



# Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

*A Welcoming Congregation*

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March 2007  
Vol. LIV No. 7

# The Forum

## Of Cabbages and Kings: Why a Covenant?

As you know, this Fellowship is in the process of constructing a Covenant of Right Relations, otherwise known as a Behavioral Covenant. Alysoun Taylor and Greg Reese are doing an excellent job of facilitating this undertaking and have requested input and participation from any and all members of MVUUF. Some of you may not be so clear on why this is being called a covenant, why we are doing this and why now.

A covenant is a bit different from a contract. A contract is a legally binding agreement between two or more parties specifying their mutual obligations. A contract is negotiated, expires, and may be re-negotiated and re-entered...or abandoned.

A covenant, on the other hand, is an exchange of promises that transcends legality and suggests permanence. Details of the covenant can be – and should be – regularly re-examined and amended as needed. It is a living document. But, at the heart of the covenant, unlike the contract, is a commitment to stay in relationship. This is why marriage vows are a covenant and not a contract. As a covenant, they are “not to be entered into lightly.” And as a covenant, marriage vows call on a third “party” as witness and silent participant. This third element is not the minister or the state, but the Sacred, however that is understood by the couple. This sacred blessing of the covenant may be imagined as coming from God, for some. For others, it is their best selves or their dream of the selves they wish to be. For others, it is love, understood as an ideal. For still others, it is the tradition itself, and the deeply felt awareness that they are entering into a relationship that touches the same hopes, fears and dreams experienced by couples everywhere. However it is understood, this element of sacredness is one thing that makes a covenant more than a contract. It is a consciousness that what is agreed to is bigger than either of the parties alone.

Another distinction is trust. A covenant is a declaration of faith in one another. A covenant has no legal status, nor does it need any. All parties must believe in the sincerity of the commitments made. But trust can be broken, as we all know. For this reason, covenants also need to have “teeth.” That is, there need to be consequences when the covenant is broken. And, just as importantly, there must be provisions for amends and forgiveness and re-commitment to the promises made.

MVUUF will be entering into a covenant as part of our historical tradition of congregational polity. We are not beholden to a creed or a governing body, but to each other, and this is what is celebrated in a congregational covenant. Many UU congregations are finding that this covenanting process states members’ expectations of one another and gives them a document to refer to when these expectations are violated. In this way, it is useful in self-governance and self-regulation. But more than that, it allows congregations a way that, without a creed, we can define ourselves as a body of people who share and agree to a set of ethical behaviors that affirm and support the health of the congregation. It is an agreement that recognizes the inherent worth and dignity of each of us and also seeks to balance the claims of individualism with the acknowledgement that we exist together in community. As a community, we inspire, challenge and support one another – and trust one another. This covenant is a statement of shared ideals, and in our ideals lies our identity. As this interim period draws to a close, your mission and vision, along with your covenant, will guide you as you more confidently continue on this journey toward becoming the Beloved Community.

—*Martha Hodges, Interim Minister*



*Martha Hodges*

**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

*Celebrate Women's History Month!*

### Sunday, March 4—11:00 AM

#### *Building Bridges Underwater*

**Leslie Woodward**

As chaplains in hospitals, hospices, nursing homes, jails and prisons; in street ministries and programs serving poor people, immigrants, people with disabilities; in advocacy programs to further peace and social justice, protect the environment, end racism and work for economic justice, Unitarian Universalist community ministers typically do their bridge-building "underwater." Candidate for UU community ministry and MVUUF member Leslie Woodward explores the wide range of UU ministers working beyond the walls of our churches and what it means to be *called to community*.

### Sunday, March 11—11:00 AM

#### *Peaks and Vales*

**Brad Kochunas**

Many people have an orientation toward climbing one of many roads to the heights where *Truth* resides. They backpack an understanding that there are numerous paths leading up the mountain to God. This gives spirituality a rising, ascending quality. What happens when we shift our metaphor to the valley where descent, shadow and gloom are a part of our spiritual landscape? Can darkness be illumination?

### Sunday, March 18—11:00 AM

#### *The DebUnkify ToUr*

**Persephone**

We'll take a stab at debunking some of those popular myths and misconceptions about Unitarian Universalism—some held by those on the outside, some that even we UUs might still be hanging onto. In the process, we'll explore our UU identity. Is there something, or a combination of things, that makes this identity and faith unique? Alternate title: *Beyond the Bumper Sticker*.

### Sunday, March 25—11:00 AM

#### *Learning a New Peace*

**Jim Farinet**

As people of faith, how do we deal with the problems of our real life world? In our principles we have a clear mission statement. We are to work for *The goal of world community with peace and justice for all*; and cherish our *Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part*. Sometimes things happen beyond our faith community that can teach us effective ways to carry out our mission...if we have the will.

## MVUUF STAFF

**Martha Hodges, Interim Minister**

Office Hours: Daily except Tuesday; call for appointment.  
Email: martha.hodges@sbcglobal.net

**Dale Bockhorst, Bookkeeper**

Email: dalebockhorst@yahoo.com

**Jeanette Filbrun, Choir Director**

Choir Practice Wednesdays, 7:30 PM  
Email: musicfil@aol.com

**Barbara Kelley, Administrator**

Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 9:00 AM—3:00 PM  
Email: admin@mvuuf.org

**Jesse Minnefield, Custodian**

**Persephone, Director of Lifespan Religious Education**

Office Hours: Sunday AM and by appointment  
Email: mvuuf-dlre@excite.com

### 2006-2007 MVUUF Board

**Kriss Gang**

President

**Dave Rengel**

Vice President

**Scott Leonard**

Treasurer

**Bill Wendel**

Secretary

**Greg Reese**

Trustee-at-Large

**Alysoun Taylor**

Trustee-at-Large

**Joan Albrecht**

Program Council Trustee/Chair

### Program Council

**Genevieve Harvey**

LRE Rep

**Jay Snively**

Public Relations Rep

**Joan Albrecht**

Program Council Chair

**Joe Law**

Communications Rep

**George Henderson**

Membership Rep

**Jennie Hardy**

Activities Rep

**Carol Narigon**

Music Rep

**Ruth Rowley**

Worship Rep

**Kate Santucci**

Social Concerns Rep

**Joe Zimmerman**

Operations Rep

## 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 **Joe Law** (Communications Rep), **George Henderson** (Mailer) and **Carol Narigon** (Proofreader). **The next Forum deadline is March 19.** The deadline for the Sunday bulletin is 10:00 AM on the preceding Monday.

## ***Council, Board and District***

### **Summary of Program Council Meeting of February 5**

Joe Zimmerman reported that MVUUF has been offered a one-time gift to be applied to the building and that it will be used to install a light switch at the RE entrance and to install a lighted chalice at the end of the building. He also reported that Marcia Venus has offered to provide a permanent plaque for the Richard Venus Library.

The expiration of the terms for two of the delegates to the Program Council (Denominational Affairs and Volunteer Coordinator) at the end of this month has not yet been addressed. Because of other obligations, Sharon Harmer (Denominational Affairs) does not wish to renew her term but has talked to Judy Pickett as a possible replacement. The Program Council will forward this recommendation to the Board.

For the March 17 leadership retreat, Joe Zimmerman will coordinate efforts with the Board on behalf of the Program Council.

Plans for the pledge campaign are still being finalized. Membership is prepared to be involved in helping to coordinate the campaign when a chair is found.

Joe Law and Genevieve Harvey are scheduling a meeting with Bill Wendel to coordinate a church/program survey as requested by the Board. They will present a draft at the March Program Council meeting.

In the time available, a consensus could not be reached concerning a draft of email policy; Joe Law will call an additional meeting within the next week for further discussion.

