

Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence
NEWSLETTER
March 3, 2009

SUNDAY MARCH 8, 2009

9:15 am Service: *Ministers: the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*

UFL Member Dave Fullerton will reflect on his experiences as the child of a minister, the problems with- and our fears about- ministers, and how we might address those issues.

10:45 am Program: *Asra Haq: The Role of a Muslim Woman in a Muslim Society* Ms. Haq, an executive member of the Islamic Center of Lawrence Board of Directors, will share with us some of the tenets of the Muslim faith and their influence on the everyday life of a Muslim woman.

Future Services:

Sunday, March 22, 9:15 Service: Nature, Humanity, and Spiritual Connection

From our heritage of the Transcendentalists and Walden Pond, to spiritual teachings which instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature, we are called to respect the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. It's ironic then that we often draw an imaginary line between "humanity" and "nature," as if disavowing our oneness. Yet even Thoreau came back from the woods to re-engage with society. By honoring ourselves as fully part of the natural world, we can find spiritual renewal as well as inspiration to nurture our planet and all its inhabitants. -- Rev. Jill Jarvis

Sunday, March 29 9:15 Service: Beyond Coffee Hour: Do Unitarian Universalists Have Sacraments?

In Christianity, sacraments are considered visible signs of invisible realities. They are religious rituals said to convey divine grace upon the participants (or not, depending on which side of the Reformation you stood.) Our Unitarian forebears were content with only communion and baptism, but even these are largely absent from today's UU congregations. Might the concept of sacraments still hold meaning for modern day Unitarian Universalists? -- Rev. Jill Jarvis

Future Programs:

Sunday, March 15, 10:45 Program: Charles Fantz: Orphans, AIDS, MDGS (Millennium Development Goals), and Unitarian Universalists in Ghana: The Every Child is Our Child Program.

Mr. Fantz is a member of the Topeka UU Fellowship and is the Prairie Star District Envoy for the UU/United Nations Office. He will be speaking about the "Every Child is our Child" program and the role of the "Queen Mothers" of Ghana, who care for and educate the many children orphaned by the AIDS epidemic.

FABULOUS FELLOWSHIP FOLLIES SATURDAY, MARCH 7

Art opening during the 5:30 – 6:15 social hour; come early to **meet and talk with Dennis Okruhlik**, the Topeka photographer whose digital photography of landscapes and architecture and computer digital imagery is featured in Founders Hall during March. His work has been exhibited in Topeka, Lawrence, and Junction City.

Dinner will be served at 6:15, with fun-filled **entertainment** from the festive UFL chorus to follow.
RSVP to the Fellowship Office 842-3339.

Volunteers needed to help with the Follies

While it may “take a village to raise a child” it also takes lots of volunteers to run a smooth dinner for the campaign kickoff or Fellowship Follies on March 7. The dinner will be served so I need at least 6 *wait persons* (teenagers encouraged to apply), *four prep people* by 3:00 to help prepare and plate food, *three or four on cleanup*. This is a minimum. I know there is an important game but for those who aren’t basketball fans, this is your opportunity to help your Fellowship. *Please contact Judy Wilson at 887-6223 if you can help.*

*****See p. 4 for some personal notes about the Fellowship and the upcoming campaign.*****

AUCTION COMING SOON—Donations Sought: An evening of Eastern splendor, UFL bargains and old fashioned H\$pes. The auction crew is **looking for your items now to include** in this year’s annual auction night, “A Night of a Thousand and One H\$pes.” Building on last year’s success, we will hold the **auction April 18**, 4:30 to 8:00PM. There’ll be a children’s auction (4:30 to 5:00PM), a silent auction with wine, cheese, and other goodies (5 to 6PM), and then the Great Hope Emporium (6-8PM). Auction donation forms for items to be auctioned will be available shortly in paper and electronically. Your generosity will make this evening a success. POC for the auction is Marie Wilson. (E-mail: nmariewilson@yahoo.com)

WEDNESDAY EVENING NEWS

Wednesday Evenings are for Everyone!

