



Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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March 2006
Vol. LIII No. 7

The Forum

Of Cabbages and Kings: Lenten Reflections

March 1 is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Islam has Ramadan, Judaism has Yom Kippur, and Christianity has Lent. I find something moving in this human impulse to acknowledge and atone for faults. Maybe all those people are onto something. Perhaps Unitarian Universalism might be richer for providing this kind of structured opportunity for self-examination, the acknowledgment of shortcomings and renewed closeness to whatever we hold sacred in the faith that our failures are redeemable. Lent may be somber, but it is based on a fundamental sense of hope and belief in the possibility of doing and being better.



Martha Hodges

For Christians, Easter, not Christmas, is the defining religious holiday. Many of us UUs, on the other hand, tend to regard Easter, the culmination of Lent, as a fairly lightweight holiday — a time for gorging on chocolate bunnies and dressing up. (No doubt many Christians tend to trivialize it, as well. My high school boyfriend, a Catholic, once informed me that he was “giving me up” for Lent! Even at age fifteen, I didn’t quite buy that.)

For us Northerners, spring seems miraculous because of the darkness and cold that precede it. Similarly, Easter might mean more to us if we gave some thought to its shadow side. For Christians, it is the suffering of Jesus that imbues Easter with significance. The forty days preceding Easter represent his wilderness experience, the period of his temptation when he questioned his fate and longed to turn away from the meaning of his life. Is there a metaphor in this story that holds meaning for us? I think so.

I intend to use this time of Lent to work on my spiritual practices and engage in some honest self-examination. I will try to remember the tragic side of Easter, the fearsome side of rebirth and the shadow side of my own nature. I hope that Lent will help me to make some space in my life and in my spirit for a renewed sense of purpose and authentic connection with the “Life that maketh all things new.”

—*Martha Hodges, Interim Minister*

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.*

MARCH SERVICES

Sunday, March 5 – 11:00 AM

Standing for Something—Martha Hodges

A mission-driven church is one that grows in spiritual depth as well as in numbers. It has a strong sense of identity and purpose. Too few of our UU congregations feel this energizing and unifying sense of “call” to stand for something. And if we do want to build a common life around such a mission, how do we figure out what it is? As this Fellowship prepares for a new professional ministry, we have an opportunity to decide the focus for our shared ministry as well—the ministry we bring to one another and to the larger world. This Sunday, you will vote for the three top candidates for our shared mission.

Sunday, March 12 – 11:00 AM

Forms of Hindu Devotion

Dr. Valerie Stoker joins us from the Religion Department of Wright State University. She will explore various forms of Hindu devotionalism as they are expressed in sacred narratives, religious art and music, and ritual performance. Dr. Stoker will discuss the complex identities of some of the main Hindu deities and how different communities of believers have understood devotion to God as a counter-cultural force.

Sunday, March 19 – 11:00 AM

To Build the Common Good and Make Our Own Days Glad—Martha Hodges

Today is the day for you to choose the social action focus around which this Fellowship will build its mission! Together, we will discern what part the congregation will play in the larger world in the coming years. At the March 5 service, you selected the top three suggestions for our chosen mission. Today, three of your fellow members will take turns presenting their ideas about why their preferred choice would make a feasible, fulfilling and transformative mission for MVUUF; then you will have the opportunity to make a final selection. Don't miss this chance to help decide what this Fellowship will be “about.”

Sunday, March 26 – 11:00 AM

“A Person Will Worship Something” (Humor the Interim Sunday)—Martha Hodges

Martha will use this Sunday to experiment with the idea of “worship” by trying out a slightly different format, or what in other traditions would be called “liturgy.” Preaching on Emerson's assertion that “a person will worship something,” she will ask whether the concept of worship has any meaning to us as a non-creedal people holding diverse ideas about divinity. And what comes first—the *what* or the *how* of worship? What might a more “worshipful” Sunday service feel like? *In keeping with this “experiment,” please enter the Sanctuary and take your seat in silence, just for today!*

Martha Hodges, Interim Minister

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The FORUM

The FORUM is published monthly by the Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 8690 Yankee Street, Dayton, OH 45458. Subscription price is \$20 annually and is included in membership. *The FORUM* is edited by **Barbara Kelley** (admin@mvuuf.org). Thank you for help from **Gail Cyan** (PR Trustee), **George Henderson** (Mailer) and **Carol Narigon** (Proofreader). **The next Forum deadline is March 14.** The deadline for the Sunday bulletin is 10:00 AM on the preceding Monday.

Board and District

President's Message

Well, so much for the winter “blahs.” There is just no time. Many important events are coming up within the next two months, including information meetings to discuss the bylaws written to support the new governance model, the much anticipated service auction, the annual stewardship pledge campaign and the special congregational meeting on Sunday, April 23. Plus, while all of this is going on, the Social Action Committee will be coordinating the process of deciding what our long-range social action focus will be.

Before moving on to the business at hand, I want to thank and commend the congregation for their selection of a tremendous Ministerial Search Committee and for approving, in spirit, the new governance model. Your confidence and faith in your board of trustees and the governance committee is greatly appreciated and humbling. We would not be where we are in this transition without your support. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Have you read the new bylaws yet? There will be a special information meeting on Sunday, March 12 at 12:30 PM. The meeting is to discuss questions and comments regarding the revised bylaws draft presented to the congregation in January. The bylaws being proposed were written to support the new governance model. In writing these, the governance committee examined, debated, discussed and reached consensus on the full scope of congregational governance including leadership responsibilities and accountability, personnel relations, democratic processes and congregational authority. I believe that this new set of bylaws not only empowers us to change our governance structure, but embodies a greater emphasis on democratic principles, open government and fairness. The committee, however, was not comfortable enough to reach a consensus on some very important issues including incorporation of UU principles into the bylaws and qualifiers for freedom of the pulpit. The final draft will take into consideration the congregation's input on these and other unresolved issues.

If you want to have input on the draft bylaws and want to be fully informed and ready to cast your vote on April 23, you need to read the bylaws and attend the information meeting. It is important to remember that the bylaws will be presented for approval as a complete document. There will not be an article-by-article or section-by-section vote.

You can download a copy of the new bylaws from the main page of the Fellowship website or pick up a copy in the church office. The important thing is that if you want to have a say, now is the time.

It is both an exciting and a challenging time at MVUUF. Our ministerial transition, the new governance model and a renewed and targeted focus on social action will all combine to set MVUUF on a course for spiritual growth, organizational growth, financial abundance and community outreach. Like I said, there is just no time for the winter “blahs.”

—*Kriss Gang*, President, Board of Trustees

Win a FABULOUS UU Original DOOR PRIZE!!

Imagine yourself at the special congregational meeting on April 23...tension mounts, a quiet hush fills the room, a child's delicate hand reaches into the pot of names...nervous laughter as a slip of paper is drawn...and YOUR name is read...the congregation CHEERS and you have won the coveted, creative, yet to be revealed DOOR PRIZE.

