



Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

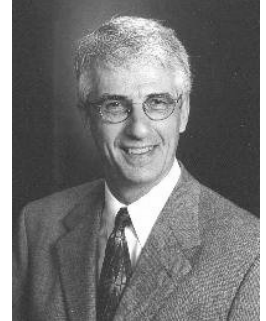
8690 Yankee Street Dayton, OH 45458 phone (937) 436-3628 fax (937) 436-3629
Email: admin@mvuuf.org <http://www.mvuuf.org>

April 2005
Vol. LII No. 8

The Forum

Richard's Reflections

The Ten Commandments are fundamental to Jewish and Christian beliefs. Their origin, as told in two similar accounts in the Hebrew Bible, were ascribed to Moses who met with the Lord at Horeb as the Israelites were escaping bondage in Egypt. While the accounts differ slightly, the second account in Deuteronomy is accompanied by the Shema (*to hear*), the fundamental law in Jewish culture: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind." These verses are recited by many Jews twice daily. To this the Christian scriptures add, "and you will love your neighbor as yourself."



Rev. Richard Venus

In courthouses, city squares and capital buildings in several cities in the South, tablets containing these Ten Commandments have been established. The ACLU and others are going to court in protest of this religious statuary. The irony is that those who want these tablets to remain argue that they are not religious but civic in nature because they form the basic of the laws of our nation and therefore do not violate the constitutional prohibition against the establishment of religion.

Certainly proscriptions against murder, lying, and stealing are part of our legal system, but the intent of these commandments was not to create a legal but rather a spiritual guide to life. These are religious instructions, a framework around which we are to build ethics and values. The ACLU is right in arguing that they have no place on courthouse lawns. Those who argue most vociferously for the display of such tablets want to ignore this fundamental principle—the state is not to interfere in religious practice. To erect such a monument certainly offers only two perspectives on religious observance and must be offensive to those whose beliefs are not in keeping with Jewish and Christian traditions.

Sadly, a theologically conservative view of religion dominates public discourse in our land these days. I suggest that we who honor a more inclusive and liberal view of theology and faith speak out for our beliefs and stand with those other minorities who struggle to be heard and respected in these troubled times.

Richard

VISION STATEMENT *We are a welcoming spiritual congregation encouraging one another on our personal journeys, embracing diversity, nurturing community, and working together for social justice. We actively promote the liberal religious principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association.*

Scheduled Services

Sunday, April 3—11:00 AM

“HUUmor” Laughter lifts our spirits through stories, song and satire. This April Fool’s Sunday service is an Alternative Worship Experience. Be prepared to enjoy a good laugh or two or three or more. The choir will sing.

Sunday, April 10—11:00 AM

“Goodness Grace” This theme is another in an occasional series of services that focus on traditional language that Unitarian Universalists use, but not in traditional ways. Richard Venus will discuss what grace means to him. Phil Wise is the worship associate.

Sunday, April 17—11:00 AM

“Double Vision: Two Futures for MVUUF” As the Fellowship begins its annual pledge campaign, MVUUF board treasurer Scott Leonard (aka Mr. UU’s brother) will lead this service around the importance and meaning of stewardship. Let’s invest in our future together. The choir will sing. Carol Narigon is the worship associate.

Sunday, April 24—11:00 AM

“Standing Up For Earth” On this Earth Day Sunday, Richard Venus will lend his protest voice to the chorus of those who are concerned about the damage to and fate of the earth.

Sunday, May 1—11:00 AM

“The Mind of God” Richard Venus will speak of the nature of God as some have come to understand the supreme deity. Rich Robinson will be the worship associate. The choir will sing.

