

Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence
WEEKLY NEWS
March 10, 2009

Sunday, March 15

9:15 am Service: *Spiritual Unitarians from the Past.* -- Ellen Reid Gold

Because the UFL started in 1957 as a small group with no program, no traditions, no budget, and no building, everyone who has come through our doors in the last 50 years has had an opportunity to pitch in and help. And almost everyone has—some for months, others for years, laying the foundation for the congregation we are today. Along the way, many persons, who, like Milton, “only stand and wait,” have woven the thread of their continuing presence into the tapestry of the Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence

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

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.

**Come One, Come All
This Wednesday at the Fellowship
Food, Frolic, and Film**

5:30 – 6:30 **BRINNER** * is served!

* Breakfast for Dinner
Foods to please everyone –
Meat lovers, Vegetarians and Vegans
Prepared by UFL high school boys accompanied by
Religious Education Director Sherry Warren

Suggested donation \$5 Children under 10 free
Child Care 6:30 – 8:30

6:30



HOEDOWN or MOVIE!



Barn Dance (in Founders Hall)

Another dance with live music by Prairie Acre and our own Jim Williams doing the instructing and calling. There is no financial obligation (although love offerings are gratefully accepted). Neither partner nor prior dance experience is necessary. The complexity level will be moderated; the gaiety level will be cranked up high. Be there to dance square!

March Movie Night

(in the Sanctuary, FREE, with donations gladly accepted)

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 tell your friends and invite them for a cheap date out to the movies!

6:30 Youth Group (Grades 7 – 12)

7:30 Board Meeting

New Classes—For spring classes, look for signup sheets under the bulletin board. John Brewer’s History of Religion in America begins March 18

Wanted: Cooks to prepare entrees for Wednesday evening feasts. Remember, you will be reimbursed for receipted purchases. Let Judy Wilson know when you can bring food. We have need beginning March 25 and from then on until May. The only nights that are taken are board meeting nights, when the Senior High group and Sherry take on the task. Any help will be much appreciated.

Upcoming classes--Are you interested in learning something new? Join a class on Wednesday evenings beginning at 6:30. On March 18, John Brewer will begin a group of video lectures on Religion in America. On April 1, Marilyn Roy will facilitate a for-fun reading group meeting twice a month. She is also offering her “Home/Business Organizing 101” for 4 weeks, starting April 8. If enough people are interested Judy Wilson will offer Articulating Your UU Faith again. This class begins on April 15 and lasts 5 weeks. The sign up sheets are under the bulletin board on clipboards. Contact the leaders of each group for information.

Calling all new members! Looking for opportunities to connect with the UFL community? Here’s your invitation! *Please come on Wednesday, March 11 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 on Sunday morning. Longtime members, please join the Membership Committee in welcoming new(ish) members and help them feel part of the community.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS (from the Social Action Committee)

Health Care Access--the Community Connection for March. Sally Zogry, Director of Development and Volunteer Services provided a brief overview of the program Sunday morning. She called attention to a few statistics: 1) of the 12 thousand citizens in Douglas County 1,800 are served; 2) \$4 million in-kind services and \$2.5 million a year is provided by Lawrence memorial Hospital on services for the chronically ill; 3) 96 % of all funds is used for client services, only 4% for administrative costs. 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, or are not offered health insurance coverage by their employers, or do not qualify for government-subsidized or sponsored health insurance.

Take time to see the HCA display in the Gathering Area at the Fellowship. . A more elaborate display may be found at the Peoples Bank at Sixth Street and Wakarusa. ***Contributions may be made by writing a check to the Fellowship with HCA on the memo line.***

LINK Service--This Coming Saturday. *Volunteers still needed!!* It is the beginning of spring recess, consequently our sign-up sheet is slim. For those who will be in town consider contacting Ellen Sward for the preparation of a casserole and serving our guests. There is need for two or three more meat casseroles as well as volunteers to serve. If you are leaving town and could prepare a casserole contact Ellen for arrangements. Ellen can be reached at 842-3078 or by email: esward@ku.edu.

JUST FOOD Gathering next Sunday. Bring non-perishable grocery items; help fill the food banks in town. Or, make cash contribution. In writing a check be sure to put "Just Food" on the memo line.

February Scrip Report; Fellowship members bought \$12,210 worth of grocery cards and coupons for Checkers, Dillons, Hy Vee, and The Merc through our Scrip program. The net profit to the Fellowship was \$685.60. Remember: Scrip can be used to buy anything at the participating stores, even gasoline! Since you are going to eat and drive anyway, this is a painless way to raise money for the Fellowship! *The Scrip team (Joe Gant, Chris Redford, Marcel Harmon, John Roper)*

Volunteer Delegates Sought for PSD Annual Conference: The annual Prairie Star District Conference will be held in Duluth from Friday evening, April 3rd through Sunday noon, April 5th. Early bird registration is \$130 before March 6th. Carpooling opportunities exist. Contact Valerie Roper or Graham Kreicker for more information; also check PSD website, www.psduua.org.