It was agreed that committee chairs' terms should coincide with the fiscal year (July 1-June 30), allowing the terms of incoming and returning Program Council representatives (whose terms begin in the winter) to overlap.

Although no recommendations were made for specific action or policy for using exit interviews with Board and Program Council members whose terms were ending, it was agreed that such interviews would be beneficial in leadership development or further improvements in governance.

### ***March 5 Program Council Meeting:***

The new Program Council chair (Joan Albrecht) will be unable to attend, and, in accordance with the bylaws, the LRE Representative (Genevieve Harvey) will chair the meeting in her absence.

The following were identified as agenda items for the next Program Council meeting:

- Continued discussion of email policy (Communications)
- Formation of a new men's group (Activities)
- Discussion of the effectiveness of advertising in attracting members (rather than simply attracting visitors) (Membership and Public Relations)

Respectfully submitted,  
***Joe Law***

### **Summary of Board Meeting of February 15**

Dave Rengel moved that Judy Pickett and Claudia Bailey be appointed to the Audit Committee. Greg Reese seconded. The motion carried.

Gail Cyan moved that MVUUF committee chairs' terms coincide with the fiscal year of July 1 to June 30. Alysoun Taylor seconded. The motion carried.

The Board completed the Fellowship Renewal document for Rev. Martha Hodges as required by the UUA.

Respectfully submitted,  
***Bill Wendel***

### **Around the Denomination**

***At MVUUF:*** The Social Concerns Committee is looking at the UUA Study/Action Issue on Peacemaking. The issue being discussed is whether the UUA should reject the use of all kinds of violence and war to resolve disputes and adopt a principle on seeking peace through nonviolent means. The study is an ongoing one that will come before the 2010 General Assembly.

***In the Heartland District:*** Chalicelighters is a program that helps UUs spread the word about our religion. All congregations in the Heartland district may be eligible for this grant program, which can be used for things like new staffing, capital improvements, new congregations or innovative growth support. Our congregation received such a grant about two years ago. "Chalicelighters" are individuals who donate \$10 or more when called upon (for a maximum of 3 times in a year). This is a small commitment with a big result. Brochures with more detailed information are available.

***In the UUA:*** The Commission on Appraisal is reviewing our Principles and Purposes. Individual congregations are encouraged to participate in the process by holding a series of meetings. Proposals for change will go to the General Assembly for a vote. If you are interested, please let ***Martha Hodges*** know.

—***Sharon Harmer***, Denominational Affairs

## ***Program Council Updates***

One of the goals of the Program Council is to keep the larger congregation informed about the events underway around the Fellowship—both past activities and opportunities for future involvement. When the Program Council met on February 5, area representatives provided the following brief reports to be shared with the congregation.

### **ACTIVITIES (*Barbara Moreda*)**

It has been a quiet month at MVUUF for Activities. Now that spring is around the corner, there will be picnics to plan. May Day is really just around the corner!

### **COMMUNICATIONS—Internal (*Joe Law*)**

At the request of the Board, I have begun drafting policy for use with MVUUF's Yahoo groups. Thanks to all who have provided suggestions and other resources. I continue to moderate several of the MVUUF Yahoo groups and am still working to identify all such groups in order to make them better known to members of the Fellowship and make it easier for people to join.

### **LRE (*Persephone, on behalf of Genevieve Harvey*)**

A lot is happening in RE. *Melissa Clark*, Iris Carter's daughter, has been hired as our new 3-hour Sunday morning childcare provider. This means we can now offer childcare for 9:30 AM adult RE classes!

Mystery Friends is back this year! The dinner is scheduled for March 24 at 6:00. The children's and youth RE team has been working hard. The committee is coming together nicely and classes are going well. We have a dedicated group from RE, as well as other members representing various programming areas, working hard in the beginning stages of Safe Congregation policy.

We are looking into hosting a Spirituality Development Conference which will be facilitated by trained UUA consultants and will focus on creative youth worship, building an intergenerational faith community of youth and adults, personal spiritual practice, and borrowing appropriately from other traditions and cultures.

A new young adult group has started and is going strong! Many short-term adult RE opportunities are being offered in the next few months, including a class that will be co-facilitated by Martha and Persephone.

### **MEMBERSHIP (*George Henderson*)**

The membership committee has established three goals for the coming year. They are:

- 1.) To increase membership through a variety of initiatives including establishing a "mentor/buddy system" to support potential and new members in their quest for information and to nurture their curiosity and interest in the Fellowship. We have also reorganized the materials used in welcoming sessions to make them more informative.
- 2.) To care for members who for any reason are unable to attend Fellowship services, activities and events via home and/or institutional visits. Other efforts, such as cards, e-mails and telephone calls, will also be used to connect with these members.
- 3.) To computerize historical documents prepared by Ruth Rowley for easier use.

It is also hoped that covenant groups can be reestablished during the coming year if a coordinator can be found to take on this daunting task.

### **MUSIC (*Carol Narigon*)**

Share your love of music! The choir rehearses at 7:30 every Wednesday night. Catch the rhythm with the Drum Circle. The music committee is always looking for members and ideas. If you'd like to be involved in music at the Fellowship, talk to Carol Narigon.

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS (*Gary Courts*)**

I am getting the PR records in order to turn over to Jay Snively who will take over as PR Representative this month.

### **SOCIAL CONCERNS (*Kate Santucci*)**

Soup Supper is coming on March 31! We need your help. If you can get donations of soup bowls, or give a little of your time during the event, we'd really appreciate it. Most of all, though, we need you to come and bring your friends! This is a fantastic, elegant, fun evening out—not your run-of-the mill church supper. Contact Ann Rismiller, Heather Wendel, or Kate Santucci if you can help.

### **WORSHIP (*Ruth Rowley*)**

It takes many people to provide a good Sunday morning experience. If you can help in any way (making coffee and/or cleaning up, ushering, participating in a service), please talk with Ruth Rowley, Mike O'Brien or Martha Hodges.

### Ministerial Search Committee Update

The Ministerial Search Committee is now in the home stretch of our work to find a new MVUUF minister. Since December, we have reviewed applications from 11 individuals, all of whom impressed us with their education and enthusiasm.

From this number, we selected six applicants for telephone interviews and further exchange of information. We are now into our final step, personal in-depth interviews with four semi-finalists.

Each semi-finalist has been invited to Dayton for a weekend in which we will have formal interviews, social gatherings and give a tour of Dayton. We will also hear them preach at a UU church or fellowship outside of the area. We will have these interviews on the weekends of February 16, February 23, March 2 and March 9.

After the final weekend, we will evaluate all of the semi-finalists and select a final candidate for nomination to the congregation during a week-long visit in April. We will pay particular attention to our Congregational Survey, and try to select someone who is the “best fit” for our Fellowship.

During the visit of “*Candidating Week*,” the nominee will present two successive Sunday services, and spend time meeting MVUUF committees, groups and members while getting familiar with Dayton. Following the second Sunday service, a special Congregational Meeting will be held to vote on calling the candidate as our new minister. In general, a candidate will require a 95% vote in order to accept the call.

This has been an exciting year for us all, and we are working hard to fulfill your trust and find a new minister who will enlighten, encourage and enrich MVUUF in the years ahead. Please contact anyone on the committee with any questions.

—*John Bierman, Jim Faulconer, Sean Halpin, Alice Lizee, Jamie McQuinn, Ann Snively, Phil Wise*

### Friends May Call

The *Friends of the UUA* fundraising phonathon is underway and will continue through the third week in March. The theme is *Progress Report on Tapestry of Faith Lifespan Curriculum*. Your willingness to support the UUA enhances their ability to provide services and programs to member congregations and presents avenues for future growth of Unitarian Universalism throughout the country.

