



Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

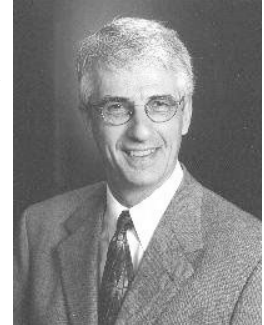
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July, 2003
Vol. I No. 11

The Forum

Richard's Reflections

The headlines are getting me down, again. They read that Ohio is a billion or so in debt and will cut aid to those in need of health care they receive from Planned Parenthood; the Bush administration can't find money for the poor or weapons of mass destruction and he's cutting out the poor in his trillion dollar tax cut; the Roman Catholic Church is stonewalling on assistance to those who were molested by priests; and Ariel Sharon and the Hamas seem to get in the way of Mid-east peace.



Rev. Richard Venus

Ah, but all is not gloomy. I am reminded of the wonderful presentation by the 6-7-8th graders at the service they helped plan and a masterful sermon by *Janice James* on homophobia and gay rights as part of our celebration of Gay Pride Month.

I offer these contrasting glimpses of the world and our community, because I need reminding of the good we do and that goodness prevails one step, one person at a time. I thank you for all the goodness you bring to the Fellowship, to me, and to the world.

There are two ways I am going to give witness to my concerns about world events. First, I am going to work hard getting bus loads of people from the Miami Valley to attend the April March on Washington on behalf of women's rights. The march is sponsored by NARAL, PPFA and others. Second, I am going to do all one voice can do to defeat George Bush and the politics of extremes in next year's election. If you'd like to join me let me know.

Note: Committee on Ministry

Last month I wrote that *Janice Beers, Calen Rayne, Linda Yoder* and *Joe Zimmerman* made up the Committee on Ministry. I add that *Carol Narigon* has recently agreed to serve as well. Feel free to talk with any of these folks about joys and concerns you have with the Fellowship's ministry to one another.

Richard

OUR MISSION:

The Miami Valley Unitarian Fellowship, a Unitarian Universalist congregation, is a community of individuals who honor human diversity and respect religious differences, and is a supportive, accepting fellowship where people of all ages may grow spiritually, intellectually and emotionally, and create ethical solutions to social problems by sharing time, talents, and personal resources.

Sunday Programs

Sunday service begins at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, June 29

“A World Without God.” *Richard Venus* will lead this service that speaks to the truths brought by a philosophy of atheism.

Sunday, July 6

“Patriotism.” This Sunday a panel of military and civilian MVUUF members will reflect on what it means to be a patriot. Some children in YRE will also contribute their thoughts.

Sunday, July 13

“The Religion of Loss and the Loss of Religion.” MVUUF member *Rich Robinson* will lead this service exploring personal loss and the value of a religious community during troubled times.

Sunday, July 20

Poet and biographer *May Sarton* was a Unitarian Universalist whose writing on nature, and aging and much more inspired and deeply informed her readers. *Janice James* and *Joyce Gibbs* will reflect on her life. *Carol Narigon* and *YRE folks* will offer special music.

Sunday, July 27

One of our favorite summer services is our hymn sing. *Jeanette Filbrun* will lead this service where the congregation picks most of the music.

This year our Sunday services will reflect the theme *Heroines, Heroes, and Our Religious Traditions*.

Our Staff

The Rev. Richard Venus, Minister
Office Hours: By appointment (except Monday)

Barbara McFarland, Office Manager
Office Hours: Mon.—Thurs., 9:00—3:00 p.m.

Barb Weber, Director of Lifespan Religious Education
Office Hours: Tue. 11—1:30 p.m., Sunday Morning

Hillary Gregg Wagner, Music Director
Office Hours: By appointment



MVUUF Board of Trustees

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Board Reports

The MVUUF Board of Trustees did not meet in June. The next regularly scheduled meeting is **July 17**. As always, all MVUUF members are welcome and encouraged to attend board meetings.

