



Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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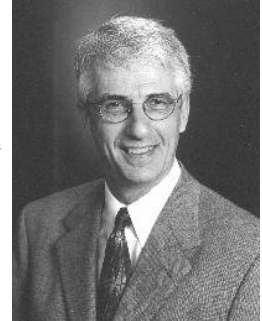
February 2005
Vol. LII No. 6

The Forum

Richard's Reflections

The Personnel Committee and I have agreed that I will take a month long leave for renewal and reflection, and therefore I will be away in February. Barbara Kelley will know how to reach me in case of an emergency (436-3628) and Chuck Thomas, as usual, will be available for pastoral care.

Part of my plan is to work on two books. The first, with Rick Wagner, on a progressive liberal Christian view of politics and religion, and the second, with Trudy Krisher, on a series of essays that speak to my concerns about religion, economics and justice. I suspect my hopes are bigger than my brain, but I want to give these a try. I appreciate this time to do this work and I thank you all for making it possible.



Rev. Richard Venus

President's Message

George Bernard Shaw said that "anything that does not kill us makes us stronger." This was an opening paragraph in Liz Kelly's little book published by friends called *A Spiritual Journey*. Liz was a wise counsel to many, including me, before she died several years ago—some of you may have known her. She goes on to say, "If you have challenges, learn, be thankful and think, *it is not difficulty—it is all schooling.*" Learn. Be grateful for the opportunity.

These are times of great challenge and great learning for us as a growing and changing faith community. We are emerging into something that is a lot different than many of us knew ten, twenty or thirty years ago. We have created a larger community that has opened its arms wider to bring in many more who are seeking the refuge of a liberal religious community where the inherent worth and dignity of each individual is recognized and honored. This is a place where we freely define our own connection or disconnection to the divine, where we can be most ourselves.

For me, MVUUF is a non-judgmental place that has supported me through many phases of my adult development over the past 18 years. It is with a great deal of trepidation, and anticipated challenge that I accepted the position as interim president of this beloved community. I can do this because I know I have the support of wonderful people who have always been there for me.

As a community, we will work through our difficult times. We will stay, we will struggle, we will have victories and breakthroughs and we will grow as individuals and as a community. We will continue to build a community that will be available for generations to come to offer the refuge, support and growth it has given to me and to all of us. Let us embrace what we are and the vision of what we can become. Let us heal from past wounds. Let us reach out to each other in understanding and forgiveness and listen to each other with open hearts. Let us believe that each member is working for what they believe to be the best for the whole community. May we be gentle with each other.

—*Barbara Czestochowa*

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

Celebrate Black History Month

February Sunday Services

Sunday, February 6 — 11:00 AM

Grace Chuck Thomas, speaker.

Sunday, February 13 — 11:00 AM

The Humorous Crusader Jim Farinet, speaker. Our Children's Story will be "Amistad."

Sunday, February 20 — 11:00 AM

The Hands of Friends, Intergenerational Service—Barb Weber will lead us in this service celebrating our connections with each other and with our Fellowship.

Sunday, February 27 — 11:00 AM

Kirtan A service on spiritual chanting with Laurel and Dan Heffner. An Alternative Worship Experience.

Welcome to our newest members!

Gwen Marino & John Crockford
 Katherine Cruse
 Laura & Todd Dewett
 Karen Evans
 Kriss & Deb Gang
 Nancy Hartman
 Mark Heath
 Ritu Jain & Kenneth Hopkinson
 Amanda Matthias-Caton
 Charles E. Miller
 Ben Olive
 Karen Remsberg
 Patricia (Pat) Simon
 Jim & Susan Vachon
 Shelly Nicholson & Carlos Valdes

Our Staff

The Rev. Richard Venus, Minister

Office Hours: By appointment (except Monday)