“HOW DO I ENTER MY NAME?” you ask. These tickets cannot be bought. All you have to do is: Read a copy of the new proposed MVUUF Bylaws and send a statement to MVUUF-Bylaws@yahoo.com or leave a note in the Comment Box in the Gathering Space stating “I READ IT!” and your name will be entering into the drawing.

You can get a copy of these proposed Bylaws by going to www.mvuuf.org, picking up a copy in the Gathering Space, or requesting a copy through *Gail Cyan*. *The governance committee is asking for your written feedback before March 19.*

Please come to the second **Open Feedback Forum after church on Sunday, March 12 at 12:30 PM**. The committee will be available to discuss all concerns submitted on or before that date. The final draft of the MVUUF Bylaws will be published on our website by March 24, 30 days before the April 23 congregational meeting where we will VOTE to approve or reject the new bylaws. Hard copy versions will also be available at the Fellowship on that date. Thank you for giving this important (and possibly boring) document your valuable time and attention!

—*The Governance Committee, Gail Cyan, Chair*

Summary of Board Meeting of February 16, 2006

Scott Leonard, Board Treasurer, reported that there is a surplus of approximately \$50,000 in the bank. Scott reported that the Forum expenses are running about \$1,200 above the \$3,000 budget. The mailing list will be scrubbed to see if we can reduce the amount of Forums printed and mailed. Gail Cyan suggested a process that would allow members to opt out of the mail list and get the Forum online instead.

Yolanda Crooms, Activities Trustee, reported that she is planning a couples retreat and more information will be available soon. Gail Cyan, Public Relations Trustee, expressed a need to have PR volunteers for the upcoming concerts and the Soup Bowl Supper. She is also working on purchasing two signs to place in front of the Fellowship to announce various events.

Jamie McQuinn, chair of the Ministerial Search Committee, reported that the committee has met three times since its formation, including once with Lisa Presley, Heartland District Ministerial Settlement Director. Among other activities, the committee plans to survey the congregation, hold open meetings, and perhaps conduct focus groups to try to discern who we are as a community and what type of minister we want.

Gail Cyan, Chair of the Governance Committee, reported that the draft bylaws have been posted for comment. Kriss commended Gail on the good work she is doing with the committee. Gail complimented the entire committee for their hard work. Scott Leonard moved to approve the edited Ministerial Discretionary Fund addition to the MVUUF Policy Manual. Dave Rengel seconded, and the motion carried.

The League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area has received a grant to conduct a forum on “open records” in government as part of National Sunshine Week. They have asked MVUUF to co-sponsor and host the forum on March 18 from 12:30 to 3:30 PM. Amanda Mathias moved that MVUUF co-sponsor the event as requested. Gail Cyan seconded, and the motion carried.

Joe Zimmerman requested that any money raised from the upcoming Wishing Chair concert, in excess of expenses, be targeted toward improvements to the Fellowship sound system. This was agreed to.

Respectfully submitted by,
Bill J. Wendel

Heartland Annual Meeting

The Heartland UU District Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 7-9 in Indianapolis. This is an excellent opportunity to talk with other UUs from our region, gather ideas, attend workshops and worship together.

The keynote speaker will be Angela Merkert, whom some of you may know from Mid West Leadership School. She is a wonderful speaker and very knowledgeable about churches and UUism. Workshops will include Membership Journey, Committees on Ministry, Conversation with the Heartland Board, Creating Alternative Worship, Dare to Grow, Nurturing Children and Youth, Writing as Spiritual Practice, Funding UU Programs and Dreams, Light for the Dream and Living Out Our UU Vision.

The theme this year is “Sharing Ministry,” and the district’s “congregational meeting” is also planned. For more information about the meeting, contact **Barb Weber** or visit the district website at heartlanduu.org. Call the office if you plan to attend — we can get one free admission with 7 paid registrations!

UUism in the News

In December, over 200 religious leaders and lay people were arrested in Washington, D.C., for demonstrating against the planned budget. Some of those people arrested were UUs. The group was demonstrating on the basis that the national budget was a moral document and thus should direct its resources towards those who need them the most.

Again in December, the UUA gave out a press release opposing the confirmation of Alito as Supreme Court Justice. The UUA expressed concerns over civil liberties (right to privacy, due process and religious liberty).

Keep these dates in mind:

April 7—9 Heartland District Annual Meeting in
 Indianapolis (see article above)
June 21—25 UUA General Assembly in St. Louis

—**Sharon Harmer**, Denominational Affairs

Worship Committee Meeting Rescheduled

The Worship Committee usually meets on the first Tuesday of every month, however, the March meeting has been rescheduled. It will be held on March 14 at 7:30 PM in the Founders’ Room. All are welcome.

Ministerial Search Committee Report

This is the first semi-monthly report by the MVUUF Search Committee to inform the Fellowship of our progress toward finding a new minister. Our committee was elected at the January 15, 2006 Congregational Meeting, and consists of **John Bierman, Jim Faulconer, Sean Halpin, Alice Lizee, Jamie McQuinn, Ann Snively** and **Phil Wise**.

Since our election we have organized ourselves, divided our workload and met with **Lisa Presley**, our Heartland District Executive and Ministerial Settlement Representative, to learn about the steps in what will be about an 18-month search process.

Jamie McQuinn is our committee chair; Jim Faulconer is treasurer; John Bierman is secretary; Alice Lizee is survey coordinator; and Ann Snively is packet coordinator. Sean Halpin is our representative on the MVUUF negotiating team. We will meet at MVUUF on the first and third Tuesday of each month.

For the next six months we will create two large reports which will describe MVUUF to potential ministry candidates. First, the Congregational Record (CR) will be written after a membership survey and small and large group discussions. It will profile our MVUUF members, our strengths, skills and enthusiasms, as well as what we see as challenges and issues for the future. Our committee will write and analyze the survey, answer UUA questions, give MVUUF statistics and describe what our members seek in a minister. This CR will be uploaded to the UUA website by October 31 for potential applicants to read online.

After a 30-day online review period, interested ministers will start to contact us, and we will receive the Ministry Record of each, outlining their qualifications and job experience. We will examine the applicants and conduct telephone interviews to determine the applicants with whom we would like to exchange packets.

This MVUUF Packet is the second major document we will create in tandem with the CR. It will give a greater overall description of MVUUF: our activities, history, programs and how we live and function as a religious community. It will include photos, perhaps a CD and information on the Dayton area. We will use it to "sell ourselves," and the ministry applicants will send us similarly detailed packets on themselves.

Looking beyond the next six months, we will then review the packets and make reference checks on applicants, aiming to invite three or four individuals to visit neutral pulpits in the fall, during "pre-candidating weekends" where we would hear them speak and conduct further in-depth interviews.

