

Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence
WEEKLY NEWS
August 11, 2009

Sunday, August 16

9:15 Service: "Getting to the Human Side of Healthcare"

Michael Fox, Professor of Health Policy and Management, KU School of Medicine.

Amidst the increasingly shrill discourse surrounding health reform, two sets of values wage a kind of war for the hearts and minds of the public. And like war, the first casualty has been the truth. For those with actual experience in our health care system, the truth is self-evident. Our health care system as currently structured frequently appears bankrupt of moral values. It is the reason that so many physicians and nurses are leaving the field. It is the reason so many people connected to the system are afraid to speak out for fear of being blamed when things go wrong. It is the reason things never seem to improve.

Freedom, choice and similar expressions which seek to diminish the role of government in securing quality, accessible and affordable health care divert real life consumers of health care from seeking what they seek most: a values-driven system in which healthcare is woven into social policy that elevates our human side rather than demeans it.

10:45 Program: "Carrying the Fire": Working on the Border with Deported Migrants

What if you risked your life to find work--and were turned back? What if you were separated, perhaps forever, from the family you loved? What if some in your group died trying--and others simply disappeared? Marta Caminero-Santangelo will share some of the stories she heard working with No More Deaths on the Arizona-Mexico border this summer.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS ONCE AGAIN.

Come for food, fun and new beginnings. On August 19 we will have our last summer cookout at UFL. The food will be burgers, dogs, beans, potato salad and a large salad with trimmings. We hope to see everyone at 5:30 when the food will be ready. That evening we will have sign up sheets available for the fall programming which begins on September 16. This will be the first time, but not the only time to sign up. If the evening is pleasant the kids and adults can be outside, enjoying our backyard space. The meal is still a suggested donation of \$5.00 for adults and kids under 10 eat free of charge. Come join us.

A call for assistance. Anyone interested in continuing to have meals on Wednesday evenings please come to a brief meeting on Wednesday, August 19. We will meet about 6:00, while we eat, so you will not miss any presentations on new programming. It is important to set up prep and clean-up teams to work in the kitchen. Also, a group of those who will cook and bring casseroles, etc. will be of great assistance. This is a good way to volunteer to help make us great, welcoming community for everyone. If you have questions or cannot attend but are interested contact Judy Wilson, jwilson@sunflower.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Chair-Elect Election August 23

A congregational meeting will be held at 10:30, between the service and the program, to elect a chair-elect to fill the vacancy created when Betty Baron becomes chair in October. The new chair-elect will serve from October 2009 – to June 30, 2010, and then will become chair of the Fellowship from July 2010 – June 2011. The nominating committee has nominated Nancy Jorn for this position. As always, the floor will be open for other nominations.

Proxies are allowed for this election. If you wish a proxy, you must provide a signed note naming your proxy to Board secretary Ellie Unruh or to your proxy before the meeting. Please be sure the person you wish to designate as proxy is not already holding a proxy for someone else (each voting member may hold a proxy for only one other person).

A quick voting check-in will be done prior to the meeting. Volunteers (with an alphabetized partial list, e.g. A-G, H-P, R-W) will check voters in, record the proxies, and give out voting cards.

“Welcoming” Meeting August 23

Members and friends interested in exploring UFL’s hospitality and welcoming practices on Sunday morning are invited to a noon light lunch meeting at the Fellowship on August 23. Come find out about our current welcoming practices, both for hospitality and for greeting. And we’ll talk about possibilities for change. We invite you to come with your ideas, maybe things that you would have liked to have seen when you first walked through our doors, or some things that you have thought of since then.

Warm greeting and gracious hospitality are practices that we can all share with guests who enter our inviting new Fellowship space. Learn more about how you might participate with hospitality and greeting teams or assist them as you enjoy coffee hour. Those who may be interested in joining greeting and hospitality teams will have an opportunity to sign up for them there.

If you’d like to join us for lunch on August 23, please RSVP to Judy Wilson or Valerie Roper so that we can plan food amounts. Hope to see you there!

OWL for K-1st and 4th-5th Grades Offered this Year. Save the Dates!

Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a series of sexuality education curricula for six age groups from kindergarten through adulthood. *Our Whole Lives* helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, *Our Whole Lives* provides not only facts about anatomy and human development, but helps participants to clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality. More information is provided at <http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/ourwhole/>. The Religious Education Committee will be offering the OWL curriculum for kindergartners and first graders this fall, taught by Jeff Lewis and Susan Crain Lewis. We will start with a parent/caregiver meeting on Sunday, Sept. 13 from 10:15 to 11:45 for families wishing more information. The curriculum and classroom materials will be available for viewing. A parent/child orientation session will be held Sept. 27 from 9:15 to 12:00 and attendance is required for participation in the program.

Childcare will be provided for both meetings. Eight sessions for children will be held on Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:15 with a tentative schedule of Oct. 4, 11, and 18, Nov. 1, 15, and 22, Dec. 6 and 13. The usual Sunday morning religious education classes will continue to be available for those who choose not to participate in OWL. Members and Friends will be given enrollment priority and others are welcome on a space-available basis. Cost is \$15 for Members and Friends, \$35 for non-members. Scholarships are available. Contact Carol Eades Delnevo for more information or questions at askeades@aol.com or 856-9165.

We will also be offering OWL classes for 4th and 5th graders next spring, taught by Peter Graham and Carol Eades Delnevo. Watch this space for the December parent/caregiver meeting date!