Barb Weber, Director of Lifespan Religious Education

Office Hours: Tuesday 11 AM—1:30 PM, Sunday Morning

Barbara Kelley, Office Manager

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

MVUUF Board of Trustees

Barbara Czestochowa
President

Dave Rengel
Vice President

Scott Leonard
Treasurer

Sharon Harmer
Secretary

Gail Cyan
Public Relations Trustee

Yolanda Crooms
Activities Trustee

Maureen O'Meara
Social Concerns Trustee

Laurie Shows
LRE Trustee

Rich Robinson
Membership Trustee

Joe Zimmerman
Operations Trustee

Highlights:

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Board Reports

Summary for the Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Congregational Meeting of January 16, 2005

The January Congregational Meeting of January 16, 2005 was a busy one. The first major order of business was nominating officers for the coming year. See the box on this page for our new Board trustees and committee members and chairs. No additional nominations were made and all nominations passed.

Under Old Business, members spoke on current concerns and the Governance Committee gave an update. During New Business, various volunteer opportunities were explained and the results of the music survey were presented. A number of motions regarding the physical operations of the building were made.

The president announced an arrangement for local mediators to begin work with Fellowship members and staff. A presentation by District representative Mary Overly was given on the possible use of a “conflict engagement team.”

At the close of the meeting, Richard Venus gave the minister’s Report and announced that he is requesting one of his sabbatical months for February. Overall, the meeting was both positive and productive.

--Sharon Harmer

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 February 20.

Caring and Sharing Committee

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

—**Rich Robinson, Membership Trustee**

Welcome New Leaders

President **Barbara Czestochowa***

Vice President **Dave Rengel***

Secretary **Sharon Harmer***

Treasurer **Scott Leonard**

Lifetime Religious Education Trustee **Laurie Shows**

Social Concerns Committee Chair **Kate Santucci**

Endowment Fund Chair **John Bierman**

Nominating Committee

Iris Carter

Gary Courts

Vinnie Marshall

* Interim candidates

Bulletin Boards

Be sure to regularly check the bulletin boards located in the hallway just to the left of our entrance. Our bulletin boards contain a wealth of information, with volunteer and learning opportunities within the Fellowship and our community. See photos of our newest members, read the Board meeting minutes and find news items noting the most interesting events in our region.

Tomorrow’s Artists

In February, *Tomorrow’s Artists*, an exciting and original show featuring mixed-media drawings and photography created by several MVUUF teens, will grace the walls of the Chalicelight Gallery. You and your friends and family are encouraged to join us for an **Artists’ Reception on Sunday, February 20** after the service.

Contact **Sophie Narigon** with questions or comments about the show. For information on purchasing artwork from the Chalicelight Gallery talk to PR Trustee, **Gail Cyan**.

Announcements

UU Niagara Experience July 17-20, 2005

If you have ever wanted to visit Niagara Falls or if it is already one of your favorite places, this is a chance to experience the wonder of Niagara Falls including some great educational opportunities while in the company of UUs from around the country. The UU Church of Niagara is conducting a four day UU Niagara Experience which is a lifetime opportunity to encounter the Falls up close from every perspective, even safely riding beneath a tethered balloon. Spend four days exploring the rich history and natural wonders around the Falls. For information visit the web site : <http://www.uunex.net>

Anti-Racism Conference

An Anti-racism/Anti-oppression workshop will be held in Bloomington, Indiana on February 4—6. This is one of three continental opportunities for this training being sponsored by the UUA. A team of facilitators that have been specifically trained by the UUA, will lead the program. One of the facilitators is Barb Weber's son, *topher west*, formerly Chris Weber.

Some of our Youth Group members are already planning to attend. If any young adults are interested, please contact Barb Weber. See additional information at <http://www.uua.org/ya-cm/conferences/RegionalARAO.html>.

Forum Deadline

The deadlines for upcoming issues of *The FORUM* are February 14 and March 14. Please submit your articles to Barbara Kelley (admin@mvuuf.org). If additional time is needed, please let us know—we'll do our best to accommodate you. The deadline for the Sunday bulletin is 12:30 PM on the preceding Monday.

Please check the calendar before scheduling any event that will take place in the building.