### Missing Martha

Remember that while Martha is pre-candidating on weekends, she is still in the office and available during the week. If pastoral attention is needed on weekends, **Jim Faulconer** has agreed to be on call. Please call him in the event of a personal or family crisis.

**Due to Martha’s extensive travel, Martha’s last Panini Ministry on Thursday mornings at Panera will be March 1, until further notice.**

Thank you to **Mike O’Brien** and the Worship Committee for finding such interesting presenters for our Sunday services through this process. Everything will be back to normal (mostly) in April!

### New Member Procedure

New Member Recognition takes place at the service on the first Sunday of every month. When potential members have met the membership requirements, they will be introduced at the service on the next “first Sunday.” New members who are celebrated have attended a Welcoming Session (held after service on every third Sunday), filled out their intake form, submitted a pledge form and are ready to sign the red book. Welcome new members and congratulate them on making this significant commitment!

### Welcoming Session Every Third Sunday

Our next Welcoming Session (orientation) will be held on Sunday, March 18 at 12:30 PM in the Richard Venus Library. The Welcoming Sessions are informational and will help potential new members understand the many programs, projects and opportunities available at the Fellowship.

### Recycle UU World

Members, if you don’t keep your *UU World* magazines in your personal archives, here are a few suggestions that some people may not have heard before:

- Mark out your name and address (or cut it out) and leave the magazine the next time you are at your doctor, dentist, or oil change appointment.
- Bring them in to the Fellowship. We have some old copies in the visitor rack for visitors who want to know more about us.
- Bring the *UU & Me* insert to the YRE Prep room. We can sometimes use them in classes and it may be nice to have them for parents who are new to us or are not members so they don’t receive the publication.

## Announcements

### SUUSI: Southeast UU Summer Institute

Are you looking for a great, affordable experience for your family, one with lots of adventures and filled with friends? If so, then come to SUUSI July 15-21 in Blacksburg, Virginia! You'll be welcomed warmly and invited into our community. Together, we'll create a week of conversation, of reflection, of activity, and of family. You'll be challenged intellectually and nurtured spiritually. You can stay up all night dancing or making music, and spend all day communing with nature or exploring your personal growth. We have special programs for youth, teens and young adults, so plan to bring the whole family.

SUUSI is an intentional community of approximately 1,000 people who gather in July to explore our interconnectedness, learn new ways of seeing our world and each other, delight in the joys of meeting old friends and making new ones, share outdoor adventures, dance, and sing. Learn more at [www.suusi.org](http://www.suusi.org) or talk to *Genevieve Harvey*.

*Not just another church camp*  
**SUUSI 2007: To Live Fully**  
**July 15-21, 2007, Blacksburg, VA**

### Cheap Sleep

Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU're Home* can help fulfill your dream. Travelers will find a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) in the directory.

The Fellowship has a copy of the directory in the office. Take a look at the listings before your next vacation!

### Storyteller Invitation

The Miami Valley Storytellers will host a dynamic workshop by one of the biggest names in storytelling over the last 20 years, **Diane Ferlatte** on Thursday, March 15 at 6:30 PM at the Fellowship. The Storytellers have again invited MVUUF members to attend the workshop free of charge. Discover the power of a well-told story through small group exercises and presentations. Learn about storytelling techniques and guidelines. Bring only your imagination.

### Drum Circle at MVUUF

Join us to shake a rattle, pound a drum, chant, dance and make a noise at our monthly drum circle! Bring your own drum or percussion instruments, or there will be extras to share. Join us in the Founders' Room to get your groove on! The Drum Circle will not meet in March. Our next drum circle will be at 7:00 PM on April 28. All are welcome and wanted.

—*Ann Rismiller*

### CineManiacs—March 18

If you're wild about art films, join CineManiacs the third Sunday every month at Neon Movies for the 4:30-5:30ish showing. The title and time will be sent on the Thursday prior to the Sunday event. Everyone is welcome! After the movie we meet in the Neon lobby café for fellowship and a discussion. Questions or if you would like to be added to the CineManiacs email list, call *Trudy Krisher* or *Lindy McDonough*.

### UD Senior Courses

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Dayton (UDLLI) has announced the availability of the spring program brochure. The program starts March 19 and covers over 50 subjects with no exams, grades or formal education required. A single registration fee of \$80 entitles you to register for as many of the seminars as you wish. Please call UD Special Programs and Continuing Education at 229-2347 to receive a brochure.

### General Assembly After-Party

Five Alaskan UU Fellowships invite you to eco-cultural programs in June right after the Portland General Assembly or in July 2007. Led by the Rev. Dick and Mary Weston-Jones, for the twelfth year. See additional details on the website at [www.wuurl.org](http://www.wuurl.org) or call 888-998-8753. The reservation deadline has been extended to March 31.

### Fellowship Gourmets

All are invited to the Fellowship Gourmets adventures in March:

Saturday, March 24, 6:00 PM

**BRANDYWINE INN**

“Fine French Cuisine”

204 South Main Street, Monroe 45050

513-539-8911

[www.brandywineofmonroe.com](http://www.brandywineofmonroe.com)

RSVP to *Cyndi Reeves*.



David Lorenz photos of cherry blossoms and blooming dogwood promise spring.

### **ChaliceLight Art Gallery**

We are pleased to feature a selection of photographs by **David Lorenz** through the month of March. A native of Oklahoma, David Lorenz came to Ohio to attend Wittenberg University, graduating from the Dayton Art Institute with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1975. David held his first show of color and black and white photographs at the University of Dayton's Kennedy Union Art Gallery in October 1987. A second show soon followed in February 1988 at the Rita Caz Jewelry Studio and Gallery, Inc. in Yellow Springs. Other shows include a special exhibit in 1990 at the Bartlesville Community Center in Oklahoma and an all black and white show at Gallery St. John in Dayton in 1996.

Publication of David's photographs includes the 1990 calendar by Compu-Color Graphic Sciences, Inc. The Compu-Color photographs won the Hermes Award, and the Printing Industries of America Award. In addition, David's photographs garnered an "Award of Excellence" by the Consolidated Paper Manufacturers of Wisconsin, who purchased 3000 poster size prints of two photographs for worldwide distribution. Other photographs have been purchased by the L. M. Berry Company for telephone book covers nationwide.

In 1991, David won six PIA awards, and in 1995, he won an award from the Dayton Metro Parks District for donating his photography restoration skills and for photographing the introductory slide show for the Five Rivers Metro Parks Carriage Hill Historical Farm Interpretive Exhibit. David is responsible for all the photography in the Carriage Hill Interpretive Exhibits. More recently, David had three panoramas highlighted in the *Photo to Fabric* display in a special exhibit as part of ArtsFest 2005 at the Schuster Center for the Performing Arts.

David participated in the *Miami Valley Cooperative Gallery Invitational Show* in 2005; had a one-man show, *Scenic Panoramas*, at the Dayton Convention Center in 2006; was featured in an ongoing exhibit at the Carriage Hill Art Gallery in Dayton and has work in prominent galleries throughout Dayton and Columbus.

David is self-employed and has a passion for staying on the cutting edge of digital photography and printing techniques. He does not consider himself an artist, but rather an engineer who takes pictures.



Mendenhall Glacier in Alaska by David Lorenz

### **CUUPS Spring Retreat at Zane Shawnee Caverns**

MVUUF CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) will host a spring retreat at Zane Shawnee Caverns in beautiful Bellefontaine, Ohio, the weekend of May 4—6. Everyone is invited to join in the fun! Bring the family and stay overnight Friday and Saturday. Spend Saturday exploring the beautiful caverns with all your friends! We will prepare our own meals as a family potluck, so bring food to share. The sign up sheet will be available in the Gathering Space following Sunday services through April 15. For more information, please contact **Cyndi Reeves**. Visit the caverns website at [www.zaneshawneecaverns.net](http://www.zaneshawneecaverns.net).