Plan Now for August Yard Sale! This is a heads up to save/ identify/ set aside items for a Unitarian yard sale August 29! 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

Stuart Boley has offered to haul items that will fit in a 3' x 5' carrier/ trailer. Let him know if you have something that won't go in your vehicle, and will fit his carrier. Phone 842-4301, or email him: stuartboley@hotmail.com

Thanks from the Wilson family. Stephen and Marie Wilson extend their thanks for meals and other support provided by UFL as Stephen recovers from a serious auto accident. Stephen is progressing from wheelchair to crutch walking and will be able to prepare his own lunch starting the week of August 17. The tasty lunches provided by UFL members have been greatly appreciated.

The Annual Cluster Retreat: The Annual Cluster Retreat will take place this fall, October 9-11 at Tall Oaks Camp and Conference Center. Please contact the UFL Office for a link to a survey that will help planners discern the target audience and gauge interest in various activities.

Lawrence Presbyterian Manor Soup & Pie Benefit:

The Lawrence Presbyterian Manor is holding its annual Fall Soup & Pie Benefit on September 15 from 5:00 to 6:30 PM. The Manor is calling on all local churches and spiritual organizations to provide 10 pies for their event. Pies must be delivered to the Manor by Tuesday morning, September 15th.

Consulting Minister Availability

Our consulting minister, Rev. Jill Jarvis, will be away from the Fellowship during August and September. She can be reached by email at uflminister@sunflower.com. She will resume office hours and her regular schedule the first week in October.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

(from the Social Action Committee)\

August Community Connection: Immigrant Justice Advocacy Movement (IJAM) with a focus on No More Deaths. In keeping with our commitment to the Movement we are inviting contributions

for the work of No More Deaths. This is the organization Marta Caminero-Santangelo and Diego Frazier volunteered with on the border--Marta, most recently, this summer. August is the hottest and most dangerous month of the year for the border crossings. ***Marta will be sharing her experiences and observations from her two weeks on the Mexican side of the border on Sunday, August 16.*** Her experience this summer providing relief work with returning undocumented immigrants is witness to the compelling human, life and death, needs. In addition to contributions with checks made out to the Fellowship and "NMD" (No More Deaths) on the memo line, we are also inviting contributions of used jeans and T-shirts in good condition, as suggested by both Marta and Diego, to be sent to The Migrant Resource Center in Agua Prieta, Mexico, which partners with No More Deaths. Marta will collect and ship all clothing donations.

A Special "Thank You" From Centro Hispano: The staff at **Centro Hispano** has expressed their gratitude on behalf of the nine families whose students will receive school supplies and back packs because of the generosity of members of the Fellowship. Special thanks to members who stepped forward.

Centro Hispano is a relatively new agency housed in St. Johns Catholic space serving Hispanic families. Nancy Jorn, long time member of the Fellowship, while on staff with the Douglas County Health Department, recognized the needs of Hispanic families, contributing to the creation of the agency. In visiting with the staff at **Centro Hispano** I learned that Nancy became aware of the limitations of the health department in serving Hispanic families.

There is much more to the story and it took more than Nancy 's early recognition, but clearly she planted a seed that has developed into a valuable service in the community.

In the few moments of my visit with the staff I learned of the challenges faced by some of our Hispanic families and children here in Lawrence. At the same time the staff spoke of positive developments in the face of these challenges. The timely response of members of our Fellowship is but one of those important positives in the lives of our Hispanic families.

Our response fits well within the commitment expressed in our participation in IJAM---Immigration Justice Advocacy Movement. IJAM is not just a Kansas City coalition. Providing help for students puts a local face on this important commitment. *Forrest Swall*

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

Summaries

May 10, 2009 10:45 a.m. CEREMONY SUNDAY

What a day for celebration! Tim Miller presented the traditional roses in the Child Dedication Ceremony to Annaleah Renee Nuckolls and Madeline Kay Nuckolls, children of Scott and Kathleen Dahl Nuckolls. The spotlight continued to shine on youth, including Our Whole Lives graduates Kate Dingus, Harley Holub, Addie Graham, Stefan Foulke, Tristan Delnevo, Isabelle Rummel, John Matthews, Tim Dingus, Ulrich Johanning, Ludwig Johanning, Skyler Foulke, and Molly Wilkinson. High School graduating Seniors Tim Dingus, Wolfgang Johanning, and Sarah Bodle were also recognized.

We thanked our many teachers and helpers, and welcomed these new members who joined our Fellowship in the last year: Katherine Bailey, Scott and Kathleen Nuckolls, Diego Frazier, Lisa Braun, Susan Cooper, Jennifer Dropkin, Mohamed El Hodiri, Sally Harman, Craig and Jordinn Nelson Long, Steven Lee, Stephanie Freeman, Sarah Whitten, Lisa Hallberg, Juliette Loring, Bruce and Silke Johanning, and Wolfgang Johanning. Ellen Reid Gold presented the Charles Warriner Award for Exceptional Service to Stuart Boley. Stuart, a two-time Chair, has enriched our Fellowship with his financial knowledge, outspokenness, and sense of fun. In an historic moment, Valerie Roper, Chair, led us in welcoming Reverend Jill Jarvis as our new half-time consulting minister. Our ceremony closed with Sarah Bodle's lovely singing of "Pie Jesu," and Tim Dingus' amazing talking-while-juggling act.

--Summary by Jean Dirks

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

Aug 12 7:30 p.m. Board Meeting
Aug 16 Just Food Sunday
Aug 23 10:30 a.m. Chair-Elect Election
Aug 28 Women's Final Friday
Aug 29 Fellowship Yard Sale

The Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence
A Welcoming Congregation

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