

Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence
WEEKLY NEWS
March 31, 2009

Sunday, April 5

9:15 a.m. Service: Join us as our UFL youth present their take on consumerism.

10:45 a.m. Program: *Consumerism: "The Story of Stuff."*

Janet FitzGerald will show a short video and conduct a discussion of all the stuff in our lives, where it comes from, what we do with it, and where it goes. In the current economy, are we treating our stuff any differently than we have before? Can we learn to live with what we already have? How does all this stuff impact our lives and that of our planet? Come and share your perspectives and hints on dealing with all our stuff.

Sunday, April 12--Special Easter Sunday celebration (see p. 5)

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Wednesday, April 1 at the Fellowship!!

Food, Friends, Fodder for the Mind
Everyone's Invited!

5:30 -6:30 **Eur-Asian Fusion--East Meets West Buffet**



Courtesy of Lisa Hallberg and Sherry Warren

An omnivore and vegetarian delight of cultures
blending together to ignite the tastebuds of all ages.

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

6:30 Stay for Board Games or Join one of our classes:

- **Religious History in America** (third week in the series)
- **Book (of your choice) Discussion**
(share your thoughts on any book)
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!

REMINDERS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

YOUR AUCTION TREASURES SOUGHT-- “A Night of a Thousand and One Hopes”

Do you have a magic lantern or other treasures? Can you demo Facebook or Twitter to someone? Do you till gardens, haul loads in your truck, wash windows, bake pies, play instruments or sing? Could you hold a Wii party, cook a dinner, have a group walk or run? Look over your holdings, consider your talents, hobbies, helpful assistance skills—imagine what could be fantasy finds and donate them to the auction. **Donation forms are available** in the gathering area, or check the last newsletter for how to email donation information. Then come on **April 18**, participate in the children’s auction (4:30-5:00PM), the silent auction with wine, cheese, and other goodies (5-6PM), and the Great Hope Emporium (6-8PM). Your generosity will make this evening a rousing success.

April 3--The March First Fridays Women's Social will be at the Fellowship from **6-9 p.m.**

This is a laid-back opportunity to get to know each other in a casual atmosphere. Leave your cares and kids at home. Bring a goodie to share, or just your bring your glowing personality! Contact Susan Rickman for more information susan@heidrickman.com or 785-218-3545

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS AND UPDATES

It's Official... UFL Kids Are Growing! (Children’s Garden Project)

Not only has Harley shot up about 5 inches this past year, he has helped me pick out some veggies and flowers for our garden at home. This got me thinking (well, Harley AND the RE committee who originally suggested this) that if my 11-year-old pre-teen who is practicing his surliness is interested in growing things, maybe other kids are too.

At the March board meeting, the Directors approved the *resurrection of the children's garden at UFL*. The garden space, which sits on the south side of the RE Wing between the back deck and the new side door, is overgrown with old tulips and irises and some forsythia, but it will soon undergo a transformation into a Monarch Waystation. We hope to include some tomatoes and other things that will be a welcome addition to our Sunday snacks and maybe have enough to send the extras home with members. A long-term plan (dream) includes a community garden for members and friends, birdwatching, and maybe even fresh eggs. All in good time.

Our immediate needs include purchasing some tools that are built smaller for our kids. I plan to purchase, but thought I would give people the chance to clean out their garden sheds and see if they have any trowels, rakes, shovels, etc, that are smaller for children's hands. Other opportunities to help abound: screenprinting T-shirts, digging up the old bed, hauling mulch, watering over the summer when Sherry is off to camp and leadership school, leading the kids on Sunday mornings at 9:15 when they will be working on their garden. Bob Harper is going to help with the tilling in of some old manure (Lord Nibbler strikes again at UFL) so we can prepare the soil for its future destiny.

Please watch the newsletter for updates on our progress and swing by with your coffee or tea to cheer us on.

