

Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence
WEEKLY NEWS
June 30, 2009 *draft*

Sunday, July 5

9:15 Service: " _____ *as a Spiritual Practice*"

As Unitarian Universalists, we understand that there are many ways besides going to church to experience spirituality--whether they be gardening, hiking in the woods, reading an especially good book, listening to music, or just enjoying one's family. Please join Marta Caminero-Santangelo and several members of our fellowship as they share the spiritual practices that are most meaningful to them

10:45 Program: "*HeartSongs: A Birthmother's Story*" -- Marilyn Roy,

We will follow one woman's journey as she travels through the relinquishment, adoption of, and reunion with her 4-year-old son. The narrator will discuss the dilemma of legal intervention into single parent families, ongoing issues of grief and loss, and the very real problem of stereotyping parents who have neglected or abused, leaving them without a voice once the adoption has been completed. Please be prepared for a program that will challenge your most deeply held convictions, while asking you to open your hearts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Nominee for Chair-elect: Nancy Jorn

At the June Fellowship Board meeting, the 2008-2009 Nominating Committee was charged with selecting a nominee for Chair-elect. This is the position to be vacated when the current Chair-elect, Betty Baron, assumes the duties of Fellowship Chair sometime in the fall.

The Nominating Committee is very pleased to announce that Nancy Jorn has graciously accepted the nomination for Chair-elect.

Since the current Fellowship year is coming to a close on June 30, it will be the task of the incoming Board to set a date for a special election to vote on this nomination. At that time, as always, nominations will be accepted from the floor.

The person so elected will serve from fall 2009 to June 30, 2010, and then will become Chair of the Fellowship for 2010-2011.

Members of the Nomination Committee: Carol Eades Delnevo, Richard Johnston, Mary Miller, Barbara Schowen, and Judy Wilson,

LINK on Friday, July 3

The Fellowship will be serving a LINK meal this **FRIDAY**, July 3. We still very much need servers, and also some additional meals and cleanup help.

If you can help, either by cooking, serving or cleaning up, **PLEASE let Ellen Sward know** by phone or email: 842-3078 or esward@ku.edu

UFL Forms Community Care Team

Subsequent to discussion by the Social Action Committee and the Executive Board, a UFL Pastoral Care Study Task Force was formed in the spring of 2009. The Task Force was co-chaired by Forrest Swall and Nancy Jorn. Members of the Task Force were Janney Burgess, Nicole Goodwin, Nancy Jorn, Graham Kreicker, Donna Swall, Forrest Swall, Roxie Warren, and Norm White.

Task Force members identified and categorized Targeted Areas for Pastoral Care under the headings 1) Concrete help/logistical support; 2) Emotional support; and 3) Community building & inclusion.

The Pastoral Care Task Force submitted the following recommendations accepted by the UFL Board on June 10, 2009

Recommendations

1. The Cares and Concerns Committee will be renamed the “Community Care Team.”
2. The following Mission Statement will be adopted:

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide hope and caring so that no member or friend of our Fellowship need be alone.

This mission is based on the Unitarian Universalist principle to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

We offer emotional and logistical support for our members and friends by:

- *Providing practical assistance in times of need (transportation, meals, respite, etc.)*
 - *Visiting the ill at home or in the hospital*
 - *Comforting the bereaved*
 - *Maintaining contact with those unable to attend due to illness or disability*
 - *Supporting those going through a life crisis*
 - *Linking members in need with community services that may be of help*
3. Three Coordinators will be selected by the Task Force to coordinate the work of the team. Replacement Coordinators will be identified as needed each spring as Fellowship Committees are formed.
 4. Each fall, all Fellowship members will be invited to identify the services they would be able to provide through a written checklist, with responses entered into a database by category of service.
 5. Coordinators will solicit and coordinate specific services at the time a need is identified.
 6. **Protection of members’ privacy is of the utmost importance.** Permission must be gained directly from the involved member before personal information is shared with any Fellowship member.
 7. Training for those making home and hospital visits will be conducted by the minister. [In addition, interested members may take part in “Mental Health First Aid Training” offered by Bert Nash Center. Six members are completing this training in June 2009.]
 8. Identification of community care needs will occur through a variety of formats:
 - a. UFL website home page will have contact links for e-mail to the Community Care Team and the Minister.
 - b. Sunday bulletin will have a brief, recurring notice of how to contact the Team.
 - c. A notebook and/or individual slips will be available on a special table in the sanctuary for those wishing to share a concern or ask for support.
 - d. Any member may notify the Minister or a Team Coordinator of his/her own need or that of another member (with that member’s permission).
 - e. The Minister and Team Coordinators will identify a method for following up on significant concerns identified during Fellowship sharing of joys and concerns.

