

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF YELLOW SPRINGS



Newsletter

December 2012

Calendar of Programs

Sunday, December 2

10:00—The UUFYS Story

This program relates the history and evolution of our Fellowship as seen through the eyes of some of our Founders and long-time members.

Sunday, December 9

10:00—The Poverty Simulation

Presented by youth member Teresa F.

This simulation is intended to represent one month of life in poverty. The goal of this Social Justice program is to enlighten, to introduce the struggles of families in poverty to those who are not. People who participate in this simulation will be given a role to play as a family member. Your goal is to pay the bills, stay in school, and put food on the table. It may be more difficult than you think .

Sunday, December 16

10:00—'Tis the Season, 'Tis the Story

Presented by UU minister, Rev. Richard V.

What makes Christmas Christmas is not the facts, but a story, a story of long ago that has been added to and subtracted from. It is also what we make it. It is a story about hope, about overcoming in the face of great odds of ever doing so. It is a very human story, about love, and suffering, and honoring a baby who later made real the love of which he spoke. Christmas becomes our story. It is what we bring to this season.

11:45—Souper Sunday

Soup and bread provided by various members. Please bring food to share, if you like, and your own table setting.

Sunday, December 23

10:00—A Christmas Carol Timeline

The UUFYS choir, with Musical Director Barbara L., will explore early chant through contemporary offerings, looking through the lens of scriptural and cultural influence. Instrumental and vocal soloists along with group singing will be featured in this special program.



Sunday, December 30

10:00—Out of the Darkness

Blythe P., with the assistance of the youth and others of the congregation, will help guide us out of the darkness of winter toward the comforting light of the coming year. We'll use our drums and noise-makers to drive out our regrets and sorrows and turn toward our hopes and aspirations.

Sunday, January 6

10:00—Standing on the Edge

Presented by Lathe S. a former Catholic Priest, now a Unitarian Universalist and a Buddhist.

As we stand on the edge between the last year and the next, we will look at our place in the wheel of the year through the lens of a Buddhist story and a story from the Hebrew Scriptures.

11:45—Potluck Luncheon

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

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 during the potluck lunch on the first 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 as a formal member.

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

767-1603

or

shbuzz2001@sbcglobal.net.

She is happy to answer your questions.

UUFYS Executive Board Officers Elected June 2012

President—To be determined

Secretary—Joann H.

Treasurer—Mary S.

Members at Large:

Bobbi T.

James O.

Veronica D.

Christina P.

Committee Meeting Times

Here are the committee meeting times. All committees encourage new members; you may sit in on a session without committing to it.

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

Finance Committee—Meets 1st Thursday of the month at 9 am and other times as needed.

Member Services—Meets the 4th Sunday of every month.

New Members—Meets last Sunday of the month.

Program—After November, 2012, meets first Sunday of the month.

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

Remember...



Join Singing at Friends Care

Join members of UUFYS in singing with the residents of

Friends Care Community
at

150 E. Herman Street in Yellow Springs

Anyone is welcome to come and sing at 2:00 on the following dates:

Dec 9, 2012

Feb 10, 2013

April 14, 2013

June 9, 2013

Gather inside the main entrance when you arrive at Friends Care.

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

UUFYS Social Justice Year End Report

By Peter W. and Ann T.

This year, the Social Justice Committee has been active with programs on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Included this year have been presentations including: WYSO – Martin Luther King, Jr. – African American Voices: Are we listening? What are we learning? – “I can't believe we're arguing about birth control again!” – Local food production – Ethical eating – Veterans' Day, for examples.

Some of our projects this year include:

- The June and October Sidewalk Sale Booths with educational handouts
- Community Thanksgiving with 7 turkey-cookers this year
- Ending capital punishment
- Supporting Southern Georgia pecan growers through UUSC
- Food pantry donations

The plate collections for charities this year included:

- DayBreak
- UUSC
- Planned Parenthood
- Glen Helen Association
- Del Pueblo
- AIDS Resource Center OHIO
- Family Violence Prevention of Greene County
- Beavercreek Wetlands
- ACLU
- Dayton International Peace Museum
- United Nations Population Fund
- Interfaith Hospitality Network

If all of this great Social Justice Committee information is getting you excited and interested in knowing more about what UUFYS is doing and planning for next year, be sure to talk to a committee member about becoming involved—better yet, just show up for the December meeting.



As part of the November 4th program "Everything is Fine", Jewel G. read from a poem, *I've Learned* by Omer B. Washington. A number of people requested a copy, so a copy of what Jewel read was sent to the newsletter by Debbie D. The work can be found on the web in a number of forms, so here is the full (the editor hopes) work.