Wednesday, March 4

[Join us](#) this week as classes resume.

Our menu is Ground, beef and noodle bake; Vegetarian Mostaciolli; Macaroni and cheese; Hot Dogs; PB&J; Salad; Relish tray with Hummus; Italian Bread; Fruit and Cookies.

Our classes are nearing an end and new sessions will begin in mid-March. If you have a specific class you would like to see or to present, please contact Judy Wilson, 887-6223 as soon as possible.

Classes left are **Evensong for Adults** and **Pysanka** (Ukrainian Egg Design). New classes will be announced as soon as they are in place. Check the bulletin board on Sunday or call Judy Wilson at 887-6223. Dinner will still be served at 5:30 for a donation of \$5.00 and all are welcome to attend. There will be games and conversation for those not participating in a class.

Upcoming Wednesdays.

1. Barn Dance, May 11th

2. Move Night at the UFL – May 11th

Join us for a free screening of the film, "The Future of Food" on Wednesday, March 11th AT 6:30 p.m. THE FUTURE OF FOOD offers an in-depth investigation into the disturbing truth behind the unlabeled, patented, genetically engineered foods that have quietly filled U.S. grocery store shelves for the past decade. Please see the trailer at: <http://www.thefutureoffood.com/trailer.htm>.

Calling all new members! Have you signed the book in the last year or so but still find yourself looking for an opportunity to connect with the UFL community? Here's your invitation! ***Please come on Wednesday, March 11th to enjoy a good meal, great dessert, and a chance to relax among friendly faces.*** See the movie, join the barn dance, or just have a chance for a longer conversation than possible during Sunday morning coffee hour. Longtime members, please join the Membership Committee in welcoming new(ish) members and help them feel a part of the family!

NEWS FLASH! New Wednesday Evening Classes

Wednesday Evening Programming sign up sheets for new classes are available under the bulletin board at the Fellowship. All classes from this winter, with the exception of Evensong for Adults, have ended. We are offering new classes beginning as early as March 18.

Here is the information on each class so far, the facilitator, and the start date.

1. March 18, John Brewer--American Religious History--a series of video lectures beginning with an overview and European Background. The sessions will run for 6 meetings and the second half of the series will be offered at a later date.

2. April 1, Marilyn Roy--The Open Book--Reading for Pleasure. This group will meet on the first and third Wednesday evenings. Each member will share the book they are currently reading or have just finished. This is not a study group, but people meeting in a more informative and social setting. Any book is fine.

3. April 1, Marilyn Roy--Introduction to Organizing. This is a four-week class where members will share their "clutter challenges". You will learn how to deal with "overflow" and how to put together systems in your home or office that allow you to find what you want, when you need to find it.

4. April 15, Judy Wilson,--repeat of Articulating Your UU Faith. You will learn UU history and how to explain who we are to those who ask the question What is UU? Class runs for five weeks.

Anyone interested in a certain subject or who would like to offer a class please contact any member of the Team: Janney Burgess, Michelle Iwig-Harmon, Marilyn Roy, Sherry Warren, or Judy Wilson. We will begin planning for next fall later in the spring.

NEW!--First-Fridays Women's Social 3/6/09 6PM

All women are invited to attend an informal social gathering Friday, March 6 at 6:00. We will be gathering at Lisa Hallberg's home for good conversation and fun. There is no agenda, no theme, just the chance for us to spend some more time together and weave tighter relationships. Leave your cares, children, and significant others at home, and bring a goodie to share. Please contact Lisa Hallberg (half_full@yahoo.com) or Susan Rickman (susan@heidrickman.com or 785-218-3545) for more information.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS (from the Social Action Committee)

LINK on March 14: We will serve again then—sign up sheets are available at coffee hour. We especially need help with food and servers, since it falls during spring break. Please assist with this need; more info at www.uufl.net.