Our Staff

The Rev. Richard Venus, Minister

Office Hours: By appointment (except Monday)

Barb Weber, Director of Lifespan Religious Education

Office Hours: Wednesday 11 AM—1:30 PM, Sunday AM

Barbara Kelley, Office Manager

Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 9:00 AM—3:00 PM



MVUUF Board of Trustees

Barbara Czestochowa
President

Dave Rengel
Vice President

Scott Leonard
Treasurer

Sharon Harmer
Secretary

Gail Cyan
Public Relations Trustee

Yolanda Crooms
Activities Trustee

Maureen O’Meara
Social Concerns Trustee

Laurie Shows
LRE Trustee

Rich Robinson
Membership Trustee

Joe Zimmerman
Operations Trustee

Highlights:

Pledge Campaign	page 3
Announcements	page 4
Garage & Plant Sale Sign Up	page 5
Events & Meetings	page 6
Concerning Social Concerns	page 7
Lifespan Religious Education	page 8
UU District Conference Info	page 10
Calendar	page 12

Board Reports

Summary of Board of Trustees Meeting of March 17, 2005

At the March meeting, the Board decided to:

1. Hire Dale Bockhorst as bookkeeper.
2. Set special board meetings to go over a budget for the coming year. (12:30 PM on April 3 and May 22)
3. Buy back the Office Manager's accrued comp time. (It fell within the established budget.)
4. Hold a follow up mediation on roles of the board/staff/Fellowship on April 16.

Other items of interest were that *hunger* will be the issue for Social Concerns in the coming year; the Activities Committee has scheduled a number of events in the coming months; and the Music Committee is developing a music resource list.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Harmer

Pledge Campaign Has Arrived

The annual pledge campaign is coming our way this April and May! Here's the plan so far: the formal kickoff is planned for Sunday, April 17. From then until mid-May, canvassing will be in high gear.

We'll see if we can raise enough to fund all the wonderful programs we have in mind. Once you've told us how generous your pledges are, the Board will match pledged dollars against priorities and publish a "semi-final" budget by late May. If pledge totals continue increasing after that, the Board will decide how best to apply the extra and publish a final budget for everyone's consideration at the June Congregational Meeting.

Thanks in advance for your generosity!

Scott Leonard, Treasurer

President's Message

"Show up! Listen! Speak your truth! And let go of the outcome!" A guest minister, Emily Gage, spoke these words of wisdom at our March 13 service. They are wise words for individuals to live by and for our Fellowship relationships.

I have been the president of the Fellowship for almost three months. What I would like to report to you is that we have a group of incredibly dedicated, sincere, hardworking folks on our staff and board. Every one of them is committed to the best for our community. Have misunderstandings occurred? Yes. Have people taken action that others didn't agree with at the time? Yes. Have all the decisions been made for the right reasons? Yes.

What does seem apparent to me is that we continue to operate the way we have operated when we were smaller. Both the staff and board need to make adjustments. Are they willing to do that? Yes. What is needed is a clarification of roles and a closer alignment of the board and staff.

Seventeen folks showed up on March 5—a very cold and snowy Saturday. All board members and staff showed up; listened; spoke their truth and did their best to let go of the results. Are all the problems solved? No. Are all the hurt feelings healed? No. There was a commitment by all present that we would do our best to speak directly to individuals where hurt feelings and misunderstanding may still exist in order to regain or strengthen trust. We made a commitment to work on our communication among ourselves and to all of you.

What I ask of each of us is that we be patient with the process. Support, rather than be too quick to judge the staff and board. Don't make assumptions. Be careful of gossip. When you hear something or experience an action, clear it up with the person involved. If you need help to do that—ask for it. If we as a community walk around with misunderstanding and hurts not healed, we as an entire community suffer. Please remember that all of us make up this community. Give folks the benefit of the doubt. Trust that people are making the best choices with the information they have. We need a community that will stay together and support each other through rough times and through great times. Show up! Listen! Speak your truth! Let go of the results!

In service,

Barbara Czestochowa

Announcements

We're Looking For a Few Good Men and Women

In keeping with our by-laws, nominations for officers and trustees are presented and voted on at the January congregational meeting. The candidates that are elected then take office at the following congregational meeting in June. You may recall that unexpected, last-minute resignations by the president, vice president, and secretary prior to the January congregational meeting made it necessary for us to elect officers at that meeting to fill the unexpired terms. Barbara Czeszochowa (president), David Rengel (vice president) and Sharon Harmer (secretary) are now serving as interim officers until we elect officers to serve a full term commencing in June. Though Barbara was also elected to a full term as president, beginning in June, she has indicated that she will be unable to do so because of a change in her work schedule.

