



# Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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# The Forum

## *Richard's Reflections*

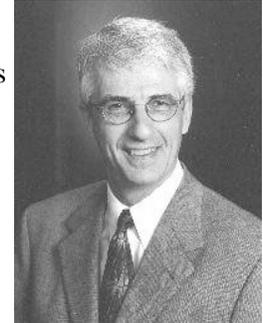
We are in . . . sort of. As I write, the finishing touches are being completed on the building. *Maury Wyckoff* and *Gary Courts* spent most of a Saturday at a Brown's Nursery sale and purchased a number of trees and shrubs that will add to the plants already included in the landscape plans.

Much of our equipment and materials has been put away, the painting is being completed inside and out, dirt is being moved and cement poured. Picture rails have been built and will be installed so we can resume our gallery, which now may need a new name.

I say all this to emphasize that while much is being accomplished we still do not have, as of this writing, an occupancy permit. Several contractors have not completed their work and the fire alarm system is waiting parts.

I find these delays frustrating, but *Joe Zimmerman* continues to patiently work with the building engineer and is doing whatever possible to ensure that the building is done according to our specifications and that the necessary permits are forthcoming. All of us are grateful, Joe, for your diligence and your dedication in these times.

We will have our building dedication on November 9<sup>th</sup>—and hopefully by then we will also be permitted to use the building full-time. Thank you all for rescheduling, making arrangements for meeting places and for your patience through all this.



*Rev. Richard Venus*

*Richard*

**DEDICATION SUNDAY**  
**November 9, 2003 - 4:00 P.M.**  
**An Interfaith Service to Celebrate Our New Building**  
**Guest Speaker: The Rev. Jill McAllister**  
**People's Church, Kalamazoo, Michigan**  
**Special Music**  
**Invited guests will represent many faith traditions**  
**Reception to Follow**

### **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.*

## Saturday and Sunday Programs

### Saturday October 4—5:00 p.m.

*Richard Venus* will lead this service on justice

### Sunday, October 5—11:00 a.m.

“**Just Economics.**” Many of the decisions we make about our lives are based on the economic bottom line. In a sermon purchased by *Bill Ross* at the 2003 MVUUF service auction, *Richard Venus* will explore alternative ways of thinking about economic justice. The choir will sing.

### Saturday October 11—5:00 p.m.

*Susan Joseph* will present a demonstration on “**Strengthening the Immune System through Breathing and Relaxation Techniques.**”

### Sunday, October 12—11:00 a.m.

“**Toward a UU Theology of Peace-Making and Justice Building.**” As a congregation we are often so busy engaging in social action that we rarely reflect on why Unitarian Universalists, as people of faith, engage in social action. MVUUF Peace and Justice intern *Leslie Woodward* speaks to a UU theology of faith in action.

### Saturday October 18—5:00 p.m.

*Hillary Wagner* will lead this service in celebration of National Breast Cancer Awareness month. We will hold discussion and stories about living through cancer, with cancer, with cancer treatment, with cancer patients and living without cancer victims. We will have coffee and fellowship after the service.

### Sunday, October 19—11:00 a.m.

**Water Ceremony.** Our annual ceremony where we bring water we have brought back from our summer travels.

### Saturday October 25—5:00 p.m.

Build your own personal altar! *Diane Dover* will lead this special two hour service. Please bring mementos to fill your UU retablo. Suggestions include things like old greeting cards, shells, stones, beads, copies of poems, photos, things that will fit in a cigar box. This is the first of two Saturday services on this project.

### Sunday, October 26—11:00 a.m.

“Of Things Spiritual.” We UU’s often ask what it means to be a spiritual person and what is the meaning of spirit in our lives. This morning *Richard Venus* will offer some ideas about the nature of the spiritual. *Margaret Schryver* will bring special music on her flute.

### Saturday November 1—5:00 p.m.

*Diane Dover* will lead us in completing our Retablos. At 6:00 there will be a potluck dinner and from 7:00 to 9:00 the first of our monthly coffeehouse concerts!