Membership News

Welcome new members:

Dan Enterline

Julie Bragg

Caring and Sharing

Please let *Lynn Haven* know if any member is hospitalized, suffering with an illness or recovering from an accident.

Orientation

Those exploring Unitarian Universalism and the Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship are invited to attend a monthly orientation session after the service on the third Sunday of each month. **The next orientation will be July 20.**

Barbara Czestochowa
Membership Trustee



Social Concerns Trustee *Maureen O'Meara*
and Treasurer *Judy Pickett*

Goals for the next year

Thank you to everyone who attended our goal planning session on June 8. Thanks to the leadership of *Barb Weber*, the group was able to set a number of goals for MVUUF for the coming year. If you would like more information about any of these goals, or would like to know more about the process by which they were created, please see *Barb Weber*.

Goals for the 2003-04 Church Year

Growth

- 20% Net Growth
- Implementation/Expansion of Visitor Follow-up Program

Social Action/Outreach

- Identify One Action by 2004 to Galvanize the Community

Beacon/Inspiration

- Mission Statement for Congregational Vote in January 2004
- Create Committee to Support PR

Spiritual/Sacred Space

- Worship Committee Develop Sanctuary Guidelines

Caring/Nurturing

- Reactivate Right Relations Committee – Focus on Developing a Covenant for How We Relate to One Another

Abundance/Fiscal, Other

- Complete Policy Manual in Time for January 2004 Congregation Meeting and Disseminate (Focus on Finance, Operations/Building)
- Hold Quarterly Scheduling Meeting
- Introduce Philosophy of Abundance into Vision and Mission Task Force Process

Announcements

A reminder that Chabad will be holding its summer camp in the building starting June 30th through July 25th. They should be finished by approximately 3:00 p.m. each weekday, so evening/weekend meetings shouldn't be affected. With the upcoming move, however, meeting space may be diminished by all the boxes that we're going to be packing!

Thanks to all who have been so patient with me and fed me information as I've taken up the reins of the office manager's position. Keep "nudging" me if I forget something that needs to be done. I'm still kind of feeling my way as I go at this point.

Barbara McFarland

Calling all hymnals!

With our single service on Sundays and the prospects of an even larger congregation in the not-too-distant future, we ask that any of you who may have borrowed a hymnal for whatever reason to please return them to the Fellowship as soon as possible. Thanks for your cooperation.

Blood drive a success

We had a very successful blood drive at the Fellowship on Saturday, June 7. The following people came to donate their blood and their time to this important event:

<i>Trudy Krisher</i>	<i>Kate Santucci</i>	<i>Pat Santucci</i>
<i>Tim Castillo</i>	<i>Jim Busko</i>	<i>Barbara McFarland</i>
<i>Alice Lizee</i>	<i>Tom Godfrey</i>	<i>Bill McFarland</i>
<i>Bill Wilson</i>	<i>Bill Ross</i>	<i>Barbara Czystachowa</i>
<i>Carol Vincent</i>	<i>Greg Reese</i>	<i>Maureen O'Meara</i>
<i>Linda Wysong</i>	<i>Diona Fowler</i>	<i>Joe Zimmerman</i>
<i>Linda Burnett</i>	<i>Dan Narigon</i>	<i>John Bierman</i>
<i>Bev Wince</i>	<i>Sylvia Wince</i>	<i>Gail Davidson</i>
<i>Ralf Grissard</i>	<i>Heather Neal</i>	<i>Richard Venus</i>
<i>Marcia Venus</i>	<i>Chuck Thomas</i>	

Although not all of the volunteers were able to give blood, 25 did donate blood. We also had two "drop-ins" who are not members of the Fellowship, *William Naylor* and *Ruby Powell*. Ruby and her husband, Hal Powell, are former members who plan to return to the Fellowship.

Again, many thanks for all of the folks who showed up Saturday morning; we plan to do this again next year in our new building.