At this time, your nominations committee, chaired by Genevieve Harvey, is seeking recommendations for candidates for a one year term for these offices: President, Vice President, and Secretary. Additionally, there is an open seat for a three-year term on the Nominating Committee. Candidates for these offices must be voting members of MVUUF for at least one year and, of course, qualified and willing to serve. A candidate for president preferably has prior experience as an officer or trustee at MVUUF. For complete job descriptions of these positions, check the governance link at our web site MVUUF.org.

The nominating committee would like your input. If you wish to recommend someone or volunteer yourself, please contact Genevieve Harvey. Let us hear from you.

Nominating Committee

Genevieve Harvey, Chair
Iris Carter
Gary Courts
Mary Anne Frey
Laurel Herminghausen
Mike Nelson

Free Legal Consultation

Attorney *Mark Kalafatas* is available at the Fellowship on Mondays from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Please call the Fellowship office, 436-3628, to make an appointment.

Activities

Incredible Movie Night

Friday, April 8 is Movie Night and it's going to be *incredible!* Come at 6:30 PM and watch *The Incredibles*, the story of a retired superhero's struggle to cope in a world where being super is no longer allowed. Featuring the voice talents of Holly Hunter, Craig T. Nelson, and *This American Life's* Sarah Vowel, *The Incredibles* deals with parenthood, self-acceptance, and ethical behavior. It's also funny and really cool! So come to the Fellowship and get *incredible!*

May Day

Celebrate Beltane/May Day at the Fellowship! We'll be fire jumping. We'll be dancing around the May Pole! We'll be learning! We'll be eating! All immediately following the worship service on May 1st.

ExcUrsions

Mark your calendar for:
June 17—Cincinnati Men's Chorus "Soul Sounds"
July 23—Garrison Keillor and the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra. Look for more information soon!

Caring and Sharing Committee

We are in need of volunteers to visit members who are ill or recovering from an accident. Volunteers will take food and/or flowers and follow up with the individual, as well as keep the congregation informed of the member's progress. Please contact *Julie Bragg* if you would like to be on this committee.

—*Rich Robinson, Membership Trustee*

The ChaliceLight Gallery

Fellowship artists have an opportunity to display their artwork in the April gallery display. Artists may display 2-3 pieces, of any variety. Contact our 2005 ChaliceLight Gallery Chair *Joan Albrecht* to participate. Our May 2005 program will feature works from "We Care Arts."

Aikido Group

Aikido is a defensive, Japanese martial art with deeply spiritual aspects. Classes are open to all at the Fellowship and are led by *Greg and Katie Reese*. They take place on Saturdays (9:00-10:30 AM) and some Monday evenings. Contact the Reese's to confirm times. Beginners are welcome and there is no charge to MVUUF members who want to participate in the sport but not get a ranking in Aikido.

MVUUF Garage/Plant Sale Volunteer/Donation Form

The MVUUF Garage/Plant Sale will be held **Saturday, May 21 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.**

This event is being held to raise money for the Fellowship. All proceeds will go to the MVUUF general fund. For more information contact Cathy Becker or Judy Rengel.

Please indicate below what you can donate in items to sell or time to volunteer.

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Mailing address _____ Email address _____

Description of items you can donate. Please note they must be in useable condition. Examples include kitchen gadgets, household goods, decorations, games, toys, children's items, tools, electronics, exercise equipment. Please itemize any items larger than a standard book box.

Do you need a place to store these items until the sale? _____ Yes _____ No
Do you need help getting these items to the sale? _____ Yes _____ No

Description of plants you can donate _____

Do you need extra pots for repotting or seeding? _____ Yes _____ No

Description of baked goods you can donate _____

We also need volunteers. Please indicate below if you can do any of the following:

_____ I can pick up items in my truck and haul to/from a storage unit the month before the sale.

_____ I can help price items the week before the sale.

_____ I can help set up tables the day before the sale.

_____ I can work the day of the sale (Staff cash registers, sell coffee, tea, baked goods).

_____ 9 AM—4 PM _____ 9 AM—12:30 PM _____ 12:30—4 PM

_____ I can help pack up unsold items for donation to Goodwill the evening after the sale.

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORMS TO CATHY BECKER, JUDY RENGEL OR THE MVUUF OFFICE.
8690 Yankee Street, Dayton, OH 45458 Fax to: 937-436-3629

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Smart Choices

Smart Choices meets at the Fellowship on the first and third Mondays from 7:30 to 9:00 PM. The group is open to all who are interested. We always do something to enhance our lives in one way or another.

