



Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

8690 Yankee Street Dayton, OH 45458

phone (937) 436-3628

fax (937) 436-3629

Email: admin@mvuuf.org <http://mvuuf.org>

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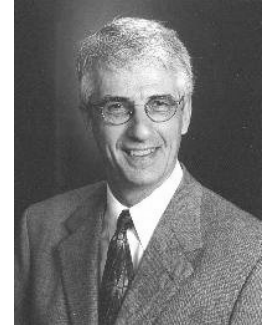
The Forum

Richard's Reflections

Remembering is part of what we will be doing in our services in May; remembering mothers, remembering those who have died in the past year and remembering some of the Fellowship's history. These reflections will remind us of all for which we are grateful; for those whose lives have guided us, those we have given life to and who bring much to us in return.

The MVUUF history is rich with stories of sharing, giving, supporting and guiding each other and the larger community we serve. We have supported families who have lost loved ones, we have cared for those without food or shelter, we have stood by those in trouble, or suffering from serious illness and pain. When most churches are still trying to figure out whether to honor gays, lesbians, bisexual and transgender people, we have been celebrating their lives, and marrying those who so wish it. We have marched with those oppressed and without a voice, and we have shared something of ourselves in the telling of our own stories that bring inspiration to those without hope.

As we approach this upcoming Memorial Day Sunday, I remind us all that as a congregation we don't always get things right, we stumble, we struggle to find our way, but in spite of our shortcomings we have and continue to serve and bless and honor in noble and pioneering ways. This is worth remembering.



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.

Sunday Programs

Sunday, May 2—11:00am

“On The Death Penalty.” Should the state take the life of a person even a convicted murderer? This is the question **Rick Lux** will explore on this May Day Sunday. **Mark Kalafatas** is the worship associate. The choir will sing. Our May Day celebration, including May Pole, will follow the service.

Sunday, May 9 —11:00am

“It’s About Success, Stupid.” On this Mother’s Day **Richard Venus** will lead this service with the theme of how men and women view the world. **Joyce Gibbs** is the worship associate.

Sunday, May 16 — 11:00am

“Benefits on Earth From Our Search for Truth and Meaning in the Universe.” NASA scientist Dr. **Mary Anne Frey** will speak about the benefits that have resulted from space exploration. Dr. Frey has been a consultant with the space program and teaches physiology at Wright State University and is secretary of MVUUF’s board of trustees. **Richard Donnelly** is worship associate. The choir will sing.

Sunday, May 23 —11:00am

“Making Peace With Our Past.” This service will include a mural made from our memories of MVUUF’s history and **Richard Venus** will speak of the Fellowship’s history. **Rich Robinson** is worship associate.

Sunday, May 30—11:00am

“Breathing Lessons.” On the Memorial Day Sunday, we will remember those family members and close friends who have died in the past year and **Richard Venus** will speak of the courage of **Mark O’Brien**, a man confined to an iron lung most of his life. **Ann Snively** is worship associate. Following the service we will dedicate the MVUUF’s Memorial Garden.

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. If this interests you or someone you know contact **Jean McKenney** or **Devorah Greenstein** at the UUA.

Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed

Help fuel the flames of fellowship by making hot drinks available, or, put things back in order as the discussion dwindles down. Please add your name to the schedule on Sunday or contact **Bill Ross**. Thank you!

Our Staff

The Rev. Richard Venus, Minister

Office Hours: By appointment (except Monday)

Carey Brown, Office Manager

Office Hours: Mon.—Thurs., 9:00—3:00pm.