Bev Wince

Sunday Coffee Hour needs volunteers

"Where coffee is served there is grace and splendor and friendship and happiness." Signup sheet is in the West Room, or contact *Bill Ross*. Thank you.

Worship Committee welcomes new members

Would you like to be more involved in planning worship at MVUUF? All are welcome to join the Worship Committee, which typically meets the first Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Due to schedule conflicts, the next meeting of the Worship Committee will be **Sunday, July 6** immediately following the service. Contact *Rick Lux* if you would like more information.

Upcoming Events

Rummage Sale

We will be holding a rummage sale on **July 17** (and possibly until noon on the 18th), so that we can sell some of the things we won't be able to use at Yankee Street and, of course, to make some money for the Fellowship.

This is also an opportunity for you to clear some space in your home and put your no-longer-valuable-to-you items to good use. If you have been saving things to donate, or if you are planning to clean out your garage, cabinets, attic, closets, etc. and/or simplify your life in the next 5 weeks, I really hope that you will find a way to get your stuff in the sale. The easiest way (for me!) would be for you to keep it until the afternoon of July 16, then deliver to the Fellowship. However, if you can't do that, please let me know and we'll arrange pickup and/or storage of your items by whatever means necessary.

If you prefer to price items, that would be very helpful, but if you are not sure what garage sale prices are or don't have time to bother with it, that's OK, too. If you have any really "hot" items like furniture or tools, let us know so we can put that in the ad. It really makes a big difference

If you are able to lend your time and energy, please let me know where your talents and interests lie.

Some ideas of ways to help:

- Helping to organize the event (E.g., decide times, make sure I'm not forgetting anything glaring, etc. No, this is not a real committee, but maybe an ad-hoc e-mail "task force.")
- Arranging advertising
- Picking up and/or storing items that people can't bring
- Helping to arrange and price items on July 16-- afternoon and/or evening.
- Being there the day of the sale to cashier, answer questions, feed the other volunteers, or keep the sale tables organized.

To volunteer or for more information, contact *Genevieve Harvey*.

Upcoming Group and Club Meetings

MVUUF Book Club

The MVUUF Book Club meets one Wednesday each month at the Fellowship from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Those who wish to may come at 10:15 for some social time. All are welcome. For further information, call *Carol Vincent* or *Sylvia Wince*.

July 23

Gravity by Tess Gerritsen.

August 6

Kokopelli: The Making of an Icon by Ekkehart Malotki. This will be a book review at the home of *Nancy Stamper* and everyone is invited. We will have a potluck luncheon. Please call Nancy at 435-0728 for directions.

September 10

The Samurai's Garden by Gail Tsukiyama

October

The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold

INTERWEAVE

Interweave, a discussion/support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people, will not meet in July and August. Our meetings will resume in September in the new building. For more information, contact *Joyce Gibbs*.

Aikido Group

Aikido is a defensive, Japanese martial art with deep, spiritual aspects. Classes are open to all at the Fellowship and are led by *Greg* and *Katie Reese*. They take place on **Mondays** (6:45-8:00 p.m.) and **Saturdays** (9:45-11:00 a.m.). **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.**

For those who do wish to be ranked, introductory classes are \$62/month and general classes are \$42/month. The fee permits unlimited attendance of classes at the Fellowship and at the Yellow Springs dojo (school) in Yellow Springs, plus the opportunity to receive formal rankings in aikido.

The First Thursday Theological Society will be taking July off. We will meet again on **August 7th** at 7:00 p.m. at *Ann* and *Jay Snively's* house to have dessert and discuss the case studies and essays in the final three sections of Richard Gilbert's book on ethics.

The Earth Circle encourages everyone to join us in keeping one day each month (the 9th) "technology free." It won't be totally free of technology, but a different one each month.

The Earth Circle would like to hear of your experiences and observations, both positive and negative. The Earth Circle comment box will be on the social concerns table in the West Room for both your comments and suggestions.

Curious about the Earth Circle and the Northwest Earth Institute discussion courses? Come and join us in the West Room on the **second Wednesday each month from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.** For information call *Linda Yoder*.

Groups on Summer Hiatus

Evening Book Discussion Group

The Evening Book Discussion Group will not meet in July or August. The next meeting will be **Tuesday, September 16th** at 7:00 p. m. at *Ann Snively's* house. We will discuss John Adams by David McCullough. Also, bring suggestions of titles you would like to discuss this year. The October meeting will be on the 14th at *Lucy Kazyak's* house. We will discuss Blind Assassin by Margaret Atwood.

New participants are welcome. Contact *Ann Snively* if you would like more information.

Meditation Group

Meditation Group will not meet during summer. We will be "holding our collective breath" until we meet again in our new building. Thanks to all who have participated, and we look forward to seeing you again in September. Please contact *Calen Rayne* if you have any questions.

🎵 *Notes from Hillary*

Happy Summer to Everyone!
We continue to grow in the music department! We have a lot of music planned for this summer and look forward to some exciting new offerings this fall.



Hillary Wagner
Music Director

MVUUF's Young Musicians

It is great to see the young musicians in our midst becoming involved in the larger musical community here. I have put together a list of the young players that I am aware of, however, I want to be positive that I have not overlooked anyone. **If your child plays an instrument, sings, or acts, PLEASE send me an email or give me a call.** I am putting together ensembles and don't want to unintentionally leave someone out. Given my memory- you should send me a note even if we have talked about this in the past! Please note that players of any level are welcome. I will find a way for everyone who has an interest to be able to participate.

Also of interest to young singers: *Jeanette*

Filbrun is working on a brilliant plan to make a youth choir accessible to those who are interested. We have struggled with scheduling this in the past but have high hopes that this is an attainable goal when we have only one worship service schedule around. Please contact *Jeanette* if you have any questions.

Recorder Ensemble and Recorder Consort

Starting in June we began an additional recorder ensemble for beginners (and I do mean beginners!!) and novice players. This group may also be for you if you just don't have time to practice, or feel insecure about your skill level but would like to play in a group anyway. We meet the **fourth Tuesday of the month** in the Women's Group room.

More advanced players meet the third Tuesday of the month for recorder consort. This group plays challenging music that will probably require some outside practice.

Renaissance Band

The renaissance band will meet on **Tuesday July 29th** from 7:30 till 9:00 at the Fellowship. I hope you can all make it! We play challenging music that will require some outside practice. Because of the rehearsal schedules of many of the members we meet irregularly and often perform with only a couple of review rehearsals. If you have an interest in this group please contact me.

Special Services this summer

On Sunday, August 10th we will be drumming and chanting. Please bring a drum if you have one, if you don't we have plenty here to use.

On Sunday August 17th we will continue our traditional creativity service. Please bring art, music, poetry, short stories or essays, crafts, fabric or anything that **YOU** have created to share with the congregation. When you arrive at the Fellowship there will be a sign up sheet to determine the order of presentation. **Youth are also encouraged to participate**, and will do their presentations in place of a story for all ages.

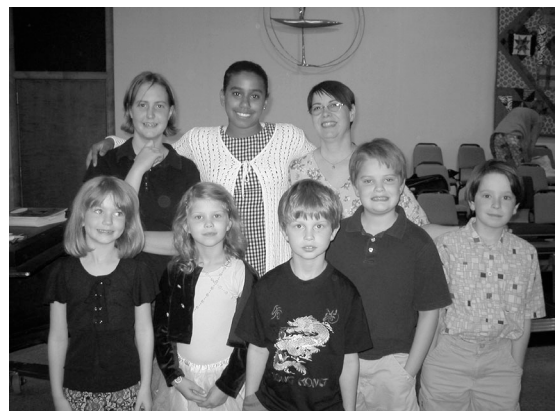
Saturday Celebrations

Our next Saturday Celebrations will be held on July 19, and August 9th. We begin the service at 5:00, follow it with a potluck dinner at 6:00, and end with a music jam from 7:00 to 9:00. I am given to understand that next music jam we'll get to hear *Don Shows* playing a new Martin guitar- who would want to miss that! Contact *Hillary Wagner* for more information. Hope to see you all there!