Monday, April 4: We will meet at the Fellowship and go to a movie at Crosspoint Center. We will have discount tickets. Call **Sylvia Wince** for information on time and movie.

Monday, April 18: We will meet at the Thai Nine Restaurant in the Oregon district for dinner together. Call **Jeni Cullen** for more information.

Monday, May 2: **Ellen Beck** will give a talk about a topic related to psychology.

Monday, May 16: **Alexander Sholp**, an expert in estate planning, will talk about how people can avoid probate and reduce State of Ohio Estate (inheritance) Tax and avoid lawyer fees upon the death of a spouse or parent. This information is especially important for single people and for the second person's death in a marriage. He will also answer questions about power of attorney and living wills. Call **Sylvia Wince** if you plan to attend. There will be free handouts for this session.

Poetic Insights

Poetic Insights is a group that meets monthly at the Wince's house. We eat a sack lunch at 1:00 PM, and at 1:30 PM we settle down to write prose or poetry about a subject given by the prompter. After writing for about a half hour, we share our thoughts and our rough drafts. Sometimes we break the rules and write about something entirely different. That is okay. Spelling doesn't count. Try it. You might like it. Our next meeting is Sunday, April 10. Contact the **Winces** for directions to the house.

CineManiacs—Sunday Evening, April 10

If you're wild about art films, join us the second Sunday of each month at the Neon Movies for the 5—5:30ish showing. Since the Neon Movies schedule is sometimes rather last-minute, the title and time will be electronically sent on the Thursday prior to the Sunday event. After the movie we'll meet in the Neon lobby cafe for fellowship and a discussion. Everyone is welcome to join us - friends, family, colleagues. If you have questions call **Trudy Krisher** or **Lindy McDonough**.

Evening Book Discussion Group

The Evening Book Discussion Group will meet on Tuesday, April 12th at 7:00 PM at **Kathleen Pennington's** home to discuss *Religion Without God* by Mike O'Brien. New participants are welcome. Contact **Ann Snively** if you would like more information.

First Thursday Theological Society

The First Thursday Theological Society will meet on April 7 at 7:30 PM in the Founders' Room. We will discuss an essay by Richard Venus, which he will distribute before the meeting. Contact **Richard Venus** or **Ann Snively** if you would like more information. New participants are welcome.

MVUUF Daytime Book Club

The Book Club meets on a Wednesday each month at the Fellowship at 10:30 AM in the Founders' Room. We discuss the book of the month and then go to lunch together. This is not a closed group. Come join us! Our selection for April 27 is *The Snowfox* by Susan Fromberg Schaeffer. The book we will discuss on May 18 is *The Blessing Way*, Tony Hillerman's first novel. For further information, call **Carol Vincent** or **Sylvia Wince**.

INTERWEAVE

INTERWEAVE, a support/discussion group for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) people and their allies, meets on the **third Wednesday**, September through May, at 7:00 PM in the Founders' Room at the Fellowship. Contact **Joe Law**.

Concerning Social Concerns

Thanks To GAYT Contributors

Thanks for a wonderful response to the *Guest at Your Table* campaign. As of March 21, I had received over \$2,000 in *Guest at Your Table* donations made out directly to UUSC or deposited in cash in *Guest at Your Table* boxes. The office has also received a number of checks made out to MVUUF with a GAYT designation; we will have the final tally of all donations for next month's Forum.

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, under the direction of President Charles Clements and its new program director Atema Eclai, will be putting your money to work for global human rights, with its program newly refocused on three primary themes: opposing economic injustice, defending civil liberties, and promoting environmental justice. Thanks for joining the 32,000 members of UUSC and its many additional contributors. You make it possible to advance the cause of justice and service in the U.S. and across the world.

If you missed me during the campaign, there are also donation envelopes at the Fellowship for you to send your donations directly to UUSC.