- Zane Shawnee facilities are primitive cabins with electric
- Meals are family potluck
- Bring food to share!
- Arrive 6 PM Friday, Depart by 2 PM Sunday
- \$40.00 per person/\$10 per child for the entire weekend
- \$20.00 deposit per adult is required to reserve your place

### **UU Church Tour**

The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara will host a four-day tour July 15-17, 2007, and a lifetime opportunity to experience Niagara Falls up-close and from every perspective, (even safely riding in a tethered balloon). Hike down the Niagara gorge, dip in the rapids or visit one of the nation's newest casinos. Explore rich historical, cultural and architectural heritage with knowledgeable, local UUs as your guides.

The church is a short walk from the Falls and operates a hospitality center offering refreshments and a chance to rest or visit. The cost of \$500 per person includes everything—three nights accommodations, meals, all entrance fees, local transportation, and guided tours of the finest area attractions.

For more information, visit [www.uunex.net](http://www.uunex.net) or call 716-791-4453.

### **Let's Interact**

Join the discussion of a new activity forming at the Fellowship. If you are interested in helping to organize a singles group, one that would meet as a regular MVUUF activity, contact **Eric Walkinshaw**. Eric reports that there is already a lot of enthusiasm for such a group, reminiscent of the one that used to meet at our Far Hills location.

### **Young UUs in Service**

Plan two unforgettable weeks in rural Transylvania this summer (July 30-August 14) with your high-schoolers. The Agora Experience is a two-week cultural immersion and service opportunity offering young Unitarian Universalists a chance to explore the birthplace of Unitarianism while learning about the importance of international rural development efforts. Participants will learn about important roles they can play in the global development community while both being empowered and empowering the communities served.

Hosted by Agora, a local environment and sustainable development nonprofit, participants will live with a family and work with locals (and Peace Corps Volunteers) on a variety of exciting projects such as helping to build a solar fruit drier to make a delicious natural product for local markets and increase the vitamin intake for everyone in the village during the winter. Visit [www.experience.green-agero.ro](http://www.experience.green-agero.ro) for more details.

### **Fall Retreat October 5—7**

What did people have to say about the Fall Retreat this year? Here are a few comments:

*"I loved it! It was so much fun and I will definitely be there next year!"*

*"It was wonderful to have our retreat at a place that felt holy, despite the creepy Abraham sculpture. The vegetarian meals were heaven. I will never forget this, the best retreat ever! Thank you."*

*"From an adult's perspective, I had a marvelous time. I had just enough free time and structured time. I loved the setting and everything the Grailville retreat stood for, women, peace, organic food, etc."*

The next fall retreat is on the schedule and we've reserved more rooms so that more people will be able to attend. We'll also be working to make some improvements in organization, activities, (especially for children and youth) and housing assignment procedures. Mark your calendar for Oct 5-7, 2007. Registration will take place in the spring for the weekend, with Saturday-only reservations open through mid-September. If you are interested in working with the retreat committee, please contact **Genevieve Harvey**. The majority of the planning will take place in the summer.



### Mission: Safety!

A group discussing safety in the Fellowship met in February, with great turnout and participation. People of a wide range of ages and experiences engaged in thoughtful discourse on this important topic. We will continue to work toward safety policies and procedures that help protect all of us in order to present these to everyone at our June congregational meeting. All are welcome to join us on **Sunday, March 4 at 1:00 PM** (bring your lunch) to discuss several articles assigned as “homework,” agree on a timeline and begin the process of figuring out how to meet everyone’s safety needs in our shared home. Older children and youth are encouraged to attend, if this is of interest to them. If you have questions or comments, see *Persephone* (DLRE), *Dave Rengel* (VP, committee chair) or *Genevieve Harvey* (LRE Representative).

### Join MVUUF CUUPS

All are welcome to join CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans). Find our Yahoo group at [mvuuf\\_cuups@yahoo.com](mailto:mvuuf_cuups@yahoo.com). Contact *Cyndi Reeves*.

### Upcoming meetings and events:

- March 3, Saturday, 6:00 PM: Full Moon Ritual
- March 11, Sunday, 12:30 PM: Planning
- March 25, Sunday, 5:00 PM: Ostara Ritual
- April 1, Sunday, 5:00 PM: Full Moon Ritual
- April 15, Sunday, 12:30 PM: Planning
- May 4-6: Beltaine Spring Retreat at Zane Shawnee Caverns in beautiful Bellefontaine, Ohio
- May 13, Sunday, 12:30 PM: Full Moon Ritual
- June 10, Sunday, 12:30 PM: Planning
- June 24, Sunday, 12:30 PM: Summer Solstice

### Plant & Garage Sale Scheduled

Snow and ice may be on the ground, but spring is just around the corner. Our annual church-wide sale will be held on Saturday, May 19. We are asking for plants and garage/thrift sale items. And remember, we will pick up large items and truck them to the Fellowship for you.

So mark your calendar, start potting the plants, cleaning out the cabinets and garage, and start the cookies baking. We will be happy to sell anything except clothing. If you have any questions or want to jump in and volunteer your time, contact *Judy* and *Dave Rengel*. We are looking forward to another successful sale for MVUUF!

### FEEL BETTER = BE BETTER

*Back By Popular Demand!*

**DR. TOM FIROR**

*“Better Health – An Integrative Approach”*

**Tuesday, March 20, 7:30 PM at MVUUF**

Come be enlightened and entertained by Dr. Tom, who has practiced integrated medicine—the blending of holistic and traditional treatments—for over 25 years. Dr. Firor is currently the medical director of the Ohio Center of Integrative Medicine, which is the clinical division of the Ohio Academy of Holistic Health (OAAH) in Xenia.

The CEO of the Academy, Dave Cunningham, will also explain what the Center can offer you. A clinical hypnotherapist, Dave studied under Dr. Brian Weiss, whose books on reincarnation are internationally known.

Be prepared for a stimulating evening with an open discussion following the talk. Bring your questions! Refreshments (including sweets) will be served. For more information, call *Nancy Moody*.

*Free and open to the public*

### Small Group Dinners

Beginning in March, we will be rearranging participants in the small group dinners. The new groups will meet in March, April, May and June. New participants are welcome to join anytime. For more information, call *Jay Snively*.

### Keeping Up With Members

We received a warm and touching thank you note from *Susan McCormack*, the daughter of *Dane* and *Priscilla Mutter*. Susan expressed her grateful appreciation for the financial help the Fellowship gave her and her family as she struggles with cancer. Susan said, “I hold such a gift as proof that there is much love and goodness in people...” We continue to hold Susan and the Mutter family in our thoughts and prayers.

A special thank you goes to *Dave Rengel* for cleaning our walk of the dangerous ice left by the recent snowstorms. He did it the hard way—brute force, salt and a shovel, clearing the ice that even the professional snow removal equipment left behind.

## The 2007 Service Auction Needs You

The MVUUF Service Auction is happening **Saturday, March 10 from 6:00 to 9:30 PM**. 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 may 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 12 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 "garage sale" items for the spring sale in May.)

Second, if you can help with the party or the auction, volunteers are needed. We especially need folks to watch the kids in 30-minute shifts, and two people to coordinate the kid-watching schedule. We also need some folks to keep the serving tables stocked with food from the kitchen.

Please complete the form below and return it to Barbara Kelley in the MVUUF as soon as possible. Contact **Scott Leonard** with questions or to volunteer to help!