## 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

*Kathy Mays*  
President

*Kathleen Turner*  
Vice-president

*Judy Pickett*  
Treasurer

*Mary Anne Frey*  
Secretary

*Jamie McQuinn*  
Public Relations Trustee

*Carol Vincent*  
Activities Trustee

*Maureen O’Meara*  
Social Concerns Trustee

*Laurie Shows*  
LRE Trustee

*Barbara Czestochowa*  
Membership Trustee

*Bill Wilson*  
Operations Trustee

### *Highlights:*

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This year our Sunday services will reflect the theme *Roots and Wings*.

# Board Reports

The MVUUF Board conducted the following business when it met **September 18, 2003**, at *Mary Anne Frey's* house.

Present: *Kathy Mays*, President; *Judy Pickett*, Treasurer; *Mary Anne Frey*, Secretary; *Richard Venus*, Minister; *Chuck Thomas*, Associate Minister; *Jamie McQuinn*, PR Trustee; *Carol Vincent*, Activities Trustee; and *Laurie Shows*, LRE Trustee. *Kathleen Turner*, Vice President; *Maureen O'Meara*, Social Concerns Trustee; *Bill Wilson*, Operations Trustee; *Barbara Czestochowa*, Membership Trustee were not present. Also attending were *Barb Weber* (as observer), *Carol Narigon*, *Dan Narigon*, *Rich Robinson*, *Gail Davidson*, and *Joe Zimmerman* (for part of the meeting).

- Heard a report by *Joe Zimmerman* that if the fire alarm system passes a test by the fire department on Friday, we will be given a temporary certificate of occupancy with no restrictions; all rooms should be available for use on Sunday
- Received a written report from the treasurer that shows a net income for the fiscal year through July 31 of \$3,340.00.
- Approved a motion that "Individual members or groups of members may financially underwrite identified improvements in the new building with the approval of the Building Committee. In order to document their generosity, monies should be paid to MVUUF for these projects and will be classified as 'capital contributions' and the expense of the project will be paid by MVUUF and classified as "building improvements." (Note: These contributions will not be credited to the individual's pledge.)
- Approved a motion that "Contributions of durable goods, such as furniture, computers, artwork, etc. will be accepted with the approval of the Building Committee. A letter of thanks along with the value of the gift will be sent to the donor for tax purposes." (Note: These contributions will not be credited to the individual's pledge.)
- Received a report from *Rich Robinson* on the status of the Mission/Vision Task Force.
- Approved a motion that "Any money recovered from the embezzlement proceedings be placed in the general fund."

*Mary Anne Frey, Secretary*

## Treasury Notes

With 8% of the year completed, revenues at 9.7% of the total budget are running 1.7% ahead of schedule and expenses at 8.1% are right on target.

	July Actual	July Budget	Variance
Revenue	20,867	17,105	+3,762
Expense	17,527	18,827	- 1300
Net Income	3,340	-1,721	+2,462

As you all know (or maybe, don't know), last year's pledge campaign fell short of its goal. This creates several challenges to us as a community. As we're transitioning into our Yankee St. home, several needs have been identified, all of which cost money and none of which were budgeted for. Please, if you have the resources, contact *Iris Carter*, *Gary Courts* or *Barbara McFarland* to increase your pledge. Short of that, regular payments on your pledge will certainly keep our cash resources at an optimum level.

Please contact me if you have any questions about my report.

*Judy Pickett, Treasurer*

## Help Wanted

The Finance Committee is currently seeking a couple of energetic, committed members to be the Service Auction coordinators. Not only is this a very rewarding position, it's also one that helps us raise much-needed funds for the Fellowship. Please contact *Judy Pickett* if you're interested in taking on this very important, short-term, one-time task.

## THE FINANCE COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU.....

Have you ever wondered how you can serve the Fellowship? Are you interested in the financial operations of the Fellowship? Are you available to join us on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month to consider fundraisers, plan the annual pledge drive, create the budget for the next year, help shape the stewardship efforts that result in a fiscally-healthy Fellowship? Well wonder no more. The FC is just the place for you. Please contact me, *Judy Pickett*, or *Jim Hudson* to express your interest.

## Membership News

### Caring and Sharing

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

### Signing Brunch October 12

Are you ready to sign the book? Ready to make a commitment to sustain a liberal religious presence in the Miami Valley? If you have attended an orientation meeting and you are ready to make a commitment both with your talent and your pocketbook, then plan to attend the **membership signing brunch on October 12 after the 11:00 service.** Please call *Barbara McFarland* at 436-3628 to RSVP.

### 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 Oct. 19.**

*Barbara Czestochowa, Membership Trustee*

## *Announcements*

PLEASE write separate checks if you are paying for your pledge and capital contribution together. The deposits go to DIFFERENT banks, making it an accounting headache if they are combined on one check. For those of you who have automatic payments to the Fellowship, please ask the financial institution to change the address to 8690 Yankee Street, Dayton, OH 45458.

In an effort to protect members' privacy, we have installed a locking mailbox outside the Fellowship. Letters/checks received after Thursday each week will be more secure until they are brought inside.

*Jocelyn Feeman*, long-time UU member, will be inducted on Oct. 20, 2003, along with eight others, into the Dayton Theatre Hall of Fame. The black-tie, dinner-award event will be at the Dayton Marriott Hotel the evening of the 20th. Jocelyn has acted in many plays with several local theatre groups over the years and was the founder in 1960 of the Kettering-Oakwood Community Theatre, now known as Playhouse South. Congratulations, Jocelyn.

## *Upcoming Events*

### Retreat

On **Saturday October 4** we will have our annual retreat at the day lodge at John Bryan State Park near Yellow Springs.

Activities are planned for children and adults. Hours are 10 a.m. to about 6 p.m. For lunch everyone brings vegetables to make "stone soup." (Folks, please wash the vegetables at home to help our trusty volunteer cooks.) There will also be sandwiches. Dinner is usually pizza, maybe salad. The cost is \$15.00 per adult and \$5.00 per child 3 and over. Any questions? Call *Carol Vincent*, Activities Trustee.

### Coming soon – Annual Craft Sale and Open House

Soon our new Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship will be holding its first annual Craft Sale and Open House in our new home on Yankee Street. The bazaar will be held on **Saturday, Nov. 15, 2003** from 10 am to 3 pm. Please mark your calendars.

We will be renting space to vendors as usual. If you know of any craft artists you think might like to sell at our bazaar please let us know. We are also planning a consignment booth where those who might like to sell a few of their creations but don't have enough items to rent an individual space, may place their items for sale. Vendors may rent a table for \$20.00 or half a table for \$10.00. On the consignment table there will be 10% commission on all sales.

As we have had in the past, there will also be resale spaces for donated items. This year three are planned. There will be a media table for books, magazines, music CD's, video games, software, etc. Another will be for items that are useful but no longer needed by their present owners. And a third will be for more exceptionally desirable items: antiques, collectibles, artwork, decorative items, furniture, and other items in excellent condition. We need donated items for all of these. (If you have an item for this area that you'd like to place on consignment rather than donate we may be able to accommodate. Please call.)

There will be delicious food available. As well as delectable baked goods and other things to take home, nourishing chili and cornbread, beverages, etc. will be provided to consume on the premises.

We are planning a special area for children to purchase small items and do craft projects while their parents shop the vendor booths.

Santa has promised to be with us to talk with children about their holiday expectations and wishes. A photographer will be on hand to take pictures of Santa with the children.

Further information and more details will be posted as things develop. We will need volunteers to help with this event in various capacities. If you have questions or would like to donate something or volunteer, please contact *Alice Lizee*, chairperson, or *Linda Burnett*, volunteer coordinator.

## 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**

#### **October 8**

*The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebola

#### **November 12**

*The DaVinci Code* by Dan Brown

#### **December 17**

*Icy Sparks* by Gwyn Hyman Rubio. This will be a Christmas potluck and book exchange at the home of **Carol Vincent**, 90 Zengel Drive, Centerville.

### Evening Book Discussion Group

The Evening Book Discussion Group will meet at **7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 6** at **Lucy Kazyak's** house to discuss *Blind Assassin* by Margaret Atwood.

At our September meeting, we made plans for several months ahead. We will meet on **November 11** at **Mary Ann Frye's** house to discuss *Reading Lolita in Tehran* by Azar Nafisi. In December, we will meet at **Alice Lizee's** on the 9th to discuss *The Dress Lodger* by Sheri Holman. On January 13, 2004, we will meet at **Catherine Queener's** to discuss *The Book of Sarahs* by Catherine E. McKinley.

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

The First Thursday Theological Society will meet at **7:30 p.m. on October 2** in the Founders Room at the Fellowship to begin a series of discussions on the ideas of Ralph Waldo Emerson. We will discuss Emerson's essay "Nature." For background reading on Emerson, the book *Emerson as Spiritual Guide* by Barry M. Andrews is recommended.

In November, we will meet on the 6th and continue the discussion of Emerson.

New participants are welcome. Childcare can be arranged if requested in advance. Contact **Ann Snively** or **Richard Venus** if you would like more information.

### Young Adult Network (YAN)

On **October 18** Young Adult Network (YAN) will be hiking and picnicking at John Bryan State Park. Call or Email **Alisha Dolbeer** for details. You can also join our yahoo group by visiting <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/UU-YAN>

### Poetic Insights

This group will meet at MVUUF at 1:30 p.m., **Oct. 26** (the last Sunday of each month). It is a group in which rough-draft, impromptu poetry or prose is written by the attendees after being given a general topic or stimulus. Those who wish to share what was written may do so. Everyone is welcome. Contact **Bev Wince** for further information.

### Meditation Group

Join us **Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30** at the Fellowship for Meditation Group. We open with a reading from *Everyday Mind* and then sit quietly for 25-30 minutes. We then have a brief teaching and discussion referencing a myriad of world religious/spiritual paths, followed by a closing silent meditation. All are welcome. Please contact **Calen Rayne** if you have any questions.

### Smart Choices

Looking for a more positive approach to life? Discover smart choices in a group that is meeting **every Monday evening at MVUUF 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.** Come as you are. **The first session is October 5.** Everyone is welcome. Contact **Lynn Haven** for more information.

### INTERWEAVE

INTERWEAVE, a discussion/support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and their allies, will resume meeting in September after a summer break. **This year, meetings begin at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month.** Please note this a change from last year when we met on the 2nd Wednesday. Watch the weekly bulletins for information about our meeting location 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.

## Notes from Hillary

Greetings everyone,

I'd like to invite you all to enrich your Fellowship experience this October by attending the retreat on Saturday October 4, (details elsewhere in this Forum) and continuing that community building experience on **SUNDAY OCTOBER 5** by having lunch together and attending a concert by Virginia singer/songwriter **Andrew McKnight**. He will perform special music during our Sunday morning worship service, then play a concert at 2:00. Andrew is an environmental engineer turned nationally-touring songwriter, and his background definitely influences his music.

See [www.shendandoahacoustics.com/andrew](http://www.shendandoahacoustics.com/andrew) if you'd like to sample his music or learn more about him. We will take orders for lunch immediately after the service then eat together in the gathering space at 1:00. Please bring cash for lunch to make it easier to order!



Hillary Wagner  
Music Director

With the exception of the Peter Mayer concert, admission for all the concert series events is \$5 per person with a \$15 maximum per family. The small admission fee will hopefully cover the cost of the performance with any profits going to the MVUUF general fund.

Please mark your calendars now for these outstanding performances! You won't want to miss them.

**Sunday December 7 Sparky and Rhonda Rucker have performed African-American folk music for National Public Radio's *Morning Edition*, *Prairie Home Companion*, and *Mountain Stage*. He also performed in *Carry it On* and *Amazing Grace: Music in America*, two videos produced by the Public Broadcasting System. **Sparky and Rhonda's** concert performance is a humor-filled journey through four hundred years of African-American cultural and folk history. It includes railroad songs, Appalachian music, old-time blues, slave songs, Civil War music, gospel, work songs, cowboy music, ballads, and Sparky Rucker's own original compositions. <http://www.sparkyandronda.com>**

**Sunday January 18, 2004 Nationally-touring singer/songwriter **Peter Mayer** in concert. See Genevieve Harvey for details; she's done all the work on this one! I, for one, don't plan to miss it!**

**WIND IN THE WOODS April 18, 2004** They will be performing renaissance music in authentic costumes. It is a show not to be missed! For more information see <http://members.aol.com/windinwood/>

Want to become more involved in activities at MVUUF? Join us in one of our many music ensembles! We have groups that perform at every level from complete beginners to advanced skill level.