—*Maureen O'Meara*, Social Concerns Trustee

Social Justice Award Nominations

UUSC is now accepting nominations for the Social Action Leadership Award, the Mary-Ella Holst Youth Activist Award and the Vision of Justice Sermon Award. Nominations are needed by April 15, 2005.

The Social Action Leadership Award honors creative, inspiring and effective leadership by an individual or group working for justice.

The Mary-Ella Holst Youth Activist Award recognizes and honors the achievement of an individual or group of youth and young adults who are advancing human rights and social justice through activism and leadership.

The Vision of Justice Sermon Award honors a sermon that reflects upon a combination of social action and spirituality by clearly expressing Unitarian Universalist principles as they are put into practice through current UUSC programs.

To nominate yourself or another candidate, you may submit the nomination by email to awards@uusc.org or by regular mail to 130 Prospect Street, Cambridge, MA 02139. Remember, the nomination deadline is April 15, 2005.

Urban Hunger Project

I would like to thank everyone involved in this year's Social Concerns Workshop! *Linda Yoder, Maureen O'Meara, Bonnie Bazill-Davis, Jeni Cullen* and *Ann Rismiller* all presented great topics, and *Rich Robinson* led us through the process. We voted to work on the topic of "Urban Hunger" in 2005-2006.

We will be introducing the new topic to the community at the June congregational meeting and will begin implementing it in September. A sub-committee will be forming soon to get this project rolling, so now is the time to get involved with all your great ideas for helping those who are hungry in the Dayton area. Expect more information in the coming months. Thank you to everyone who came to the workshop. Your voices and support for social action are essential!

The Other Place

MVUUF serves lunch to 200 people on the second Saturday of each month at 11:30 AM at The Other Place at 840 South Patterson Boulevard. Your donation should be delivered hot and ready to serve 15-20 people. Sign up in the Gathering Space or call *Diane Dover*. If you have left dishes at The Other Place, please retrieve them from the blue bin in the MVUUF kitchen. Our next lunch will be on Saturday, April 9.

ESP Pantry

MVUUF members contribute to the Emergency Services Pantry to help people who need food and other necessities. Dry goods and other non-perishable food items and disposable diapers (size 3 or larger) are always needed. Grocery bags with handles as well as other sacks are also always welcome.

Place contributions in the purple bin marked ESP in the kitchen. Thanks!

Lifespan Religious Education

Thoughts From Barb....

How much are you willing to give for the best for your family? Most of us would give just about anything if we could assure our loved ones would be healthy, happy and growing. When needs arise, we spend longer caring for loved ones, we dig deeper into the budget to pay for unexpected expenses, we find a way to make our dreams come true.



*Barb Weber
Director Of
RE*

Most of us would say it is worth every bit of the investment in our families. In fact, in some inexplicable way, the devotion of our physical, emotional and financial selves to our families is both cause and effect of what makes our loved ones matter so much to us.

Our Fellowship family also needs us to make sacrifices for it. We have said this before, but at this time of transition, it is especially so. We have recognized that our past growth has stressed our resources to the breaking point. We have also recognized that we need to grow further in order to fill and support our new building and to become the liberal religious voice our area needs so desperately.

So now is the time to fulfill our dreams. Now is the time to volunteer our time and talents — as committee member, as YRE teacher, as gardener, as phone caller, as whatever your skills and interests suggest to you.

As our annual Pledge Campaign is about to start, it is also the time to step forward with our checkbooks, to make the sacrifices that will allow our church family to thrive as we have said we want it to. Just as there are those times in our families that require us to dig a little deeper, now it is time to dig deeper for the Fellowship.

So many of you have given so much to this, our beloved community, through the years. I am grateful to you for getting us to this place and time. As in our families, we are likely to get back so much more than we give. Let us remember how important this Fellowship is in our lives, and let us give what it takes to move us into the future.

