

Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence
WEEKLY NEWS
September 1, 2009

Sunday, September 6

9:15 Service: "Cafeteria Religion: We're all Hindus Now" --*Heather Coffman*

Newsweek tells us recent polls show that Americans are becoming more like Hindus - and less like traditional Christians-in the ways we think about God, our selves, each other, and eternity; 65 percent believe that "many religions can lead to eternal life" and 30 percent of Americans call themselves "spiritual, not religious". Join as we explore what practicing "cafeteria religion" means to a Unitarian Universalist community and to the individuals seeking to define their spirituality within that community.

10:45 Program "Don't Mourn - Organize!"

Robert Vodicka, union organizer for the Graduate Teaching Assistant organization will speak about the history of labor unions and the value of union membership in creating jobs, earning a living wage, and fostering good working conditions in today's world.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS ONCE AGAIN.

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. For more details on each, please see the UFL website (http://www.uufl.net/wed_night_class_descriptions.html) or the printed version on the bulletin board near the restrooms.

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. The sign up sheets are beneath the bulletin board, on clip boards. **Registration closes on September 13**. After that date see facilitator about joining the group. It looks like a good year.

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

Staff Change

Devin Waugh has accepted a full time position with a local business he has been working with part-time. The work that he will be doing there (actually already is) fits closely with his previous career positions and is a great opportunity for him. Devin has some flexibility in his hours in the new position, and has indicated that he will continue to assist us until we find another person, but may not have as regular a schedule as before. Though he has been with us a short time, Devin has done a great job. Effective, thoughtful and personable—we'll appreciate his presence in the time he works with us, and wish him well in his new position. Personnel chair Sue Lewis is working with chair Valerie Roper on some approaches for filling the administrative assistant position.

Shop Some More (Please!)

The UFL Garage Sale Team dreads dragging off leftovers—and wants to continue generating money for the Fellowship! Remaining items are in Founders Hall. Shop before, after, and in between the service and the program Sunday, September 6. Name your own price—see Mark Larson or Sue Lewis to haggle or pay.

Save the Date: You will be on Cloud Nine when you join our Congregation Celebration on 09-09-09. You can help consume the whole nine yards of brats and enter in our contest to see who did the best job dressing to the “nines.” Plenty to eat, and plenty of entertainment to enjoy. We will start to warm up at 5:30PM and (of course) end at 9PM.

Women's "Final Friday" Night

The monthly women's group continues to meet the Final Friday of each month! Look for announcements about "Final Fridays." This month all women are invited to UFL for an informal social Friday, September 25 at 7:00. There is no agenda, no theme, just the chance for us to spend some more time together and weave tighter relationships. Leave your cares, children, and significant others at home, and bring a goodie to share. Even if you can't make it this time, mark your calendar for the final Friday of each month

Final Friday Hostesses sought:

Do you need an excuse to clean your house? Do you want to host a party but don't know who to invite? Do you love to have people over but hate to cook?

HERE IS THE ANSWER TO ALL YOUR PROBLEMS:

HOST a UFL Final Friday Ladies Night

Still not convinced? Read on...

When: Final Friday of each month (usually)

Where: At your house

How: Lock up the attack dog. Put out a bottle of water and some soda crackers

What Happens: The most amazing women in the universe come knocking at your door. They bring gifts of wine, cheese, and scrumptious hors d'oeuvres. They then proceed to entertain you all evening long with laughter, camaraderie and scintillating conversation.

If this sounds too good to be true (and you're not a guy) please email Amerika Grewal at amerikag@gmail.com to sign up to host a future UFL Final Friday.

Greeter Opportunity:

Have you ever walked into a gathering where you didn't know anyone, wanted to check it out, hoping it might meet some needs in your life, but not sure you even wanted to acknowledge that? Like maybe the first time you came to the Fellowship?

A friendly, welcoming presence at a time like that is remembered for a long time. If you'd like to be that orienting presence for visitors and welcome long time members also, consider becoming a Fellowship greeter. We're looking to form about six or seven groups of three greeters, so each group would volunteer about once every six weeks. Michelle Iwig-Harmon will conduct a greeter orientation/social session on September 20, after the 10:45 program. So if you'd like to greet at the 9:15 Sunday services or the 10:45 programs or both, please contact Valerie Roper (vgracev@sunflower.com).

Dinners for Eight:

You're all invited for Dinners for 8; sign-up sheets will be at coffee hour next Sunday. If you've not attended a Dinner for 8, you're in for a treat. When you sign up, you'll have the opportunity to get together 3 times this year for a pot luck meal with a small group of other members and friends. You'll meet different people at each dinner, and have a chance to visit in a relaxed setting.