Barb Weber, Director of Lifespan Religious Education

Office Hours: Tue. 11—1:30pm, Sunday Morning

Hillary Gregg Wagner, Music Director

Office Hours: By appointment

MVUUF Board of Trustees

Kathy Mays
President

Judy Pickett
Treasurer

Jamie McQuinn
Public Relations Trustee

Maureen O’Meara
Social Concerns Trustee

Barbara Czestochowa
Membership Trustee

Kathleen Turner
Vice-president

Mary Anne Frey
Secretary

Carol Vincent
Activities Trustee

Laurie Shows
LRE Trustee

Bill Wilson
Operations Trustee

Library News

The Library Committee has two new members: **Christina Barnette** and **Nancy White**. Thanks to Christina, a professional librarian, the Library will soon acquire book labels that make the book categories easy to identify. Thanks to Nancy, many of our outdated books have found their way to Planned Parenthood. Last month, the Library Committee formulated its donations policy. It appears below:

The Library accepts donations whose subject matter relates directly to the mission of the Fellowship and the principles of Unitarian Universalism. Subject areas to be included are Religion, Unitarian-Universalism, Social Science, Philosophy, Psychology, Languages, Natural Sciences, Social Concerns, Technology, Art and Literature, History, Geography, Biography, and books by members of our congregation. Materials donated to the Library which fall outside the scope of this collection will be donated to a charity such as the Planned Parenthood book sale. The Library Committee will be responsible for making all decisions about the appropriateness of additions to the collection.

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

Board Reports

The MVUUF Board conducted the following business when it met **April 15, 2004** at the Fellowship.

Kathy called to order the meeting of the Board of Trustees in the Founders' Room of the Fellowship at 6:40 pm..

Present: **Kathy Mays**, President; **Kathleen Turner**, Vice President; **Judy Pickett**, Treasurer; **Mary Anne Frey**, Secretary; **Richard Venus**, Minister; **Chuck Thomas**, Associate Minister; **Jamie McQuinn**, PR Trustee; **Carol Vincent**, Activities Trustee; **Barbara Czestochowa**, Membership Trustee; **Bill Wilson**, Operations Trustee, and **Laurie Shows**, LRE Trustee. **Maureen O'Meara**, Social Concerns Trustee, was not present. Also attending were **Carol Narigon**, **Gail Davidson**, and **Barb Weber**.

- Heard the Treasurer's report. The FY 2004-2005 budget proposal will be brought to the Board on May 20 or May 27. **Calen Rayne** is moving and will not be able to assume the position of Treasurer. New computer software (Power Church) is being installed in the office. **Dale Bockhorst** will conduct an in-house audit before June.
- Heard status of the pledge campaign.
- Supported **Gail Davidson** to replace **Chuck Thomas** as Chair of the Governance Committee.
- Received draft Mission and Vision Statements, which will be revised and presented to the Board at the May meeting and presented to the Congregation at the June Congregation meeting.
- Tasked the Building Use Committee to draw up a proposed policy and implementation plan for the Fellowship in light of Ohio's new concealed weapons law.
- Discussed the agenda for the June Congregational meeting.
- Confirmed that a Board retreat will be held Friday, June 11 and Saturday, June 12.
- Moved to subsidize our President's attendance at UUA General Assembly this year; UUA will subsidize registration fees for all Presidents. (Note: this will be in the Fellowship's budget for the next year.)
- Tasked the Building Use Committee to make a recommendation regarding special parking places, e.g. for "First Time Visitors."

Mary Anne Frey, Secretary

Welcome to our new members!

Al Boudreau, Brandy Brannon, Steve Cox, Tom Cruse, Duffy Garber, Veena Gopolakrishna, Nick Gray, and Ed Roach .

Membership News

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 May 16.**

Caring and Sharing Committee

We are in need of volunteers to visit members who are ill or recovering from an accident. Volunteers will take food and/or flowers and follow up with the individual, as well as keep the congregation informed of the member's progress. Please call **Lynn Haven** if you would like to be on this committee. If enough folks volunteer, we hope members will only have to visit once a year.

Barbara Czestochowa, Membership Trustee

Governance Committee:

Please join us Monday, May 10, 6:30 – 8:30pm at the fellowship for a lively discussion about our process of moving forward with changing our governance structure. Having defined and reviewed the shortfalls in our current system we are at a fork in the road where we will be deciding whether to focus our energy on improving our current system, radically changing our current system, or adopting an entirely new system. Visitors and new committee members are welcome. –**Gail Davidson**, Governance committee

Mission/Vision Final writing session:

A final writing session is scheduled for Saturday, May 8, from 1:00 – 4:00pm. Please read the following two drafts of the Mission statement. We will begin the session by defining the intended audience for this statement and follow with a discussion of which statement would be more appropriate. We will then take the remaining time and wordsmith this statement until we have a final product, ready to present to the board and congregation in June. If you have questions or suggestions please contact any member of the Mission/Vision Task Force. Warmly, **Rich Robinson** (chair), **Gail Davidson**, **Genevieve Harvey**, **Laurie Shows**, **Ann Snively**.

