

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs...



NEWSLETTER September 2009

Special Election Sept. 27

All voting members of the UUFYS are encouraged to attend the 10 a.m. program on Sunday, Sept. 27, during which we will take a vote on changing the required quorum at Executive Board meetings from the present five to four.

The five-member number was appropriate in years when the Board had either eight or nine elected members. These days, our Board has only seven, and the present five-member quorum prevents the Board from taking any action (except for setting the date for a future meeting) whenever three Board members are absent.

The Board feels that four (a majority of seven) is now the appropriate size of its quorum, but the change cannot be made unless the entire congregation is given the opportunity to vote its approval. This vote will take only a few minutes, but it's important that you take part on Sept. 27. -- Joel H. G., secretary of the Board.

Welcomers Needed

September begins our regular schedule of Welcomers greeting our members and guests. This is an opportunity to connect with new and continuing members and friends and to let all guests know who we are and what we are about. It is also a chance to give and receive hugs and smiles. There is not a better way to start the day.

I will be calling members to help in this endeavor. The instructions are readily available and simple to follow. We want to assist newcomers to feel at home by making name tags, sharing information about our Sunday routine, and gathering information about them.

In September our Religious Education youth will be the Welcomers. This will be a great way for us to know each other better. I am asking that individuals and families consider Welcoming for one month. It helps in scheduling and developing new friends. Please say yes when I call, or call me, 767-9258, if there is a month that will work for you. If you are not able to schedule ahead then you might be willing to be a substitute Welcomer if needed at the last minute. -- Mary C.

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

September 2009 Program Calendar:

Sunday, September 6

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "Can a loving God also be a punishing God?"

10:00 a.m.: "Waters Flowing Together", produced by Mitzi M., Minister of Music and Celebration. 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.

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

Sunday, September 13

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "Is war a natural outgrowth of our competitive nature?"

10:00 a.m.: "Our Voices from Rwanda" Yellow Springs High School students and Aurelia B., YS teacher, will report on their month in a culture very different from life here. They will show photos and share some of their experiences as travelers, students at Byimana School of Sciences and as teachers of large classes of eager students.

Sunday, September 20

8:30 a.m.: Spiritual discussion group, "Can there ever be too much cooperation?"

10:00 a.m.: "Some New Thought Religious Practices"... from a one-time novice practitioner. Unity, Science of Mind (SOM), Christian Science -- all are part of the "New Thought" movement in religion which dates back about 150 years. Susan

F. will share her experience in Science of Mind. Some SOM foundational philosophy and practices will be discussed and demonstrated in group meditation.

Tuesday, September 22

7:00 p.m. The UU Pagan discussion group, led by Brian S., meets at the Fellowship meetinghouse. The group will be conducting a ritual celebrating the autumnal equinox. Refreshments to follow, so please bring your favorite to share.

Sunday, September 27

8:30 a.m.: "Do we live in a national patriarchy? If so, how do our religious beliefs affect moving beyond this structure? Or, do we need to?"

10:00 a.m.: Doing the Right Thing" Pat M., executive director of Community Solutions and author of "Plan C", will share his thoughts on the planetary environmental and the spiritual crisis we are encountering. Pat has named it a moral issue. In Bill M.'s words, Pat "offers a powerful and persuasive glimpse of the future...the world on the other side of cheap oil may be less comfortable but also may be much sweeter". Unitarians pride themselves on looking hard at the facts and walking the walk. Bring your friends and share this glimpse of the future and our responsibilities.

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

Coming in October, 2009 Sunday, October 4

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

10:00 a.m.: "Obama - Real Change on National Security?" Does Obama really differ from Bush on national security – or does he only sound dif-

Minutes

7/12/09 UUFYS Executive Board Meeting

Present: Joan C., Greg T., Mary

S., Joel H. G.

Absent: Dick F., Bengt G., Mary

D. In the 15-minute public portion of the meeting, Peter W. voiced concern about "an attitude of intolerance" among some congregation members to other members' points of view. He suggested that we open each Sunday program with a statement reaffirming our respect for all members' religious beliefs however they may differ.

In the business portion of the meeting, Judy R., chair of the Stewardship Drive, reported that pledges for the 09-10 fiscal year had risen to \$41,055. Mary S. reported on her work (since completed) on an investment policy for the Fellowship that includes obtaining better yields on our CDs and stock investments, and moving certain liquid assets into income-producing investments without letting our checking account dip too low to pay routine expenses. She invited suggestions from savvy members of the congregation on what socially responsible mutual fund we could add to the sole fund (Pax) that we currently use.

Greg T. agreed to serve as the chair of the Coordinating Council of UUFYS committee members, which is designed to meet four times a year to report on work projects already underway and those still in the planning stage. The Coordinating Council's next meeting was scheduled for August 30.

The Board's annual summer retreat was set for the previous Sunday, August 23, at the home of Mary and Louis S. The Board also decided to investigate whether the "quorum of five" rule in effect ties its hands from any meaningful decision-making. Ditto the new Conflict Resolution policy, which had been thoroughly tweaked but not yet transcribed.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel H. G., secretary
7/12/09

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

The next Board meeting will be held on Sunday, 09/13/09 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 August minutes
- Treasurer's report
- Finance Committee report
- Member Services Committee report
- Coordinating Council Committee report
- Board Retreat, minutes, wrap-up
- New Business: Attendance policy for board members

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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