Health Care Access is our Community Connection for March. Started in 1988 Health Care Access (HCA) has been providing health care services to improve the health and lives of people in Lawrence. Since 2005 HCA has increased access to women's health care five-fold and in the past year has dramatically reduced the waiting time for appointments for **low income, uninsured residents of Douglas County.** What started in 1988 as a one room facility with one volunteer and a \$500 start-up budget, 20 years later has grown into a primary care clinic. HCA provides over \$1 million in free medication, makes 900 referrals to the 160 physicians and health professionals in our community who volunteer their time and services, and coordinates over \$2 million in donated hospital services. All of these achievements are possible because of the generosity of friends and neighbors, who have contributed a variety of gifts to the Health Care Access Clinic over the years. These gifts are not only monetary but represent the value of time, effort and concern and all help us in our mission to serve even more of those in our community who are not covered by any private or governmental insurance programs. Over 80% of HCA patients are gainfully employed yet still lack access to health care coverage either because they cannot afford to purchase health insurance for themselves and their family members, are not offered health insurance coverage by their employers, or do not qualify for government-subsidized or sponsored health insurance. The Fellowship has supported HCA for a number of years. Contributions from members will support the program again this year. Information is at the Social Justice Table.

February Contributions for Parents As Teachers, totaled \$620. A special thanks to Fellowship members for generously supporting this vital community program. This makes for a total of \$2,160 contributed; with the state match it amounts to \$5,724.

Future Community Connections for our support

April	DCAP	Douglas County AIDS Program
May	LCCP	Lawrence Child Care Pre-school Foundation
June	LCPJ	Lawrence Coalition on Peace and Justice
July	LINK	Lawrence Interdenominational Nutrition Kitchen

What the Fellowship Means to Us

The Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence means many things to us. We initially came because the UFL is a Welcoming Congregation. What we found (and why we have stayed) is that it is so much more than just that. The UFL is a community of people that are on similar journeys; we do not claim to know all the answers, but the search for them is important. We enjoy the challenge of living a life according to the Seven Principles, beginning with the inherent worth of each person and ending with the understanding that we are a part of the web of the world, including nature. What continues to bring us back each week is that we are challenged to be better people, both in our own lives and as members of the larger communities in which we live. For these reasons, we are pledging our financial support of the Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence.--*Lisa Braun and Susan Cooper*

Funding Our Way into the Future

Several years ago this Fellowship embarked upon an ambitious vision of its future transformation. As we all are aware, part of that vision was the successful Capital Campaign that resulted in the construction of the new meeting hall and needed improvements to the original building and its grounds. We are all proud of that fund-raising effort, which has brought in more than \$800,000 to date. At the same time the Board put aside \$100,000 from those funds to assist in meeting expenses associated with increased operational and programming costs as the Fellowship moved forward with other aspects of its vision.

Based upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Board approved the allocation of the \$100,000 over five years as follows: \$28,000, \$25,000, \$22,000, \$15,000, and \$10,000. This 08-09 fiscal year is the first year and our Treasurer indicates we may use only \$24,000 of the \$28,000 allocation, thanks to our prudent committees, the generous support of contributing members, and the excellent income derived from our yard sale, auction, and grocery gift card and certificate sales. Any remaining balance will be applied to next year's allocation. This is good news.

Next year, however, expenses will increase with new obligations, including mortgage payments and funding our own half-time minister. Success in this year's pledge drive can help us ensure that we will be able to meet these new obligations and sustain our vibrant and growing Fellowship. We look forward to seeing all of you at the kick-off dinner on March 7. We have much to take pride in, as well as a challenge to meet on our path to becoming an ever more welcoming and dynamic Unitarian presence in Lawrence.--*Jake Kipp, Member of the Board and Past Finance Chair*

MORE COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS, ISSUES, EVENTS

The Next Candidate Forum is scheduled for March 18, 7 to 9 pm, in the City Commission Room at the Lawrence City hall. Watch the paper and announcements for additional scheduled meetings with City Commission and School Board candidates. On March 18 School Board Candidates 7 to 8 pm; City Commission Candidates 8-9 pm. Mark your calendar, plan to attend and participate in this important community election. *City Commission and School Board Elections April 7.*

Family Promise, the program for housing and supporting families with children continues to be under consideration by the Social Action Committee. Watch for announcements for an open Fellowship meeting to consider becoming a partner. The City commission adopted an ordinance enabling Family Promise to continue making use of church facilities in Lawrence.