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

**Name of donated item or service:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Category (select one):**

- Dinners and Outings**       **Professional Services**       **Art and Hand-Crafted Products**  
 **Food**       **Home, Office and Garden**

**Description of the service(s) or item(s) you will donate:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you are donating multiple items (i.e. 3 doz. cookies), please indicate if the donation is intended to be auctioned as a

- single item**       **multiple items**

If you are donating 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**       **a future date**

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

- I can help by:     **Preparing food for kids**       **Kitchen help during the event**  
 **Watching kids in a 30-minute shift**       **Set-up**  
 **Decorating**       **Clean up**

## Concerning Social Concerns



### MVUUF Invites You To Attend the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Soup Supper for Hunger Relief**

Receive a beautiful handmade soup bowl from a local artisan, delicious soup and dessert donated by local restaurants and chefs!

Mindy Hill of **The Foodbank** will speak about hunger in the Miami Valley and the help The Foodbank offers its patrons.

We will have a raffle for a lovely basket of organic, *Fair Trade Chocolate*, and gift certificates for handmade soap from *Soaps and Potions*, as well as from other local patrons.

Food from *The Meadowlark Restaurant*, *Coco's Bistro*, *C'est Tout* and others.

**What: MVUUF Soup Supper, to benefit *The Foodbank***

**When: Saturday, March 31 at 5:30 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 all throughout March *or* contact **Ann Rismiller** *or* contact the Fellowship office during normal office hours.

Don't miss out –  
get your tickets now.  
Last year's event was amazing!!

**BRING YOUR FRIENDS!!!**

**All proceeds will benefit  
The Foodbank.**

Sponsored by the  
MVUUF Social Concerns Committee



### **Lobby Day in Columbus**

Equality Ohio announces Lobby Day for Equality 2007 to be held in Columbus May 16. Lobby Day is a chance to build bridges and meet face-to-face with the men and women who shape state laws that impact lives and families.

#### ***Lobby Day details:***

**WHAT:** Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Ohioans, their families and allies meet with state legislators

**WHEN:** Wednesday, May 16 from 9:00 AM—5:00 PM

**WHERE:** Homebase is the Hyatt on Capitol Square, 75 East State Street. Meetings take place in legislator offices nearby at Riffe Center and the Statehouse.

**REGISTRATION:** To register, visit [equalityohio.org](http://equalityohio.org) or call 614-224-0400.

Participants will visit legislators with others including team leaders to help answer questions. Before Lobby Day, Equality Ohio staff will hold nine free trainings statewide, including in Dayton. Training is selected at time of registration, so register now! Learn the most effective ways to talk to elected officials and make a real difference!

### **Equality Ride Planned**

In April, the Social Concerns group will have a pot-luck dinner and coordinate in-home hospitality for several people working on the *Equality Ride* hosted by *Soulforce*. Soulforce is an organization that seeks freedom for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people from religious and political oppression through the practice of relentless nonviolent direct action. Equality Ride parallels that mission and seeks to change hearts and minds, and thus institutions, by confronting schools that have policies that bar attendance of openly LGBT students and teach a perspective that prevents LGBT people from accepting who they are and living in that freedom. Equality Ride plans a visit to Cedarville University in Cedarville, Ohio on April 19—20.

Look for more information on this event in upcoming bulletins and the April Forum.

### **Intergenerational Seminar in April**

Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO) has announced their annual intergenerational seminar, “*Stop Modern Day Slavery*,” to be held in New York City April 12—14. Every year 850,000 young children, teenagers, women and men are trafficked across international borders into forced labor or slavery-like conditions. Learn more and register for the seminar at [www.uu-uno.org](http://www.uu-uno.org).

### **Fair Trade Chocolate Sale**

Thanks to all the Valentine chocolate lovers!!! Total sales were \$185.70 with donations of \$3.00. The profit plus donations equaled \$39.42, which will be put toward the Social Concerns project of purchasing school uniforms for low-income Dayton middle school students. Valentine's Day beat out the Christmas sale; the two-week sale in December yielded \$52.11 in profits, given to The Other Place fund for apartment deposits for low income homeless families. The Halloween sale earned \$31.15 in profits, and, upon the suggestion of *Murphy Davidson*, the class members decided to send this to the UN Foundation Malaria Fund. Of course, profits aside, a good deed was done by supporting Fair Trade workers and their communities.

—Lynn Buffington

### **Calling All Grocery Shoppers**

Do you shop at Kroger or Dorothy Lane? Your purchases can earn money for the Fellowship without costing you a cent.

**Kroger** has the easiest system, and returns 4% of our recharge amounts monthly to the Fellowship. Three steps and we earn money every month from your purchases:

- All you do is purchase a Kroger gift card for \$5. On your first trip to Kroger, you get \$5 of groceries free. Add to your \$5 card and then use it as a debit card.
- When it runs low, recharge your card at Kroger (with cash, credit card, debit card or check), even in the checkout lane—before you checkout your groceries.

Many of you already have Kroger gift cards—just recharge them and use them when you shop. Remember, they're not the same as your Kroger Plus key tag.

Dorothy Lane offers two programs that benefit the Fellowship, **Gift Cards** and the **Community Rewards Program**:

- The Dorothy Lane **gift cards** have a declining balance; they can be used until you have spent all your money but cannot be recharged. We have \$20 cards available. The Fellowship receives 5% for all cards sold.
- In addition to these cards, Dorothy Lane offers to all shoppers a **Good Neighbors program** for donations to a favorite charity. You must re-register each year for the Fellowship to get credit for your purchases. If you even shop Dorothy Lane occasionally, please register for 2007.

—Maureen O'Meara, Grocery Cards Fundraiser 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. Sign up in the Gathering Space or in your Fellowship group meeting. Contact **Diane Dover** or **Lucy Kazyak** to help or if you are able to provide a menu item (15-20 servings). If you aren't available on lunch day, call Diane or Lucy to arrange an alternative drop-off location or time. Additional on-site servers are especially needed—servers must sign up in advance.

Plan to help next on **Saturday, March 10.**

I would like to offer a special thank you to **Kim Bohley** for arranging for me to pick up bread and baked goods to serve at *The Other Place*. This has greatly helped us fill our menu items on the clipboard. Thank you so much, Kim! The extra bread and desserts (that we can't use at *The Other Place*) are going to St. Paul's Methodist Church who serve the poor in the east side of Dayton.

Our February serving went well. We had plenty of food and some wonderful help!! **Donna Wilson** brought three students from her school to help serve. They were fabulous kids with big hearts! We also had new members from church—**Christine Kraus** and her son **Dominic**! My usual helpers were there too: Thank you **Bonnie** and **Steve Thompson**, **Ruby Powell** and **Ben Olive**. **George** and **Sherry** were there in spirit giving their positions to the teenagers. Thank you all!

—Diane Dover



### March 10 Menu

Lasagna  
Hard Boiled Eggs  
Hot mixed vegetables  
Dessert (*Thank you, Kim Bohley!*)  
2% milk and 100% juice

### Soup Supper - Help Needed!

Volunteers are needed to help with the upcoming Soup Supper on March 31. Volunteer jobs vary from greeting guests and taking tickets to serving soup to picking up food from the donating restaurants. It's a lot of fun—if you can help, please contact **Heather Wendel**, **Ann Rismiller** or **Kate Santucci**.