After the start of 2007, the committee will select one applicant as our candidate and invite him/her to Dayton for a weeklong visit. During this very busy "candidating week," our nominee will preach two Sunday sermons and have numerous opportunities to meet and talk with all our members.

Following the second Sunday service, MVUUF will vote on calling the candidate as our minister. If the vote is positive, and the candidate accepts, he or she would start work at MVUUF in late summer 2007.

Needless to say, this will be a tremendous amount of work! Our first major task will an overnight retreat at Bergamo on Saturday, March 4 with a UU facilitator in order to get to know each other deeply, have team building exercises and fix our time schedule and decision-making rules. Each of us is also reading two 60-page search process guidebooks, as well as reviewing sample church surveys in order to design a new one for our congregation.

We aim to keep you all informed as we progress. Please ask us if you have any questions.

—**John Bierman**, Secretary
Ministerial Search Committee

Minister as Servant Leader

What makes a minister, a spiritual leader, different from a CEO or an employee?

For the minister, personal fulfillment is inseparable from the good of others. The “servant leader” serves not only the congregation, but her or his understanding of the Holy, or life’s call to be in authentic, healing and challenging relationship with others. Therefore the minister is not there to attend to every congregant’s needs or demands. But neither is she there primarily to meet her own needs for power, ego gratification or martyrdom. In the words of Jeffrey Jones, an American Baptist minister, “To be a servant is to empty one’s self so that motivations are not based in personal ego satisfaction but in the potential growth of others...”

On the other hand, servant leadership “is not about being a doormat...” The will to serve comes from a position of strength and a healthy regard for one’s own abilities and value. The servant leader does not neglect his own personal and spiritual needs, but neither does he regard meeting these as an end in itself.

Ministry calls for a profound sense of humility before the mysteries of nature and of one’s fellow beings. Such humility allows the minister to risk failure in meeting the radically changing needs of a constantly evolving congregation. At the same time, such confidence and commitment to something larger than the self allows the minister to maintain a core sense of self and mission that is strong enough to withstand whimsical or transitory demands to change – to sort out the significant from the trivial and to respond appropriately. In Jones’s words, leadership effectiveness is “not shaped by playing the right roles but by embodying the right qualities.”

A Moment in Time

You’ve probably heard of the Starr King School for the Ministry, located in Berkeley, California. (Starr King is one of two Unitarian Universalist seminaries, the other being the Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago.) But do you know who this Starr King was? Starr King may sound like the name of a Hollywood cowgirl of the Roy Rogers era, but no... Thomas Starr King was a Universalist preacher born in 1824 who later became a Unitarian. After serving several years on the east coast, Starr King moved west to work as a Unitarian missionary. (Yes, we had missionaries in those days.)

He served as the minister of First Church in San Francisco but is better known for his evangelical tours up and down the west coast and for his work as an abolitionist. He is credited with leading the fight to keep California in the Union during the Civil War.

On his deathbed, Starr King said to his wife, "Do not weep for me. I know it is all right. I wish I could make you feel so, I wish I could describe my feelings. It is strange. I see all the privileges and greatness of the future. It already looks grand, beautiful. Tell them I went lovingly, trustfully, peacefully." Starr King died of diphtheria at age thirty-nine. Upon King’s death, President Lincoln ordered gun salutes from U.S. forts in recognition of his service to the Union. Today his statue represents the state of California in the U.S. Capitol.

“No religious philosophy is ample that does not justify the ritualism, the hallelujah, and the silence.”

—Thomas Starr King

Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF)

Check out the online classes available at the Church of the Larger Fellowship (www.clfuu.org, click on “Resources”). This is a valuable resource for UUs, even those who are affiliated with a congregation.

“Our Way of the Spirit,” taught by Rev. Roy Phillips and Linda Giesen, starts on March 6 and runs for six weeks. The course uses texts from our Unitarian and Universalist history to invite participants into dialogue with the great thinkers of our liberal faith. As they encounter the historical threads of UUism, students are asked to reflect on the ways in which their own beliefs match, diverge from or expand from the thoughts of these historical figures. The course price is \$40.

Other courses on the online schedule include, *“This I Believe: A Writer’s Journey,”* taught by Rev. Amanda Aikman. The course starts April 26 and runs six weeks. Beginning July 20, sign up the entire family for *“Children’s Literature: The Joy of Great Picture Books.”* The course runs for 8 weeks. Family participation is encouraged.

Thoughts From Barb...

In their book, *Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations*, Gil Rendle and Alice Mann describe several types of planning that congregations undertake. They suggest that different types of planning are appropriate for different situations facing congregations. Each requires a different approach.



Barb Weber
Transition Coordinator

The first type of planning is called problem planning. This is very similar to problem solving, in that it begins with a specific problem, such as how to organize the service auction. The steps involved are to clarify the problem, brainstorm solutions, choose one and implement it. This type of planning draws on past experience with similar situations. It can usually be accomplished within a short timeframe and success is easily measured.

Another type of planning Rendle and Mann explore is developmental planning, which is often called long-range planning. Developmental planning seeks to take us somewhere we have not been before. It looks at where we are now and asks what our next steps are.

The Ministerial Search Committee is engaging us in this type of planning when they ask us to examine and define who we are, what is important to us as a congregation and what our vision of the future is. As they clarify the gap between who we are and who we want to become, they will become more clear about what type of minister will help lead us there. Meanwhile, we as a congregation will become more clear about where we want to be going in the years to come.

A third type of planning is called frame-bending, or strategic planning. This type assesses where a congregation is at the present, but recognizes that some old ways of functioning may no longer work. Instead of mapping out steps to continue in our former path or to extend the path in a straight line from our present position, frame-bending planning dares to follow a new approach, which fits the current situation better.

Frame-bending takes more time than other types of planning. The Governance Committee, having recognized that our old structure is not likely to work well as we move into the future, has been engaging in this type of planning for many months.

Each of these types of planning is important in the life of a congregation, and all can be occurring at the same time.

It is important to recognize that there is much time, energy and love involved in these many levels of planning, and that these activities can be stressful. As a community, we are currently being asked to function on all three levels of planning and change. There is much excitement about the future we can glimpse through these processes. There may also be some trepidation as we wonder what the future holds.

I invite and encourage you to participate as much as you are able in the many discussions that will shortly be taking place about the future of MVUUF. It is those discussions, and the thoughts of all of us, and the sharing together of our dreams that will mold that future. Each one of us matters in this process, whether we are a part of a specific planning committee or not.

I hope you will join in the vision. For it is by the vision and the creation of our dream that we build this, our beloved community.

May it be so.

—Barb

UU General Assembly

The UU General Assembly will be held June 21-25 in St. Louis. As part of the continual effort toward increased environmental and fiscal responsibility, the General Assembly 2006 housing reservation and registration information will no longer be sent to individual past registrants, as had been the practice in previous years.

The forms are available online at www.uua.org/ga. If you would rather have a paper copy of the form, do not hesitate to call the office.