The Kansas Death Penalty. Information on legislative proposals for abolishing the death penalty is available at the Social Justice Table along with a petition to stop the execution of Troy Davis in Georgia.

Equal Rights Amendment considered. SCR 1608 was heard by the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee. A proposal to put an equal rights amendment in the Kansas Constitution will provide fundamental protections for women. The resolution states: *"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the state or any of its political or taxing subdivisions on account of sex."*

Read-Out, Sing-Out, Speak-Out, Act-Out, Dance-Out for Earthcare

Last year's "Read-Out, Sing-Out, Speak-Out, Act-Out, Dance-Out for Earthcare" was a tremendous success. Oread Friends Meeting along with KU Environs, Ecumenical Christian Ministries, and the Haskell Student Wetlands Preservation Organization is going to do it again. For our second annual event celebrating all of those in our community working for a sustainable environment, we are joining the planners of Earth Day for the *Read-Out.* It will begin at 8:00, the morning of April 18, in the western half of South Park, and continue until 8:00 in the evening We invite anyone—old and young, alone or in groups—to read, sing, speak, act, dance, make music, or perform in any way to sign up for a 10-minute slot in this 12-hour, marathon event on Earthcare. If you wish to sign up to join us for Earthcare or have any questions, please contact Beth Schultz at eschultz@ku.edu. Indicate what activity you or your group would like to do and the time slots when you'd like to do it. Thank you.--*Beth Schultz*

Lawrence Coalition for Peace and Justice needs volunteer children to ride in LCPJ's Saint Patrick's Day Parade Float. Every year LCPJ sponsors a float in the Saint Patrick's Day Parade themed "Give Peace a chance." We can hold around 15-20 kids. Any Unitarian volunteers? Parents of itty bitty ones are welcome to ride too.

Write me back if you are interested. ~retta@sunflower.com

Save The Date – Clean Energy Day II, March 19th We have been fighting for over a year in support of a clean vote for clean energy in Kansas. We've won small victories--now it's time to make a bold statement. Now is no time to play politics with our energy future--the stakes are too high, the opportunities too great. One day to join together, make our voice heard, and stand firmly in support of a real clean energy economy in Kansas. On March 19 we will make it happen.

KABC Annual Meeting & Caregiver Training. Please join the Kansas Advocates for Better Care board, members, and staff on April 3rd for our annual membership meeting and training. **"Building Blocks for Caregiving"** training is made possible through the Harriet Nehring. Education Fund at KABC. This event will be at the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, 2nd floor auditorium, from 1 to 4 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided.

The focus of our meeting is to help train family and friends who provide 85% of all care and who are dedicated to caring for a frail elderly loved one at home or in a nursing home. The training will build practical skills for those doing hands-on caregiving. Presentations will cover "Understanding Older Adults and Medications" with Tammy Willits of QualiCare Pharmacy; and "The Basics of Life: Food & Drink" Heather Generali with Meadowlark Hills. You will have the opportunity to ask questions specific to your needs. Cost to attend: \$10 donation per person. Limited number of scholarships are available. **Please RSVP by March 27th** to: Kansas Advocates for Better Care

A Benefit For Palpung Dharma Foundation of Lawrence

Affiliated with Palpung Sherab Ling--A Tibetan Buddhist Monastery in India

Exhibition & Sale, Vintage Kimono & Obi March 13-15, 2009

Reception. 7:00 PM, Friday, March 13

Film & Discussion, Saturday, March 14

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE ON A DAILY BASIS FOR EVERYONE (25 min.)

