



Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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The Forum

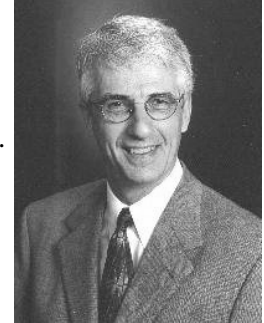
Richard's Reflections

There is the story of the broken car on the interstate with a lone woman walking to the nearest exit. A van pulls up, honks. The driver and the woman confirm her connection to the broken car. She is wary, but the driver and his passenger, who turns out to be his son, take her to her car. "We just broke down ourselves a few miles back, but by the time AAA arrived it started up again."

"Take a look," she says. The father-son team bicker a bit about what to do, then say the fix requires a screwdriver they don't have. They offer her a ride to the truck stop where the service manager frowns, says they don't work on cars, but agrees that it's probably a minor problem and he'll take a look. He sees to it that the car is fixed before heading home to his wife and kids.

This is a story told by Dayton Daily News columnist Laura Dempsey, who adds, "Look around. Public bathrooms, just where you need them. Cars that don't veer into your lane. Cups of pennies by the cash register. Front-yard flowers, and more." This, she explains, comes from the kindness of strangers, a given from those who care.

And so are we, this congregation of kindness givers, some to strangers some not. Ours is to give like those helpers on the highway. That is what we are in this place we call the Fellowship, a place where we care for each other, and others we don't know. Kindness to strangers is what we offer to those within and beyond our doors. This Fellowship is a very special place. I thank you for your many gifts that make it so.



Rev. Richard Venus

Richard

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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, April 3– 5:00 P.M.

“What Is Spirituality?” *Hillary Wagner*

Sunday, April 4—11:00 A.M.

“Life Is A Movement Toward The Soul.” *Richard Venus* will speak to the nature of our soul: a puzzling proposition and the theme for this service. *Laurie Shows* is the worship associate and the choir will sing.

Friday, April 9— 7:30 P.M.

Good Friday Service. This service is about the “meaning” of the Passion, not Mel Gibson’s vision of the gore. *Chuck Thomas* leads this traditional service reflecting on the words and life of Jesus as seen from the perspective of Good Friday. The choir will sing.

Sunday, April 11—11:00 A.M.

“We Too Rise Up—What We Give Our Lives For.” On this Easter Sunday we will celebrate what our lives bring to the world. *Richard Venus* will lead this service. *Jamie McQuinn* is the worship associate and the choir will sing.

Sunday, April 18—11:00 A.M.

Earth Day Sunday. *Richard Venus* will lead this service as we focus on some of the critical issues facing planet Earth’s survival and our role in sustaining life. A special family choir will sing a “tree song.” *Janice James* is the worship associate.

Sunday, April 25 – 11:00 A.M.

“The Sacredness of Life—on Suicide Prevention.” *Tricia Marks*, the president and CEO of the Suicide Prevention Center will be our guest. *Laurie Shows*, who volunteers at the center, will be the worship associate. Fifty members of the Fellowship will be attending the Rally for Choice in Washington, D.C.

UU WORLD on cassette tape

Any member of a UU congregation, with a vision problem, is eligible to receive the “UU World” on cassette tape each month free of charge. The tape will include all the articles, features and letters frequently read by the authors themselves. The tapes are mailed at the same time as the magazine so you will be just as current as the rest of the congregation.

Annual Egg Hunt

We will hold our annual YRE Egg Hunt on Easter, **April 11**. The children will receive instructions for the Hunt in their classrooms. The event will be held indoors in case of bad weather or soggy wetlands.