MVUUF Vision (final draft):

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

Announcements

MVUUF Mission I-4/4/04 workshop version(second draft):

MVUUF supports and promotes the liberal religious community in the Miami Valley. As a welcoming congregation, we offer programs and activities based on a variety of sources and experiences in support of an inclusive and diverse population. In a larger community, we will support the rights and acceptance of and equal opportunities for all people.

We will nurture community by creating programs, activities and worship services that honor differences. We will accept, encourage, and challenge one another on our spiritual and personal journeys.

We will become a visible force, inspiring, supporting, and working together for social justice within our congregation and the community at large by meeting direct needs, education, witnessing, and effecting systemic change.

We actively promote the liberal religious principles of the UUA through our programs, outreach, and worship services.

MVUUF Mission II-narrative version-KP (first draft):

The MVUUF exists to support and promote a liberal religious community in the Miami Valley.

We are a welcoming congregation that provides a variety of sources and experiences to support an inclusive, diverse membership and attendance. We promote equal opportunities for all people and advocate the rights and acceptance of each individual.

We offer programs, activities and worship services that enhance the consciousness we hold in common, and that honor differences among us. We accept, encourage, and challenge one another on our spiritual journey.

We strive to be a visible force in our community. In our work for social justice, we inspire and support each other within our congregation, and coordinate our efforts with the larger community to meet direct needs, educate, witness and effect systemic change. We continue our efforts to develop and implement methods to make our presence known and our views heard as a compelling source of liberal ideas and action in the greater Dayton area and beyond.

We believe and uphold the principles of the UUA, and all of the program, outreach, and worship activities of the MVUUF are pursued in accordance with those principles.

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.

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, May 11**, 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 **May 8**. Please check the clipboards to see what food items are needed. You may also contact *Diane Dover* for more information.

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!

Upcoming Group and Club Meetings

MVUUF Book Club

The MVUUF Book Club meets one Wednesday each month at the Fellowship from 10:30 to 11:30am. Those who wish to may come at 10:15 for some social time. All are welcome.

May 19

Hornet Flight by Ken Follett

June 23

Jewell by Brett Lott

July

Origin of Species by Charles Darwin

Evening Book Discussion Group

In May, the Evening Book Discussion Group will meet at 7:00 p. m. on the 11th at **Lucy Kazyak's** house to discuss *Puddin'head* Wilson by Mark Twain. Our selection for June is *Naked in Baghdad* by Anne Garrels. and we will meet at **Alice Lizee's** on the 8th.

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

UNSUNG UU AWARD:

It's that time again when you have the opportunity to choose one very special MVUUF member to receive the UNSUNG UU award. Since 1984 we have recognized those who have given of themselves in extraordinary ways with their time and talents. Who will this year's honoree? Please submit a descriptive paragraph or two along with your nomination to **Kathy Mays** or place in the President's mailbox. The deadline is May 20th.

First Thursday Theological Society

The First Thursday Theological Society will meet at 7:30 p. m. in the Founders Room on May 6th to finish our discussion of Ralph Waldo Emerson. We will talk about the readings for session five and **Richard Venus** will lead us in a discussion of Emerson's ideas about God.

If you need copies of the readings, contact **Ann Snively** or **Richard Venus**. New participants are welcome. Childcare can be arranged if requested in advance.

INTERWEAVE

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

Smart Choices meets the second and fourth Mondays each month in the Founders' Room, 7:30 - 9:00pm, We explore or experience something at each meeting which will enhance our lives. There are no dues and everyone is welcome. Contact person is **Sylvia Wince**

May 10: **Laurel Herminghausen** will present her research about how families have changed over the last century and how expectations of individual family roles have changed as well. A discussion will follow.