Drum and poetry circle will continue after the move.

As always, I hope to hear from you if you have ideas or suggestions for the music program.

Best Wishes,
Hillary Wagner



Hillary Wagner with several of MVUUF's young musicians.

Concerning Social Concerns

Social Concerns Committee

There will be no meeting in July, and in August (date yet to be determined) we will be meet at the Wince's to enjoy a potluck dinner, horseshoes, croquet and walking the labyrinth garden as well as a brief business meeting to line up our projects for the next fiscal year.

Sylvia Wince, Chair

Thanks for your generous donations

The letter below is from the Rev. Jan Loomis of Workplace ReConnections. If you would like more information about this letter, please see Sylvia Wince.

Thanks to the Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Social Concerns Committee and Fellowship members for their generous donations to our Wish List! Your assistance in stocking our office with needed supplies has been a great help as we restructured and relocated.

On July 19 we will be one of the participating groups in the Sanctuary Initiative (Faith UCC, Workplace ReConnections and Wright Computer Connections) Summer Festival held at Faith UCC. We need volunteers and donations to help us with this fundraising event.

Volunteers are needed to help with children's games and food sales. Also, we need donations of disposable dessert plates, plastic zip lock bags (small size), plastic forks and napkins for our Bake Sale.

You can contribute to our Bake Sale by donating home-made cookies or by donating prepared dessert mixes on or before the weekend of July 12-13. For further information please call **Rev. Jan Loomis** at 274-4357 (office).

Workplace ReConnections is an interfaith ministry located at Faith United Church of Christ at 200 Delaware Avenue in the Five Oaks neighborhood of Dayton. Its mission is to assist ex-offenders with work re-entry and economic stability.

Helping Hands

I'd like to give a HUGE thank you to everyone who helped out with this month's lunch at The Other Place. We were seriously short on sign ups the Wednesday before our scheduled event, but you all pulled through for me! Look for the sign up sheets in the West Room for July and August — donations tend to be lower in the warmer months, but the need is just as great. We fed quite a few people this month, and they were very appreciative! Thanks again for all the donations and help from:

Alisha Dolbeer

Jamie McQuinn

Ralf Grisard

Barb Weber

Rachel Strayer

Margaret Schryver

Bill Ross

Shawn Irish

Joe, Kurt, and Clare Zimmerman.

Diane Dover

Marilyn Faulconer

Hillary Wagner

Maureen O'Meara

Lee White

Heather Neal

Ellen Beck

Genevieve and Kayleigh Harvey

You were life savers!

Kate Santucci

UUSC Coffee Project

MVUUF is participating in the UUSC Coffee Project program with the coffee we serve during coffee hour, and through the sale of coffee (and possibly tea and hot chocolate in the future) for home use. Packaged coffee is on sale in the West Room after Sunday service.

Lifespan Religious Education

Thoughts From Barb.....

From time to time, there are moments when it is crystal clear to me why I do this job. Hearing our sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade Youth Membership class present their belief statements in service on June 8 was one of those moments. I was deeply moved by the thoughtfulness and depth these young people revealed.



*Barb Weber
Director Of
RE*

I was later reminded by a former youth advisor that we have had many remarkable teens in the Fellowship through the years. The list includes 1 class president, 2 valedictorians, 1 person voted Outstanding Senior Woman for her class, 3 homecoming queens, 2 who have graduated a year early, 2 who have served on our district YRUU steering committee and 3 who have served on Continental UUA committees. There have been athletes and actors, scholars, musicians and scouts. And that is just in the past 6 years or so.