Announcements

Keeping Up With Members

Welcome New Baby

Congratulations to **Barbara Czestochowa** on the birth of her new grandbaby. Carsyn Elizabeth Auer arrived on February 1, 2006 at 10:30 AM. She weighed in at 6 lbs., 11 ounces and was 19 inches long. Mother, daughter and father are all doing quite well.

Get Well Soon

Long time member **Carol Vincent** is recovering from surgery at her home. We send our warmest regards to Carol, with hope she will be strong and healthy again soon!

In Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to **Persephone**, our director of religious education, for the recent death of her grandmother.

Thanks

Thank you to **Judy** and **Dave Rengel** for all your work in cleaning and organizing the storage closets. What a lovely difference!

Welcome Session

Are you still “visiting” the Fellowship? Find out more about us. A Welcome Session follows the service on the third Sunday of each month and is for those seeking information on Unitarian Universalism and the Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. The one hour meetings are held in the Richard Venus Library, across from the Sanctuary. If you are unable to attend on the third Sunday, feel free to meet at the kitchen table after any Sunday service for a more informal chat.

Activities Committee Meeting

Looking for a fun, easy way to get more involved with the Fellowship? Join the Activities Committee! We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at the Fellowship from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 8.

Welcome New Members!

Brad and Julia Sprauer

Wishing Chair Rocks!

Mark your calendar *now!* You will *love* Wishing Chair.

Date and time: **Friday, May 19, 7:30 PM**

Place: Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Price: \$10 suggested donation—tickets available for advance purchase

Contact Person: **Genevieve Harvey**

Call Genevieve

Opening band: **Don and Carol**

Go to the website (www.wishingchair.com/home.html) to find out more and hear their music, but their live shows are even more wonderful than their recordings.



Wishing Chair is the folk-roots partnership of Miriam Davidson and Kiya Heartwood.

"...a songwriting, accordion playing, harmony singing, storytelling, hand drumming, banjo strumming, soul stirring, two woman tour-de-force."

With award-winning songwriting and musicianship, *Wishing Chair*, “never fails to create that exhilarating sense one gets when great melodies, strong harmonies, and superb execution come together,” says *The Performing Songwriter Magazine*. The 6th CD and latest offering from this roots/folk duo is no exception. Produced by Grammy nominated producer Mark Hallman, *Underdog* is “folk to the core,” (*Lexington Herald-Leader*) delivering a rich collection of stories and clear-eyed diatribes, outlaw weddings, love songs, and an anti-Bush circus for good measure.

The Fellowship is proud to host this special concert. Make plans to attend now and bring your family and friends.

Special Music Coming to MVUUF

***Pieces of East* March 24, 7:00 PM**

“If Dave Matthews and Sarah McLachlan were to get married and elope to India—**Pieces of East** would be their musical lovechild.” East meets West in a unique blend of eastern timbres and contemporary western songwriting in this Austin-based group that will be bringing its unique sound to MVUUF on March 24. The *Austin Chronicle* writes, “*Pieces of East* is a veritable supergroup...Drawing from American Folk and Indian classical cultures, *Pieces of East*’s unique Folk/Pop songs have earned them fans from around the world; won them several prestigious Austin Music Awards; and ignited radio stations all over the country...*Pieces of East* has an uncanny ability to completely engage any audience, young to old.”

Don’t miss this opportunity for a truly multi-cultural musical experience provided by a personable and engaging trio with a mission to promote understanding and peace across cultural divides. Other UU congregations at which *Pieces of East* has performed say...

“It turned out to be a very special evening. Laura, Abhinit and Anuj are all superb, top-notch musicians. Their well-arranged music showcases Laura's stunning voice, Abhinit's mesmerizing tabla rhythms and Anuj's articulate guitar playing and warm stage presence.”

"*Pieces of East* resonated with our UU congregation because the music is expansive and fresh with exquisite rhythms. Just as important, band members genuinely engage with the audience..."

“I would say that quite simply, *Pieces of East* produce a magical sound...”

Any proceeds above costs will be given to the MVUUF general fund. It would be great to be able to make a sizable donation. But more importantly, this concert is an opportunity to bring MVUUF members and friends together for an evening of wonderful music! (For a sample of their sound, go to the group’s website at www.piecesofeast.com.)

The concert begins at 7:00 PM, so there will be plenty of time for you to get the kids home in time for bed. We are suggesting a donation of \$7.00 per adult and \$5.00 for each child under twelve, but don’t let an inability to pay keep you at home.

New Cycle To Start

The Second Saturday Circle Suppers are a great way to get to know others in the Fellowship. Groups of about eight to ten gather on the second Saturday for three consecutive months at a member’s house for dinner and conversation. You can participate as a host or a guest only.

The next cycle starts in April and the sign-up sheet will be in the Gathering Space through the last Sunday this month. For more information, contact **Jay Snively**.

INTERWEAVE

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

Panini Ministry Going Strong

Martha is waiting for *you* to join her for **brunch every Thursday at 11:00 AM at Panera**, located on Route 725. Please drop by between 11:00 AM and 12:00 noon for coffee—they’ve got great coffee—a bite to eat and fellowship.

Two Walker Groups

Second Sunday Walkers

Join **Jeni Cullen** at the front door after the second Sunday of each month (March 12 this month) to organize the drive to a local park for a Sunday afternoon hike. Be sure to wear your walking shoes and dress weather-appropriate. Remember, the walks are as short or as long as the walkers decide and the group accommodates walkers of every capability.

Third Tuesday Walkers

The Third Tuesday Walkers are walking in local neighborhoods. All are welcome to join the walk on March 21. The walks still start at 5:30 PM, from **Jeni Cullen’s** house in Miamisburg, and will go through the neighborhood and continue (weather permitting) up to the Miamisburg Mound for a beautiful view of the city at night.

If it is very snowy or icy, the walks will either be cancelled or modified to weather conditions. The groups will walk unless it is really treacherous. If you have questions or need directions, contact **Jeni Cullen**.

The 2006 Service Auction Needs You

**Saturday
March 11
6:30—9:30 PM
At the Fellowship**

Plan to attend the MVUUF Service Auction! This is not just one of our biggest social events of the year, it is also our biggest fundraiser 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 collectibles. (Please save "white elephant" items for our Garage & Plant sale on June 3.)

Second, if you can help with the party or the auction, volunteers are still needed. Some of the jobs require as little as 30-minute shifts.

Please complete this form and return it to **Bill Wendel** or the MVUUF office. Questions? Call **Scott Leonard**.

Name

Phone

Email address

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

If donation is an event (meal, party, hike, etc.), specify the number of guests _____ and the date _____
or Date To Be Determined .

If your item is a baked good or something similar, indicate if it will be available the night of the auction
or a future date .