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

Our Staff

The Rev. Richard Venus, Minister

Office Hours: By appointment (except Monday)

Carey Brown, 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
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Kathleen Turner
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Maureen O’Meara
Social Concerns Trustee

Laurie Shows
LRE Trustee

Barbara Czestochowa
Membership Trustee

Bill Wilson
Operations Trustee

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP

7:30 on April 9,2004

Traditionally, Good Friday is the time when people remember the last days of Jesus’ life (not necessarily what Mel Gibson brought to the film). A day which he spent in undeserved pain, humiliation and godforsaken despair. This young man who had been born to help others and did his best to live up to that lofty ideal died a terrible death. It is difficult to REALLY understand and celebrate Easter (rebirth) if you have not been SERIOUS in dealing with Good Friday (death).

Good Friday is a difficult holiday to commemorate; not everyone can appreciate it. You aren’t likely to understand Good Friday unless, like Jesus, you have suffered pain you didn’t deserve, or have ever failed at something that really mattered, or have faced a situation that you desperately wanted to avoid, or have felt that the people who had believed in you were looking to you expecting great things when you knew that you didn’t have a single great thing left.

If any of that reminds you of something, or sometime, in your life, or sounds familiar in any way, you are invited to the MVUUF Good Friday worship. Please bring your own past or present despair. We promise that no one will ask you to talk about it and no one will try to talk you out of it. What we will do is stand together in common acknowledgement that when the worst happens, it is every bit as bad as it is. Come let us prove to you that you do not stand alone. Come prove to us that we do not stand alone.

Board Reports

The MVUUF Board conducted the following business when it met **February 19, 2004**, at the Fellowship.

Kathy called to order the meeting of the Board of Trustees in the Founders' Room of the Fellowship at 6:30 P.M. Present: **Kathy Mays**, President; **Mary Anne Frey**, Secretary; **Richard Venus**, Minister; **Chuck Thomas**, Associate Minister; **Carol Vincent**, Activities Trustee; **Maureen O'Meara**, Social Concerns Trustee; **Barbara Czestochowa**, Membership Trustee; and **Laurie Shows**, LRE Trustee. **Kathleen Turner**, Vice President; **Judy Pickett**, Treasurer; **Jamie McQuinn**, PR Trustee; and **Bill Wilson**, Operations Trustee, were not present. Also attending were **Rich Robinson**, **Gail Davidson**, **Calen Rayne** representing the Treasurer and Finance Committee, and **Chris Woodward** to present a report.

- Heard the treasurer's report. **Barbara Czestochowa** will discuss an item on the income statement with the treasurer.
- Learned about the plan for this year's pledge drive, Canvass by Candlelight, from **Chris Woodward**; and learned from **Richard Venus** that people will be invited to meet on two Sundays in March to brainstorm about what the Fellowship should be doing.
- Received the proposed budget for 2004-2005, which is considerably greater than those of past years, largely because of a \$43,200 mortgage expense.
- Agreed that the Board e-mail list will be open to anyone who wants to be on it.
- Approved hiring **Carey Brown** as Office Manager
- Approved the minister's housing allowance for this year.
- Heard a report on the Governance Committee by **Gail Davidson**.
- Received an update on the Mission/Vision Task Force by **Rich Robinson**.
- Approved rescinding a Board policy that allowed "the Executive Committee (to) look into any matters the Executive Committee feels are appropriate."

Mary Anne Frey, Secretary

Membership News

New Member Signing Brunch

There will be a new member signing brunch **Sunday, April 4**, after the service. Requirements for membership are attendance at orientation or previous membership at another UU congregation and willingness to commit your time, energy and finances to the continuance of this liberal religious community. **Please call the Fellowship office at 436-3628 by April 1 to R.S.V.P.**

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. **Our next orientation will be 18 April.**

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. If enough folks volunteer, we hope members will only have to visit once a year.

Barbara Czestochowa, Membership Trustee

2004 Canvass Campaign

"We've Built a Home; We're Building Community"

Our annual stewardship campaign is now in full swing, with Canvass by Candlelight potluck suppers happening all over the Miami Valley. We want everyone to have the chance to socialize, share their dreams, and pledge to continue to build our liberal, religious community.