May it be so,
Barb

All About Teaching

Genevieve Harvey, who has been one of our preschool teachers in Religious Education this year, wrote this about teacher recruitment:

You *could* be the one! All you need is some flexibility, love of children, and the ability to attend to many things at once. (I am serious about that last one.) The curriculum and activities are all here for you. The books and supplies are available. Snacks are provided. You do not need to be a member, but you do need to submit an application to the Lifespan Religious Education office or to Barb Weber if you have not taught before and know that you could be background-checked, as per policy. (This is for the safety of our children, so please don't be offended if you are asked to be fingerprinted.) If you are not so sure about being "alone" with a class, you can ask for someone from the office to check on you more often, or they can recruit a teen assistant or another adult to help.

It really is so much fun to teach these children. The hour flies by so fast and we never get to do all of the things I had planned. Besides that, each of them has such a unique personality and it's wonderful to get to know them. **There will be more opportunities to teach, but *these children will only be this age once.*** I hope you take the opportunity as it is available now. I know Barb is looking for teachers for summer and I don't think that anyone has claimed any of the quarters for next school/church year yet.

—*Genevieve Harvey*

Barb Weber adds:

I do hope to have all summer teaching positions filled (and as many of the fall ones as possible) before my departure on May 31. Plans are underway to have staff support available, but the program needs volunteers to succeed. Please let me know if you are willing to help keep things running smoothly during this upcoming time of transition.

Being A UU Parent

Have you wondered how to raise your children in accord with our Unitarian Universalist Principles? Worried about whether your children are understanding and absorbing the morals you think are important? Have you been stumped by some of the questions your young ones ask, or are you quaking at the thought of their approaching adolescence? Then this class is for you.

Being a UU Parent is a curriculum created by the Unitarian Universalist Association to help parents deal with just these sorts of questions. We will offer the course on five consecutive Tuesdays at 7:00 PM, beginning April 19. There will be lots of time for discussion with other parents, as well as thought-provoking exercises to do at home. Parents with children of all ages will benefit from the class. Let Barb Weber know if you are interested, and if you will need childcare.

YRE Curriculum

The Youth Religious Education Curriculum Sub-Committee is in the process of planning next year's courses for our young people. If you have suggestions or would like to be part of the planning process, please let Barb Weber know.

Got plans for Sunday, April 17?

Everyone who has taught Youth Religious Education since last June is invited to our annual Teacher Appreciation lunch on Sunday, April 17. Yes, this is earlier than in previous years, so that we are less likely to conflict with end of school year activities for families. Please save the date and watch for more details in the bulletins.

If you haven't taught Youth RE, but would like to say thanks to those who took on this vital work with our next generation, please contact *Alysoun Reichard* or *Rita Cyr*. They are looking for people who can help with food donations and setup on the 17th.

Many thanks to all for all you do!

Children's Charity

We are continuing to collect donations for victims of the tsunami in Children's Chapel and in classrooms. Parents, please help your youngsters understand the importance of sharing with people who are rebuilding their lives.

All donations will be appreciated—coins add up surprisingly quickly. Thank you to all who help the children to remember this project.

We are also still collecting beverage pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Thank you to all who helped fill our large collection house in the Gathering Space. We are well on our way to filling it a second time. Dayton's Ronald House, which provides services to families of hospitalized children, recycles the tabs to earn money. One of our own youngsters recently shared with me how much she had enjoyed spending time at the Ronald House when a sibling was at Children's Medical Center. You never know who will benefit from the good deeds we do.

Heartland UU Conference

It is not too late to plan to attend the Heartland UU District Annual Meeting in Cincinnati, April 8-10. In addition to meeting UUs from several states, this is an opportunity to attend workshops on such diverse topics as:

- **Advocacy, Media and Organizing: Power for Social Change**
- **Funding for Congregational Growth 101: aka Desperate Grantwriters**
- **Pursuit of Passionate Purpose: Success Strategies for a Rewarding Life**

Full and detailed information is available at the district's website, HeartlandUU.org or in the Fellowship office. See the full page description of the conference on the next page.

**“Gather in Spirit”
Spring Conference and Annual Meeting in Cincinnati**

A message from the Heartland UU District Office:

Join Unitarian Universalists from 54 affiliated congregations for a weekend of exploring who we are in relationship to one another as we “Gather in Spirit” for the Heartland Annual Spring Conference. Mark your calendars for April 8-10, 2005, and drive, car pool, or hitchhike on down to Cincinnati for a weekend full of music, worship, dialogue, and building person-to-person connections. (Only kidding about the hitchhiking!)