FROM THE SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Community Connection for April: Douglas County Aids Project

Douglas County Aids Project (DCAP) is the primary community connection for the month of April. DCAP is a nonprofit, community-based organization serving Franklin, Jefferson and Douglas counties in Kansas. DCAP's services cover three essential areas of HIV-related concerns:

Case Management

Education and Outreach

Free HIV Testing

The Case Management program provides supportive services for people infected and affected by HIV and AIDS. These services include supportive counseling, emotional support, helping clients apply for public assistance programs, referrals to other providers and emergency financial assistance. In addition to case management, DCAP offers Education and Prevention programming. The long-term goal of these services is to eliminate new cases of HIV and AIDS. Educational services include activities such as public presentations, information displays, community awareness activities, and outreach to targeted at-risk populations. See <http://www.douglascountyaidsproject.org>

City Commission and School Board Elections, April 7. 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.

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 is available. **RSVP**.by phone: 842-3088; or email: info@kabc.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **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. Check our Fellowship website, www.uufl.net for more info.

- 09-10 Operating Fund Campaign Progress

Thanks to your support, the 2009-10 Operating Fund Campaign has passed the halfway mark, with 50 pledge cards returned and pledges of over \$60,000. Please return or mail in your pledge card this week if you've not already done so, and be as generous as your budget permits to help us meet our \$99,000 goal.

- **Nathanael May, pianist**, who played for our 10:45 meeting a few weeks ago will play his Doctoral lecture recital at Swarthout Hall at Murphy Hall at 6 p.m. Monday April 6. He has accepted a position as director of the Piano Department at Missouri Western University in St. Joseph Missouri. It may be our last time to hear Nathanael. The recital is free. *Dave Hiebert*

-**Coffee and Chocolate:** Fair Trade Coffee now includes drip grind regular and decaf for home coffee makers. Fair Trade Chocolate Bars have also arrived.

- **Next Emerson Society Lecture April 26:** The Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence is a sponsor of an upcoming lecture by theologian and author Peter Gomes. He will speak at the Lied Center on April 26 at 2:00 on "Transformation and Non-conformity: A New Christian Identity" as part of our ongoing Emerson Society Lecture Series. The Emerson Society is a group formerly known as the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Johnson County. When ending their Unitarian Universalist Association formal affiliation, they distributed their treasury to area UU congregations, including the Lawrence Fellowship. We have dedicated a portion of the funds we received for this lecture series, to honor the Emerson Society's continuing humanist tradition.

- **Cleaning out your garden shed** to prepare your own garden? If you run across tools that are smaller in nature, the children would gladly accept them for use in their Monarch Waystation this Spring and Summer. See Sherry Warren and the article on p. 2 for details.

New—PSD Events by Live Streaming on Internet: If you can't attend the Prairie Star District Annual Conference in person, PSD is planning to stream some events live on the Internet. They'll use technology not yet perfected and don't promise perfection, but invite us to join them in this experiment. Events currently scheduled for live streaming: **Keynote Address: Linda Barnes and Mark Runquist**, Friday, April 3, 7:45 - 9:00 PM; **Judy Memorial Lecture: Peter Mayer**, Saturday, April 4, 9:00 - 10:15AM; **UUA Presidential Candidates Forum:** Saturday, April 4, 1:30 - 2:45 PM. For more information about these events, go to www.psduua.org/AnnualConference2009/ConferenceHighlights

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 received pledge materials by mail 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?

