

Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence
WEEKLY NEWS
July 14, 2009

Sunday, July 19

9:15 Service: "Sacred Sexuality- Where Sex & Spirit Meet"

In February, we talked about love: love of home, love of children, passionate love. Join us at 9:15 on 7/19 to take it a little further. Hear about Sacred Sexuality through readings from those in the know, including (but not limited to) a Qadishtu priestess and OWL class developers. How DO we intertwine sex and the spirit? --*Aileen Dingus*

10:45 Program: "Population Control at Home: Stories from the Past"

Our family histories, recent and ancestral, are full of stories about how we were born, and under what circumstances. This panel will be a brief and gentle look at family planning, a step back from the devisiveness of the current discussion around abortion to the broader topic of how we create families, and we'll include a general historical and lightly legal framework for the discussion. Then it's on to our families' stories! --*Jennifer Dropkin*

Food, Fun, and Friendship
Wednesday July 15 at the Fellowship
Everyone's Invited!

EAT

Salad Spectacular 5:30 PM

*** Hot Dogs * PB& J * Cake * Ice Cream**

Dinner is still available at 5:30 for a donation of \$5.00 for adults. Kids 10 and under eat free. Contact Judy Wilson at jwilson@sunflower.com with any comments/concerns.

PLAY

Outdoor Fun for the Kids, and Games in the Social Hall

BE ENTERTAINED at 6:30 PM

Join us as we show the movie "Walden: The Ballad of Thoreau."

(The Story of the final two days Henry David Thoreau spend in his cabin before leaving Walden Pond)

or

Join the Social Action Committee as it discusses Health Care Reform

(see article on next page for more information)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Plan now for August Yard Sale!

This is a heads up to save/ identify/ set aside items for a Unitarian yard sale in August! If anyone has especially valuable items to contribute (e.g., last year there was a dining room suite), let us know ahead of time. *Contact Mark Larson or Sue Lewis*

Health Care Reform

During the Sunday program discussion of the work of the Social Action Committee there was a strong expression of interest in the health care proposals under consideration in the US Congress. Several Fellowship members spoke out strongly about the importance of Congress adopting significant health care reform measures, including a single-payer universal system.

Based on the interests expressed in the discussion, and shared by members of the Social Action Committee, health care reform will be a topic for the committee meeting this Wednesday evening. *The committee meeting will follow the 5:30 Wednesday dinner at the Fellowship, open to members of the Fellowship community.*

Health care reform is on the minds of many, if not all, of us. From the comments made, strong support of President Obama's insistence on a new national health care policy appears clear. Some of us strongly support a single-payer universal health care system even though that is not part of the current proposals under consideration. Others of us may be inclined to support the President's proposal of a "public" option to the current "private" systems.

In any event, there is within the Fellowship membership a strong sense that we as citizens should do all within our power to assure that changes happen and that these changes must make health care for all affordable and accessible. Some of us believe that as UUs we should be providing public support with our members of congress.

The UUA in 2008 adopted an "Action of Immediate Witness" statement which the Social Action Committee will be considering to present to the Fellowship. To be adopted or endorsed, such a proposal must go through the process established by the Fellowship. Regardless of any action by the Fellowship, we may as individuals express our concerns about the need for health care reform to our representatives in the US Senate and House of Representatives.

The **Single Payor Health Care 2008 Action of Immediate Witness** statement is reproduced below and will also be available on Sunday. Members interested and willing are invited to sign on to this **Action of Immediate Witness** Sunday as an endorsement of the statement.

The signatures will serve as a petition to use in support of the continued work of the Social Action Committee in framing a proposed statement for the Fellowship and for supporting work of the local **Health Care For All** efforts.

Some resources for up to date information include:

www.healthactionnow.org

<http://bulletin.aarp.org/healthcare.reform>

See also the interview by Bill Moyers with Wendell Potter, former executive with Cigna Insurance: <http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/07102009/transcript4.html>

2008 UUA Action of immediate witness. Single Payor Health Care

<http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/socialjustice/statements/115807.shtml>

Whereas: Unitarian Universalists are concerned with the worth and dignity of all people;

Whereas: We spend over \$2 trillion for health care in the United States, yet 50 million people are still not covered and another 50 million are denied adequate care by their insurance companies;

Whereas: Health care is a human right, yet the World Health Organization ranks the United States 37th in the world in health care outcomes although we spend nearly twice as much as any other country, enough to cover everybody with excellent comprehensive health care;

Whereas: A bill has been proposed in Congress, HR 676, United States National Health Insurance Act (Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Bill), that outlines a universal, nonprofit national health care program that will provide guaranteed choice, quality affordable health care and prescription drugs to everyone in the country;

Whereas: HR 676 would remove the current prohibition on Medicare against negotiating pharmaceutical prices; Whereas: More than 15,000 doctors have signed on in favor of this plan, including two former Surgeons General;

Whereas: The National Conference of Mayors unanimously endorsed HR 676 at their 2008 meeting;

Whereas: Under this proposed plan, we can pay for a comprehensive national health care program with the same money we are now spending by removing insurance companies and cover every single person in the United States; and

Whereas: The bill provides money for retraining and giving priority to those whose jobs as administrators in the insurance industry would be lost as a result of this shift;

Therefore, be it resolved: We call on Unitarian Universalist congregations to become informed advocates for universal access to nonprofit health care financing through social action and adult religious education. We call on individual Unitarian Universalists to urge our members of Congress to co-sponsor and pass HR 676, Medicare for All, or its successors, so that our people and our nation can have the excellent and affordable health care system we deserve.

Editor's note: The word "payer" appears as "payor " in the UUA statement.

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. 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.

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

Saturday, July 18

Board and Committee Chair Retreat

The Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence
A Welcoming Congregation

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