

Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence

WEEKLY NEWS

September 15, 2009

Sunday, September 20

9:15 Service: "Spiritual Homelessness"

Often when individuals join a church or other religious community, it is said that they have found their "spiritual home." This Sunday, we give thought to what a spiritual home is, and what it means to be "spiritually homeless" to individuals and to a community. *-Heather Coffman*

10:45 Program:

David Burress will speak to us about the Kansas organization Ad Astra, and bring us up to date about developments on health care legislation. **Forrest** Swall, speaking for the Social Action Committee, will present the stand taken on health care by the UU General Assembly, and discuss the draft of a position for our own congregation.

Food, Fun, and Friendship

Wednesday at the Fellowship

Everyone's Invited! This week!!

September 16, 2009



Come join us for our Intergenerational Heptathlon

Open to ALL ages 2 to 102

Chicken Florentine Dinner - 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM

* Vegetable Pasta * Bread

Fruits * Salads

And for Dessert...

Sundaes you get to make YOURSELF!!!



Suggested donation \$5 Children under 10 free

Child Care 6:30 - 8:30

And while you're there, sign up for classes that start next week!

Join us as we kick-off the Fall season of Wednesday Nights this week on **September 16th**.

After great food and conversation, we'll have our own version of heptathlon, guaranteed fun for UFLers from 2 to 102! We'll have prizes and all the winners (which will be everyone!) can build their own ice cream sundaes for dessert. We'd like to firm up the class lists, so take advantage of this final opportunity to sign up!

Some classes and groups will begin meeting next 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

In addition, a short Vespers Service will be offered each week and the youth (7th-12th) will be meeting. 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.

Exploring Membership course--Four weeks starting September 30
(see under "Announcements" below for more details)

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: A short Vespers Service will be offered 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. We are looking for help to make sure we have one each week, so if you are interested in leading or assisting, 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

Volunteer Survey from the Community Care Team

We hope you received the email sent out on Monday with a survey allowing you to indicate how you could help Fellowship members with such things as meals, transportation, and visiting at home or hospital (subject to your availability at the time of need). After clicking on the e-mail link, a checklist will appear along with simple instructions.

When you complete the survey electronically, results will be automatically entered into a database to assist Care Team Coordinators in planning and coordination. For that reason, electronic responses are preferred. Paper copies of the survey will be available at the Fellowship on September 20 for those without internet access.

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 call Beth Chao (in Sep 2009) at 785-766-8525 or (after Oct 1) Rev. Jill Jarvis at 816-853-6530.

JUST FOOD Gathering: Next Sunday, (Sept 20): Bring non-perishable grocery items; help fill the food banks in town. Cash contributions also welcome, with checks made to UFL with "Just Food" on the memo line

Greeter Opportunity--Orientation and Social: Michelle Iwig-Harmon will conduct a greeter orientation/social session on Sunday, September 20, after the 10:45 program. Lunch will be provided. If you'd like to be a friendly, welcoming Sunday morning presence for visitors and members alike, consider becoming a Fellowship greeter. We're looking to form about six or seven groups of three greeters, so each group volunteers about once every six weeks. If you'd like to greet at the service or program or both, please contact Valerie Roper (vgracev@sunflower.com).

Exploring Membership Course: A new session of the 4-week Exploring Membership Course begins soon; it will be on Wednesday nights from 6:30 – 8:00 at the Fellowship. Class dates are September 30, October 7, 21 and 28. Offered by Rebecca Gant and Nicole Goodwin, the course is designed for individuals new to Unitarian Universalism, those considering membership or new members. Child care will be provided. So you may come for Wednesday night dinner if you'd like, and stay for the class. Interested? Sign up sheets are available at coffee hour. For more info, contact Rebecca (rkgant@hotmail.com), Nicole (nicolelgoodwin@yahoo.com) or Valerie Roper (vgracev@sunflower.com).

Community Connection for September: **Family Promise** is a faith based non-profit program serving families with children who are homeless by providing shelter, food, transportation, training, medical care and other assistance in a safe, compassionate home-like environment. The program serves four families at a time. There are currently 13 hosts along with 15 partnering congregations in Lawrence. Valerie Miller, a mental health professional, formerly employed by Bert Nash as the supervisor of the homeless outreach workers, is the director. Family Promise has a budget of

\$125,000. It receives no government funds and is not a United Way agency. Support comes from the voluntary contributions in the community.

Cash contributions may be made by check to the Fellowship with *Family Promise* on the memo line. To volunteer during the week of our partnering, contact **Donna Eades at 842-3867**.

Dinners for Eight: You're all invited for Dinners for 8; sign up sheets at coffee hour. 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. 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. Contact Susan Rickman for more info. Sign up soon and come to dinner!

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. If you are interested in hosting a future "Final Friday" women's group in your home, please contact Amerika Grewal at 813-1287 or amerikag@gmail.com

Southern Cluster Fall Retreat: Come join with other UUs from the southern part of the Prairie Star District at this year's Cluster Retreat, to be held at Tall Oaks Camp & Conference Center just west of Kansas City on Friday evening Oct. 9th through mid-day Sunday, October 11th. Representation from all our southern Cluster UU communities is a goal: KC (All Souls, SMUUCH, and Gaia), Lawrence, Wichita, Salina, Topeka, Manhattan, Hutchinson, and Emporia

"Cluster" is a great chance to connect and reflect together. There will be a combination of programming and free time, so you can stretch your spirit (try Michael Nelson's Autobiography of the Soul activity, for one example) and learn from each other (several cluster congregations have built buildings, gone to 2 services, called ministers, and forged other trails, and we ALL love to talk). Sunday worship will be celebratory and participatory, rather than a hymn/sermon sandwich. Food is plentiful, yummy, and best of all -- cooked for us, by other people!

DO bring musical instruments, art supplies, books of poetry or prose, bug spray, and snacks to share.

You're welcome to stay in a heated bunkhouse, complete with showers and mini kitchens, or camp out in a tent or small camper. And again this year, kids are FREE! There is also some scholarship help for those who need it. For more info, go to www.psduua.org/SCORE/SCORE (For more information about the scholarships, see Barbara Schowen) Registration info is below.

<https://www.psduua.org/prairiestore/SouthernClusterRetreat>

Peace Vigil: Ninth & