

Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence
WEEKLY NEWS
August 18, 2009

Sunday, August 23

9:15 Service

Chris Brown, "The Power of Getting Involved"

When we are involved in anything, the experience brings a range of feelings . . . From immense joy and a sense of accomplishment, to frustration and disillusionment when things aren't what they appeared to be at the start, to anxiety from putting oneself into new and sometimes difficult situations. We often hear that some people are "really involved" and others not so much. This service seeks to explore what it means to be involved, recognizing both the joys and struggles we face within ourselves and with each other as we work towards our ideals as a fellowship community. This service is part of our effort this month to reflect on and celebrate the lay tradition of our fellowship. Our lay leader for this service will be Fellowship member Chris Brown.

10:45 Program

**Scott Allegrucci, director of GPACE (Great Plains Alliance for Clean Energy)
"In Search of the Renewable Energy Economy"**

Scott will show a short film documenting his visit to Nolan County, Texas, and the very positive economic effect of the wind energy industry there, including a new school, hospital expansion, and an unemployment rate of 3% or less. He will also lead a discussion of the possibilities inherent in wind energy for Kansas.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS ONCE AGAIN.

Wednesday, August 19--Come one, come all! Join us for the last cookout of the summer. We will have the usual grilled food: dogs, burgers and brats (veggie burgers available), plus beans, potato salad and chips. Cookies and ice cream for dessert. Bring your own beer or wine if you please. The meal is at 5:30 with a "new classes" discussion and presentation following dinner. We will have sign up sheets for these classes which will continue to be available until the beginning of classes. We hope to see all of you there.

During dinner we have scheduled a meeting of anyone interested and willing to help keep this vital programming continuing. We need people who will help with kitchen and dining area responsibilities and to bring ideas for future programming. See Judy Wilson, Michelle Iwig-Harmon or Rebecca Gant. It is great to be a part of what is happening on Wednesday Evening at UFL.

Wednesday Night Programming is back!

Join us as we kick-off the Fall season of Wednesday Nights with a meal and a Barn Dance **September 16th**. Some classes and groups will begin meeting the following week, September 23rd.

Below are the titles and start dates of the five adult groups that will be offered this fall. Thank you to each of the people who have stepped forward to teach or facilitate! For more details on each, please see the UFL website (http://www.ufl.net/wed_night_class_descriptions.html) or the printed version on the bulletin board near the restrooms.

In addition, a short Vespers Service will be offered each week and the youth (7th-12th) will be meeting. Thank you to the Spiritual Celebration Team and Sherry for coordinating these efforts!

On the second Wednesday of each month (Board meeting nights), we'll suspend classes and alternate the popular Barn Dances and Movies so nobody has to pick between them. As always, childcare will be provided from 6:30-8:30 p.m., so there's truly something for everyone!

Sign up for classes either on the sheets in the Social Hall or by e-mailing Michelle Iwig-Harmon, miwigharmon@sunflower.com. And be thinking about what classes you'd like to offer or see offered for Spring! We'd love to hear your ideas.

First Wednesday Book Group: Ted Wilson will offer a once a month book group starting Oct. 7 titled "What If? Works of Alternate History."

Third Wednesday Book Group: Susan Rickman will facilitate a once a month book group starting Sept. 23rd, centered on Huston Smith's, The Illustrated World's Religions: A Guide to Our Wisdom Traditions.

Support Group: Mark Larson will facilitate a Support Group starting Sept. 23rd, for anyone who would like to experience a group of people sharing and caring for one another.

Weekly Book Group: Susan Harper will offer a weekly book group starting Sept. 23rd to discuss the book Fingerprints of God (The Search for the Science of Spirituality) by Barbara Bradley Haggerty.

Theology for a Secular Age: Rev. Jill Jarvis will offer a weekly class starting Oct. 21st, titled "Theology for a Secular Age." NOTE: Jill is looking for help to prepare and operate power point presentations and videos as a part of this class. If you would be able to help, please contact her at jjarvis1@kc.rr.com.

Vespers: Starting on September 23 members of the Spiritual Celebration Team will take turns leading a short Vespers Service from 6:10 – 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Readings and hymns will be on a theme chosen by the leader. There will be time for joys and sorrows, as well as meditation and quiet. Due to the meditative quality of this service, we ask that children who cannot sit quietly for the duration of the service remain outside the sanctuary. If you are interested in leading a Vespers Service, please contact Heather Coffman at hcoffman@gmail.com.

Youth: The youth will meet weekly starting Sept. 23rd, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Emerson Room except on Board Meeting nights, when they'll be preparing the meal and then joining in the Movies and Barn Dances.

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.