**CHOIR:** Contrary to popular belief, you don't have to be a professional musician to join the choir! Jeanette just makes it sound like you are! If you have a hidden desire to sing, visit the choir rehearsal some **Wednesday evening from 7:30 till 9:00**. There will be no high pressure and nothing to buy!

**RECORDER ENSEMBLE:** This group is the group for you if you played 30 years ago, play a little but don't have time to practice or even if you have never held a recorder in your hands before. We focus on basics and have a lot of fun! **Meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month from 7:30 till 9:00**.

**RECORDER CONSORT:** We have a lot of fun in this group too, but it is for advanced players. This music generally requires players to cover more than one recorder voice and you'll probably have to commit to some outside practice. **Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 7:30 till 9:00**.

**DRUM AND POETRY CIRCLE:** Anyone can do this! Come give it a try. You don't need to own a drum; we have plenty here to share. **Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month from 7:00 till who knows when**.

**RENAISSANCE BAND:** This is an advanced skill level ensemble. Members play a variety of early music. This group requires outside practice. **Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 8:00 till 9:00**.

**UUFOLKS:** This group is a non-performance based group that meets monthly to sing and play together. Their next meeting will be announced later in September. Please contact **Carol Narigon** for information about this group.

**YOUTH ENSEMBLES:** New this year!! **Every** young person who wants to play in an ensemble will be worked into one. These groups will meet for a short period of time to prepare for a specific performance. If you have not contacted me regarding your family's young musician, please do it soon as I'm am planning out a schedule of special music that will cover several months and I don't want anyone to be left out.

### **Leadership School Learnings...**

At Mid West Leadership School, we often talked about what it means to promote health in our congregations. Healthy congregations are vibrant, spiritual, and engaged with themselves and with the outside world. Good leaders encourage these qualities in their churches.

*Peter Steinke* has written extensively about healthy congregations and leadership. In 1999, he suggested seven habits of health-promoting church leaders. The following list of habits is adapted from his work.

#### **A health-promoting church leader:**

##### **1) Stays spiritually grounded.**

- finds ways of renewal and nurturing him/her self
- practices both contemplation and action

##### **2) Manages own anxiety**

- understands anxiety
- recognizes own anxiety signals and takes steps to sooth self
- practices a less anxious presence

##### **3) Takes stands and stays connected**

- clarifies own beliefs
- avoids extremes of fusion or cutoff
- is responsible for self and own reactions, not for whole congregation

##### **4) Focuses on presence and functioning**

- knows the wonder of wondering
- is a triangle watcher and triangle avoider
- practices hallmarks of maturity: calm, focus, change, challenge

##### **5) Focuses on vision and mission**

- provides guidance and inspiration
- practices "big picture" remembering

##### **6) Focuses on strengths**

- celebrates resources, opens the future
- combats mood problems
- manages conflict through discovery and affirmation of largest common values
- practices possibility thinking

##### **7) Challenges self and others**

- tolerates pain of growth in self and others
- practices art of collaboration and empowerment
- practices anticipatory leadership

*Barb Weber*

### **May the Force Be With You — the Force of Faithful People Working for Justice**

At Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, you can scarcely turn around without bumping into faithful people working for good. Teams of congregation members are feeding the homeless at The Other Place every month. Thoughtful discussions and sermons on civil liberties and the Patriot Act take place in person and in online forums. People are organizing Crop Walks, Gay Pride marches, and demonstrations for reproductive rights in Washington D.C. Even our coffee comes through a fair trade program that provides a sustainable future for South American coffee growers.

I suspect that we are so busy engaging in social action we rarely stop to think about WHY we engage in social action. Indeed, in many Unitarian Universalist congregations, there are conflicting views about working for justice. Some believe our Unitarian Universalist congregations should provide a haven from the outside world, a place for healing. Others believe that congregations should not respond in any way to social justice issues as an institution because doing so violates our freedom of conscience. Still others believe that congregations should respond to injustice, but then disagreements arise on when, where, and under what circumstances.

