict Resolution Policy, the Board brought the latest version up for a vote. After some discussion, one section containing a possible contradiction was deleted and the new policy was approved with a majority vote. There were no nays, but Dick F. and Greg T. both abstained on the grounds that they weren't familiar enough with the work on the policy by the previous Board.

Also at the Board's August meeting, members decided to change the starting time of the annual "Board Retreat" to 4 p.m. August 23. Members of both the "Old" Board and the "New" Board (10 officers in all) are expected to attend a visioning discussion (reviewing recent accomplishments and charting objectives for the coming year) and a potluck dinner. It will be held at the home of Mary and Louis S.

Action: Joel G. will contact Jim R., Martha G., and Debbie D. to make sure they're aware of the date and new time.

Greg T. reports that he has the names of committee members to be present at the Coordinating Council meeting scheduled for Sunday, August 30, following that day's Souper Sunday.

Action: Greg to contact those members to ensure that they are aware.

And last but not least, the question of changing the Executive Board's quorum from five to four, must be approved by the congregation at a special election to be held with sufficient notice. (This is the rule for any change in the Fellowship's by-laws.)

The Board agreed that best date for this election would be September 27, during that Sunday morning's program.

Action: Joel G. will write the required notice for the September issue of the UUFYS Newsletter.

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The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joel H. G., secretary

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11 AT NOON AT THE FELLOWSHIP. PRIOR TO THE MEETING, THE BOARD WILL MEET WITH CONGREGATION MEMBERS AND FRIENDS TO ADDRESS THEIR CONCERNS. AGENDA ITEMS WILL INCLUDE:

- Chalice lighting and Check-in
- Review of the September minutes
- Treasurer's report
- Finance Committee
- B&G Committee
- Member Services Committee
- Leadership Development
- Policy development

THE VISION AND GOALS OF UUFYS 2009-2013

I. CULTURE AND GROWTH

Vision: The UUFYS will have a culture of respect, inclusion and caring, will increase the number of new members and friends, and will retain current membership.

Goals:

1. Increase the number of new members and/or friends by 5% yearly.
2. Decrease member resignations by 10% yearly.
3. Increase the engagement of members in the activities of the Fellowship.
4. Increase family activities and inter-generational activities and programs.
5. Increase diversity in our Fellowship.
6. Increase UUFYS visibility in the community and area.
7. Meet the diverse spiritual needs of UUFYS members.

II. ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION

Vision: The UUFYS will have the resources, physical facilities and funds to effectively operate a fellowship.

Goals:

1. Increase the number of member volunteers to fill board, committees and other organizational activities so that the workload is distributed more widely.
2. Determine next steps in our building and grounds development plan.
3. Improve the people flow patterns before and after services and other big events in the halls, entrances, and lounge areas.
4. Improve acoustics in main meeting room.
5. Make sure that all committees have sufficient resources and members to fulfill their purpose.
6. Use UUA resources to support the organization and operation of Fellowship.
7. Provide a successful Religious Education program for adults and youth.
8. Create an organized, successful fund-raising campaign yearly.
9. Adjust the annual budget goal to reflect the reality of incoming pledges and income.
10. Monitor overhead costs and reduce when possible.

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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