The Task Force is in the process of implementing these recommendations with the goal of full implementation by fall 2009. Two of the three Coordinators of the Community Care Team have been identified. They are Donna Swall and Susan Cooper. (Donna is currently coordinating support efforts for Steven and Marie Wilson and may be asking members for their participation as needs are more clearly defined.)

Temperature during the service and program—How warm, how cool?

In this first summer in the new building, we are learning the temperature controls on our air conditioning equipment, and the comfort levels of those attending the service and program. A couple of weeks ago, we received some complaints about the heat levels, and had some work done on the air conditioner. This past Sunday, we received some complaints about how cool it was, so we have adjusted the temperature settings in the hopes that will help. Through a bit of trial and error, we expect to reach optimum temperature for the greatest number of attendees.

Attendees may select seating that may help them feel more comfortable as well. Because of the vent configuration, the coolest temperatures will be on the seats along and near the center aisles. The seats along the side aisles will not be quite as cool. So if air conditioning tends to make you chilly, a seat nearer the side aisle may be better. If you need a seat with arms, and you also would like to sit where there is not as much air, please let one of the greeters or one of the UFL Board members know and we will switch chairs for you.

Women's "Final Friday" Night

Do you have a great idea for a Women's Final Friday theme? If so, contact Amerika Grewal (amerikag@gmail.com) about hosting the next Final Friday in your home.

Softball

The UFL Coed Softball team needs you! Vacation and other commitments have impacted our roster. Thanks to UFL friends we had enough players for our game this past Sunday, but we still have room for more. **Our last regularly scheduled game is Sunday, July 5.**

UFL Women's Retreat: Honoring the Wise Woman Within July 10-12, 2009

The retreat will include inspirational and recreational activities that focus on honoring the Wise Women in our past, nurturing the Wise Women we are, and preparing ourselves to be Wise Women role models for women who come after us.

The weekend will begin at 7 PM on Friday, July 10, and run through 11 AM on Sunday, July 12. It will be held at the Hollis Renewal Center in Bonner Springs, KS. You have the option of attending for the whole weekend or just driving in for the day. Child Care will be available at the Fellowship from 7:30 AM-5:00 PM on Saturday.

On Saturday, between 3 and 4:30 p.m., Janney Burgess's daughter Gopi Sandal will lead interested participants in a *free* yoga session. If you would like to join, please be sure to bring loose clothing and a mat or towel.

If by chance you have not yet registered, please contact Aileen Dingu at aileen@flyingdingii.com.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

(from the Social Action Committee)

The Community Connection for July is LINK, the Lawrence Interdenominational Nutrition Kitchen. The Fellowship has been a part of the LINK program serving people and families who are hungry. Some of the persons served are homeless and others simply do not have the money to purchase needed groceries to prepare meals for themselves, and often, their children. The contributions are used for two purposes, 1) the costs of incidentals such as condiments, milk, and supplemental food for the days that we serve; 2) a contribution to the program to help cover the administrative costs of the program. As with all of our Community Connections, make checks out to the Fellowship with LINK on the memo line. The generosity of our Fellowship members is especially appreciated.

Family Promise

Host week for First Baptist church is June 28 – July 5. They have asked for our help with supplies for the week and have suggested the following items: Graham crackers, chocolate bars, and marshmallows for s'mores; Inexpensive Tupperware containers for leftovers in lunches; \$20 for milk; \$20 for lunch supplies; Games/puzzles (no small parts); Wading pool/outdoor toys; Balls of any sort (squishy Nerf-type balls especially); Small book shelf; Books suitable for 2nd-5th grade readers.

Whatever we can provide would be put to good use and greatly appreciated. Items do not need to be new. If you have something you would like to donate, please bring it to the Fellowship by June 20. They are also looking for 1-2 people who would be willing to prepare a main course/potatoes to serve 15-16 people. Popular meals in the past have included fried chicken, mac & cheese, chicken noodles, ham, pork roast (simple, single-ingredient, comfort food goes over big with kids and adults alike). Meals can be delivered hot and ready to serve, or cold for the church volunteers to heat and serve. One guest has a serious food allergy, so no onions or peppers of any sort, please (including onion powder in ingredients, etc.).

Anyone who is interested in a host shift onsite at First Baptist, please contact Donna Eades to schedule a time. Questions? Contact Donna Eades or Janney Burgess.

Peace Vigil. Ninth & Massachusetts St., noon to 1 pm on Saturdays. Lawrencians opposed to war are always welcome to be part of the event.

Deadlines

Announcements for the Sunday Bulletin: Thursday evening at 5:00 p.m. uflooffice@sunflower.com

Articles for the Newsletter: Monday at noon: ufl_newsletter@yahoo.com

FELLOWSHIP DATES TO KEEP IN MIND

Friday, July 3

LINK

Please sign up or contact Ellen Sward

Saturday, July 18

Board and Committee Chair Retreat

The Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence
A Welcoming Congregation

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