Will you require a minimum bid? (optional, NOT recommended) \$ _____

I can help by: Preparing food for kids Watching kids in a 30-minute shift

Set-up Clean up Catalog production (folding, mailing) Publicity



MVUUF

Plant/Garage Sale

*We don't want to leave you stripped.
Donate anything BUT your clothes!*

June 3, 2006
9 AM to 4 PM

Plants, housewares, books, DVDs, CDs, furniture (in good condition), baby items. Start your plants now from seed—there's time for them to take root!

Call *Judy Rengel* or *Heather Wendel* for details or to volunteer.



Calling All Grocery Shoppers

Do you shop at Kroger, or Dorothy Lane? Your purchases can earn 4-5% for the Fellowship without costing you a cent. We have just restocked on Kroger and Dorothy Lane cards. Contact me during coffee hour or at home to purchase one or to ask questions about their use.

Kroger has the easiest system, and returns 4% of our recharge amounts monthly to the Fellowship. Many Fellowship members have Kroger gift cards, but are not recharging them and using them. It's easy—if you have any questions, just check with me.

Dorothy Lane offers two programs that benefit the Fellowship, declining balance \$20 and \$50 Gift Cards (5% to the Fellowship) and the Good Neighbors Program that sends a yearly check for purchases by Fellowship members. Remember, you must re-enroll each year for the Good Neighbors program for us to get credit for your purchases. Forms are now available in the Gathering Space after service each Sunday.

—*Maureen O'Meara*, Grocery Cards Fundraiser Chair

CineManiacs— 3rd Sunday Evening, March 19

If you're wild about art films, join CineManiacs on the third Sunday of each month at The Neon Movies for the 5—5:30ish showing. Since the Neon Movie 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*.

Fellowship Gourmets

Travel around the world with the Fellowship Gourmets on the last weekend of every month. Please RSVP to *Ruth Rowley*.

*Saturday, March 25, 6:00 PM and
Sunday, March 26, after the service*

Peerless Mill Inn (319 S. 2nd Street, Miamisburg, 866-5968) Entrees range from \$16—\$24.

There's nothing wrong with good ol' American food once in a while.

—*Ruth Rowley*

Announcements

Place brief, written announcements in the “announcement folder” (in the MVUUF front office), no later than 10:30 AM on the Sunday of the service to have your announcement read by the worship associate. If you wish to make the announcement yourself, sign up on the form inside the folder. See the worship associate or the minister for exceptions. ***Joys & Concerns announcements are not affected by this new procedure.***

MVUUF to Host League of Women Voters Forum

The public is invited to a forum on “open records” in government as part of National Sunshine Week. MVUUF is cosponsoring and hosting the event to be held at the Kettering Government Center on Saturday, March 18 from 12:30 to 3:30 PM. The event will include a panel discussion of what data should be available to the public and what records are sensitive and confidential. An open discussion will be featured. Continue the discussion at the Community Class the next morning, with member *Sharon Harmer* as the moderator.

Concerning Social Concerns

Social Concerns—We're Everywhere!

Social Concerns has a ton of things going on this month! On March 1 and 5, we are beginning *Welcoming Congregation* classes. On March 11, we are serving lunch at *The Other Place*. You may recall that throughout February, we asked for suggestions for a long-term social action focus, and on Sunday, March 5 we will be asking the congregation to vote on their favorite topic. We will take the top three with the most votes, and present each topic as part of the service on March 19. At the end of the service, we will decide as a congregation what we want to focus on and really strive for in the area of social justice.

This doesn't mean we will be abandoning our current projects or discourage other efforts outside our chosen topic, but rather, we hope it will allow us to really focus our resources and energy to making a larger impact in our community. We would like to be visible in our community as a beacon for social justice! I know we have the potential to make this happen, so it's important to show up to the services this month and help us decide where to put our energy.

Our other big happening is the *Soup Bowl Supper* on April 1. We still need your help to make this a great fundraiser for the Emergency Services Program! See more details about this event in the next column.

And don't forget *Guest At Your Table*. We will be collecting money through March 19 to support this very important UUSC program to protect human rights around the world.

Remember, everyone is welcome to join us at Social Concerns meetings. We meet at 7:00 PM on the 4th Monday of the month. And if you can't come to a meeting, but would like to get involved, please feel free to contact me or **Heather Wendel** and we'll be really happy to tell you how you can help!

—**Kate Santucci**

Get Involved

A great way to get involved is to join the Social Concerns Committee! We meet on the fourth Monday of the month at the Fellowship, at 7:00 PM. Our next meeting will be held on March 27. Contact **Kate Santucci** for more information.

Soup's On!

On April 1, 2006 MVUUF is hosting a Soup Supper to benefit the East Dayton Emergency Services Program. This fund-raiser is being held as a part of the Fellowship's Social Action Program for the year, Urban Hunger. This is a project that involves the Dayton community as well as MVUUF members. Local artisans have donated hand-made bowls for 100 people to eat their soup from and then take with them as a memento of the evening. Local restaurants will donate soup, bread, and desserts, and we will have entertainment provided by MVUUF musicians. Michael Hawke, director of the EDESP, will speak.

So what do we need from you? We need to sell tickets for this event. You can help first of all by buying tickets and attending yourself, but also by getting the word out to friends and acquaintances and inviting them to attend. All tickets for this event must be sold prior to the event, so we can guarantee we have enough food and bowls for all attendees. Tickets will be on sale in the Gathering Space beginning Sunday, March 12. Our goal is to raise \$2,000 to benefit EDESP, so your help is vital.

What: MVUUF Soup Supper to benefit the
East Dayton Emergency Services Program
When: Saturday, April 1, 5:00 PM
Where: MVUUF
Cost: \$20.00 per person

All tickets sold in advance – no sales at the door

Buy your tickets in the Gathering Space beginning Sunday, March 12 or call **Ann Rismiller** (leave message if no answer).

There will be other opportunities for you to get involved! Contact **Ann Rismiller** or **Kate Santucci** for more information.

UUSC JustWorks Camps

UUSC volunteers will spend March 6-10 in Mississippi working on clean-up and multi-task projects for UU churches and others affected by the devastating hurricanes. Wouldn't you like to help with this vital effort? See the UUSC website (www.uusc.org) for more details and the application to participate or to contribute.



MVUUF Invites You To A Souper Supper!

- . Receive a beautiful handmade soup bowl from a local artisan, soup and dessert donated by local restaurants!
- . *Michael Hawke* of the East Dayton Emergency Services Program will speak about hunger in the Miami Valley and the help EDESP offers its patrons.
- . Fellowship musicians will provide entertainment.
- . All proceeds will benefit the EDESP!

What: MVUUF Soup Supper, to benefit EDESP
When: Saturday, April 1, 5:00 PM
Where: MVUUF
Cost: \$20.00 per person

All tickets sold in advance – no sales at the door

How to get tickets: Buy in the Gathering Space beginning Sunday, March 12, 2006
Or

Contact *Ann Rismiller* (leave message if no answer)

Part of the Urban Hunger Social Action Project

Recollections of The Other Place

By Diane Dover

In a recent issue of *The FORUM*, I described a typical day of serving at *The Other Place*. Now, I'd like to recall some of the heroes from the Fellowship who have touched me with their gift of giving. I call these recollections "hero moments."