May 24: **Julie Bragg** will tell us about occupational therapy and its impact on its participants.

Poetic Insights

Because of Memorial Day weekend, we will meet on **May 23**, rather than the last Sunday of the month. We will begin the impromptu writing session at **1:30pm**. We are given a prompt by the leader, and then write prose or poetry for about a half hour. Those of us who wish to share our rough drafts read them aloud and tell about what inspired the writing. We adjourn at **3:30pm**. It is fun and thought provoking. Everyone is welcome to join us. No poetic talent is needed!

Sylvia Wince will lead this session.

See samples of poetry on the next page.

YRUU, (Young Religious Unitarian Universalist) 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.

JOIN US FOR BRIDGE

The MVUUF Round Robin Bridge Group is looking for new players for next fall. If you are interested in playing bridge or being on a substitute list, call **Vivienne Himmel**.

We play at different homes each month (four couples) with a final gathering of 16 couples in the spring. Lots of fun.

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** (9:45-11:00am.) 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.

Poems written at a recent Poetic Insights group meeting.

The prompt was an assortment of exotic seashells which were brought by *Carolyn Sieber*, who led the session. The following poems are shared with permission from the authors.

Questions To A Shell

by *Ralf Grisard*

2/1/2004

An accretion of calcium
A sinuous spiral
Is your empty shell your monument?
From tightly curled, cross-hatched beginning
Through gradually smoothing and widening twists
To an elaborate spike-guarded opening
 revealing a smooth white inside
 unanticipated from your rosy ivory tan outside
Culminating in a long, narrow, tapered point.
Like some fantastic biotic auger
Corkscrewing its way to the center of the earth
 from the ocean's floor
With an escape hatch in case of emergency
And a spike both pointing the way back
 and protecting against a surprise assault from the rear.

What did you hope to find?
Were you searching for a gastropod's "elephant graveyard"?
How did you find your way
 with no eyes to see
 or nose to smell,
 or friendly stranger to point the way?
Did you reach your destination,
 live to a quiet old age,
 and finally die in peace?
Or did you give up along the way,
 abandon ship,
 and expire in despair?

I'll never know -
All I have is the mystery of your empty shell
And wonder at the creature for whom
 it was spaceship and home.

A Shell of a Life

by *Bevington Wince*

2/1/2004

Two shell-dwelling creatures
Living within their self-made, individual homes.
Do they wonder, or even think about each other?
Or just continue their sometimes-shallow existence,
Eating, growing, enlarging their watery castles.
Perhaps, if movement is even possible,
They will meet, touch and perform a curious ballet.
Shell we dance?

Close Encounters

by *Sylvia Wince*

2/1/2004

In the depths where I dwell,
My eyes pierce the dark.
Creatures move past me -
Translucent swimmers,
Bright flutters
Tempting tentacles dangle above.
Still, I abide
While my meal approaches,
Unsuspecting,
In search, herself, of prey.
I am spineless,
But I am strong.
Snap! Clamp!
They also survive
Who only sit and wait.

Tide Pool

by *Carolyn Sieber*

1/2/2004

The snail on the rock moves with care -
leaving its familiar niche to seek another -
perhaps a larger place or one with a better view.
The move is slow (snail's pace) and occurs at a
peaceful low tide.

Letting go of all that's safe - to strike out to adventure
must be accomplished in the gap
between the last wet drops and the first
advance patter of the watery crash to come.

Safe in a new spot now. How does the snail
know the tides and how long the space for
adventuring?

How I wish that I, too, could always be safe and
ready for life's incoming surf.

Lifespan Religious Education

Thoughts From Barb....

Don't you enjoy walking up to the Fellowship these days? Not just because this is where you find friends and activities you like, but because of our grounds. The surprise of how the space looks as spring develops is such a joy for me.



*Barb Weber
Director Of
RE*

We knew one advantage of our new land was that we would preserve the wetland. What an unexpected delight that Mama Duck found our sheltering eves good protection for her nest of nine eggs. I hear that there are a number of other nests scattered in the natural area as well.