Is there one way of being, of living, of acting, that will ensure a sustainable future for the earth and peace for the world while providing deep peace for the soul? Can we accept a vision of Unitarian Universalism as a faith where spirituality and social action acts as “a seamless garment”? I believe it is possible to be deeply rooted within our own theology, looking inward or toward that which transcends our own egos for sustenance while we direct our actions outward in efforts to achieve a just, sustainable society.

Working for justice flows naturally out of Unitarian Universalist history, traditions, and theology. Over this coming year, our religious education programs will explore just what it is that calls UUs to social action and our young people will be encouraged (and helped) to organize and plan social action projects within their classes.

Now, these are not the best of times for faithful people who care about the human economy, the state of the conscience of the world, and our right relationship with the life around us. But I have hope.

And I believe that social action with a strong theological basis, with spiritual practice, diverse dialogue and interreligious cooperation is a force to be reckoned with in the world. May we have the strength, wisdom and courage as Unitarian Universalists to articulate and harness that force.

In faith,  
*Leslie Woodward*  
MVUUF Peace and Justice Intern

## *Lifespan Religious Education*

### Thoughts From Barb.....

I am writing this on the day we have finally received full, albeit temporary, occupancy of our new building. It is ours and becoming more and more ours all the time.

The sanctuary and gathering space already bear our stamp. Our art and our Principals have been hung. As I walk through the RE classrooms, I see signs of our lively youngsters, as their pictures and classroom covenants begin to decorate their walls. There are parts of the building that are still being finished, but it is already beginning to feel like home.

Partly that is because so many of you have come forward to help with the unpacking and cleaning, the arranging and decorating. It has been an immense amount of work, and you have given generously of your time and energies.

More than just the physical environment, it begins to feel like home because we are here together. Seeing so many familiar faces, reconnecting as our fall programming begins, and planning for the year ahead creates our sense of home. Likewise, welcoming so many new faces during recent weeks brings a liveliness and adds to the excitement of our new year and new place.

As the years pass, we will continue to claim this space. Our old building was important to us because of how we lived our dreams in it. So too this new building will become increasingly our home as we fill it with not only our art, but with how we live with each other and with our world each day.

The upcoming meetings about the Fellowship's Vision and Mission are the next step in making the building into our home. I invite and encourage everyone to participate in these and to let your voice be heard.

In the meantime, welcome home! It is good to be here together.



*Barb Weber*  
Director Of  
RE

*Barb Weber*

### Treasure Hunt

Because of the continuing presence of construction dangers throughout the building, the Youth Religious Education Committee has postponed the Treasure Hunt until it can be held safely. Watch the bulletins and elist for rescheduling information.

### Attention all Ghouls and Goblins!

Our annual Fellowship Intergenerational Halloween Party will be held on **Saturday, October 25 at 6:30 PM**. Everyone is invited to come play games, hear a ghost story and eat treats. Come in costume or not, no matter your age. We will continue our tradition of carving pumpkins and will decorate our new curved wall with our glowing creations. (Bring a pumpkin to participate in this activity.) Please contact **Helen Geyer** or **Paul Gibbs** to volunteer to help or with questions.

### Senior High Youth Group

YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists, our senior high youth group) has begun meeting on Sunday evenings at 6:30. Anyone from ninth grade through age 20 is welcome! Contact **Don Kazyak** with questions or to learn the schedule.

### Community Class

The Community Class is a group that meets every Sunday morning from 9:30 - 10:45 a.m. in the library 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, Oct. 5**

**“Going Home: Revisiting Our Religious Roots.”** We'll share our experiences and feelings about returning to the religious places and denominations of our youth.

Moderator: **Mary Lynne Shroyer**

#### **Sunday, Oct. 12**

**“Life Events That Have Overwhelmed Us.”** We'll recount major life experiences that overtook us when we were totally unprepared, how we handled them, and what we learned.