### Basket Collection Results

For the months of March and April, we will donate 30% of all non-pledge basket collections to the **Dayton Peace Museum**, whose mission is: “*To contribute to a local, national, and international culture of peace through exhibits, activities, and events that focus on nonviolent choices.*” This collection period loosely coincides with the *Season for Nonviolence*, the 64-day event recognizing the memorial anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

### Living the Welcoming Congregation

Last year MVUUF reaffirmed its status as a Welcoming Congregation when a number of members went through the *Welcoming Congregation* course. For congregations wishing to deepen and expand their “Welcoming” status, the UUA has developed a follow-up curriculum called *Living the Welcoming Congregation*. Participants can decide if the next stages of their work are for personal growth, congregational life, or working within the larger community. This 13-week program will meet weekly on Tuesday evenings beginning Tuesday, March 20 at 7:00 PM.

For additional information, watch for announcements over the next several weeks, call the office, or contact **Joe Law**.



## Lifespan Religious Education

### Women's Group

The 9-week Northwest Earth Institute study, *Exploring Deep Ecology* is underway through April. Books are still available and drop-ins are welcome.

The topics for March are:

#### **March 4 *Spirituality and the Earth***

Some environmentalists and theologians emphasize a spiritual dimension in our relationship with the earth. Some believe spirituality is the key to finding motivation to live on a sustainable basis with other species and the earth's finite resources.

#### **March 11 *A New Story from Science***

Scientific discoveries in physics, biology and cosmology are challenging our assumptions about how the world works. What do these discoveries teach us about our relationship to the earth?

#### **March 18 *Native American Wisdom***

Most Americans are far removed from the earth in their daily lives. What can be learned from the rich heritage of Native Americans and their relationship with Mother Earth?

#### **March 25 *Ecopsychology***

Modern life tends to cut us off from our bond to the natural world. Could restoration of that bond help to heal both individuals and the planet?

All women are welcome! If you have any questions, call **Linda Yoder**.

### LOST

Stand still. The trees ahead and bushes beside you  
Are not lost. Wherever you are is called Here,  
And you must treat it as a powerful stranger,  
Must ask permission to know it and be known.  
The forest breathes. Listen. It answers,  
I have made this place around you.  
If you leave it, you may come back again, saying Here.  
No two trees are the same to Raven.  
No two branches are the same to Wren.  
If what a tree or bush does is lost on you,  
You are surely lost. Stand still. The forest knows  
Where you are. You must let it find you.

—David Wagoner  
WHO SHALL BE THE SUN?

### Children's and Youth March RE Schedule

|               | K-5                                | 6-12                 |
|---------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>MAR 4</b>  | <b>Class</b>                       | <b>Youth Worship</b> |
| <b>MAR 11</b> | <b>Women's History Celebration</b> |                      |
| <b>MAR 18</b> | <b>Class</b>                       | <b>Class</b>         |
| <b>MAR 25</b> | <b>Children's Chapel</b>           | <b>Class</b>         |

### MVUUF Daytime Book Club

The Daytime Book Club meets on a Wednesday (usually) 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 more than welcome. Contact **Carol Vincent** or **Sylvia Wince** for further information.

The group will discuss *Palestine - Peace or Apartheid* by Jimmy Carter on March 14. Future selections include *YaYas in Bloom* by Rebecca Wells (April), *Chiefs* by Stuart Woods (May) and *The Audacity of Hope* by Barack Obama (June).

### 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.

### Evening Book Discussion Group

Join the "**The Big Read**"! The Evening Book Discussion Group will meet at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, March 13 in the Founders' Room at the Fellowship. *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls will be discussed. This book is the 2007 kick off selection for "The Big Read," the greater Dayton area's community-wide reading project.

*The Glass Castle* is Jeannette Walls' memoir of growing up in a creative, but very eccentric family. Meet the author at Books & Company at The Greene on March 30 or at the Webster Street Market on March 31. Visit [www.project-read.org](http://www.project-read.org) for more details.

Plans for the April 10 meeting will be announced in the April Forum. New participants are welcome. Contact **Ann Snively** if you would like more information.

## *MVUUF Community Class Favorite Books of 2006*

*The Art of Seduction*, by Robert Green, 2001. Great seducers throughout history and how seduction has toppled empires, won elections and enslaved great minds. Recommended by *Eric Walkinshaw*.

*Atheist Universe: The Thinking Person's Answer to Christian Fundamentalism*, by David Mills, 2006. Makes a well defined case against intelligent design. Recommended by *Tom Brown*.

*The Culture of Make Believe*, by Derrick Jensen, 2002. Examination of our culture's penchant to engage in questionable behaviors, then justify or ignore them. Traces the sources of violent hatred that has been overwhelming our planet. Recommended by *Roger Davis*.

*The End of Faith*, by Sam Harris, 2004. Forcefully presented call to reject all forms of religious faith which author sees as a source of much evil and terrorism. Recommended by *Jim Faulconer*.

*The Family: The Real Story of the Bush Dynasty*, by Kitty Kelley, 2004. Detailed history of the Bush family from the 1800's on with in-depth look at personalities, family dynamics, education, marriages, family oil business and connection, and influence in all levels of government throughout the years. Recommended by *Bobbi Treadwell*.

*The God Delusion*, by Richard Dawkins, 2006. Good summary of the irrationality of belief in supernatural beings. Dawkins shows that virtually all aspects of supernatural beliefs are negative for human welfare. Recommended by *Tom Brown* and *Jim Faulconer*.

*Hidden Power: presidential marriages that shaped our recent history*, by Kati Marton, 2002. Short biographies and information about American first ladies - particularly the trials and tribulations of their role during spouse's presidency. Recommended by *Kathy Brown*.

*The Idea of God*, by John Fiske, 1885. Written at the time of the initial clash between Darwin's theory of evolution and religion. It explores how the theory forces the re-examination of our conceptualization of God. An avowed Christian, he makes a strong argument that it is a mistaken understanding of the teaching of Jesus that has led to the science vs religion conflict. He came to the conclusion that it is the Christian church's misconception of God that is at the core of the problem. His logical arguments dispel these conflicts, including dealing a death blow to intelligent

design, all done 120 plus years ago. While some of the science is dated, much is amazingly current and the logic is modern and clear. I suspect that if he had lived in Dayton now he would have attended our Fellowship. Recommended by *Wilbur Brooks*.

*Inspiration: Your Ultimate Calling*, by Dr. Wayne Dyer, 2006. Describes the methodology for living in inspiration, an idea that takes hold of us from the invisible "Spirit." Recommended by *Al Boudreau*.

*Integral Psychology: Consciousness, Spirit, Psychology, Therapy*, by Ken Wilber, 2000. Presents a model for integrating many different views of human development; individual, social, and religious. Recommended by *Joe Lawrence*.

*Integral Spirituality: a startling new role for religion in the modern and postmodern world*, by Ken Wilber, 2006. A look at spirituality from an integral perspective. The author honors the revolutions in science and culture, while incorporating the essential insights of the great religions. Recommended by *Don Heidorn*.

*The Kindness of Strangers*, by Katrina Kittle, 2006 (Fiction) Novel by a local author about the evolution of a family affected by child abuse. A real page turner. Recommended by *Cynthia Brooks*.

*The Memory Keeper's Daughter*, by Kim Edwards, 2005 (Fiction). A New York Times #1 best seller paperback. "Mesmerizing" story about a child with Down's syndrome who was given away and how that event affected the lives of the families involved. Recommended by *Elfi Purkey*.

*The Omnivore's Dilemma*, by Michael Pollan, 2006. A book about where our food comes from. He investigates all kinds of farms and the food processing industry, and recommends ways to choose healthy foods. Recommended by *Carol Vincent*.

*The Places In Between*, by Rory Stewart, 2006. Rory walks across Afghanistan in January 2002 after the Taliban were deposed and successfully writes about the intricacies of Afghan culture and tradition. Recommended by *Becky Gormley*.