The place looks so good! Watching the grass come up and flowers and shrubs sprout and begin to bloom has brought me much pleasure this spring. I am grateful to all who have worked to plant and care for our new grounds. I am looking forward to seeing how the place looks as we continue to move through the seasons. What will June bring? And July? And just think how the trees will look in years to come!

But then, that is true of the Fellowship in so many ways. I celebrate the seeds we have planted in each other and ourselves in times past, seeds of learning and justice and caring. It is a delight to see these and so many other seeds thrive as time goes on and our community grows each season.

I invite you to celebrate the good growth we see among us. Take time to notice the good stuff. And then say thanks to whoever planted the seeds or nurtured the growth. Such gratitude will fertilize our soil and lead to ever increasing blossom and fruit.

May it be so,
Barb

"I learn a lot about UUism."

"Its fun!"

"I feel like I am making a difference."

These are some of the things people have said about teaching Youth Religious Education. Summer is a great time to try teaching, since we only ask you to volunteer for 6 weeks, which can be scheduled at your convenience over the season. We provide well-planned curricula, supplies, support and, new this year, AIR CONDITIONING!

We are recruiting for Summer teachers now, and it is not too early to get your bid in for your favorite class next Fall. Please see **Barb Weber** if you are interested or have questions.

Teachers, reserve this date!

Everyone who has taught Youth Religious Education since last June is invited to our annual Teacher Appreciation lunch on Sunday June 20. Please save the date and watch for more details.

Can you help May 28-30?

These are the dates we will host a group of 40-50 Senior High youth and advisors from throughout Heartland District. They will be participating in a CONFERENCE to train them to host CONs in their own churches.

We need three types of help. First, we need people to prepare potluck food for Saturday dinner.

Second, we need help setting up and serving that meal as well as breakfast and lunch on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday.

Third, we need overnight adults so advisors can sleep and be alert to drive home safely. We will divide the night into shifts so nobody has to be up all night!

If you can help in any of these ways, please let **Barb Weber** know.

Know an adult who is a good babysitter?

If so, we are interested in hiring her or him to replace our current Sunday morning Nursery Caregiver in June when she gets married and moves out of state. 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. Teachers, reserve this date! Everyone who has taught Youth Religious Education since last June is invited to our annual Teacher Appreciation lunch on Sunday June 20. Please save the date and watch for more details.

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.

Beginning in May, Children's Chapel will move to the second Sunday of each month. This month it will be May 9.

FOURTH SUNDAY FORUM

Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is sponsoring public forums in the afternoon on the fourth Sunday of the month. 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 4pm 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.

This month forum will feature:

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.

COOT (Continuing Our Own Theology)

We meet monthly on the first and third Mondays at 7:00pm.

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 9:30am. Women's Group will be discussing the controversial and fascinating information, included in Dan Brown's book *The Da Vinci Code*, about the sacred feminine in religion and history. You do not have to have read the book to participate. Discussion topics will cover: Mary Magdalene (not a prostitute--who knew?), the Knights Templar, symbology, Opus Dei, PHI, and some UU sermons written on this topic. All women are welcome, drop-in anytime.

Men's Group

Men's Group meets the first Sunday of each month at 9:00am 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.

Community Class

The Community Class is an adult group that meets every Sunday morning at 9:30-10:45am 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, May 2

"Personality Disorders." Eventually all of us encounter people with personality disorders. These are conditions beyond our everyday idiosyncrasies. We will look at some of these psychological conditions and try to understand them.

Moderator: ***Jim Faulconer***

Sunday, May 9

"Religion: A Blessing or a Curse?" Do the healing powers of a personal faith and the community connectedness generated by traditional religious groups, outweigh the wars waged in the name of some nation's God, the mental anguish wrought on a sensitive individual who does not conform to popular dogma, or the cultural damage done by "good intentioned" missionaries?

Moderator: ***Quentin Burgess***

Sunday, May 16

"Reflecting on the War in Iraq." How did it happen? Where are we now? Is it worth the death and destruction for soldiers and civilians? When will it end? Was it the right thing to do? What comes after? These are a few of the gnawing questions we'll ponder trying to understand a situation that is on everyone's mind.