I am just as impressed by the ones who don't win prizes, but who do their best everyday. I am impressed by the young people who have made food or helped serve at The Other Place. I am impressed by the ones who stand up for what they believe, even when that is not popular with their peers. I am impressed by the ones who formed the Concerned Children's Club in elementary school and raised over \$400 for charities they selected. I am impressed by the ones who teach YRE or are kind to the younger children and who serve as role models for them. I am impressed when they help clean or paint or pack boxes around the Fellowship.

These youth are our future. I thank their families for their care and effort in raising such amazing people. I also appreciate those of you who have helped guide their journey through the Fellowship. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to share in these young lives. I encourage all of us to get to know our youth and to support them as they grow. It is important and most rewarding work.

I hope to post some of the Youth Member belief statements on our website. I challenge the adults in our congregation to create and share your credos as well.

Barb Weber

Adult RE Rooms

One advantage of our new building is that there are larger rooms for the Adult RE classes. The Community Class in particular has felt cramped in our current quarters. Both the new library and Adult RE room are larger than our current spaces. Both are squarer as well, which will facilitate discussion better than the current narrow space.

The procedure for using these rooms will be the same as it has been in our old space. Any Fellowship group can schedule a room through the MVUUF office. When conflicts arise, we will try to sort them out based on numbers and other needs. Space assignments may change if numbers in a group change.

With that in mind, we are currently planning to hold the Community Class in the library and the Women's Group in the Adult RE room when we move. This is assuming both groups choose to meet before service on Sunday mornings.

You are invited to help find a name for the Adult RE room. We hope to call it something more inspiring or fun than our current number system. Please submit your ideas to the RE office or email them to **Barb Weber BY SUNDAY, JULY 13**. Watch this space next month for an announcement of the winning name.

Thanks Summer Teachers!

Thank you to all the folks who have volunteered to teach YRE this summer. We appreciate their willingness to give time, energy and caring to our young ones. When you see the following people, please tell them thanks!

Preschool

Bonnie Davis, Kathy Brown and Tom Brown

Kindergarten/First Grade

Shirley Dobson and Lucy Kazyak

Second/Third Grade

Curtis Gray and Mark Sheehan

Fourth/Fifth Grade

Diane Dover and Carol Zamonski

Sixth/Seventh/Eighth Grade

Carol Narigon and Genevieve Harvey

Teacher Appreciation Brunch

Thanks go to *Vinnie Marshall* and *Beth Farnham* for organizing this year's Teacher Appreciation Brunch. A lovely repast was prepared. *Barbara Moreda* solicited food donations and *Joe Zimmerman* created delightful certificates for the teachers. Thank you to everyone who donated food for this event!



Beth Farnham and Vinnie Marshall
at the Teacher Appreciation Brunch

Teachers needed for the upcoming church year

It's once again time to step forward to teach Youth RE next year. All classes currently have openings for teachers, so you can choose the age that most interests you. Our young people are curious and fun to be with. They help us stay young ourselves and can show us much about our own spirituality. Some people say they don't know enough about UUism to teach, but those who have helped in YRE often report it way a great way to learn about our faith.

The curricula provide well-planned lessons, with suggestions for stories, games, crafts and discussion starters. We have supplies and materials. (If you have any doubt about this, just come on down and help pack the RE supplies!) We also provide coffee and support for teachers, as well as lots of appreciation.

If you are interested in teaching or if you have questions about this, please contact *Barb Weber*.

I have incorrectly been saying we will hold Kindergarten/ First Grade OWL (Our Whole Lives) next fall. It will be sometime mid-winter instead, but still this coming year. I apologize for confusing some folks.

Barb Weber

Chapel Change

The children are being invited to share their thoughts about patriotism with the adults during the usual story time on July 6. They will therefore begin upstairs that morning and **we will hold Children's Chapel on the second Sunday, July 13.** (Parents, you may want to discuss patriotism with your young ones in advance to stimulate their thinking.)