*The Road*, by Cormac McCarthy, 2006 (Fiction). The relationship between a father and son traveling through the wasteland of post-apocalyptic America. An unflinching meditation on the worst and best in us. Recommended by *Mike Nelson*.

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**Rule by Secrecy: the hidden history that connects the Trilateral Commission, the Freemasons, and the Great Pyramids**, by Jim Marrs, 2000. This book looks at the multiple secret societies and their inter-relationships. Recommended by **Wilbur Brooks**.

**Russka: A Novel of Russia**, by Edward Rutherford, 1991 (Historical Fiction). Chronicles 1800 years of Russian history through the lives of four families. Interesting journey through the history of a country I knew very little about. Recommended by **Lindy McDonough**.

**Shakespeare, The Complete Plays**. A recent interest and goal I set for myself. The plays and characters seem to encompass all of life. Recommended by **Sam Kramer**.

**The Spiral Staircase: My Climb Out of Darkness**, by Karen Armstrong, 2004. Karen is a very unhappy Catholic nun who leaves the convent after seven years and goes through a long difficult struggle searching for meaning and religious values. Recommended by **Carol Vincent**.

**What the Buddha Taught**, by Walpola Rahula, 1959. This is an excellent explanation of the basic tenets of Buddhism. Written with both clarity and depth. Recommended by **Pete Hering**.

**Wisdom of the Ages**, by Dr. Wayne W. Dyer, 1998. Powerful collection of writings, poems, and sayings by some of the greatest thinkers of the past 25 centuries. Dr. Dyer explains meaning and context of each piece of wisdom and explains how we can actively apply these teachings to our modern lives. I use many of these subjects as a center of meditation. Recommended by **Sherry Davis**.

**With God on Our Side**, by Michael Weinstein, 2006. This book is about how Michael Weinstein came to take on the USAF for proselytizing its members. It gives some background about his experience as a Jew at the USAF Academy. Recommended by: **Dana Kincaid**.

**The World's Religions**, by Huston Smith, 1994. A description of some of the religions of the world. Refreshing and fascinating presentations of both the differences and similarities among worldwide religious traditions. Recommended by **Harvey Scott**.

### **Heartland District Junior High Conference**

Junior high families, mark your calendars for a Heartland district conference on April 20—22 in Fort Wayne, Indiana (about 2 1/2 hours from Dayton). The theme will be “*Monty PyCon*.” The cons include getting to know other UU youth, youth worship, workshops, and a heavy dose of fun. Rumor is that the Monty PycCon will include a Medieval costume contest. Junior high includes current sixth through eighth graders. Parents or other MVUUF adults can serve as drivers and chaperones. Check with eighth graders **Andrew Dover**, **Jonathan Nguyen** and **Jacob Nolin** who recently attended a junior high con in Lexington, KY. For more information, contact the student organizer from Lexington, Kelsey Weber at [kweber@wildblue.net](mailto:kweber@wildblue.net). If you or your student are interested in attending, contact **Lynn Buffington**.

### **Virtual Church, More Church**

The Church of the Larger Fellowship asks, “Do you know someone who:

- Would benefit from a spiritual community available 24 hours a day, seven days a week?
- Works on Sunday mornings?
- Lives in an isolated area?
- Does not have access to a local UU church?
- Is housebound and unable to attend a local church?
- Is an active member of a local congregation who wants even more?

The Church of the Larger Fellowship is wherever you are in the world, wherever your truth takes you on your spiritual journey. Stay connected with Unitarian Universalism and 3,000 members, plus their children, living all over the world.

Visit [www.clfuu.org](http://www.clfuu.org) to experience a spiritual sanctuary that ministers via e-mail and the Internet. CLF Members enjoy the monthly print publication, “*Quest*,” with sermons and worship materials from a Unitarian Universalist perspective, archived online. Online classes are available on a variety of topics. The CLF has a loan library with self-study programs, UU books, religious education curricula and video/ audiotaped sermons. In addition, members receive the *UU World*, the same UUA quarterly publication enjoyed by members of a physical church.

Do you know someone who could benefit from this unique way to experience UUism?



## Persephone's Ponderings



My good friend Ethan Field recently wrote an essay titled *UU For Life*, that chronicles his journey as a born-and-raised-and-still Unitarian Universalist. He posted the article to [fuuse.com](http://fuuse.com), the online community for UU youth and young adults and the article received overwhelming response from both lifelong UUs and young adults not raised in the faith. In fact, as someone who found Unitarian Universalism at the ripe old age of 26, I found myself wanting to shout a hearty “Amen!” as I read his story, one that chronicles a faith journey riddled with pain and alienation, as well as moving stories of caring community and deep commitment and love for this life-saving faith.

Ethan shares an experience of being away at college and not being able to get home for Thanksgiving. He attends the local UU church where, *“in what I'm sure was a sincere attempt to make me feel welcome, they started telling me about all the different committees I could join.”* He leaves quickly, fighting back tears. He *“just wanted to go to church on Thanksgiving.”* He tells of an accident he had while in Tanzania in the Peace Corps. He received a “Caring Card” from his home church signed by dozens of people. *“All these people remembered me and cared for me when I needed it.”*

Through his story, Ethan critiques the way we, as UUs, respond to youth and young adults and offers insight, suggestions and challenges for *“what congregations and young adults can do to keep UU young adults in the UU family.”*

**On Membership:** *“We need to recognize that **congregations are partners and not competitors** in raising lifelong UUs. Leaders need to shift away from thinking of “membership development” only in terms of their immediate value to their own congregation in time and money. All congregations benefit when we develop Unitarian Universalists whose UU identity and commitment transcends any single congregation. It's true that some young adults won't make a deep commitment to a congregation, and some campus groups never set foot in the church building. But if you take care of them, then maybe somewhere, another congregation will care for your own congregation's adult children. And maybe somewhere, another congregation is caring for young UUs who will one day move to your town. Just like there is no time in UUs' lives when we don't need UUism, there is no UU congregation which doesn't need the participation of UUs of all ages.”*

**On Ministry:** *“We also need to **be active, not passive**, in our ministry to young adults. Because we're understaffed, we tend to rely too much on waiting for young adults to take the lead in creating or finding their own space. Religious professionals, youth advisors, and parents should be actively connecting graduating seniors with UU Campus Ministry groups if those seniors are going to college. Encourage them to go to a school where they will have a spiritual home. Congregations may want to sponsor a year's membership in the Church of the Younger Fellowship for their graduates. Remember how I said it never occurred to me to sign up for the CLF newsletter when I was in Peace Corps, or in college? We should be networking our young folks as automatically and systematically as the Christian Scientists... Reaching out to any underrepresented demographic **starts with nurture, not obligations.**”*

**On Worship:** *“I deeply value the Young Adult group at my church, but the Sunday congregational worship services have been, well, “interesting” but rarely “inspiring.” Like in so many UU churches, it's always the meta-experience and not the experience itself. For instance, in a Sunday worship about “community,” a minister might talk about or describe the importance of valuing each other in community. At a youth or young adult worship, we would put pieces of paper on our backs, and people walk around the room writing things we value about a person on their back; **engaging in the active process** of valuing each other. The young adult group is a space where I can do this spiritual practice of my faith. That is my spiritual home, not Sunday worship...”*

I met my friend Ethan in 2003 at my first continental young adult conference. It was Opus, the annual spiritual retreat of C\*UUYAN (the Continental UU Young Adult Network). I had been regularly attending a UU church for about nine months, a member for six. Yet I didn't feel that I had an understanding of what it meant to be a Unitarian Universalist until that week. I've attended a number of UU churches over the years in various cities and have UU young adult friends all over the country. I believe that the disconnect between the greater UU youth movement and experience of UUism, and the disconnect between the greater UU young adult movement and UU young adult experience is the rule rather than the exception. It is my hope that this congregation will intentionally and consciously strive to be the exception to that rule. May we adopt the C\*UUYAN mission of being, “spiritually alive, justice centered, radically inclusive.” For Ethan's full story see [http://www.students.umb.edu/ethan\\_field/uu/uu4life.html](http://www.students.umb.edu/ethan_field/uu/uu4life.html).