- Sunday AM programming (both programs)
RE & OWL
Kids like to come (good friends among children)
Nice people
Social action *Carol Eades Delnevo*

- To be perfectly honest, I wouldn't be here if my partner would not have been a stalwart Unitarian for many years. It is the only "religious" group that I, as an atheist and freethinker could tolerate. I appreciate most of all the freedom from ritual and religious jargon. *Unsigned*

**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?**

- Hire a minister
Sustain volunteer efforts—volunteer appreciation *Carol Eades Delnevo*
- My suggestion is to build on openness and support for social services and keep the ritual to a minimum. Keep pushing the dinners for 8 or 10. *Unsigned*

*Join us Sunday April 12
For a very special
Easter Sunday
The first in our new sanctuary/meeting room*



6:30 - 7:00 *Our first ever Sunrise Service*

Come watch the sun rise, and experience a beautiful lay-led service of song, music, poetry and readings

7:30 *We'll share a special Easter Breakfast*

9:15 *Spiritual Celebration Service*

with Rev. Jill Jarvis and the UFL Choir

"Be Not Afraid"

The ancient Easter story of death and resurrection has much to teach us about resistance and resilience. The refusal to be ruled through fear - imposed by external powers, or our own "dark nights of the soul" - is an all too human challenge. Courage, comfort, and the resiliency of a loving community are values powerfully manifested in the stories of Jesus.

10:15 *Coffee and Conversation*

10:45 *Program of special music and readings*



Easter Egg Hunt for the Children (time TBD)

SUMMARIES

Feb. 8, 2009 10:45 a.m. THE HOMELESS AMONG US

The Social Action Committee offered a panel on homelessness. **Dennis “Boog” Highberger**, City Commissioner, pointed out that city ordinances must be altered before legalized overnight "tent camping" for homeless people can be permitted in Lawrence. **Valerie Miller**, coordinator and only local paid employee for the nation-wide Family Promise program, said that 23 churches with 700 volunteers offer housing for homeless families with young children. In Lawrence, four families are housed and fed in local churches and transported to the Day Care Center, for four weeks at a time, four times a year. Family Promise is seeking additional cooperating faith groups for this.

David Tucker, Outreach Worker at Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center, spoke of the destruction by the city last October of a camp built and occupied by about 50 homeless people. Recently, Tucker, with the assistance of the Coalition on Homelessness, have prepared a plan to establish a legalized camping area, with some sanitary facilities, on city-owned land. The plan will be presented to the City Homeless Commission, and then the City Commission in April. The support of the Fellowship for these efforts is earnestly sought by the Social Action Committee. –*Summary by Janney Burgess*

March 29, 2009 10:45 a.m. SUPREME COURT CASES

UFL member **John Brewer**, who teaches the Wednesday evening class at the Fellowship on the Supreme Court, described the history of the Comstock laws. After hearing the foul language spoken by fellow soldiers during the Civil War, Anthony Comstock became indignant. His indignation boiled over when Margaret Sanger -- in Comstock's opinion -- assaulted the sanctity of marriage by mailing diaphragms to women who wanted birth control. Comstock, a Protestant from Connecticut, then helped pass the Comstock laws, which made it illegal for contraceptives or descriptions of them to be sent in the mail. That was in the late 1800's, and it was not until 1965 that the Supreme Court heard the case which overturned the Comstock laws in Connecticut. Over the years, the Supreme Court has heard many cases on minority rights. John will donate some books on this subject to the UFL library, including *To the Flag, the Unlikely History of the Pledge of Allegiance*; *The Battle over School Prayer*; *The Yoder Case* (on if Amish children can be required to go to school after 8th grade); *Women in the Barracks* (on women trying to enter the all-male Virginia Military Institute); and *Religious Freedom and Indian Rights*. –*Summary by Jean Dirks*

FELLOWSHIP DATES TO KEEP IN MIND

Fri, Apr 3	<i>Women's Social</i>
Wed., Apr 8:	<i>Barn Dance/Movie Night/Board Meeting Night</i>
Sat., Apr 18:	<i>Annual Fundraising Auction</i>
Sat., Apr 25:	<i>Board and Committee Chair Budget Meeting</i>
Sun., Apr 26:	<i>Emerson Society Lecture, Peter Gomes, Lied Center</i>
Sun., May 3:	<i>Committee Job Fair</i>

The Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence
A Welcoming Congregation
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