Camp StarTrail: Registration is **now open** for Camp StarTrail, our new Prairie Star District summer camp for all ages, held August 2-9, 2009, in the beautiful rolling hills of the Platte River Valley between Omaha and Lincoln, Nebraska. Brochures in the racks under the bulletin board or check our Fellowship website, www.uufl.net for more info.

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)

Community Events and Issues

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.

Kansas Advocates for Better Care (KABC) Annual Meeting & Caregiver Training April 3rd at the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, 2nd floor auditorium, from 1 to 4 p.m. Please join the **KABC** board, members, and staff on for the annual membership meeting and training. "**Building Blocks for Caregiving**" training is made possible through the *Harriet Nehring Education Fund at KABC*. Light refreshments will be provided. The focus of the meeting is to train family and friends 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 care-giving. 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. There will be 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. Phone: 842-3088; email: info@kabc.org.

The Kansas Death Penalty. SB 208 has been voted out of committee and is expected to be debated in the Senate. *Letters to state senators are in order.*

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."*

Clean Energy Day II March 19th Topeka, KS. *Stand with the Governor and hundreds of fellow Kansans to ask for a clean vote on clean energy.* Watch for more details in the newsletter and see flyers at the Social Justice Table.

Peace Events. The Vigils continue from noon to 1 pm each Saturday at the Court House on Massachusetts Street. **Peace with Justice Group** at Ecumenical Christian Ministries in collaboration with the Hiroshima peace Memorial Museum in Japan, is hosting an exhibit at Nunemaker Center on the KU campus March 8 through the 15th. The exhibit includes large posters with photographs and information sent by the Hiroshima Peace memorial Museum along with books and videos. Nunemaker Center is located at 1506 Engel Road and is open 8 am to 10 pm Monday through Thursday.

Fellowship Follies a Fun Frolic

Over 80 UFL members and friends came out for the Fabulous Fellowship Follies on Saturday night. During the art show and social hour, they were able to meet photographer Dennis Okruhlik, whose work is now featured in Founders Hall—while sampling tasty hors d'oeuvres with a glass of wine or beer.

After a delicious ham or vegetarian entrée and side dishes, followed by chocolate cake with a drizzle of raspberry sauce and coffee, participants settled in to enjoy the evening's program. Inspired by lyrics Rev. Jill Jarvis discovered earlier this year, the ever-festive Fellowship chorus and soloists performed rousing renditions of such Unitarian show tune hits as "There is Nothing Like a Pledge," "Pledge-A-Lot," "Reviewing the Situation," and "Hey, Big Pledger."

Musical numbers were interspersed with reviews of Fellowship achievements this year, table discussions of possible Fellowship directions for the future, and unveiling of the 2009-2010 operating budget campaign goal of \$99,000. A “stained glass” drawing of a chalice, designed by Kristin Spencer, was also unveiled during the campaign presentation. Color for the “stained glass” pieces will be filled in during the campaign to reflect the number of people who have pledged for 2009-2010. The evening was a joyous celebration for all who attended, and was closed with a spirited unison singing of “Let it Be a Dance” before the ceremonial chalice was extinguished.

To the number of volunteers acknowledged on Saturday who worked to make this evening a success, and to the awesome number of volunteers who made short work of the clean up later, we must also add a grateful late acknowledgement for Bob Harper, who staged the lights and sound for Saturday night’s production, and who is also the creative force behind the wonderful audio-visual system for our new building. Like all other Fellowship achievements, the camaraderie and fun of this gala event reflects the talent, commitment, collaborative work and generous support of our members.--*summary by Valerie Roper*

The UFL choir would like to express great appreciation to the Reverend Jill Jarvis for providing the lyrics to the songs we sang on Saturday evening for the Kick-off Dinner. We apologize for giving her no credit at the dinner, as she was instrumental in our musical production.

--*Susan Harper, Music Director.*

Campaign Officially Begun

With the Fellowship Follies, the 2009-2010 operating budget campaign has officially begun. If you took home pledge certificate and discussion questions, please bring them or mail them back this week if possible. If you were not able to attend the dinner, you will be contacted soon with an opportunity both to participate in feedback that will be summarized and reported back to members on possible directions for the near future, and to complete a pledge certificate.

FELLOWSHIP DATES TO KEEP IN MIND

Wed., Mar 11: *Wednesday Evening*

5:30: *Dinner; newcomers welcome*

6:30: *Movie “The Future of Food”*

6:30–8:30: *Barn dance w Prairie Acre and caller Jim Williams*

7:30: *Board meeting*

Sat., Mar 14: *LINK*

Sun., Mar 15: *Just Food Sunday*

Sat., Apr 18: *Annual Fundraising Auction*

The Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence
A Welcoming Congregation

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