Children Collect Money for War Families

As is our custom during our Congregational Meeting, the children held an election to choose a charity to support until the January meeting. There are always many good suggestions. This time, they decided to help families who suffered during the war with Iraq. Donations are offered during Children's Chapel as well as in their classrooms. Parents, please talk with your youngsters about this cause and help them remember their donations.

Thank you to everyone who brought food for our children's potluck lunch during the Congregational Meeting. Your generosity helped fill hungry tummies as well as fostering a sense that MVUUF is a loving place for youngsters. We appreciate it!

Thank you to our nursery volunteers!

Our thanks to those who spent time caring for our little ones in June!

Brandon Narigon
Kayleigh Harvey
Curtis Gray

Alodene Howell
Sophie Narigon
Rebecca Robinson

If you are interested in helping out in the nursery, please contact *Laurie Shows*.

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU), our senior high youth group, will suspend regular meetings for the summer. They will hold some special events as the summer unfolds, so be sure to let *Barb Weber* or one of the youth advisors know if you are interested in these.

Women's Group News

Women's Group will hold a short check-in at 9:30 before the Sunday service through the summer. An additional special activity will be planned once each month. All women are welcome to join us.

Community Class

The Community Class is a group that meets **every Sunday morning at 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.** (June, July and August) in Room 10 for fellowship and thought provoking discussion. 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, July 6

"Reflections on Freedom." In observance of the 227th anniversary of Independence Day, we'll share our thoughts on what freedom and being an American means to each us.

Moderator: **Lindy McDonough**

Sunday July 13

"Elderhostel and Local Sr. Programs." Learn the scope and the ropes of participating in Elderhostel educational seminars around the country and local activities available to those seasoned life travelers.

Moderator: **Elfi Purkey**

Sunday, July 20

"Thinking the Unthinkable: World Peace." Our personal response to the threat of terrorism and the role individuals play in deciding the course of war or peace.

Moderator: **John Gormley**

Sunday, July 27

"Reliving Reunions." Summer is the time for reunions - high school, college, family - and we all have feelings on the subject. Tell us why you hate them, why you love them. Are they worthwhile or a waste of time? Share your experiences - good or bad.

Moderator: **Mike Nelson**

Leadership School Learnings...

What I learned at leadership school...works! As I was preparing to facilitate the Fellowship's goal setting session last month, someone said to me, "Now we'll get a chance to see you put all that leadership school stuff into practice." To which I responded internally, "Oh swell! No pressure there!"

As the time drew near, more than one person urged me to skip beginning with a check-in. Concerned about time, I was tempted. Knowing I was under the microscope, however, I asked the 30 people in attendance to begin by saying two words that described how they were feeling at that moment. As we went around the room, many people used words like "nervous" or "reluctant" as well as "excited" and "interested." Allowing everyone to say these things out loud helped all of us realize that the process before us was challenging and somewhat scary to many of us.

The magic followed. In the next 3 1/2 hours, we agreed on a set of goals for the coming year (see elsewhere in this Forum). At times, people disagreed with each other and it was recognized that learning to communicate better is one of our biggest needs as we move into the future. But people tried to listen well to each other and to speak their truths. There seemed to me to be a sense in the room that we all love this community of ours and that, even if we see things differently, we are each doing our best.

I believe the two-word check-in was part of establishing that atmosphere during the meeting. And astoundingly, at the end of the long afternoon, when I asked people to do a five-finger check-out (in which everyone raises one finger if they feel rotten up to five fingers if they are great), everyone raised either four or five fingers.

We had attended to both the task and maintenance aspects of our being together. We accomplished our ambitious job, and many of us left feeling better than when we came. "All that leadership school stuff" really did work. Phew!

Barb Weber

PS. I will be away July 14- 26 for my last session of being on the Mid West Leadership School staff. Please contact **Laurie Shows** or **Beth Farnham** with RE questions in my absence.