Activities Committee

The Activities Committee meets every second Sunday at 7:00 PM at the Fellowship. Movie Nights are sponsored by the committee every second Friday. Game Night is held on the last Friday of each month. Get involved! Contact *Yolanda Crooms* for more information, to participate, or to volunteer.

Free Legal Consultation

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



Dayton Dragons Fund Raiser Volunteers Needed

Please consider volunteering to help with the Dayton Dragons Fund Raiser. Last year, we earned nearly \$8,000 for the Fellowship, working at the Dayton Dragons baseball games. This year we are hoping to raise as much—if not more. We could use some new volunteers to join our Dragon's team.

Here's what we do:

- We work upstairs, inside, in air-conditioned comfort, carrying food and other refreshments to the thirty corporate suites and two party decks.
- We work about 6 hours: before, during and after the games.
- We start around 5:00 PM and are almost always done by 10:30 PM, (rain delays and extra innings do sometimes extend that).
- Normally there are eight 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 have fun! And, we earn money for the Fellowship!

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). The more volunteers we get, the fewer games everyone will be asked to work. If you are interested in volunteering, or for more information, contact Jamie McQuinn.

Drum Circle

The Drum Circle will not meet in February. Look for a change in time and format soon!!!

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Smart Choices

This is not a closed group. Join us at the Fellowship from 7:30 to 9:00 PM each second and fourth Monday evenings. We always do something that is good for our bodies, minds or just for fun.

Monday, February 14: This session will be facilitated by **Jeni Cullen**.

Monday, February 28: **Sylvia Wince** will lead us in an exercise in written expression. All materials will be provided.

INTERWEAVE

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

First Thursday Theological Society

The First Thursday Theological Society will meet at 7:30 PM in the Founders' Room on February 3. We will continue our discussion of how to explain Unitarian Universalism to others. New participants are welcome. See **Ann Snively** if you need handouts of the readings before the meeting.

MVUUF Daytime Book Club

The MVUUF Book Club meets one Wednesday each month at the Fellowship from 10:30 to 11:30 AM. 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**. Our selection for February 23 is *The House on the Strand* by Daphne du-Maurier.

Evening Book Discussion Group

The Evening Book Discussion Group will meet at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, February 8 at **Diane Dover's** house to discuss *Truth and Beauty: A Friendship* by Ann Patchett.

In March, we will meet on the 8th at Ann Snively's to discuss *Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger. On April 12, we will discuss Mike O'Brien's book, *Religion Without God*, at Kathleen Pennington's house. Contact Ann Snively if you would like more information.

CineManiacs—Sunday Evening, February 13

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

Poetic Insights

Bring a sack lunch and join us at the Winces at 1:00 PM, Sunday, February 27. **Sylvia Wince** will facilitate. We begin writing at 1:30 PM and finish at 3:00 PM. Come and join us. No exceptional writing talent is required. We share what we have written after everyone is finished. Often the writing is prose or free verse. It is fun and a good way to know members of the group. Contact the **Winces** for directions to the house.

Aikido Group

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

The World: A Discussion

The Denomination Affairs Committee wants to begin a discussion of the current issues of the UU World in our congregation. The plan is to use the questions in "What in the World" printed near the back of each issue as a starting point for each discussion.

The things that need to be decided now are when and where to hold the meetings. How long and how often should the meetings be held? Those who are interested in this discussion should contact **Chuck Thomas**. **Leslie Woodward** and/or Chuck will facilitate the discussions to get us started. Once the group is established, we can modify the meetings and topics to be discussed according to what seems best to the majority.

Concerning Social Concerns

Guest at Your Table

Sponsor a Guest At Your Table January 30 to March 6, 2005, and help us reach 100 percent participation. This year Richard Venus and Maureen O'Meara, Social Concerns Trustee and UUSC Representative, are seeking 100 percent participation by the congregation for the GAYT program. We want to encourage adults and children to fill a box and make our congregation an honor society. Guest at Your Table invites you and your family to sponsor an international visitor by donating once a day as you eat your main meal or to write a check for your guest's "meal card." For a \$25 donation, anyone can become a UUSC member—that is \$5 a week for the duration of the program. Contributions of \$60 or more will be matched by the Shelter Rock Congregation in New York.