No matter if you're a long time member or just beginning to think about becoming a UU, whether you're single or partnered, you're welcome for dinner. You'll attend a dinner in the Oct/Nov timeframe, one in Jan/Feb, and one in Mar/Apr. Hosts (those who volunteer to host a dinner) receive a list of guests and contact them to set a date for their dinner. Hosts also provide the main dish, and guests bring other dishes.

This year we're trying something new, to accommodate both people who'd like to bring children to dinners and those who'd like to have child-free dinners. Sign-up sheets will allow participants to express their preferences, and the assignment team will take account of preferences in making assignments. (Note: Valerie apologizes for her oversight in forgetting to put them out last Sunday.) For more info on Dinners for 8, contact Susan Rickman or Valerie Roper.

Scrip Report:

In August, our Fellowship members bought \$11,365 worth of grocery cards and coupons for Checkers, Dillons, Hy Vee, and The Merc through our Scrip program. The net profit to the Fellowship was \$652.90.

If you haven't participated in this fund-raising effort, here's how it works: stop by the Scrip sales table in the lobby on Sunday and buy gift cards or paper certificates issued by the participating merchants. The Fellowship gets the scrip at a discount (5% or 6%). You buy at face value and spend at face value.

So if you plan to spend \$100 at Dillons, for example, you can do it with Scrip and earn \$6.00 for the Fellowship. Scrip can be used to buy anything at the participating stores, even gasoline. Since you are going to eat and drive anyway, this is a painless way to raise money for the Fellowship.

--*The Scrip team (Joe Gant, Chris Redford, Marcel Harmon, John Roper)*

Weekly Care Team Bulletin and Newsletter Announcement

Community Care Team

The UFL Community Care Team is available to assist members and friends of the Fellowship. The role of the Care Team is to learn from the involved individual or family how we can be of assistance and provide the requested assistance within the limits of our resources. To contact the Care Team, e-mail uflcareteam@sunflower.com or in September 2009, call Beth Chao at 785-766-8525. After October 1, call Rev. Jill Jarvis at 816-853-6530.

Treasurers' Notes:

Please help your Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer! In order to have your payments properly credited please write the word "pledge" in the memo line of any pledge payment checks. If you are making a payment outside of your pledge or 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 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!

Do you like to sing?

Join the UFL choir! Choir practices are at 7:30 on Wednesday evenings. Until the Wednesday gatherings begin in September, we will meet at the home of choir director Susan Harper. For more information, contact Susan at 785-830-8487 or at sbharper@sbcglobal.net.

At the Fellowship

On Friday, Oct. 16, from 7:00-9:00 pm, Janet Dallett will present "Listening to the Rhino: Where Psyche and Body Meet," at the Fellowship. The event is sponsored by the Friends of Jung in Kansas City. Price of admission is \$20. Dallett is characterized by Nicholas French as "a shamaness who offers compassionate guidance into the dark forest – and knows when she must let us find our own way." ~ John Brewer

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)

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.

Excerpt from UUA President's Letter to UUs on Health Care Debate

“True democracy can only exist where each voice is heard, where debate is open and civil, where people can disagree without being threatened. Good people can and do disagree about health care policy. However, we must all join together to demand open, respectful debate. As religious people, let us insist on two things: We must create a health care system that protects the most vulnerable, and we must insist on a democratic process that is open to all.”

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

Aug. 16, 2009 10:45 a.m. WORKING ON THE BORDER WITH DEPORTED MIGRANTS

Fellowship member Marta Caminero-Santangelo spoke poignantly of the plight of Mexican migrants who are unsuccessful in their attempt to cross the border illegally between Mexico and the U.S. Recently, Marta and Fellowship member Diego Frazier volunteered on the Mexican side of the Tucson border. There, the U.S. Border Patrol “dumps” the illegal immigrants at the Migrant Resource Center in Agua Prieta, Mexico. The migrants are exhausted and dehydrated from walking in the desert, sunburned, with torn clothing and weary feet. Sadly, 161 Mexicans died this summer while trying to cross from Mexico to the U.S., in the Tucson area.

The organization “No More Deaths” tries to prevent future deaths, by putting water jugs in the desert, documenting abuses of migrants, and providing food and used clothing to the migrants who are brought back to Mexico. Marta thanked Fellowship members who gave (or will give) used clothing. Checks --made out to the Fellowship but with the phrase “No More Deaths” on the memo line-- can be given the Fellowship to help this worthy organization. --*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

Tues, Sep 8: 7:30 Board Meeting

Sun, Sep 13: Ingathering, Wine and Cheese following program

Wed, Sep 16: Wednesday Night Dinners kicks off new season

The Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence
A Welcoming Congregation

1263 North 1100 Road | Lawrence, Kansas 66047

785.842.3339

www.uufl.net