

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF YELLOW SPRINGS



Newsletter

December 2011

Calendar of Programs

Sunday, December 4

8:30—Sunday Morning Discussion

10:00—To Be Announced

11:45—Potluck Luncheon:

*Please bring food to share, if you like,
and your own table setting.*

Sunday, December 11

8:30—Sunday Morning Discussion

**10:00—Ohio's death penalty: Too
flawed to fix?**

Kevin Werner, Executive Director, Ohioans to Stop Executions, will discuss the costs, geographic disparities, the role race plays, the impact on murder victims' families and the opportunity costs associated with the death penalty. He'll also cover the current status of Ohio's context (study of system and active legislation).

For more information, see page 3.

Sunday, December 18

8:30—Sunday Morning Discussion

10:00—To Be Announced

Sunday, December 25

8:30—Sunday Morning Discussion

10:00—To Be Announced

11:45—Souper Sunday:

*Soup and bread will be provided by a
group of members of the fellowship.
Please bring food to share, if you like,
and your own table setting.*

*So far we have paid
41% of the amount
pledged for the year.*

*We are only 9%
away from reaching the
50% mark by December
31. However, 18 people
have not paid any of
their pledge which is a
bit troubling. I hope that
just means that they
want those dollars to go
toward their deductions
for 2012.*

*Also the monthly
stewards are a bit be-
hind too. S-O-O-O
please do you best to
meet your stewardship
support for the fellow-
ship.*

*Thank you,
Judy R.
Stewardship Chair*

This newsletter is published monthly. Please submit material for it, **no later than the next-to-the-last Sunday of each month**, to Peg P. at:

petefine@woh.rr.com or 937-321-7587

Interested in Joining?

Are you a frequent visitor, new to UUism but interested in knowing more about this denomination or membership in the UUF?

Or perhaps a previous UU who is new to this area? We have two programs for you.

- Monthly drop-in question and answer sessions after service on the last Sunday of each month. Look for the special table for an informal talk about UUism and this congregation.
- More structured information sessions about joining this Fellowship for either individuals or groups of newcomers.

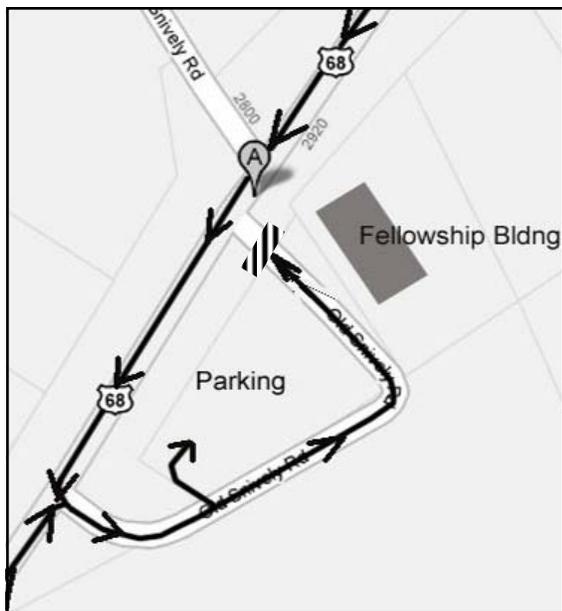
Please contact Mary S., Chair of the Member Services Committee, at:

767-1603

Or

shbuzz2001@sbcglobal.net.

She is happy to answer your questions.



Please remember to enter the Fellowship grounds by driving into the southernmost entrance into the parking area. People are walking across the drive and cars are dropping off passengers near the north entrance.

Keep in mind to watch out for other cars when turning off of or back onto Rte 68.

UUFYS Executive Board

President: Joan C.

Treasurer: Susan H.

Secretary: Brian S.

Members at Large: Veronica D., Joann H., Bobbi T., Jim R.

Committee Meeting Times

Here is a limited listing of committee meeting times. As board members and committee chairs establish meeting times, we will list them.

Board of Directors—Meets the 2nd Sunday of every month.

Finance Committee—Meets first Thursday of the month at 9 am and other times as needed.

Member Services—Meets the 1st Sunday of every month.

New Members—Meets last Sunday of the month.

Social Justice—3rd Sunday of the month [except July and August]

Say Welcome!

Smiles and warm greetings are meaningful—for visitors and for all members/attendees. All members are encouraged to greet unfamiliar faces and introduce themselves.

Special thanks to members who have been designated welcomingers at our front door Sunday mornings, cheerfully greeting everyone who enters.

Kevin Werner, Executive Director

Ohioans to Stop Executions

Kevin Werner has been the executive director of Ohioans to Stop Executions (OTSE) since 2007. He has led the organization through a period of tremendous growth as support for the death penalty in Ohio has declined in recent years. Kevin focuses on engaging Ohio communities in a respectful dialogue about Ohio's death penalty through education and advocacy.

Under Kevin's direction, OTSE has worked to educate Ohioans on issues relating to the racial and geographic disparities of capital punishment, the enormous costs to Ohio taxpayers, the risks of executing an innocent individual and the devastating impact on murder victims' family members.