Moderator: **Roger Davis**

#### **Sunday, Oct. 19**

**“Taking Capitalism for Granted.”** A discussion inspired by two books: *The Mystery of Capital: Why Capitalism Triumphs in the West and Fails Everywhere Else*, by Hernando DeSoto and *Saving Capitalism from the Capitalists: Unleashing the Power of Financial Markets to Create Wealth and Spread Opportunity*, by Raghuram G. Rajan and Luigi Zingales.

Moderator: **Dennis Webb**

#### **Sunday, Oct. 26**

**“Psychic Experiences.”** We'll explore theories of the paranormal and share our descents or ascents into the twilight zone.

Moderator: **Linda Kimmel**

## Update on New Playground

Our thanks to *Sean Halpin* for continuing to work on plans for our playground. Below are some preliminary designs set for the playground. These can be summarized as follows:

1: Fenced-in area for the toddler/ nursery set. This fenced in area will butt up against the building just outside of the kitchen. This area will include the existing plastic playground equipment, a small playhouse (three-sided with roof), a raised platform for climbing up and down, and a balance beam. If funds are available, a small swing set may be built.

This area will maintain a grass floor rather than wood chips. The main reason for this is two fold:

- 1) Cost, as the raised platform will only be about 6 inches above the ground, there won't be much to fall from so the need for padding is minimal, not justifying any costs incurred.
- 2) The danger of wood chips to the younger extreme of the population is much greater than the benefits. Splinters are not fun for the young folk. (As an example, my Erin got a one-inch splinter in her foot and had to go into surgery to get it out. I didn't think something that small would require surgery, but the doctor reminded me that an equivalent splinter to me would be like having a 2.5-inch pencil stuck into my foot)

2: Open area for the bigger kids. This will include a set similar to the old one, but a bit bigger. This set will have a slide, climbing wall and monkey bars. It will also have a raised platform (clubhouse). There will also be a swing set built separately. This area will have mulch padding extending out 5-6 feet from all equipment.

It is envisioned that the kids would paint at least some of the playground equipment

Exact placement and designed cannot be finalized until the final landscaping is completed. Additionally, timing of this effort is unknown due to landscaping contingencies.

Please contact *Sean* if you have questions or would like to help with this project.

## Women's Group News

Women's Group will meet from 9:30—10:50 in the Founders' Room, to discuss relationships, our current topic.

## Men's Group

Men's Group meets the first Sunday of each month for fellowship and discussion. All men age 16 and older are welcome to attend. The next meeting will be **October 5 at 9:00 a.m.** We will take time to "check-in" and then discuss our thoughts generated by an article on intimacy available at the Fellowship this Sunday .

Childcare can be provided if requested in advance. Contact *Richard Venus* for more information.

**COOT (Continuing Our Own Theology)** meets monthly on the first and third Mondays at 7:00 p.m. The group gathers to discuss theological issues and share ideas and fellowship (and occasionally have a good dinner). Newcomers are welcome.

## *Concerning Social Concerns*

### Social Concerns Committee

This year, the Social Concerns Committee will be meeting on the **2nd Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm** at the Fellowship. If you have any questions, or would like more information, please call or email.

*Kate Santucci* , chair

### Helping Hands

The next lunch at the Other Place will be October 11. Please check the clipboards to see what food items are needed. You may also contact *Kate Santucci* for more information.

### 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 for home use. Packaged coffee is on sale after Sunday service.

# *Around the Fellowship*

## **Our MVUUF Board of Trustees**



*Kathy Mays  
President*



*Kathleen Turner  
Vice-President*



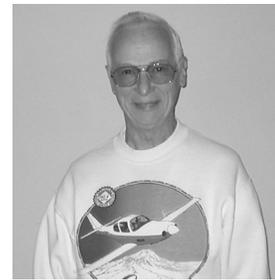
*Mary Anne Frey  
Secretary*



*Judy Pickett  
Treasurer*



*Jamie McQuinn  
Public Relations Trustee*



*Bill Wilson  
Operations Trustee*



*Carol Vincent  
Activities Trustee*



*Maureen O'Meara  
Social Concerns Trustee*



*Laurie Shows  
Lifespan Religious Education  
Trustee*



*Barbara Czestochowa  
Membership Trustee*

# **Painless Profit for the Fellowship**

## **New Grocery Certificate Coordinator**

After working with the grocery certificate sales for almost four years, I was ready for a break and **Cindy Brooks** graciously agreed to work with the scheduling.