Moderator: ***Cristina Barnette***

Sunday, May 23

"Sexual Abuse in the Catholic Church." What kind of religious culture could spawn and maintain this widespread phenomenon? What is the legacy of this devastating issue on the individual victims, their families, the priesthood and the Catholic church as a whole? Is there a corresponding problem in Protestant groups?

Moderator: ***Jane Lux***

Sunday, May 30

"Remembering Loved Ones No Longer with Us." This Memorial Day weekend is a time to reflect on the lives and gifts of those special people we have known.

Open Forum

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 pm. 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 playoffs in September. We cannot schedule any dates in September until the third week of August (or when the Dragons qualify for the playoffs).



Some of last year's volunteers

Learning from Leadership School

I have written before about the importance of attending to both the task of a committee and also the "maintenance" of the committee members. Maintenance involves things like centering activities, check-in and taking care of the emotional tone of a meeting.

Members of groups that focus on both task and maintenance report feeling empowered. They tend to be happy people who are getting a lot done. They report both a sense of accomplishment and connection.

At the opposite extreme are groups where neither task nor maintenance is done well. Nothing gets done, and it doesn't feel good either. Nobody wants to belong to these groups.

Focusing too much on either task or maintenance can also be problematic. Although groups can seem to function well by attending to one or the other, there are usually long-term costs to this.

Over time, groups that focus exclusively on maintenance lead to members feeling very frustrated because the task doesn't get done. There may be other reasons for this, but checking to see if the group is spending too much time "just talking" or socializing may be helpful.

On the other hand, groups that only focus on the task at hand often lead to members burning out. They feel unappreciated and begin to feel that meetings are not fun or uplifting. Having a chance to be recognized for the care they put into a group, remembering why the work is important and being thanked for their efforts can help people stay involved with a committee for the long haul.

It takes a balance of the two aspects of a group to ensure the long-term health and happiness of the group and its members. The appropriate balance may shift at various times in a group's life, but attending to both is important. Mid West Leadership School in Beloit Wisconsin is a great place to gain new leadership skills to use both at church and elsewhere. Registrations are now being accepted for this summer's 2 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 May 20 and June 17. Please submit your articles to *Carey Brown*. The deadline for the Sunday bulletin is 12:30pm 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

Here's an Easy Way You Can Help the Fellowship!

You can support our Fellowship financially without spending an extra cent! Just use your MVUUF-purchased card or certificates when you shop at Kroger, Meijer, or Dorothy Lane Market. These stores have programs that contribute part of the money you spend for groceries back to the Fellowship.

Kroger. Kroger has revised their program. In the past, we have purchased \$10 and \$20 certificates at a 5 percent discount, and you have purchased these certificates from us and used them at their face value. We have a few certificates left. However, Kroger has now changed to gift cards (with a monetary value you select) that you scan to pay for your groceries. You will purchase your first card from us and then "reload" it at the Kroger store for up to \$250 as you use the funds. Kroger will send us 4 percent of your purchases.

Meijer. We have applications for Meijer cards that you can complete and take to Meijer for your card, or you can apply on line. The Fellowship will receive a percentage of what you spend at Meijer: The percentage depends on how much you spend.

Dorothy Lane Market. DLM has two programs. For their Good Neighbor Program, you should register at DLM and then tell them you represent MVUUF each time you purchase groceries. Four times a year we receive a check for a percentage of what you have spent. Their other program is a certificate/card program. We have a few \$10 certificates left as well as their new plastic cards that you can purchase and spend just like the certificates. We currently have \$10 and \$25 cards. Let us know if you would like us to purchase them in larger denominations.

Please visit us at the table in the Hall after Sunday service.