Around The Fellowship



Janice James and Joyce Gibbs



*Barb Weber at the
Teacher Appreciation Brunch.*



*Marcia and Richard Venus with their
granddaughter, Sophie.*



Ryan Cyr



*Happy Birthday to long time
MVUUF member Alice Keck,
who just celebrated her 98th birthday.*



Dani and Katie Reese

Painless Profit for the Fellowship

Community Rewards Card available now at Meijers

It is now possible to get a Community Rewards Guest Card to use at Meijers. You will need to produce the card when you purchase items there and they will track what you spend each month, rebating a percentage to the Fellowship. The more you buy, the greater the amount the Fellowship gets.

Application forms are available at the Fellowship or you can apply on-line at Meijer.com/rewards. The Code number for the Fellowship is 662112.

We urge everyone to register. Further, you may ask friends to get cards and designate the Fellowship as the recipient of the rebates.

Even if you rarely shop at Meijers, you might have one month in which you buy a lot of items for gardening or plumbing repairs or who knows what. It would be a shame to miss getting the rebate.

As usual with our grocery fund-raisers, this costs you nothing. Please help.

Ruth Rowley

Grocery Certificates

Buy grocery certificates for shopping at Dorothy Lane Market and Krogers! You give us \$10 or \$20 and you will receive a certificate for that same amount. You lose nothing and the Fellowship has a lot to gain.

A few people buy a lot of certificates but we could increase our profit if a lot of people bought just one certificate each month.

I know many members use debit cards or credit cards which give a rebate but buying just one certificate a month would help the Fellowship.

Please give it a try.

****WE RECOMMEND THAT ALL FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES BE BROUGHT TO THE MVUUF BOARD OF TRUSTEES.****

Deadlines Approach

The deadlines for the upcoming issues of *The FORUM* are July 17 and August 21. Please submit your articles to *Laurie Shows*.

The deadline for the Sunday bulletin is 12:30 p.m. on the preceding Monday. If you plan to use the building for any reason, please schedule with the office. Not all building use is listed in the calendar published in our newsletter. Private use, building maintenance or other unannounced events may already be scheduled. Also, please be sure you have scheduled your event on the official calendar before you begin promoting your activity.

Thanks!

Barbara McFarland, office manager

MVUUF GROCERY CERTIFICATE ORDER FORM				
<i>Dorothy Ln:</i>	\$5	\$10	\$20	Total
<i>Kroger:</i>	\$10	\$20	\$50	Total
Your Name _____	TOTAL _____			
Please make check or money order payable to: MVUF or Miami Valley Unitarian Fellowship. Send this order form along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: MVUF, 2001 Far Hills Avenue, Dayton, OH 45419				

MIAMI VALLEY UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship Calendar for July 2003

Additions? Corrections? Changes?
Please notify Barbara McFarland ASAP.

*** Schedule of Regular Sunday Offerings***

9:00 a.m. Adult RE: Community Class Room 10
9:30 a.m. Women's Group

10:00 a.m. Service & Youth RE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	9:45 a.m. Aikido Group
6 *See above for regular offerings*	7 6:45 p.m. Aikido Group	8	9 7:30 p.m. Earth Circle	10 6:00 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting	11	12 9:45 a.m. Aikido Group 11:30 a.m. Helping Hands lunch at the Other Place
13 *See above for regular offerings*	14 6:45 p.m. Aikido Group	15 7:30 p.m. Recorder Consort	16	17 MVUUF Rummage Sale 6:00 p.m. MVUUF Board Meeting	18	19 9:45 a.m. Aikido Group 5:00 p.m. Saturday Celebration, Potluck & Music
20 *See above for regular offerings* 11:15 a.m. ORIENTATION	21 6:45 p.m. Aikido Group	22 7:30 p.m. Beginner Recorder Ensemble	23 10:30 a.m. MVUUF Morning Book Club	24	25	26 9:45 a.m. Aikido Group
27 *See above for regular offerings*	28 6:45 p.m. Aikido Group	29 7:30 p.m. Renaissance Band	30	31		