The GAYT program serves as the annual fundraiser for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee founded in 1939 to aid refugees of the Holocaust. The UUSC continues to work today as our denomination's primary human rights organization.

Last year, we earned a Creating Justice banner for 25-49% membership, and at General Assembly, Richard received the award for Best Social Justice Sermon—delivered on January 25. Check it out on the website if you missed it. Let's work to hang a Vision of Justice banner (for 50-100% participation) on our pulpit next year to demonstrate the Fellowship's social vision.

First Quarter events:

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| <i>Ongoing</i> | "Solidarity Ohio," a GLBT advocacy organization in Yellow Springs founded by MVUUF member <i>Gail Cyan</i> . Speak to Gail about upcoming events. |
| <i>January 25</i> | Beginning of "Deep Ecology" class for the Earth Circle— <i>Linda Yoder</i> |
| <i>January 30- March 6</i> | Guest at Your Table campaign— <i>Maureen O'Meara</i> |
| <i>February</i> | New "Voluntary Simplicity" to get you started in the Earth Circle programs— <i>Linda Yoder</i> |
| <i>February 6</i> | <i>Full Spectrum</i> discussion on abortion, a Social Action Program event— <i>Gail Cyan</i> |
| <i>February 12</i> | Meal at the Other Place. Sign up now on the clipboard on the desk. <i>Diane Dover</i> needs many volunteers to be able to provide food for 200 people. |
| <i>March 5</i> | Social Action Workshop to pick our social action focus for 2005-2006, 1:00—4:00 PM, Sanctuary— <i>Kate Santucci, Maureen O'Meara, Gail Cyan</i> |
| <i>March 6</i> | UUSC Social Justice Sunday |
| <i>March 20</i> | <i>Full Spectrum</i> discussion, ways of doing social action |

ESP Pantry

MVUUF members contribute to the Emergency Services Pantry to help people who need food and other necessities. Dry goods and other non-perishable food items and disposable diapers (size 3 or larger) are always needed. Grocery bags with handles as well as other sacks are also always welcome. Place contributions in the purple bin, marked ESP, in the kitchen. Thanks!

Important Social Action Events

A lot is happening in Social Concerns! We have several events coming up that you might want to mark on your calendar. The first is February 6. After the service we will be hosting the first of several “Full Spectrum” discussions. The topic for the 6th will be “Abortion—What Do You Think?” The purpose of these discussions is to foster an open dialogue about sensitive and potentially divisive subjects. This is a chance to talk about the issue in an open and safe environment. Even though we all consider ourselves religious liberals, we have a wide variety of opinions on this particular issue. The social concerns committee would really like to see people come and share their points of view. This is *not* a debate! Just a discussion among UUs—and we love to discuss! So please plan on staying after and joining in. We will have pizza for those who are interested, or you can brown bag it. After all, if we can't talk about these things on a small scale with people we know and respect, how will we ever do it on a worldwide scale?

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The second big event will be Saturday, March 5, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. This is our Social Action Workshop where we will decide on our Social Action Program for 2005-2006. This is your big chance to vote on what we spend our time, energy and money on next year! This year's theme has been “Empowering Women and the GLBT Community.” This theme was decided on by the thirty or so people who came last year and we'd really like to see more people show up and lend their voices to this important decision. We need people to present topics to be voted on.

Do you have a social justice issue that's near and dear to your heart? Tell us about it! The presentation should cover the four ways of affecting social change: 1) meeting direct needs, 2) education, 3) witnessing, and 4) working on systemic change.

Here's a list of ideas: the environment, homelessness, hunger, racial diversity, education, human rights, peace, domestic violence, etc. Please talk to **Kate Santucci**, **Gail Cyan**, or **Maureen O'Meara** if you'd like to present something. All are welcome and encouraged to participate! We will use the democratic process to vote on one topic for the year, so if you have an opinion, it's very important that you be there!