During these informal gatherings, members of the stewardship team will present information on the status of our current budget and on our proposed budget for 2004-05. You also may hear from an MVUUF member about how being part of our Fellowship has impacted his or her life. Of course, there will be plenty of time for casual conversation and socializing. In some cases, you may even be treated to entertainment by one of MVUUF's talented musicians or storytellers.

It's all happening this spring at a Canvass by Candlelight supper near you! Gather your dreams and your vision; prepare your appetite and your bank account; and come ready to have a great time and, once again, commit yourself to supporting and building our beloved community.

Announcements



Notes from Hillary

Spring is an exciting time for music at MVUUF. We have the final event in our concert series Sunday, April 18 at 2 P.M. WIND IN THE WOODS will perform Renaissance music in period costumes. Concert admission is \$5 per person with a maximum of \$15 for a family. Before the concert please JOIN US FOR LUNCH! A soup bar lunch will be provided by VAGABOND CATERING for \$6.50. Lunch will be served beginning at 12:20 so plan on enjoying this delicious meal right after the service. The April 3 coffeehouse concert will feature Jim and Robin Farinet performing their stand up comedy routine. You don't want to miss this! Please join us at 5 P.M. for the Saturday Celebration, 6 P.M. for a potluck dinner and then from 7-9 P.M. for the coffeehouse concert.

In other music news I'm very excited about our newly formed music committee. We have recently updated our goals and focus and to that end we now share the following vision statement and the start of our mission statement-to-be. Thanks to the music visioning committee of 1998 for the very complete report that we were able to use to guide us!

Music Committee mission statement, March 9, 2004, "Music provides a unique outreach to the community and to future generations. Music speaks to our hearts, is an outward expression of our search for the truth and meaning, inspires involvement, is a source of healing, provides a connecting element within the fellowship, and is often an essential and integral component of spiritual experiences."



Hillary Wagner
Music Director

Best Wishes,
Hillary Wagner

Got Memorial Day Weekend Plans?

If not, we could use your help! We will be hosting a district-wide senior high training CONFERENCE, titled "How to Run a CON CON."

This means we will have 30-40 teens from various churches spending Friday evening through Sunday morning (May 28 -30) at the Fellowship. They will be accompanied by their youth group advisors and will spend the daytime in workshops about planning future youth gatherings.

As the hosting church, we are asked to provide overnight chaperones. This allows advisors who will be driving home to get enough sleep to be safe on the road. (Don't worry. We'll have shifts so no one has to stay up all night!).

We will also be arranging for food for the group. We will need carry-in food for Saturday dinner as well as help with food preparation for the 3 meals on Saturday or breakfast on Sunday.

This is an important way for us to support youth programming in the district, as well as a chance to get to know some of our awesome UU youth. There will be more details in next month's Forum. Meanwhile, if you are willing to help out, please let **Barb Weber** know.

Concerning Social Concerns

Social Concerns Committee

The Social Concerns Committee will meet on **Tuesday, April 13**, at the Fellowship at 7:30. **It regularly meets the second Tuesday of every month.**

The committee welcomes new members. Please plan to attend.

Helping Hands

The next lunch at The Other Place will be February 14. Please check the clipboards to see what food items are needed. You may also contact **Diane Dover** for more

ESP Contributions

MVUUF members contribute to the Emergency Services Pantry to help persons who run out of food stamps or are unable to purchase necessities that food stamps won't buy. Canned goods and other non-perishable food items and disposable diapers (size 3 or larger) are always needed. Paper 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!

Nursery Caregiver needed in June

We have been blessed in recent months by having **Lauren Beach** as our adult nursery caregiver. She provides loving, consistent care to our youngest ones and helps parents feel comfortable leaving their children.

Lauren will be resigning in June to get married and move out of state to be with her military husband. We wish them all the best in their life together, and we will miss **Lauren** greatly.

