

Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence
WEEKLY NEWS
March 24, 2009

Sunday, March 29

9:15 am 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

10:45 am Program: *Supreme Court Cases: Football or Chess?*

John Brewer will draw on his popular Wednesday evening class on the Supreme Court to discuss court cases and their effect on ordinary citizens.

Wednesday, March 25 at the Fellowship!!

Food, Friends, Fodder for the Mind

5:30 - 6:30 Sandwich and Salad Buffet



Sandwiches

Bar-B-Que Pork * Various Vegetarian Sandwiches * Hot Dogs * Peanut Butter and Jelly

In its own Category

The ever-popular Macaroni and Cheese

Salads

Potato * Baby Lettuce* Relish Tray with Hummus

Fruit and Cookies for Dessert

Suggested donation \$5 Children under 10 free

Child Care 6:30 – 8:30

6:30 Hang out and socialize, Play some board games, or Join one of our classes:

Evensong (final week)

Religious History in America (second week in the series)

Sign up sheets are still available under the lobby bulletin board

6:30 Youth Group (Grades 7 – 12)

7:30 Choir Practice

Reminder: Keep Wednesday, April 8 open for Barn Dance/Movie night!

Needed: Entrees for Wednesday evening, April 1. These need to be at the Fellowship by 5:15. We need both vegetarian and meat dishes. Judy will be unavailable that week so please help out. Sherry Warren and Lisa Hallberg will be in charge of the kitchen that evening. Thanks for your help. Please let Judy know as soon as possible if you can bring a dish or two. You can call or e-mail at jwilson@sunflower.com.

FROM THE SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Community Connection for March is Health Care Access. The HCA display in the Gathering Area of the Fellowship will continue through March. Have you visited one of their more elaborate displays in the lobby of any one of the Peoples Banks in Lawrence? *Contributions to HCA may be made by writing a check to the Fellowship with HCA on the memo line.*

The next Social Action Committee meeting will be Wednesday, April 1, 6:30 at the Fellowship.

Community Events and Issues

The Next Candidate Forums schedule: Lawrence School Board, Wednesday March 25, 7 p.m., The School Administration Center, 110 McDonald Avenue. City Commission Monday, March 30, 7 p.m., Lawrence High School, the Commons. Note: these elections are usually determined with a small percentage of voters. We can make our voices heard by getting to know the candidates and voting on April 7.

Homeless Outreach. A panel presentation and community discussion this Thursday, March 26, 7:00 p.m. at Plymouth Congregational Church, 925 Vermont St. Topics will include lack of available shelter space and issue of “camping” – and what we can do.

Peace Events. The Vigils now at Ninth & Massachusetts Street are still from noon to 1 pm each Saturday.

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. **RSVP by March 27th** to: Kansas Advocates for Better Care. Phone: 842-3088; email: info@kabc.org.



AUCTION COMING SOON

Night of a Thousand and One Hopes—Beginning with Your Donations

Our annual auction **April 18** offers many hopes--the hopes of each of us to find that item we never knew we wanted and can't live without, and the hope of having a wonderful time raising funds to support the Fellowship operating budget. Each year has been a rousing success and great fun because of the generosity of auction donations and skillful bargain hunting bidders. So look over your holdings, consider your talents, hobbies, helpful assistance skills--imagine what could be someone else's fantasy finds and donate them to the auction. Then plan to come early on the 18th for fun, fellowship, and fabulous purchases.

This year there will be three big events. From 4:30-5:30 p.m. we will feature a youth auction for all young folks and those young at heart. Items up for auction will be those goods and services offered by our own. 5:30-6:00 p.m. will provide time for wine and snacks in the old meeting room where'll have a chance to bid on silent auction treasures. Finally, as the silent auction winds down, the main event will begin. Our great auctioneer team of Jeremy & Kathleen Taylor will offer a dollop of British wit and charm in every fast paced bidding action. You won't want to miss this evening of entertainment!

How to participate: Your eagerly sought donations will add to the entertainment and to the Fellowship coffers. To donate, please email to uflooffice@sunflower.com or bring in the written information and leave it in a basket labeled Auction Donations in the gathering area at the Fellowship. Please include for each donation:

- 1) your name,
- 2) the item, talent, event, or service you are pledging to the auction,
- 3) the minimum bid you will accept (or item will be returned to you)
- 4) fair market value of the item (for tax purposes)
- 5) for events, the maximum number of people and date (optional) of event
- 6) for services, whether you will consider offering more than one item,
- 7) where the item can be picked up if that is required, and
- 8) for which auction (youth, silent, or main auction) the item should be considered.

We hope to see you all there!