Prior to working for Ohioans to Stop Executions, Kevin served in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps: Midwest. He also worked as the New England Province area director for the Jesuit Volunteer Corps: East. He comes to the abolition movement with a background in community organizing. Kevin led successful grassroots campaigns for Working America, a community affiliate of the AFL-CIO in Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati in addition to directing operations for a national grassroots environmental organization, Clean Water Action. Kevin's grassroots organizing experience includes working in states across the country including Maryland, Pennsylvania, Texas and Ohio.

Kevin received his bachelor's degree in Political Science from Wheeling Jesuit University in Wheeling, WV. He is a parishioner at Xavier University's Bellarmine Chapel in Cincinnati where he serves on the Archdiocese of Cincinnati's Respect Life Committee. His Catholic faith has led him to remain committed to working for social justice by putting his faith into action.

Ohioans to Stop Executions (OTSE) is a statewide group of people and organizations united by a desire to abolish the death penalty and to promote effective, humane alternatives to its use. OTSE is the state affiliate of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty and is the only organization in Ohio whose work is focused solely on ending the death penalty. OTSE is committed to dialogue and education about the death penalty through its organizing efforts of murder victims' family members, the law enforcement community, religious communities and the general public.

Women's Holiday Luncheon

The almost annual **Women's Holiday Luncheon** will be held on Saturday, Dec. 10, at **Teaberries Country Café** in Springfield. The address is 1600 East Leffel Lane.

Note: Reservations are made for 12:30. Please **RSVP** to Mary S. (at 937 - 767-1603) so we have a count for the reservation.

The parking lot at Teaberries is small, so it's a good idea to car pool with friends in your neighborhood.

The following offered for consideration by some members of the fellowship.

Christmas 2011 -- Birth of a New Tradition

AS the holidays approach, the giant Asian factories are kicking into high gear to provide Americans with monstrous piles of cheaply produced goods -- merchandise that has been produced at the expense of American labor. This year will be different. This year Americans will give the gift of genuine concern for other Americans. There is no longer an excuse that, at gift giving time, nothing can be found that is produced by American hands. Yes there is!

It's time to think outside the box, people. Who says a gift needs to fit in a shirt box, wrapped in Chinese produced wrapping paper? Everyone -- yes EVERYONE gets their hair cut. How about gift certificates from your local American hair salon or barber?

Gym membership? It's appropriate for all ages who are thinking about some health improvement.

Who wouldn't appreciate getting their car detailed? Small, American owned detail shops and car washes would love to sell you a gift certificate or a book of gift certificates.

Are you one of those extravagant givers who think nothing of plonking down the Benjamins on a Chinese made flat-screen? Perhaps that grateful gift receiver would like his driveway sealed, or lawn mowed for the summer, or driveway plowed all winter, or games at the local golf course.

There are a bazillion owner-run restaurants -- all offering gift certificates. And, if your intended isn't the fancy eatery sort, what about a half dozen breakfasts at the local breakfast joint. Remember, folks this isn't about big National chains -- this is about supporting your home town Americans with their financial lives on the line to keep their doors open.

How many people couldn't use an oil change for their car, truck or motorcycle, done at a shop run by the American working guy?

Thinking about a heartfelt gift for mom? Mom would LOVE the services of a local cleaning lady for a day.

My computer could use a tune-up, and I KNOW I can find some young guy who is struggling to get his repair business up and running.

OK, you were looking for something more personal. Local crafts people spin their own wool and knit them into scarves. They make jewelry, and pottery and beautiful wooden boxes.

Christmas 2011 -- Birth of a New Tradition (Cont'd)

Plan your holiday outings at local, owner operated restaurants and leave your server a nice tip. And, how about going out to see a play or ballet at your hometown theatre.

Musicians need love too, so find a venue showcasing local bands.

Honestly, people, do you REALLY need to buy another ten thousand Chinese lights for the house? When you buy a five dollar string of light, about fifty cents stays in the community. If you have those kinds of bucks to burn, leave the mailman, trash guy or babysitter a nice BIG tip.

You see, Christmas is no longer about draining American pockets so that China can build another glittering city. Christmas is now about caring about US, encouraging American small businesses to keep plugging away to follow their dreams. And, when we care about other Americans, we care about our communities, and the benefits come back to us in ways we couldn't imagine. THIS is the new American Christmas tradition.

Forward this to everyone on your mailing list -- post it to discussion groups -- throw up a post on Craigslist in the Rants and Raves section in your city -- send it to the editor of your local paper and radio stations, and TV news departments. This is a revolution of caring about each other, and isn't that what Christmas is about?

Fellowship Summer Garden Tour



The first ever ***Fellowship Summer Garden Tour*** is tentatively planned for July 7, 2012. This fundraiser has two purposes, to make money and to open our fellowship and grounds to the greater community. Garden tours are a fun way to meet the community and to exchange plant information. Other members' gardens will be part of the afternoon tour.

The tour will start with a simple picnic lunch at the fellowship and a guided tour of the fellowship gardens. Then our guests will be presented with a detailed map to other members' gardens.

At this time we ask members to think about how you would like to help. We will need Fellowship Garden Tour hosts, sandwich makers, ticket sellers, those gardeners who could help spruce up gardens, writers, artists, and flyer distributors. No jobs will be burdensome and all will be fun to do. The asking ticket price will be \$10.

- The committee consists of Mary C., Donna C., Teresa K. and Judy W.
- Put this date on your 2012 calendars.
- This fundraising plan has been approved by the UUFYS board.

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