I would like to thank all those who have helped with this important fund-raiser.

**Jane Cammel** has been an important behind the scenes worker. She has come to the Fellowship every week to check over the Sunday sales, make sure income and outgo of certificates tallied up, correct errors and prepare a monthly report for the Finance Committee. Jane also ordered certificates from the stores, picked them up and bundled them for easy selling. Many thanks, Jane.

Jane will be leaving this job since the new building location makes it difficult for her to continue. If you would like to have this job, please talk with **Jim Hudson** or **Cindy**. It's a good volunteer job in that you can work at a time that suits you and it's not terribly time-consuming. Jane and I would be happy to help with any training involved.

Sellers over these years have been:

**Mary Ellen Beardmore, Ellen Beck, Cindy Brooks, Kathy Brown, Jane Cammel, Diona Fowler, Mary Anne Frey, Sue Hudson, Trudy Krisher, Lindy McDonough, Barbara Moreda, Mike Nelson, Maureen O'Meara, Catherine Queener, Elfreda Purkey and Bonnie Thompson.** They have earned my great appreciation for their reliability and excellent records. Rarely has anybody missed their scheduled turn. Rarely have there been errors. Many, many thanks.

A core group of the above people have agreed to sell certificates this year. They will take one Sunday a month or switch with a partner every other month or every other quarter or however they work it out. Substitutes are always appreciated. If you would like to be a substitute, please talk with Cindy.

**Ruth Rowley**

**\*\*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 October 16 and November 20. 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

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

**MIAMI VALLEY UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP**

**Fellowship Calendar for October 2003**

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

**\* Schedule of Regular Sunday Offerings\***

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

**11:00 a.m. Service & Youth RE**

6:30 p.m. YRUU

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>5</b></p> <p>*See above for regular offerings*</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Men's Group</p> <p>2:00 p.m. Andrew McKnight Concert</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>6:45 p.m. Aikido Group</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Continuing Our Own Theologies</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Evening Book Discussion Group at Lucy Kazyak's</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Smart Choices</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>10:30 a.m. MVUUF Morning Book Club</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Meditation Group</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Choir</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Earth Circle</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>6:00 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Social Concerns Committee</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>9:45 a.m. Aikido Group</p> <p>11:30 a.m. Helping Hands lunch at the Other Place</p> <p><b>5:00 p.m. Saturday Celebration</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>9:45 a.m. Aikido Group</p> <p><b>10:00 a.m. Annual Retreat at John Bryan</b></p> <p><b>5:00 p.m. Saturday Celebration</b></p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p>*See above for regular offerings*</p> <p><b>Membership signing brunch after the service</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>6:45 p.m. Aikido Group</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Smart Choices</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>8:00 p.m. Renaissance Band</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>6:30 p.m. Meditation Group</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Choir</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>6:30 p.m. MVUUF Board Meeting</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>YAN Outing to John Bryan</p> <p>9:45 a.m. Aikido Group</p> <p><b>5:00 p.m. Saturday Celebration</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>YAN Outing to John Bryan</p> <p>9:45 a.m. Aikido Group</p> <p><b>5:00 p.m. Saturday Celebration</b></p>
<p><b>19</b></p> <p>*See above for regular offerings*</p> <p>11:15 a.m. ORIENTATION</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>6:45 p.m. Aikido Group</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Drum and Poetry Circle</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Continuing Our Own Theologies</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Smart Choices</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>7:30 p.m. Recorder Consort</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>6:30 p.m. Meditation Group</p> <p>7:00 p.m. INTERWEAVE</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Choir</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>9:45 a.m. Aikido Group</p> <p><b>5:00 p.m. Saturday Celebration</b></p> <p>6:30 p.m. Halloween Party</p>
<p><b>26</b></p> <p>*See above for regular offerings*</p> <p>1:30 p.m. Poetic Insights</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>6:45 p.m. Aikido Group</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Smart Choices</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>7:30 p.m. Beginner Recorder Ensemble</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	