HERO MOMENTS:

Barbara Czestochowa, who has quietly supported me every month with her kind words of encouragement, wisdom, and her contributions. **Bill Ross** thoughtfully washing a mountain of recyclable aluminum pans in a cramped area and smiling about it. **Rita Reeve** talking about how to prepare healthy food from scratch for pennies, like homemade ricotta cheese, salad dressing and bread. **Adina Reeve**, who makes everything delicious and plenty of it every single month!

HERO MOMENTS:

Cleaning up the kitchen in total silence with **Akil Sharif**. **Sonni Fowler** for being Sonni. A group hug with the receptionist, **Sherry Frankenfeld**, and the security guard who resembles the Incredible Hulk. Laughing with Sherry Frankenfeld at a three-gallon donation of humus that came way too late after we ran out of food. Watching **Gary Courts** and my 13-year-old son serve juice to the clients.

HERO MOMENTS:

Sherry Davis, who cleans up mountains of recyclable containers, pans and bottles, and she smiles about it! **Don Kazak**, scheming to feed someone outside the shelter, who is banned from coming inside the shelter. My son, responding to the e-mails I receive pertaining to *The Other Place*, because I hate computers. **Andy Williams**, his first time to volunteer, and has to run out for more chicken three times in 30 minutes! **Margaret Shriver**, who doesn't know it, but she is my role model for organizational skills, punctuality and giving.

HERO MOMENTS:

Kathleen Pennington, who calls me absolutely every month to volunteer whatever I need. **Lynn Buffington**, in my driveway for the past three years offering warm and heavenly desserts that she and her two great kids have prepared for *The Other Place*. **Catherine Queener**, bringing a homemade main dish on Saturday morning after caring for her mother all evening. **Pam Strohmeyer**, making sure her contribution is received by 11:30, even though she is running the church craft bazaar the same day.

HERO MOMENTS:

Beryl Schicker, for being Beryl, offering donations, and calling me nice names. **Gail Gyure**, for being Gail and offering donations and calling me nice names. **Ann Rismiller**, who is by no means a morning person, preparing and delivering a main dish to *The Other Place* by 11:30 on a Saturday morning! Picking up fruit from **Mary Coonrod**'s apartment at 11:15 the second Saturday of every month.

HERO MOMENTS:

Richard Treadwell's fresh 20-ish-year-old face serving dessert to the clients. **Jeni Cullen**, who competently offers to help me deal with a mountain of unclaimed dishes and other things I can't manage on my own. **Lucy Kazyak**, who laughs with me and fills in faithfully whenever I need her.

There are many more Heroes who help me every month that I'm not able to mention in this small space. But you know who you are and I thank you greatly!

The Other Place
March 11, 2005, 11:30 AM
Menu

Lasagna
Fresh fruit (cut up)

Green salad and dressing
100% fruit juice

Bread
Cookies

Sponsor a Guest at Your Table this Winter!

Dates— February 12 to March 19, 2006

The *Guest at Your Table* program began February 12. **The campaign will end on March 19, when our contributions will be sent to the UUSC.**

The UUSC, its history and you

This program serves as the annual fundraiser for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, the UU organization for helping those who struggle for basic human rights both in the U.S. and around the world.

How does it work?

Guest at Your Table allows you and your family to sponsor an international visitor by donating once a day as you eat your main meal.

Guest at Your Table, however, is not just for families or for loose coins. How many dollars worth of food would you be willing to offer for protecting the human rights of your guest—international or domestic—if he or she really could share a family meal with you? \$1.00? \$2.00? \$5.00?

If you prefer to give a check, why not figure out in advance your guest's food budget for the month the program lasts? Adults may opt for an envelope provided by the UUSC rather than a box to turn in a contribution.

Make your check out to UUSC, but return it to the Fellowship so your contribution can be included with the Fellowship total before it is sent to the UUSC in Cambridge.

With a \$40.00 donation (\$20 seniors and \$10 for students and youth) you become a member of UUSC, our own faith-based voice for Human Rights. Donations of \$75.00 or more from a family or individual are matched by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock.

Last year, our congregation earned a "Creating Justice" banner through donations that totaled \$2,850. Let's make this a banner year again, to address the social justice needs of our country and world.

—*Maureen O'Meara*
Guest at Your Table Chair

The Other Place

MVUUF has an ongoing commitment to serve lunch at *The Other Place* (840 South Patterson Boulevard) on the second Saturday of each month. *The Other Place* is a day shelter with the mission of actively countering all causes and conditions of homelessness through advocacy, education and service. Our efforts feed approximately 200 people.

We are always in need of volunteers to help out by signing up to bring food on the second Saturday (11:30 AM at *The Other Place*). Look for the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space and a group sign-up offer that you will hear about if you participate in a Fellowship group. Special thanks to the **Women's Group** for being the first to sign up as a group. They provided the salad and cornbread for February's meal.

If you are willing to help on March 11, sign up on the clipboard after service or call **Diane Dover** to coordinate delivery of your donation. You'll be preparing a dish to serve 15-20 people. Food needs to be ready to serve (hot foods hot) when donated. Your help is needed and will be so appreciated!

Finding Our Voice: Women Say No To War

The Fellowship will host a community-wide celebration of **International Women's Day** on **Wednesday, March 8 at 7:00—9:00 PM**. The event will focus on women joining their voices together using poetry, music, art and speakers to express their thoughts on war and to call for peace.

Amber Vlasnik, of the Wright State University Women's Center, will moderate the event that will include diverse women from the Dayton area, as well as art and music from around the world. It is free and open to all members of the community. Join in the celebration and bring your family and friends.

For more information, contact Beth Lerman.

Other endorsing groups and organizations include:

American Friends Service Committee
Military Families Speak Out-Dayton
Veterans for Peace
WSU Women's Center

Lifespan Religious Education

New Women's Group Topic

The Women's Group meets at the Fellowship every Sunday at 9:30 AM. We come together to meet new women, speak about how we are feeling, listen to each other and learn new things.

Following completion of our current study of *Voluntary Simplicity*, a discussion course developed by the Northwest Earth Institute, *Joyce Cameron* and *Shirley Dobson* will facilitate a study and discussion based on the movie *What the Bleep Do We Know?*

Our study will kick off with a potluck dinner and viewing of the movie at the Fellowship on Sunday, March 5 at 6:30 PM. On the following Sunday, March 12, we will begin a series of eight classes based on the Study Guide developed by the Institute of Noetic Sciences and Captured Light Industries.