MVUUF GROCERY CERTIFICATE ORDER FORM

Dorothy Ln: \$5 \$10 \$20 Total _____

Kroger: \$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

* **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

**MIAMI VALLEY UNITARIAN
 UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
 Fellowship Calendar for May 2004**
 Additions? Corrections? Changes?
 Please notify the office manager ASAP.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 *See above for regular offerings* 9:00am Men's Group 12:30pm MAY DAY Celebration	3 7:00pm Continuing Our Own Theologies	4	5 7:30pm Choir	6 7:30pm First Thursday Theological Society	7	8 9:00am Aikido Group 10:00 WILC 11:30am Helping Hands lunch at The Other Place 1:00pm Mission
9 *See above for regular offerings*	10 6:30 pm Governance Committee 7:30pm Smart Choices	11 7:00pm Evening Book Discussion Group 7:15pm Renaissance Band 7:30pm Social Concerns	12 7:30pm Choir 7:30pm Earth Circle	13 6:00pm Executive Committee Meeting	14	15 9:00am Aikido Group 3:30pm Music & Special Events Comm.
16 *See above for regular offerings* 11:15am ORIENTATION 6:30 Activities Committee	17 7:00pm Drum and Poetry Circle 7:00 p.m. Continuing Our Own Theologies	18 7:30pm Recorder Consort	19 9:45 am Cov. Group 10:30am MVUUF Book Club 6:00pm Finance Committee Meeting 7:00pm INTERWEAVE 7:30pm Choir	20 6:30pm MVUUF Board Meeting FORUM DEADLINE 12 noon!	21	22 9:00am Aikido Group
23 *See above for regular offerings* 1:30pm Poetic Insight 4pm <i>Vicki Pegg</i> Bill of Rights	24 7:30pm Smart Choices	25 7:30pm Recorder Ensemble	26 7:00 pm End of Life Choices 7:30pm Choir	27 7pm ACLU 7:00pm CG Faculty	28 5:00pm YRUU Conf.	29 9:00am Aikido Group YRUU Conf. (cont'd)
30 *See above for regular offerings*	31					

Covenant Groups welcome fresh faces

Are you looking for a way to connect with people meaningfully, to meet people you might not otherwise spend time with, to explore spiritual questions and be challenged with new experiences? Covenant Groups are small groups with a focus on getting to know and care for one another (and to be known and cared for!). They are different from other fellowship groups in the commitment that members make to one another. They have been described by some as "extended families," "small group ministries," and most often, "friends!" If you would like to know more, you can read about the groups on the MVUUF website in the Membership section or use the address below: (Note: While this is listed under "membership" you don't need to be a member to join a Covenant Group.)

<http://mvuuf.org/membership/cg.html>

There are several groups who would like to welcome new people to their group, including groups that meet on Sunday afternoon, Wednesday evening, and Wednesday morning. Please let me know if you are interested or have questions.

Genevieve Harvey

TOMORROW WILL COME

Written by Jack Moody prior to our move to Far Hills Avenue

**“Man will not only survive, he will prevail.”
William Faulkner**

My name is Jack Moody, and I do not wish to move from this place. Then again, I'm the guy who didn't want to hire a minister. I have memories here going back to 1963. We have always had a lot of fine talent in this group, and back in those days I was quite content with the layman's "do-it-yourself" format. We had many, many good Sunday morning programs, but we had a few bad ones along the way, too.

Anyhow, while I was vacillating between "to hire or not to hire," I was subjected to the best (or worst) example of Unitarian perversity: I was placed on the search committee to find a minister.

Personally, I don't think Richard has ever given us a bad Sunday sermon.