This means that we are once again searching for a mature adult to provide nursery care on Sunday mornings. If you know someone who might be interested in this paid position, please let the RE staff know. Ideally, we would like to have someone start in the position before **Lauren** leaves, so the children can get to know their new caregiver comfortably.

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.

Apr. 14

Nickel and Dimed by Barbara Ehrenreich

May 19

Hornet Flight by Ken Follett

June 23

Jewell by Brett Lott

July

Origin of Species by Charles Darwin.

UU-YAN 3 April

Trip to Cincy Aquarium and Buca Di Beppo

Evening Book Discussion Group

The Evening Book Discussion Group will meet at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, **April 13**, at *Ann Snively's* house to discuss *Charms for the Easy Life* by Kaye Gibbons.

In May we will meet on the **11th** at *Lucy Kazyak's* to discuss *Pudd'nhead Wilson* by Mark Twain.

June's meeting will be at Alice *Lizee's* house and we will discuss *Naked in Bagdad* by Anne Garrels.

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

The First Thursday Theological Society will meet 7:30-9:00 P.M. in the Founders' Room on April 1 to continue our discussion of Emerson.

At the last meeting we had a change of plans and discussed Emerson's views on nature, so at the April meeting we will discuss the material already handed out--the readings for session four on Emerson's thoughts about community and social action.

See *Ann Snively* or *Richard Venus* if you need copies of the readings. New participants are welcome.

INTERWEAVE

INTERWEAVE, a support/discussion group for GLBT people and their allies, is now meeting on a new night. The group meets on the **third Wednesday** of each month at 7 P.M. in the Founders' Room at the Fellowship.

Smart Choices meets the second and fourth Mondays every month in the Founders' Room from **7:30- 9:00 P.M.** We explore and experience something at each meeting that will enhance our lives and/or promote healthful living. There are no dues and everyone is welcome!

April 12: Laurel Herminghausen will teach us how to do Transcendental Meditation.

April 26: Nancy Stamper will teach us Yoga for Beginners.

Poetic Insights

The Poetic Insights Group meets the last Sunday of each month at 1:30 P.M. in the MVUUF library. It is open to all and intended for those who like to write impromptu prose or poetry. We are given a prompt by the leader, do some brainstorming together, then we write for about a half hour. We read our rough drafts to each other following the writing session, with the right to "pass" on the reading. Even when we do not write a finished product, we like to share the ideas that came to us during the session. It is fun and thought provoking. Orders will be taken by *Bev Wince* to purchase sub sandwiches at near-by Quisnos for those who wish to brown-bag it after coffee hour at the Fellowship. *Carolyn Sieber* will lead the April 25 session.

YRUU, (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) is open to all from grade nine through 20 years old. They usually meet at 6:30 on Sunday evenings. Contact *Don Kazyak* or *Alisha Dolbeer* with questions.

Meditation Group

Join us Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30 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—sort of a pre-service centering if you will. All are welcome. Please contact *Calen Rayne* if you have any questions.

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** (9:45-11:00 A.M.) 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.

Lifespan Religious Education

Thoughts From Barb....

I sing in a choir at Sinclair, and we are gearing up for our first concert. It is an intense experience for me because I am working at the edge of my singing ability. It is taking lots of practice to come anywhere near mastering this music, but I love it. It engages my whole being: physical, mental, and spiritual. I feel very alive when we finish a rehearsal.



*Barb Weber
Director Of
RE*

The Fellowship is like that. It, too, can engage our whole selves. There are places for our bodies to be involved, and things to think about, and people and rituals that touch our souls.

The Fellowship is like my choir also because it is only as important as we choose to make it. I could devote less time to practicing my music. We could all be less involved at church. But when I think of all I gain from my intense engagement, I can't imagine doing any less.

I know that many of you share my deep sense of involvement with MVUUF. I hope that you experience this church, with its principals and programs and people, as being fulfilling on many levels.