I've Learned...

by Omer B. Washington

I've learned that you cannot make someone love you. All you can do is be someone who can be loved. The rest is up to them.

I've learned that no matter how much I care, some people just don't care back.

I've learned that it takes years to build up trust and only seconds to destroy it.

I've learned that it's not what you have in your life but who you have in your life that counts.

I've learned that you can get by on charm for about fifteen minutes. After that, you'd better know something.

I've learned that you shouldn't compare yourself to the best others can do, but to the best you can do.

I've learned that it's not what happens to people, It's what they do about it.

I've learned that no matter how thin you slide it, there are always two sides.

I've learned that you should always have loved ones with loving words. It may be the last time you'll see them.

I've learned that you can keep going long after you think you can't.

I've learned that heroes are the people who do what has to be done when it needs to be done, regardless of the consequences.

I've learned that there are people who love you dearly, but just don't know how to show it.

I've learned that sometimes when I'm angry I have the right to be angry, but that doesn't give me the right to be cruel.

I've learned that true friendship continues to grow even over the longest distance. Same goes for true love.

I've learned that just because someone doesn't love you the way you want them to doesn't mean they don't love you with all they have.

I've learned that no matter how good a friend is, they're going to hurt you every once in a while and you must forgive them for that.

I've learned that it isn't always enough to be forgiven by others. Sometimes you have to learn to forgive yourself.

I've learned that no matter how bad your heart is broken, the world doesn't stop for your grief.

I've learned that our background and circumstances may have influenced who we are, but we are responsible for who we become.

I've learned that just because two people argue, it doesn't mean they don't love each other. And just because they don't argue, it doesn't mean they do.

I've learned that sometimes you have to put the individual ahead of their actions.

I've learned that two people can look at the exact same thing and see something totally different.

I've learned that no matter the consequences, those who are honest with themselves go farther in life.

I've learned that your life can be changed in a matter of hours by people who don't even know you.

I've learned that even when you think you have no more to give, when a friend cries out to you, you will find the strength to help.

I've learned that writing, as well as talking, can ease emotional pains.

I've learned that the people you care most about in life are taken from you too soon.

I've learned that it's hard to determine where to draw the line between being nice and not hurting people's feelings and standing up for what you believe.

I've learned that people will forget what you said, and people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

Pictures of Fellowship Life

by Peter W.

Newest UUFYS 2012 member. Emma Lucille M., born 11.11.2012.

...and photos from the Yellow Springs Community Thanksgiving Dinner.



From UUA.org

Fear of the Fiscal Cliff

by Peter Morales
President, Unitarian Universalist Association

Fear of plummeting over the "fiscal cliff" is driving the political discourse in Washington right now. The conversation, however, needs to be framed not as a political or economic issue, but as a moral issue. The question should not be what group's particular interests are advanced, but rather as an issue about the common good.

Global economic, social and political systems have brought about a greater concentration of wealth. This has resulted in a lower standard of living and growing lack of opportunity. Since 1976, hourly wages have declined by 7 percent while the share of total income going to the top 1 percent of earners rose from 9 percent to 23.5 percent. Think about that for a moment. One percent now holds almost one quarter of all income.

Too many people struggle to provide for their families, have been cheated and abused by financial institutions, and ache under a burden of debt, unemployment and fading hope. This isn't about numbers; this is about human dignity and hope. Our system is broken, but it can be fixed. But we need to let our greatest hopes and aspirations steer this debate instead of our greed and fear.

Unitarian Universalists believe in the inherent worth of every person, strive for justice, equity and compassion in our relationships, and work for social policies that reflect our moral values.

As President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, I call upon our elected political leaders to let the common good, not the interests of the powerful, guide you toward reaching an agreement. I call upon you to stand up for those most marginalized in our society.

Unitarian Universalists across the country are joining with other faith communities to ask Congress for a just and compassionate federal budget. The Unitarian Universalist Association has joined with other religious organizations, including Christians, Muslims and Jews, in calling on our nation's lawmakers to enact a "faithful budget." This interfaith coalition is in agreement that the faithful way forward to fiscal health is to focus on job creation, revenue increases, a shared commitment to the common good, and cuts in unnecessary military spending.

The urgency is real, the time is now, to make a difference for all Americans who work, live and believe in this country. I urge our elected leaders of this country to let hope, compassion and goodwill shape a better future for all.

Unitarian Universalist Fellow-
ship of Yellow Springs
P.O. Box 480