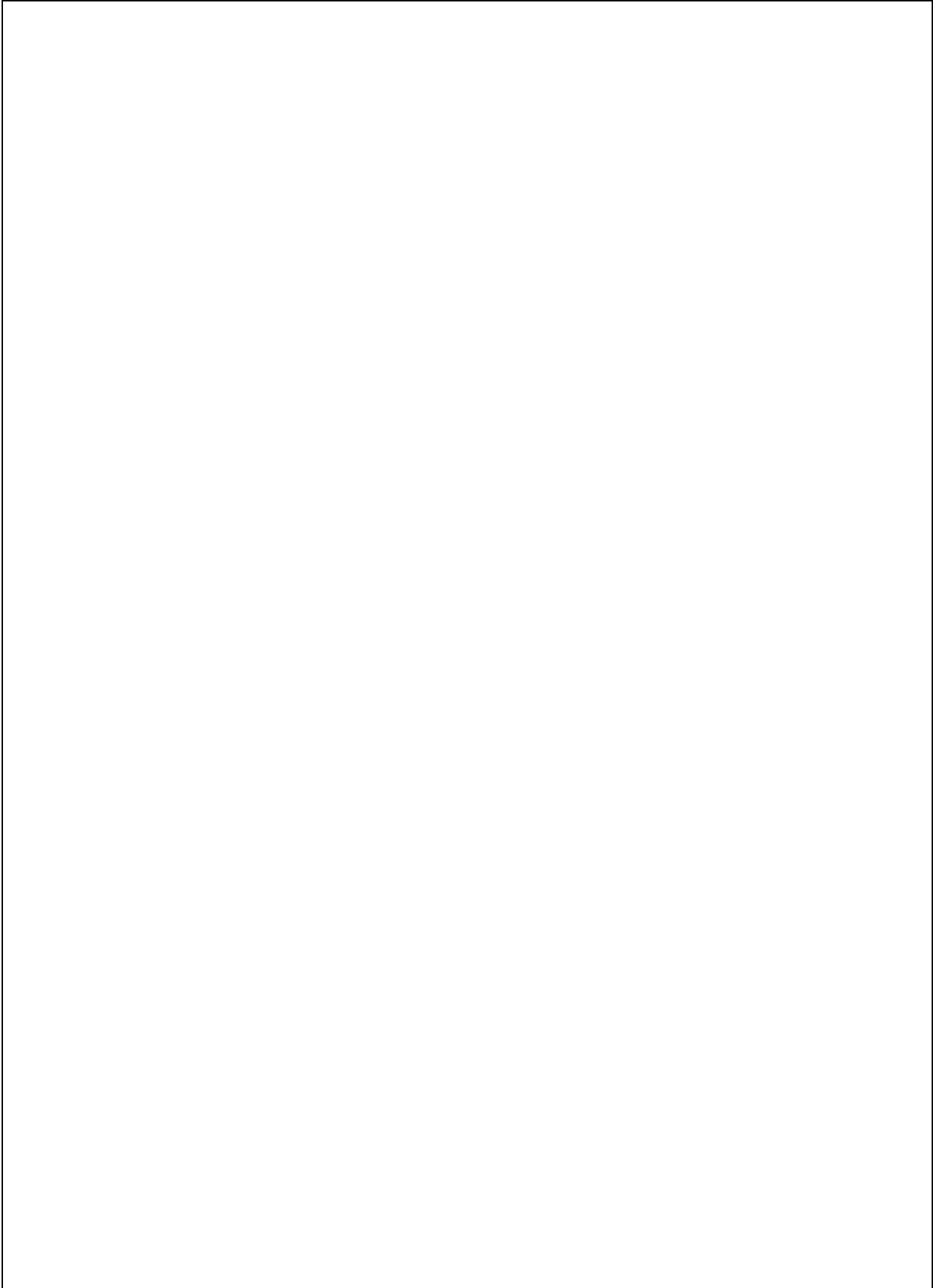
(This isn't the first time I've had to eat my own words.)

Once again, although I don't wish to move, I believe circumstances are forcing us into a position that makes moving virtually a necessity.

Let me add, beyond all this and that, on a universal level, I believe Unitarian Universalists have a profound obligation to make our philosophy available to all those others out there who are searching for us, as all of us once searched.

Our children are not only our future; they are the hope of the world. Who else are being brought up without shackled minds that would make them subservient to the fanatical and blind agendas of others ... without dictates, dogma, or coercion.

Instead, our children are encouraged to think freely, in freedom... to be free!



THE FORUM is published monthly and sent to members and interested friends who may request a complimentary three-month subscription. Beyond that time, friends wishing to continue to receive THE FORUM are asked to send \$20 to cover expenses to MVUUF, 8690 Yankee Street Dayton, OH 45458, to the attention of the office manager.

THE FORUM



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