At this time of the Pledge Campaign, I trust that the depth of our financial commitment will match the depth of our other commitments to this place. I trust that, as we are wholly engaged in this, our beloved community, we will all be blessed with the sense that here, we are our best, most alive selves.

May it be so.

Barb Weber

Who ME? Teach RE?

Many people have felt this way when first asked to teach in our Youth Religious Education classes, only to find that they both enjoy it and are good at it.

Teaching gives an opportunity to learn more about UUism, to get to know our amazing UU youngsters and to feel like you are a part of our RE community. We provide well-thought-out curricula and lesson plans, help and encouragement, and early coffee on Sunday mornings.

We are recruiting for summer teachers now, and it is not too early to get your bid in for your favorite class next fall. There will be two teachers for each grade during the summer and three during the school year, so you can still take time off and go to service.

Please see Barb Weber if you are interested or have questions.

Keeping Young Ones Safe

This is a reminder to all parents that they are responsible for their children's safety at the Fellowship except when the children are involved in classes or arranged childcare. Specifically, we ask that children younger than second grade not be left unsupervised and that they be picked up from Youth Religious Education by 12:15. Since service sometimes runs overtime, please be sure to notice the time as you leave the sanctuary.

We do provide childcare during 9:30 adult RE classes, and people who arrive early because they are responsible for some part of the service are welcome to use this. However, we ask that, whenever possible, parents collect their youngsters from childcare at 10:45. This allows a short break for our caregivers, as well as a chance for teachers to prepare their classrooms for their RE lessons.

Because of our limited staffing, we also ask that only those parents who are involved in ARE or in preparation for the service rely on the early childcare. When you arrive for service, please keep an eye on your youngsters and help them get settled in the Sanctuary by 11:00.

The exception to this is on Children's Chapel days, when children may be dropped off in their classrooms (when there is a teacher present) shortly before 11 so parents have time to get to service themselves. Look for the "Chapel Today" sign on the door those mornings.

Please understand that these requests are based on our desire to be sure that all our young people are safe and well-cared-for at church. If you need to make special arrangements for your children, please speak with a member of the RE staff. And as always, please let us know if you have questions or concerns about any part of our programming.

Children's Charity

We are continuing to collect donations for the Humane Society in Children's Chapel and in classrooms. Parents, please help your youngsters understand the important work of this organization.

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

Please note that children's chapel will be held this month on 11 April.

Kids Caring Adopting Two Families for April

Kids Caring has agreed to “adopt” two families identified by the Emergency Services Program (ESP) as needing help with food. To do this we need your help! We will be collecting a variety of food products every Sunday in order to put together our five-days-of-food boxes for our ‘adopted’ families. Here is the scoop on our adopted families, the Kenos and the Carsons. (Note: the names have been changed, but these are actual families needing our help.)

Keno Family

The Keno family consists of a mom and dad with two daughters, ages 8 and 12. When they first came to ESP, the whole family was living in their car since their house had just burned down and they had no insurance. With the help of ESP and the Sunrise Center, they now have safe housing. Over the past 6 months ESP has continued to help, finding the father a part time job and helping the mother enroll in a job training program. Even with these actions, the Keno family still needs food assistance at least once per month to live within their income. April will be our month to help! The Keno household income is about \$1000 per month.

Rent is \$400, utilities \$300, car insurance \$100.

This leaves about \$200 a month to cover clothing, medical expenses, food, and all other household expenses.

Carson Family

The Carson family is a 28-year-old mom and three children — two boys ages 8 and 4 and a 3-year-old girl. Their mother left an abusive relationship because she was afraid the father would begin hitting the children. She also lost her job in order to protect her children and herself. With the two little ones still at home, the mother has not been able to find a job that pays enough to cover day care or sitters. They are in emergency housing and the mother is taking college classes at night. It will take a couple of months to get child support money started; hopefully their situation will improve then.