The movie addresses age-old questions related to what we know and how we know it—in terms of the rigor of empirical science, the powers of intuition and imagination, the awareness of embodied (body-based) wisdom, and insights from mystical and spiritual traditions. The topics that will be addressed during the study include paradigms and paradigm shifts, quantum reality, the power of intention and practices for creating our days, and ways of healing our past.

Women of all ages are welcome. More information is available by contacting *Joyce Cameron*.

Please Register

It's time to register your young people, from nursery through twelfth grade/age 18, for Youth Religious Education. On March 5 and March 19, before and after service, be sure to complete a registration form for each of your children. Forms will be available in the Gathering Space, or you can pick one up in the RE prep room.

Registration is important because it allows us to keep up-to-date records of who is in which class, how to contact you with questions or announcements and lets us know any special concerns you have, such as children's allergies. We also need signed emergency medical permission forms for all participants in YRUU, our Senior High Youth Group, since it often meets in the evening, when all the parents may not be present in the building. Please complete a form for each child during this special registration.

Community Class

The Community Class is an adult group that meets every Sunday morning from 9:30—10:45 AM in the Founders' Room for fellowship and thought-provoking discussion. This is a chance to speak your mind or say nothing at all. Please join us—you will be welcome!

Sunday, March 5

"27 Years Later 'The Boys From Brazil' Meet Dr. Hwang Woo Suk." Genetic manipulation and human cloning are no longer science fiction. Should cloning be banned as a capital offense or should we openly embrace it and the moral dilemmas that result? Can there be a middle ground? Moderator: *Jack Heginbotham*

Sunday, March 12

"Planning for Old Age and Beyond." It's never too soon or too late to plan for our retirement years - financial, medical, and social. We'll share our hopes, plans, fears, tips, pitfalls, knowledge and experience about planning for the future. Moderator: *Carol Vincent*

Sunday, March 19

"What Government Records Should Be Secret?" Increasing amounts of federal, state and local government information have been put off-limits since 9-11. A local League of Women Voters initiative, funded through a grant written by fellowship member Sharon Harmer, was developed to help communities understand the importance of - and threats to - open and accountable government in contemporary U.S. society. Sharon will explain the project and we'll all share our thoughts on the subject. Moderator: *Sharon Harmer*

Sunday, March 26

"What I Learned from My Parents." Perhaps our greatest life lessons - good and bad - we've learned from our parents. We'll share those important lessons, how they were passed on to us, and how they continue to affect us in positive or negative ways. Moderator: *Elfi Purkey*

Men's Group

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

Grandma's Funeral

Today is Wednesday, February 15. Yesterday was Valentine's Day. It was also my grandmother's funeral. And I have to write a Forum article. And I have to write a sermon for Sunday. And I just signed a lease on a new apartment and I'm moving to a new city in a few weeks. (Don't worry, it's only Cincinnati) When someone close to you dies, you feel like the whole world should stop. But it doesn't. You're not excused from paying bills or going to work (more than for a couple of days, anyway), or taking care of your pets or children. One life has ended but the rest of us have to keep on going.

My grandma passed away on Friday. She was my mother's mother. On Saturday, my partner and I went apartment hunting, something we already had planned to do. We found an amazing apartment, and that made me happy. I struggled with being happy about things when my father's mother died. I felt guilty and conflicted. I've learned a lot since then. As George and I were checking out apartments, I felt really good, like what I was doing would make my grandma happy. More than anything, she wanted her grandchildren to find someone to spend their life with. (She was especially happy that mine ended up being a man!) We went to our favorite Indian restaurant in between appointments and during lunch I shared with him lots of happy memories of my grandma. That felt good.

The calling hours were on Monday. Most of my close family had been there already, dealing with everything. But I was far away and removed. I walked into the church (everything was at church—my grandma didn't want to be in 'some damn funeral home'—she wanted to be in her church) and stood in the foyer for about 20 minutes. I couldn't walk into the sanctuary and look at my grandma lying in a coffin. I would start, then turn around and grab George. "I'm too scared," I kept saying. My two-year-old nephew had been playing in the foyer. My grandma loved him so much. He came up to me and pointed into the sanctuary. In his two-year-old language he looked at me and said, "Come." I said, "I can't, I'm scared." He reached out his hand. I took it and he led me down the center aisle all the way to Grandma. He climbed up on that thing you kneel on and pointed and said, "Look, Grandma."

I come from a large Italian Catholic family from the New York City/ northern Jersey area. I love them. After calling hours, we all went back to the hotel where most of us were staying. I got to catch up with cousins I hadn't seen in years and my grandma's sister and her sister's children, as well as my own siblings and very close cousins whom I don't get to see nearly enough. Of course there was booze. Catholic Italians know how to celebrate, and they know how to mourn. When I went up to go to bed, George stayed to hang out with my family. That's how great they are. At the calling hours, then back at the hotel, I sat with my Aunt Anna for a while. She's my grandma's last living sister. She looks just like my grandma. They move the same way, make the same gestures and expressions. When Aunt Anna held my hand, it felt like my grandma was holding my hand. She rubbed my hand exactly the same way my grandma did. They are so much like each other that it almost felt like Grandma wasn't really gone. She said to me, "Who's gonna let me know what's going on with you kids now?" I think I'm going to stay in touch with her.

The funeral was beautiful. I love the little Catholic church I grew up in. My experience of Catholicism was very different from what I hear other people describe. We had a small country church that was fairly liberal. We were tucked in the middle of Amish Country, sort of the Bible Belt of Ohio. The evangelicals and fundamentalist and the like were always telling us we were going to hell. Anyway, I have nothing but good memories of that time. And I love the ritual of it. The older I get, the more I'm drawn to traditions and rituals. They feel powerful to me. After communion there was a time of sharing. People shared memories and thoughts about Grandma. I don't think I realized the full breadth or depth of my grandma's love until that moment. The homily was beautiful. The priest talked about my grandma's love for her family. She and my grandfather had just celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary a few weeks before. My grandparents took care of each other for most of their lives. Father Ron said that living with love and caring for your family are holy acts. Living with love is living a holy life. My grandma lived a holy life.

There were so many lessons to be learned in this experience, so much beauty and pain and joy and loss. It will take time to process it all. For now, I am overwhelmed by the importance of family, gratitude for mine, and love and appreciation for my grandma, who loved us so very much that she came to every play and musical, every band concert, every sports game she possibly could because she loved her grandchildren so much. I am overwhelmed by the devotion of my grandpa who, although not incredibly able-bodied himself, would bring my grandma her toothbrush and a bowl of water every morning for the last several months so that she didn't have to get up to brush her teeth. In loving each other, we live holy lives.



Blessings, Persephone

YRE Worship

Children's Chapel and Youth Worship will both take place on March 19. Children's Chapel will take place in the Founders' Room and is for children from pre-school through 5th grade. This happens every month and is led by **Chris Price**, our LRE assistant. Youth Worship takes place in the Library and is for our youth in grades 6 through 12. This happens every other month, with the understanding that youth will attend a congregational worship on the off months. Youth Worship is led by **Persephone**, our director of lifespan religious education.