Unitarian Yard Sale

Saturday, August 29

8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

You'll want to be sure to arrive early for this event! The list of donated treasures is growing. Here's some of what's available for purchase: Duncan Fife dining table and chairs, China cabinet, several computer tables, large metal desk, 6-ft. aluminum ladder, rocking chair, lawn glider swing in frame (new), skillets and pans, luggage, microwave, camera tripods, insulation for half inch pipe, two air mattresses, chaps for motorcycle riders, tiki torches (new), floor lamps, carpet (5 x 7), small wooden desk, 8-light chandelier, several shop appliances and kitchen appliances, pillows, computer battery backup (new), adjustable crutches, three sets interior wooden shutters, auto jack---and much more!!!!!!!!!!

And it's not too late to donate items for the sale!

- Small items may be brought to the Alcott Room in the RE wing any time the building is open between now and the sale date. Sunday mornings would be a good time, also during Devin's office hours (Mon 8-1p.m., Wed 8-12noon, Fri 8-2p.m.).
- Furniture and large items should be brought from Sunday, August 23(afternoon) to August 29. If you need help in transporting large items, please contact Mark Larson, 841-7446, or lars_owl@yahoo.com

And if you wish to volunteer some time to assist with this UFL fundraiser, contact Mark Larson, Sue Lewis, or Aileen Dingus. Thanks!

Attention all kids! Splash Day August 30!

It's "wear your swimming suit to fellowship" day on August 30! We will have outdoor water activities and cool treats from 9:15 to 11:45. Come for part or stay all morning. Bring your towel and be ready for fun! Parents—contact Carol Eades Delnevo askeades@aol.com if you have water toys to loan for the morning. Thanks.

SAVE THE DATE!

You'll be on cloud *nine* when you join our Celebration of 09-09-09!

Help consume the whole *nine* yards of linked brats, and enter our contest to see who does the best job of "dressing to the *nines*," with prizes in several categories. Try not to drink *nine* glasses of Morris Pratt punch so you can understand "The Rule of *Nines*" and enjoy some special entertainment. We will get the grills warmed up at 5:30 and (of course) end at 9:00 pm. Child care will be available.

Treasurer's Notes. Please help your Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer out! In order to have your payments properly credited please write the word "pledge" in the memo line of any checks if you are paying on your annual pledge. If you are making a payment outside of your pledge or if you do not pledge, simply put the word "gift" or "donation." You do a great job of listing the community organizations you're supporting on the memo line and please continue to do so. We hope that this will lead to less confusion come tax letter time and that we can keep an accurate accounting of each of your pledge payments. We really appreciate this!

Recycling Reminder. Please no cardboard in the yellow dumpster! Per the signs posted on the newspaper recycling container, please do not put any cereal boxes or other cardboard items into the unit.

“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!

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 shared her experiences and observations from her two weeks on the Mexican side of the border last Sunday.

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 and socks* 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 again this Sunday and ship all clothing donations.

Family Promise Book Drive

Host week for First Baptist church is September 27 – October 3. They have asked for our help to collect books suitable for elementary age readers (ages 5-12) as well as a small book shelf, with the idea of creating a rotating library of books that children could take with them. If you have books you'd like to donate, please bring them to the Fellowship by September 20. They are also looking for a couple of 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. 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.

Summaries

July 12, 2009 9:15 a.m. CHOOSE COMPASSION

Rev. Jill Jarvis spoke on the divisive, poignant, and complex issue of abortion. In 1963, ten years before Roe v. Wade, the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly called for legalizing abortions. But the public was slow to follow. Yes, there was compassion in the 1960's when Sherry Finkbein, a married woman with four children, sought an abortion after mistakenly taking thalidomide during her fifth pregnancy. But public compassion was rarer, when young women sought to preserve their careers, as "Denita" did when she sought an abortion, after pregnancy interrupted Denita's training to be a cantor and have a music career. Today, some UU's are pro-choice and others are not. But in Jill's opinion, abortion is not a tragedy. Instead, the tragedy would be to not have a choice at all. As we reflected on this, Lara Wilson sang a haunting rendition of Joni Mitchell's "The Magdalene Laundries," a song of women who had no choice about their pregnancies.

JULY 26, 2009, 9:15 a.m. LOVING OVER THE YEARS

Our partners, and friends, and even our church may change in time. So how do we go on loving over the years, when the things we love are changing? One answer, Rev. Jill Jarvis said, is that the better we

know ourselves, the more longer-lasting our commitments will be. Thus, Jill at an earlier age wanted “season tickets to the Chiefs, a flat screen t.v.” and the man who came with all that, but later on, she came to realize that she really had different and deeper goals. But sometimes, when our goals diverge from other people’s, we don’t have to back off. Thus “Scott,” a Unitarian who was an agnostic, remained pro-Boy Scouts despite the Scouts’ lack of support for agnostics, because the Scouts had saved his 15-year old son from drugs. And sticking with a difficult commitment can transform you, just as sticking with our Lawrence UU Fellowship – despite its many changes in recent years – can be transformative and uplifting. –*Summaries 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 23 10:30 a.m. Chair-Elect Election
"Welcoming" Meeting and Lunch at noon
Aug 28 Women's Final Friday
Aug 29 Fellowship Yard Sale

The Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence
A Welcoming Congregation

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