The Carson family monthly income is \$421 (of which \$200 is food stamps).

Housing costs \$100, utilities \$50, and car insurance \$100. This leaves a deficit of \$29 per month from her cash income. She doesn't like to admit it but the mom usually is forced to sell some of her food stamps to make up the difference.

How Kids Caring and MVUUF will Help the Keno and Carson Families

Watch your bulletin and the MVUUF-News email list for information on how we will help these families. Throughout the month of April, we will be asking for food donations to fill our 5-day boxes with everything from milk and cereal, to meat and potatoes, to toothpaste and diapers. Kroger grocery certificates that will allow Kids Caring to purchase items are also gratefully accepted. (Certificates are on sale every Sunday in the Gathering Space after services.)

Community Class

WE HAVE MOVED TO A BIGGER ROOM!

The Community Class is an adult group that meets every Sunday morning at 9:30-10:45 A.M. in the kindergarten classroom 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, April 4

Killing the Killers: Is Capital Punishment

Enlightened? The controversy rages on. Is the risk of executing an innocent person too great? What punishment do the, Okalahoma City, 9/11 or Madrid train terrorists deserve? We'll look at old and new arguments for and against this question that won't go away.

Moderator: *Rick Lux*

Sunday, April 11

The Will to Live. Inspired by the recent film “*Touching the Void*” about the true-life experience of mountain climbers in Peru, we'll examine that aspect of human nature that struggles to survive in the most unimaginable circumstances— starvation, torture, illness, injury, imprisonment and slavery.

Moderator: *Lindy McDonough*

Sunday, April 18

Einstein & Religion. Was religion important to Albert Einstein, one of the greatest scientists of all time? Are modern science and religion compatible? Can the study of science be a religion? We'll ponder these questions and more.

Moderator: *Mike O'Brien*

Sunday, April 25

The Defense of Marriage Act. Is a new constitutional amendment in our future? We'll look at the history and controversy over one of the hottest social and political issues of the 21st Century.

Moderator: *Linda Kimmel*

Men's Group

Men's Group meets the first Sunday of each month at 9:00 A.M. for fellowship and discussion. All men age 16 and older are welcome to attend. 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.

Women's Group News

Women's Group meets Sundays from 9:30 A.M. They are beginning a discussion on the book, “The Davinci Code” in April. All Fellowship women are encouraged to attend.

Volunteers needed to work at the Dayton Dragons baseball games

Last year we earned nearly \$5,000 for the Fellowship by working at the Dayton Dragons baseball games. This year we are hoping to raise even more, **BUT** we can't do that unless we have some more people help us out.



Here's what we do:

- We work upstairs, inside, in air-conditioned comfort carrying food and other refreshments to the thirty-six corporate suites and two party decks.
- We work about six hours before, during and after the games.
- We start around 5:00 P.M. and are almost always done by 10:30 (rain delays and extra innings do sometimes extend that).
- Normally there are ten people working in the group, all from the Fellowship.
- We get liberal breaks and a free "dinner," so there is plenty of time to get to know the other Fellowship workers.
- The work is not strenuous, but there is a lot of walking involved.

We are going to limit the number of games we work based on the total number of volunteers we have. We are asking that you work a maximum of five games (one a month) and a minimum of three. The season runs from April through August, with play-offs in September. We cannot schedule any dates in September until the third week of August (or when the Dragons qualify for the playoffs).

If you are interested in volunteering, or for more information, contact

Lee White or Jamie McQuinn,



Some of last year's volunteers

Learnings from Leadership School

How are committee meetings at church different from meetings elsewhere? Ideally, they are different because, whether the committee is related to Religious Education or Social Action or Decorations, what we are really about here is the spirit.

Unfortunately, it is easy to get caught up in the business of the meeting and lose sight of the spirituality. But it is possible to plan purposefully to keep our meetings spiritually alive.