Jake Kipp

Auction Committee Member

MEMBERS COMMENT ON FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCE

Participants at the 2009-10 Operating Fund Campaign Kick-off Dinner were invited to reflect on two questions, and those who receive pledge materials will also have an opportunity to respond to these questions.

For the next few weeks, we will print member responses to those questions. Where names are included, we have obtained permission to print them.

The questions and this week's responses are:

1. What are the things that you most value in the Fellowship, perhaps that brought you to the Fellowship or that sustain you here?

- The liberal religious views and the liberal social action goals of most Unitarians. I am sustained by the association with so many generous people who share my concerns, about racism, anti-gay behaviors and laws, the death penalty, the homeless, the hungry and on and on. I love our openness to other religious traditions and our dedication to world peace. *Lee Ketzel*
- Friends, excellent talks, spiritual services with thoughtful homilies. We were originally brought here years ago for the Sunday school. *Tom Cravens*

2. What are the things that you would like to have happen in the near future at the Fellowship? What can we do to continue to build on our successes?

- We should just keep doing what we've always done – shining a spotlight on abuses of human rights and taking concrete steps to end them. We should definitely publicize our activities better, though. We could also try harder to organize efforts to assist our non-driving older members to get to Sunday programs and special events. *Lee Ketzel*
- Continue with 2 services—I like them both and they are complementary. *Tom Cravens*

Old Computers

Have you old computers that you're not using because you've upgraded? I have a use for them! A friend on the little island of Caye Caulker in Belize has started the first-ever high school for the island and is in need of computers for the students to use. No need for high tech or internet access, just the computer itself, keyboard, and monitors. If you have one you'd be willing to donate to the cause, please let me know and we'll take it off your hands."--*Lynne Bodle*

Camp StarTrail-- Registration is **still 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.

SUMMARIES

March 8, 2009

10:45 a.m. The Role of a Muslim Woman in a Muslim Society Today

Our speaker **Asra Haq** is on the Board of Directors of the Islamic Center of Lawrence. She explained that Muslims believe in God, and believe Mohammed is his messenger. Muslims have prayers five times a day, and fast during Ramadan to develop empathy with people who are hungry.

Today, the role of Muslim women is complicated, since the Koran cites many rights for women, but some countries don't allow women to actually exercise those rights. For example, the Koran says a woman has the right to education, to keep her own money and her own property, to earn money if she

wants to, to have her husband provide for her, to refuse a marriage that does not please her, to be equally rewarded with men in the hereafter, to obtain divorce if she does not like her husband, and to keep her children after a divorce. If a Muslim woman in the U.S. gets a divorce, there has to be both a U.S. divorce (which specifies child support and other conditions) and an Islamic divorce. For the future, Asra hopes that the dialogue between different faith communities in Lawrence will continue. --
Summary by Jean Dirks

March 15, 2009

9:15 a.m. Spiritual Unitarians from the Past

In her reflection "Spiritual Unitarians from the Past" Ellen Reid Gold explored the idea that members of the past 50 years have a direct influence on the activities and the substance of the Fellowship today, and that we are all part of a tapestry still being woven. She chose a few of these members: Allen Crafton, Bill Foster, and Eldon Fields, telling stories illustrating how their influence is still being felt. She also told the story of one of our quieter members, who always sat in the same place, and who seldom spoke out. However, Ellen feels a void whenever she sees the empty chair. We can have an influence simply by being present.

After the reflection, other members shared fond memories of others who are no longer with us, but who have had an impact on our lives and that of the Fellowship.

10:45a.m. UUs in United Nations programs

Charles Fantz, a member of the Topeka Fellowship and the Prairie Star District Envoy to the UU/United Nations office, gave a presentation about the work of UUs in United Nations programs, with an emphasis on the "Every Child is Our Child" program. This program is unique and is an excellent example of how we, through our affiliation with the United Nations and working closely with the leadership of an area can bring about change. The Queen Mother Association of the Manya Krobo region of Ghana has been responsible for the social well-being and training of Krobo youth for generations. They are now placing orphans of the AIDS epidemic, particularly hard-hitting in this area, with families, including their own as needed, and seeing that these children, as well as other vulnerable children, are able to go to school and the families supplied with health care insurance. By partnering with the Queen Mothers, UUs are playing a role in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals of combating HIV/AIDS, reducing poverty, universal primary education, and gender equity.

Mr. Fantz left with us information about joining the UU/UNO organization, through which we do have influence on the United Nations policies, as well as about the Every Child is Our Child and other UU/UNO projects.

FELLOWSHIP DATES TO KEEP IN MIND

Sat., Apr 18: *Annual Fundraising Auction*

The Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence
A Welcoming Congregation
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