—**Kate Santucci**, Chair of Social Concerns

Emily Upham Award

Thanks to all who submitted nominations for the Emily Upham Social Activist Award, honoring a member of the Fellowship who has been involved in on-going professional and/or volunteer activities in the community that support a vision of a better world. Given recent changes in the composition of the Board, the selection of the awardee will take place before the June congregational meeting, when the award will be presented.

Social Concerns Committee

The Social Concerns Committee needs *you* to broaden our outreach! Plan to attend the next meeting on the 4th Monday of February at 7:00 PM and the Social Action Program Workshop on March 5 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. --**Maureen O'Meara**

The Other Place

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

Lifespan Religious Education

Thoughts From Barb....

Many of you are aware that the Chinese symbol for crisis includes the symbols for both danger and opportunity. I believe there have been aspects of both in the recent difficult weeks in the life of the Fellowship.



*Barb Weber
Director Of
RE*

There have been anger and pain in many hearts as we have been together. That is difficult, but it is not dangerous. The danger is that we might allow these emotions to go underground and to spring up later in suspicions, complaints, fatigue and a sense of disconnection to this, our beloved community.

The opportunity is that we can choose to listen to each other, to listen for the hurt behind the words. We can remember that communication is a tricky thing, and we can remember that what we think we have heard is not always what was meant.

We can remember that we are all here because we love this faith and we have loved each other. We can choose to speak openly about what is inside our hearts. There is risk in this. But as we take this risk, we will strengthen the bonds that tie us together in community, and we will emerge in a more healthy and caring relationship.

There is other danger in our current crisis. With our budget concerns, an obvious danger is that we could choose not to remain solvent. A less obvious danger is that we may allow our budget problems to interrupt our dreams. The opportunity is that our current situation may help us become more focused on what is important in our world. It may help us realize how much we value our Fellowship. We may realize how vital it is that we find ways to fund our growing presence in the Miami Valley, ways that allow us to live into the possibilities of our future.

Growth can come from crisis. In our current situation,

May it be so,
Barb

Thanks!

I was truly touched (and surprised) by the Youth RE Committee's decision to honor me with the Juline Renfro Award for Service to Youth Religious Education. I have said before that I could not do what I do without those of you who give so much as volunteers. Thank you for your enthusiasm, your caring, your support and your hard work.

—*Barb Weber*

New Children's Charity

Our children in Youth Religious Education voted during the Congregational Meeting to begin giving their chapel and classroom donations to tsunami victims. We will collect for this cause until the June Congregational Meeting. Please help your youngster remember to bring money for the collection (coins are welcome!) We will continue to collect beverage pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House.

YRUU

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists, our senior high youth, meet from 6:30 to 8:00 on Sunday evenings. All ninth graders through 20 year olds are invited to join this group. Activities are planned by the young people with Don Kazyak and Yolanda Crooms serving as advisors. Social action, spirituality, learning through new experiences and, of course, fun are what this group is all about. So watch the bulletin for information about specific activities and come join us!

Upcoming YRUU plans include:

February 4—6

Workshop on Racism at Bloomington UU church in Bloomington, Indiana (Whooooope—a road trip), leave Friday, come back Sunday. Advance Registration and parent's permission needed. Visit website: www.uua.org/ya-cm/conferences/RegionalARAO.html for information and forms.

February 13

Games Night/Dinner

February 20

Visit Yellow Springs Fellowship. Parent's permission needed.

February 27

Movie Night

Facilitator Training Workshop

Plan to attend a workshop, led by Richard Venus and Barb Weber, to develop facilitation skills on February 19 from 9:00 AM until noon at the Fellowship. *All covenant group facilitators will want to attend, but others will also benefit from this workshop.* Leaders of other groups within the Fellowship and community will also find this workshop helpful. You will learn applicable skills, gain an understanding of group dynamics, explore the shared facilitation model, and recognize the importance of roles of group members. We hope you can make it! Please let Barb Weber know if you plan to attend or if you need more information.