MVUUF Daytime Book Club

The Daytime Book Club meets on a Wednesday each month at the Fellowship at 10:30 AM in the Founders' Room. We discuss the book of the month and then go to lunch together. This is an open group and newcomers are welcome. Anyone who has read the book is welcome to attend. Call **Carol Vincent** or **Sylvia Wince** for further information.

- March 22—*Pope Joan* by Donna Cross
- April 26—*The World is Flat* by Thomas Friedman
- May 24—*The Water Is Wide* by Pat Conroy

Evening Book Discussion Group

The Evening Book Discussion Group will meet at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, March 14 at **Kathleen Pennington's** house to discuss *All Souls: a Family Story of Southie* by Michael Patrick MacDonald.

In April, the meeting will be at 7:00 PM at **Ann Snively's** house to discuss *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee (this year's "Big Read" community reading book).

New participants are welcome, and so are occasional participants! Contact **Ann Snively** if you would like more information.

First Thursday Theological Society

The First Thursday Theological Society will meet at 7:30 PM on March 2 in the Founders' Room to continue discussing *Being Liberal in an Illiberal Age* by Jack Mendelsohn. Chapters 7 and 8 will be discussed.

The April meeting will be on the 6th and the discussion will conclude with chapters 9 and 10. New participants are welcome. Contact **Ann Snively** if you would like more information.

Smart Choices

This group gets together for a couple hours twice a month, usually on a Monday evening, to learn something new or to enrich our lives some way. It is so much fun and it is open to anyone. Mark your calendar! Call **Sylvia Wince** for more information.

March 13: 7:30—9:30 PM

We will make origami paper sculpture. **Jeni Cullen** will show us how and she will bring all the supplies. We will meet in the kitchen at MVUUF.

March 27: 7:30—9:30 PM

We will meet at MVUUF in one of the classrooms for show and tell time. Bring something that you think the group would be interested in seeing or hearing about.

Poetic Insights

Bring a sack lunch and join Poetic Insights at 1:00 PM on March 26 at the Wince's house. We will begin the writing session at 1:30 and finish at 3:00 PM. Anyone may join us in writing impromptu poetry or prose. Call **Sylvia Wince** for more information.

Join a Covenant Group

Are you looking for a way to connect to other members of MVUUF? Would you like to explore your religious issues and develop your spirituality in safe, supportive, small-group environment? If so, the MVUUF covenant group program may be for you.

Covenant groups consist of approximately six to ten members each. They meet regularly on a set night of the week, usually once every two weeks, but at least once a month. Each group has created a covenant based on their own preferences. Covenants include agreements about such questions as how often to meet, whether to have a meal and how to handle child care. As part of the covenant group program, all groups are asked to include certain features in their covenants. For example, each group is asked to perform at least one group service project.

Groups are facilitated by teams of two trained facilitators. The covenant group program provides session plans to help structure group discussions. Initially, the facilitators themselves will usually guide the discussion, but groups often decide to rotate that responsibility among all the members of the group.

If you are interested in joining a covenant group, contact **Alysoun Taylor**.

MVUUF March 2006

Bring fresh produce, baked goods, canned and packaged food and diapers to donate during Second Offering every Sunday!

Wed	1	Welcoming Congregation 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM
Thurs	2	Panini Ministry (Panera) 11 AM First Thursday 7:30 PM
Fri	3	
Sat	4	
Sun	5	Men's Group 9:15 AM Women's Group 9:30 AM Community Class 9:30 AM <i>Standing for Something</i> —Martha 11 AM YRE Registration before & after service Welcoming Congregation 12:30 PM Women's Group Potluck & Movie 6:30 PM YRUU 6:30 PM
Mon	6	Music Committee 6:45 PM Governance 7:00 PM
Tue	7	
Wed	8	Welcoming Congregation 7:00 PM Activities Meeting 7:00 PM Women's Day Celebration 7:00 PM
Thurs	9	Panini Ministry (Panera) 11 AM Exploring Spiritual Practices 7:00 PM
Fri	10	
Sat	11	The Other Place Meal 11:30 AM Service Auction 6:30—9:30 PM
Sun	12	Women's Group 9:30 AM Community Class 9:30 AM <i>Hindu Devotion</i> —Dr. Valerie Stoker 11 AM Second Sunday Walkers 12:15 Governance Feedback Meeting 12:30 PM Welcoming Congregation 12:30 PM YRUU 6:30 PM
Mon	13	Governance 7:00 PM Smart Choices 7:30 PM
Tues	14	FORUM DEADLINE Evening Book Club 7:00 PM (offsite) Worship Committee 7:30 PM
Wed	15	Welcoming Congregation 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM
Thurs	16	Panini Ministry (Panera) 11 AM Board of Trustees Meeting 7:00 PM

Fri	17	Happy St. Patrick's Day
Sat	18	LWV Open Records Forum 12:30 PM
Sun	19	Men's Group 9:15 AM Women's Group 9:30 AM Community Class 9:30 AM <i>Common Good</i> —Martha 11:00 AM Guest At Your Table Wrap Up YRE Worship/Children's Chapel 11 AM YRE Registration before & after service Governance Feedback Meeting 12:30 PM Welcoming Congregation 12:30 PM Cinemaniacs—Neon Movies 5 PM
Mon	20	Governance Committee 7:00 PM
Tues	21	Third Tuesday Walkers 5:30 (offsite)
Wed	22	Daytime Book Club 10:30 Welcoming Congregation 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM
Thurs	23	Panini Ministry (Panera) 11 AM Exploring Spiritual Practices 7:00 PM
Fri	24	<i>Pieces of East</i> Concert 7:00 PM
Sat	25	Alexander Technique Workshop 1-5 PM Fellowship Gourmets— <i>Peerless Mill</i> 6 PM
Sun	26	Women's Group 9:30 AM Community Class 9:30 AM <i>Worship Something</i> —Martha 11 AM Fellowship Gourmets— <i>Peerless Mill</i> 12:30 PM Welcoming Congregation 12:30 PM Poetic Insights 1:00 PM (Wince's) YRUU 6:30 PM
Mon	27	Social Concerns 7:00 PM Smart Choices 7:30 PM
Tues	28	
Wed	29	Welcoming Congregation 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM
Thurs	30	Panini Ministry (Panera) 11 AM
Fri	31	Game Night 7:00 PM

Mark Your Calendar!

Soup Supper—April 1
HUUD District Annual Meeting—April 7-9
Special Congregational Meeting—April 23
MVUUF Plant & Garage Sale—June 3

MIAMI VALLEY UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
8690 Yankee Street
Dayton, Ohio 45458



- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The rights of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

The 7 UU Principles

MARCH 2006

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Dayton, Ohio
Permit No. 124