The Heartland District of the UUA includes congregations from Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky and Indiana. As a congregation affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association, Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship also holds district membership enabling us to participate in this annual meeting and vote on issues pertaining to the Heartland District.

But as important as it is for MVUUF to be represented at the Annual Meeting, it is even more important for us to connect with other Unitarian Universalists and to know that we are not alone in our commitment to liberal religion! In addition to worship and informal gatherings, the conference offers workshops and learning exchange sessions to help grow our faith, improve our congregations, and nurture our own spiritual growth.

If you are called to social justice, attend workshops on media relations, creating social justice networks, or hear the latest on the UUA’s anti-racism work. Those passionate about religious education can explore the RE curriculum fair, learn about welcoming persons with special needs, or teaching peace. Is money or congregational growth your thing? Workshops on grantwriting, managing resources, and leading change may be perfect for you! Personal and spiritual growth is certainly not neglected, with sessions on couples communication and strategies for a successful life offered.

In addition to a full slate of workshops, congregation teams of three or more can reserve an hour to meet with a Heartland consultant to strategize or build a plan for a new or existing ministry. Consultants are available to explore conflict engagement, compensation, RE, anti-racism/anti-oppression and accessibility issues. Gather your team and sign-up on your registration form.

Youth are invited to attend all Heartland district sessions and can stay overnight Friday for free at First Unitarian Church in Cincinnati (with appropriate adult sponsorship and parental permission).

Dates:	April 8-10, 2005
Time:	Worship and Banner Parade begins at 6:00 PM on Friday. Saturday sessions are scheduled from 9:30 AM to 6:30 PM. Worship at one of Cincinnati’s four congregations on Sunday or welcome other attendees at MVUUF’s Sunday service.
Place:	Vernon Manor Hotel and First Unitarian Church, Cincinnati
Cost:	\$85 adults/\$40 youth
Children:	Childcare and programs are offered for infants to age 12. An optional love offering of \$20 per child is suggested.
Housing:	Commuting is an option; call the MVUUF office. Rooms at the Vernon Manor Hotel are offered at a group rate of \$85. Home hospitality with area UUs may still be available.

Interested? Intrigued? Excited? Register today! On-line registration is available at the Heartland UU website: <http://www.heartlanduu.org/>. Want to know more? Download the brochure from the Heartland website: <http://www.heartlanduu.org/>.

Prefer to get the low-down from a real person? Talk to *Leslie Woodward*, *Chuck Thomas* or *Barb Weber* for first-person testimonials. Don’t miss out on the opportunity to share ideas, learn skills, explore horizons or just hang-out with nearly 500 Unitarian Universalists in Cincinnati! Register today!

A Safety Concern

It is vital for all parents and caregivers to supervise the young ones in their care while they are at the Fellowship. Unless the children are participating in Youth Religious Education classes or arranged childcare, they should be in your immediate proximity. In recent weeks, some of our children have been roaming the halls and even going outside the building on their own. With spring and summer just around the corner, there will be an even greater desire to explore the great outdoors. We are concerned for their safety, as well as possible disruption to other Fellowship activities, when the children are left unsupervised in this way. We know parenting is hard, constant work and we appreciate your caring attention to your little ones.

YRUU

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists, our senior high youth group meets from 6:30 to 8:00 PM every Sunday evening. Activities are planned by the young people, with *Don Kazyak* and *Yolanda Crooms* serving as advisors. All ninth graders through 20-year-olds are invited to join this group.

Women of a Certain Age

If you are a woman and if you are 55 or older, you are encouraged to join **Women of a Certain Age**. We are now meeting at the Fellowship every Sunday at 9:30 AM in the K-1 room. We are studying the book, *From Age-ing to Sage-ing*, by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi. We use the UU study guide for the book, written by Reverend Patricia Hoerldoerfer. If you have any questions, please call one of the facilitators, *Marilyn Faulconer* or *Barbara Czestochowa*.

Women's Group

Sunday 9:30 – 10:45 AM

The Women's Group meets every Sunday morning for support and discussion. All women are welcome. For more information, contact *Shirley Dobson* or *Gayle Gyure*.