One way to do this is by including a chalice lighting at the beginning of the meeting. This time of centering and focus helps us to be fully present and reminds us that we are about more than just business.

Some people have said that they don't open meetings with chalice lightings because they don't know where to look for readings. One excellent resource is our hymnal. There are readings to fit all occasions in the back of it, and hymns can also be read or sung during this centering time.

Another source we learned of at Mid West Leadership School is the UUA Worship Web, found at www.uua.org/worshipweb/main.html. This is a large collection of resources that can be used for chalice lightings and other worship planning. It is made up of writings that have been published in UUA meditation manuals as well as other places.

Mid West Leadership School in Beloit Wisconsin is a great place to learn about all kinds of resources as well as to gain new leadership skills to use both at church and elsewhere. Registrations are now being accepted for this summer's two sessions, July 14-21 or July 24-31. Scholarship funds are available to help with costs. See Richard Venus or me for more information, or check out the website at www.unitarian.org/mwls/
Barb Weber

Deadlines Approach

The deadlines for the upcoming issues of *The FORUM* are April 15 and May 20. Please submit your articles to **Carey Brown**.

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.

Thank you!
The Office Manager

FOURTH SUNDAY FORUM

As a public service, on the fourth Sunday of the month, the Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship will sponsor an afternoon public forum. Local leaders will be given the opportunity to address our congregation and the general public on the topic "WHAT THE BILL OF RIGHTS MEANS TO ME: BOTH PROFESSIONALLY AND PERSONALLY."

The program will start at 4 P.M. and will allow the speaker 45 - 60 minutes for a formal presentation, followed by 15 - 30 minutes of informal interaction between the speaker and the audience. The total program should not last more than an hour and a quarter. Light refreshments will be available following the program.

The first local leaders scheduled are:

- April 25**– Judge A.J. Wagner- Common Pleas Court
- May 23**– Vicki Pegg-Montgomery County Commissioner

This is an opportunity for the general public to see their leaders in a different light than usual, and will give those leaders a unique chance to express their thoughts on a subject they rarely can address in a public way.

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: MVUUF or Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Send this order form along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: MVUUF, 8690 Yankee Street Dayton, OH 45458

MIAMI VALLEY UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship Calendar for April 2004

Additions? Corrections? Changes?
Please notify the office manager ASAP.

*** Schedule of Regular Sunday Offerings***

9:30 A.M. Adult RE: Community Class

9:30 A.M. Women's Group

9:30 A.M. Meditation Group

11:00 A.M. Service & Youth RE

12:20 P.M. Our Turn Discussion

6:30 P.M. YRUU

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:30pm First Thursday Theological Society	2	3 UU-YAN Trip 9:45am Aikido Group 4:30-9:30pm Saturday Celebration/ Potluck/Coffeehouse
4 *See above for regular offerings* 9:00am Men's Group 12:00 New Member Brunch	5 7:00pm Continuing Our Own Theologies	6	7 7:30pm Choir	8 6:00pm Executive Committee Meeting	9 7:30pm GOOD FRIDAY	10 9:45am Aikido Group 11:30am Helping Hands lunch at The Other Place
11 *See above for regular offerings*	12 7:30pm Smart Choices	13 7:00pm Evening Book Discussion Group 7:15pm Renaissance Band 7:30pm Social Concerns	14 7:30pm Choir 7:30pm Earth Circle	15 6:30pm MVUUF Board Meeting FORUM DEADLINE 12 noon!	16	17 9:45am Aikido Group 3:30pm Music & Special Events Comm.
18 *See above for regular offerings* 11:15am ORIENTATION 2:00pm Wind in the Woods Concert	19 7:00pm Drum and Poetry Circle 7:00 p.m. Continuing Our Own Theologies	20 7:30pm Recorder Consort	21 10:30am MVUUF Morning Book Club 6:00pm Finance Committee Meeting 7:00pm INTERWEAVE 7:30pm Choir	22	23	24 9:45am Aikido Group
25 *See above for regular offerings* 1:30pm Poetic Insights	26 7:30pm Smart Choices	27 7:30pm Recorder Ensemble	28 7:30pm Choir	29 7:00pm CG Faculty	30	

FAVORITE BOOKS OF 2003

recommended by members of the Community Class

Berry, Wendell, **Jayber Crow**, 2002, Fiction. "Beautiful prose. Life of a bachelor barber in a small Kentucky farm town." Recommended by *Becky Gormley*.