*Blessings, Persephone*

### **Community Class Schedule**

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. 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, March 4**

**“Birthdays: What We Do to Celebrate and What They Mean to Us.”** For some of us it is a time of partying, cards and gifts, while for others it is just another day. Is there religious significance to celebrating birthdays? Are there cultural differences in ways birthdays are recognized?

Moderator: *Alex Moreda*

#### **Sunday, March 11**

**“How We Know What Isn't So.”** We'll discuss the subject of the book of the same name, by Thomas Gilovich, subtitled *“The Fallibility of Human Reason in Everyday Life.”* Gilovich is a professor of psychology at Cornell University who has researched decision making and behavioral economics.

Moderator: *Sam Kramer*

#### **Sunday, March 18**

**“Islam: A Religion of Peace?”** We'll look at the roots and nature of the religion that is the focus of discussion and concern in today's media and world events. What are the differences between Muslim and Christian fundamentalism? How does Islam vary around the globe?

Moderator: *Jim Faulconer*

#### **Sunday, March 25**

**“Dealing with the Irritations and Frustrations of Daily Life.”** All of us encounter annoying situations and people at home, work, the grocery, at church. We'll share our most aggravating experiences and how successfully or unsuccessfully we handle these difficult situations.

Moderator: *Carol Vincent*

### **Worship Committee Meeting**

The Worship Committee meets on the fourth Monday of the month and all are welcome to attend. The next Worship Committee meeting is scheduled for March 26 at 7:00 PM. The committee's work of planning worship services is especially important during Martha's absence for her candidating weekends.

For more information, contact *Mike O'Brien*.

### **Smart Choices**

Meetings take place on Mondays from 7:30—9:00 PM at the Fellowship (usually) in the Sanctuary next to the storage room. Call *Sylvia Wince* for more details about this group.

**March 12:** We will do a check-in then play “Apples to Apples,” a group game with a great little prize for the winner.

**March 26:** We will dye Easter eggs at the Fellowship.

**April 9:** We will check in and chat.

**April 23:** *Jeni Cullen* will lead us in doing scrimshaw to make a mural.

**May 7:** Show and Tell. We will each bring in an item to share and tell about.

**May 21:** Check-in and we will celebrate *Lynn Haven's* birthday.

**On Saturday, June 23,** some of us will take a *field trip to Columbus* on a special AAA bus trip to see the play, “*Wicked,*” and have lunch at the *Der Duchman Restaurant* in Plain City, Ohio. Cost per person is \$149. It is not too late to make your reservation. Call (937) 456-5678 for more information and/or reservations.

### **Poetic Insights**

Poetic Insights is open to all and requires no specific poetic talent, just a desire to express some thoughts and to share them. At each monthly meeting, the group eats a sack lunch at the Wince's house at 1:00 PM. At about 1:30, we are given a “prompt,” by a volunteer leader, from which to write a poem, prose, letter to someone, or just a stream of consciousness. At about 2:45 PM, we share our thoughts and what we have written. It is a good way to get to know people better and is a lot of fun. The writings are sometimes poignant and sometimes poetic. Please join us!

Contact *Bev* or *Sylvia Wince* for more details. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, March 25. Mark your calendars for future meetings scheduled on April 22 and May 20.

### **INTERWEAVE**

INTERWEAVE, a support/discussion group for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) people and their allies meets at the Fellowship at 7:30 PM on the third Wednesday of each month. Contact *Joe Law* for more information.

# MVUUF March 2007

We will donate 30% of all non-pledge collections in March and April to the Dayton Peace Museum.

|       |    |   |
|-------|----|---|
| Thurs | 1  | LAST Panini Ministry (Panera) 11:00 AM  |
| Fri   | 2  |   |
| Sat   | 3  | CUUPS 6:00 PM   |
| Sun   | 4  | Men's Group 9:15 AM<br>Women's Group 9:30 AM<br>Community Class 9:30 AM<br><i>Building Bridges Underwater</i> —Leslie Woodward 11AM<br>New Member Recognition 11 AM<br><b>Guest at Your Table:</b> Finish Line<br>Young Adults 12:30 PM<br>Safe Congregations 1:00 PM |
| Mon   | 5  | Program Council 7:00 PM   |
| Tues  | 6  |   |
| Wed   | 7  | Choir Practice 7:30 PM<br><i>Religion W/O God</i> -Mike O'Brien 7:30 PM   |
| Thurs | 8  | Behavioral Covenant Meeting 7:00 PM<br>World Religions 7:30 PM  |
| Fri   | 9  |   |
| Sat   | 10 | The Other Place Meal 11:30 AM<br><b>Annual Service Auction</b> 6—9:30 PM  |
| Sun   | 11 | Women's Group 9:30 AM<br>Community Class 9:30 AM<br><i>Peaks and Vales</i> —Brad Kochunas 11 AM<br>CUUPS 12:30 PM   |
| Mon   | 12 | Smart Choices 7:30 PM   |
| Tues  | 13 | Evening Book Club— <i>The Big Read</i> 7 PM   |
| Wed   | 14 | Daytime Books 10:30 AM<br><i>Religion W/O God</i> -Mike O'Brien 7:30 PM<br>Choir Practice 7:30 PM   |
| Thurs | 15 | MV Storytellers Workshop 6:30 PM<br>Board Meeting 7:00 PM   |

|       |    |   |
|-------|----|---|
| Fri   | 16 |   |
| Sat   | 17 | Leadership Retreat 9 AM—5 PM  |
| Sun   | 18 | Men's Group 9:15 AM<br>Women's Group 9:30 AM<br>Community Class 9:30 AM<br><i>The DebUnkify ToUr</i> —Persephone 11 AM<br>Orientation 12:30 PM<br>Young Adults 12:30 PM<br>CineManiacs—Neon Movies 5 PM |
| Mon   | 19 | Social Concerns 7:00 PM<br><i>The FORUM</i> Deadline  |
| Tues  | 20 | Living the Welcoming Congregation 7 PM<br><b>Dr. Tom Firor</b> <i>Integrative Health</i> 7:30 PM  |
| Wed   | 21 | INTERWEAVE 7:30 PM<br>Choir Practice 7:30 PM<br><i>Religion W/O God</i> -Mike O'Brien 7:30 PM   |
| Thurs | 22 | World Religions 7:30 PM   |
| Fri   | 23 |   |
| Sat   | 24 | Fellowship Gourmets 6 PM <i>Brandywine Inn</i><br><b>Mystery Friends Dinner 6:00 PM</b>   |
| Sun   | 25 | Women's Group 9:30 AM<br>Community Class 9:30 AM<br><i>Learning a New Peace</i> —Jim Farinet 11 AM<br>Poetic Insights— <i>Wince's</i> 1:00 PM<br>CUUPS <i>Ostara</i> 5:00 PM                            |
| Mon   | 26 | Worship Committee 7:00 PM<br>Smart Choices 7:30 PM  |
| Tues  | 27 | Living the Welcoming Congregation 7 PM  |
| Wed   | 28 | Choir Practice 7:30 PM  |
| Thurs | 29 |   |
| Fri   | 30 | Game Night 7:00 PM  |
| Sat   | 31 | <b>2nd Annual Soup Supper 5:30 PM</b>   |

*Mark Your Calendar!*  
MVUUF Plant & Garage Sale—May 19