Community Class

The Community Class is an adult group that meets every Sunday morning at 9:30 - 10:45 AM in the Founders' Room for fellowship and thought-provoking discussion. This is a chance to let your hair down, speak your mind or say nothing at all, without criticism. Up close and personal. Please join us!

Sunday, April 3

“Spiritual, But Not Religious.” This discussion, based on the book of the same title by Robert C. Fuller, will explore the difference between honoring institutional faiths and searching for a personal faith. We will consider the thesis that unchurched spirituality is gradually reshaping the personal faiths of many who belong to mainstream religious organizations.

Moderator: *Quentin Burgess*

Sunday, April 10

“The Road to Redemption.” Books and movies often portray the road one travels from brokenness to wholeness. We will explore this journey.

Moderator: *Jim Faulconer*

Sunday, April 17

“What Really Makes You Happy?” Is it just one thing or many? Is it elusive or readily accessible - temporary or ongoing? Has your source of happiness changed over the years?

Moderator: *Tom Brown*

Sunday, April 24

“Greed” Is it possible that what is good for the individual can be bad for the greater community? Can we build a shared morality? Based on an essay by Julian Edney concerning the origins, nature, extent, and morality of this force in free market economies. To read the essay, visit the website, <http://www.g-r-e-e-d.com/GREED.htm>.

Moderator: *John Gormley*

Men's Group

The Men's Group meets the first and third Sundays of each month at 9:15 AM in the Library for fellowship and discussion. All men age 16 and older are welcome to attend.

MVUUF April 2005

Fri	1	
Sat	2	Aikido 9:00 AM New Member Party [Venus'] 7:00 PM
Sun	3	Men's Group 9:15 AM Women's Group 9:30 AM Women of a Certain Age 9:30 AM Community Class 9:30 AM <i>HUUmor</i> —Alternative Worship 11 AM Board Meeting—Special 12:30 PM YRUU 6:30 PM
Mon	4	Smart Choices 7:30 PM
Tues	5	
Wed	6	Choir Practice 7:30 PM
Thurs	7	First Thursday 7:30 PM
Fri	8	Heartland District UU Spring Conference April 8-10 Movie Night 6:30 PM
Sat	9	Aikido 9:00 AM The Other Place Meal 11:30 AM
Sun	10	Women's Group 9:30 AM Women of a Certain Age 9:30 AM Community Class 9:30 AM <i>Goodness Grace</i> 11 AM Board Meeting 12:30 PM Poetic Insights 1:30 PM (Wince's) CineManiacs 5:00 PM (Neon Movies) YRUU 6:30 PM Activities Committee 7:00 PM
Mon	11	Governance Committee 7:00 PM
Tues	12	Evening Book Club 7:00 (Offsite)
Wed	13	Choir Practice 7:30 PM
Thurs	14	
Fri	15	
Sat	16	Aikido 9:00 AM Staff/Board Meeting 10:00 AM

Sun	17	Men's Group 9:15 AM Women's Group 9:30 AM Women of a Certain Age 9:30 AM Community Class 9:30 AM <i>Stewardship</i> 11 AM Orientation 12:15 Teacher Luncheon 12:30 PM Board Meeting 12:30 PM YRUU 6:30 PM
Mon	18	Smart Choices 7:30 PM (Thai Nine)
Tues	19	UU Parent 7:00 PM
Wed	20	Choir Practice 7:30 PM Interweave 7:00 PM
Thurs	21	
Fri	22	
Sat	23	Aikido 9:00 AM
Sun	24	Women's Group 9:30 AM Women of a Certain Age 9:30 AM Community Class 9:30 AM <i>Standing Up for Earth</i> 11 AM YRUU 6:30 PM
Mon	25	Social Concerns 7:00 PM
Tues	26	UU Parent 7:00 PM
Wed	27	Daytime Book Club 10:30 AM Choir Practice 7:30 PM
Thurs	28	
Fri	29	Game Night 7:00 PM
Sat	30	Aikido 9:00 AM Croning Ceremony/Dinner 5:30 PM

Coming Soon!

Mark your calendar now for:

May Day Celebration—May 1
MVUUF Garage & Plant Sale—May 21