Brown, Dan, **The Da Vinci Code**, 2003, Fiction. "Great Read!. Informative mystery that keeps you enthralled until the end." Recommended by *Linda Kimmel*.

Bryson, Bill, **A Short History of Nearly Everything**, 2003, Nonfiction. "This book is filled with wonderful information. Great reading! Look at its bibliography! Recommended by *Andrew B. Robertson*.

Dicum, Gregory & Luttinger, Nina, **The Coffee Book, Anatomy of an Industry**, 1999, Nonfiction. Unique history of world business second only to the oil industry in size. Recommended by *Bill Ross*.

Fuller, Robert C., **Spiritual, But Not Religious: Understand Unchurched America**, 2001, Nonfiction. Recommended by *Quentin Burgess*.

Gerritsen, Tess, **Harvest**, 1996, Fiction. About hospital corruption and the donated organ trade. Recommended by *Carol Vincent*

Hillenbrand, Laura, **Seabiscuit**, 2001, Fiction. Recommended by *Jim Falconer*.

Isaacson, Walter, **Benjamin Franklin**, 2003, Nonfiction. "An overall look at our outstanding founding father. You feel as if you know him and like him - his "7 virtues" are valid in our times. He would be a good UU member.!" Recommended by *Elfi Purkey*.

James, William, **The Varieties of Religious Experience**, 1902, Nonfiction. "Poorly written but full of ideas - religion as science, twice born as once born, sins forgiven if you do as you are told, religion should be judged by its results." In print since its first edition. Recommended by *Quentin Burgess*.

Kabat-Zinn, Jon, **Full Catastrophe Living: using the wisdom of your mind to face stress, pain and illness**, 1991, Nonfiction. "Meditation yoga to deal with stress." Recommended by *Ralf Grisard*.

Kidder, Tracy, **Mountains Beyond Mountains**, 2003, Nonfiction. "The story of Paul Farmer M.D., McArthur Genius Award winner and public health advocate who lives in Haiti at his hospital." Recommended by *Mike O'Brien*.

Krantz, Judith, **Mistral's Daughter**, 1982, Fiction. "My first books by Krantz. Surprisingly good and fast read." Recommended by *Kathy Brown*.

Lewis, Bernard, **What Went Wrong**, 2002, Nonfiction. "About the clash between Islam and Modernity in the Middle East." Recommended by *Kathy Brown*.

Mapson, Jo-Ann, **Bad Girl Creek**, 2001, Fiction. "About a woman who is renting rooms in her house and how the friendship of 4 women coimes about." Recommended by *Judy Rengel*.

Mapson, Jo-Ann, **The Wilder Sisters**, 1999, Fiction. "About the relationship of twin sisters with opposite personalities. Recommended by *Judy Rengel*.

Roumien, Graham (Bigfoot), Humor, **In Me Own Words (The Autobiography of Bigfoot)**, 2003. Recommended by *Ralf Grisard*.

Sebold, Alice, **The Lovely Bones**, 2002, Fiction. "Serial murder victim takes on the hereafter. We are aware that death has an effect on those left behind, but what of the effect on those who died?". Recommended by *Mike Nelson*.

Steinman, Ron, **Women in Vietnam**, 2000, Nonfiction. "Illuminated an aspect of the Vietnam War mostly unknown to the public- the women who served in Southeast Asia and were written out of history for decades." Recommended by *Lindy McDonough*.