Heartland Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting of the Heartland UU District will be held April 8—10 at the Vernon Manor Hotel in Cincinnati. Everyone is invited to "Gather in Spirit." Kay Montgomery, UUA Executive Vice President, is expected to be dynamic as the keynote speaker. Fourteen workshop opportunities are planned, as well as time for worship and resource and bookstore browsing. New this year will be a free opportunity for Fellowship teams to meet with Heartland Consultants. Most importantly, this is a chance to connect with UUs from throughout our region. Watch for registration information soon or contact Barb Weber.

Leadership School

Mid West Leadership School is an opportunity for UUs to gain valuable knowledge in a nurturing, fun and challenging setting. Many people have found MWLS to be a wonderful learning experience offering both spiritual and intellectual growth. People often report gaining skills that apply not only to their church leadership, but also to their careers. There are two weeklong sessions at lovely Beloit College in Wisconsin. See www.unitarian.org/mwls or contact Richard Venus or Barb Weber for more information.

Voluntary Simplicity Study Groups

Another Voluntary Simplicity study group will begin shortly. Sign up for the eight-week course on the bulletin board in the front hallway. For more information, call *Linda Yoder*.

Women of a Certain Age

For women over 55, Women of a Certain Age will meet on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 9:30 AM in the library. For information call *Marilyn Faulconer* or *Barbara Czestochowa*.

Men's Group

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

Women's Group

Sunday 9:30 – 10:45 AM, K-1 Room

For the next couple of months, we are discussing the book, "*Soulful Living: The Process of Personal Transformation*," a wonderful exploration of our spirituality and how to use it to engage more fully in our lives. All women are welcome. For more information, contact *Shirley Dobson* or *Gayle Gyure*.

Community Class

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

Sunday, February 6

"New Year's Resolution Progress" Did you make any commitments to change for the better? After one month, how are you doing? We'll share our failures and successes and maybe why we chose our goals and stuck to them or let them fall by the wayside.

Moderator: *Bill Ross*

Sunday, February 13

"Seasonal Affective Disorder" What is it? Who has it? How does one cope with it? Is it due to genetic make-up or life experience? Come learn why some of us suffer the winter blues year after year, and hear about some of the newest treatments.

Moderator: *Julie Bragg*

Sunday, February 20

"Risk—What Do We Think Are Our Greatest Risks?" Life is full of risks - physical, emotional, financial, some inevitable and some by choice, some good and some bad. We'll share some risks we've taken in the past—for better or worse—and explore risks we hope to take in the future.

Moderator: *Kathy Brown*

Sunday, February 27

"Our Favorite Books of 2004" We'll share our thoughts on outstanding books we read last year. It can be a brand new publication or date back to the Roman Empire. Be prepared to give us the title, author, publisher and publication date, so we can share the list on the Community Class Update, UU News Group, and in the FORUM. *Open Forum*

Covenant Groups Forming Now

It's not too late! You can still join a Covenant Group to build friendships, deepen spirituality and broaden your understanding of yourself and others and the world in which we live. We will accept new applications through February 13 for groups beginning at the top of March. You can sign up at any time during the year, but it's especially nice to be part of the formation of a new group, if possible. For more information, contact *Alysoun Reichard*, or pick up a brochure from the visitor rack at the entrance of the Fellowship. There will be someone at the sign-up table in the Gathering Space on Sundays through February 13.

The 2005 Service Auction Needs YOU!

The MVUUF Service Auction is happening Saturday, March 12 from 6:30 to 9:30 PM. This is not just one of our biggest social events of the year, it is also our biggest fund-raiser of the year, and we need everyone's help to make it a success.

First, we need your donations. Newcomers might ask, "what kind of donations?" People donate both services and items. Example services include: hosting a dinner for eight people, hosting a party with board games for twelve people, hosting a picnic on a hiking trail for six people, computer tech support for four hours, handyman services for a day, pet-sitting or house-sitting, a one-hour yoga lesson. Be creative! Other folks prefer to donate items such as baked goods, arts/crafts, or used (but still in good condition) electronics and other valuable items.