An Interview with the 12th Tai Situ Rinpoche, Abbot of Palpung Sherab Ling

Showtime: 2:00 pm, 4:00 pm, and 6:00 pm. Discussion following 6:00 pm showing.

Sunday, March 15, PILGRIMAGE FOR ACTIVE PEACE of the 12th Tai Situ Rinpoche (45 min.)

Showtime: 2:00 pm, 4:00 pm. Discussion following 4:00 pm showing.

Concurrent Exhibition: Original Art by Paula O'Callaghan

LAWRENCE ARTS CENTER, 940 New Hampshire

Contact: Palpung Dharma Foundation, E-mail: mingyurks@hotmail.com, Phone: 785-843-4656

SUMMARIES

2-22-2009 9:15 a.m. WWWHMD (WHAT WOULD HORACE MANN DO?)

In the 1800's education usually occurred in private schools, Rev. Jill Jarvis noted. But the Unitarians Horace Mann and his wife Mary Peabody Mann rose up and clamored for free *public* schools for all children. They were joined by other Unitarians, including those who set up a public school in the basement of the Unitarian Church in Lawrence Kansas in 1857. But Rev. J. Faust, a fundamentalist

preacher from Texas, believed differently. Fellowship member Ted Wilson thundered Rev. Faust's words, as Faust lamented "Christians were deceived into surrendering their children to the heretical Unitarian agenda" of a nationwide system of public schools. So is public education fine now? No way, said Jill. Today, home schooling, school vouchers, and "white flight to the suburbs" tend to leave inner city and rural children in the lurch, with fewer books, outdated labs, and inexperienced teachers. So we need more money for public education, because we have a duty to all children, not just our own. We pondered this, and Kahlil Ghibran's words (Reading #715, read by Michelle Iwig-Harmon) ("Your children are not your children...you may give them your love but not your thoughts, for they have their own thoughts. You may house their bodies but not their souls, for their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams. You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you. For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday.")

--Summary by Jean Dirks

UU SUMMER CAMPS

1. Camp StarTrail, August 2-9

Registration is now open for Camp StarTrail, our new Prairie Star District summer camp for all ages, held August 2-9, 2009. Check our Fellowship website, www.uufl.net for more info. The camp is at a beautiful location in Nebraska. Swimming, boating, classes, crafts. Fun for children and adults of all ages. Programs, activities, or just relax. Accommodations vary from hotel to cabins to tents. Contact Barbara Schowen or Sherry Warren if you would like hard-copy information.

2. Bayside Camp in Wisconsin, July 12 - 18, 2009

Bayside is a small (65 to 85-person) family summer camp held at the Wesley Woods Conference Center in Williams Bay, WI, each year during the third week of July. We offer morning worship and workshops for adults and age-appropriate day camp for kids, afternoon family time activities including swimming, hiking, art, and napping, and evening intergenerational activities. Founded in 1988, Bayside Camp aims to provide a nurturing family atmosphere for singles and families of all configurations and traditions. You can visit our website at www.yahoodrummers.com/bayside for more information or to register, or contact one of our Steering Committee Members below. We hope to see you in July! Stephanie Lent, 608-831-1784 sjlent@wisc.edu OR Jill DeLisle 608-238-5536 4delisles@sbcglobal.net

FELLOWSHIP DATES TO KEEP IN MIND

Saturday, March 7
Wednesday, March 11

Fabulous Fellowship Follies
Wednesday Evening Dinner and Classes
Barn Dance and Movie night
7:30 Board Meeting

Saturday, March 14
Saturday, April 18

Serve at LINK
Annual fundraising Auction

The Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence
A Welcoming Congregation

1263 North 1100 Road | Lawrence, Kansas 66047
785.842.3339 www.uufl.net