Second, if you can help with the party or the auction, volunteers are always welcome.

Complete the form below and return it to Scott Leonard or Barbara Kelley in the MVUUF office no later than Sunday, February 13 so we can include your donation in the auction catalog. If you have questions, contact Scott Leonard.

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| _____ | _____ |
| Name | Phone Number |
| _____ | _____ |
| Mailing address | E-mail address |

Description of the service(s) or item(s) you will donate: _____

If you are donating an event (meal, party, hike, etc.), please specify number of guests ____ and the date of the event _____ or *Date To Be Determined*

If your item is a baked good or something similar, indicate if the item will be available to take home Auction Night or a future *Date To Be Determined*

If you require a minimum bid, what is the minimum bid (optional, NOT recommended) \$_____.


I can help throw the party by working on:

- Planning Food preparation
- Decorations Setup or Clean-up

I can help with the Auction by working on:

- Planning Computer Data Entry
- Publicity Catalog Production (word processing, mailing)
- Setup or Clean-Up Child Care (30 minute shifts)

MVUUF February 2005

| | | |
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| Tues | 1 | Worship Committee 7:00 PM Exploring Deep Ecology 7:30 PM |
| Wed | 2 | Choir Practice 7:30 PM |
| Thurs | 3 | First Thursday Theological 7:30 PM |
| Fri | 4 | Bloomington UU Racism Workshop |
| Sat | 5 | Aikido 9AM |
| Sun | 6 | Men's Group 9:15 AM Women's Group 9:30 AM Community Class 9:30 AM <i>Grace</i> —Chuck Thomas 11:00 AM Full Spectrum Discussion 12:30 PM YRUU 6:30 PM |
| Mon | 7 | |
| Tues | 8 | Evening Book Club 7:00 PM offsite Exploring Deep Ecology 7:30 PM |
| Wed | 9 | Choir Practice 7:30 PM |
| Thurs | 10 | |
| Fri | 11 | Movie Night— <i>Dogma</i> 6:30 PM |
| Sat | 12 | Aikido 9AM <i>The Other Place</i> Lunch |
| Sun | 13 | Women of a Certain Age 9:30 AM Women's Group 9:30 AM Community Class 9:30 AM <i>Humorous Crusader</i> —Jim Farinet 11 AM Cinemaniacs 5:00 PM Neon Movies YRUU 6:30 PM |
| Mon | 14 | Governance Committee 7:00 PM Smart Choices 7:30 PM Happy Valentine's Day!  |
| Tues | 15 | Exploring Deep Ecology 7:30 PM |
| Wed | 16 | Interweave 7 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM |
| Thurs | 17 | |

| | | |
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| Fri | 18 | |
| Sat | 19 | Aikido 9AM Facilitator Training 9 AM—noon |
| Sun | 20 | Men's Group 9:15 AM Women's Group 9:30 AM Community Class 9:30 AM <i>Intergenerational Service</i> 11:00 AM Chalicelight Artists' Reception 12:15 Orientation 12:15 YRUU 6:30 PM |
| Mon | 21 | |
| Tues | 22 | Exploring Deep Ecology 7:30 PM |
| Wed | 23 | Dayton Book Club 10:30 AM Choir Practice 7:30 PM |
| Thurs | 24 | |
| Fri | 25 | Game Night 7:00 PM |
| Sat | 26 | Aikido 9AM Mystery Friends Dinner 5:00 PM |
| Sun | 27 | Women of a Certain Age 9:30 AM Women's Group 9:30 AM Community Class 9:30 AM <i>Kirtan</i> —AWE 11:00 AM Poetic Insights 1:30 PM Winces YRUU 6:30 PM |
| Mon | 28 | Social Concerns Committee 7:00 PM Smart Choices 7:30 PM |

Coming Soon!

Mark your calendar now for:

Social Action Workshop—March 5

UUSC Social Justice Sunday—March 6

Service Auction—March 12

Heartland UU Annual Meeting—April 8-10

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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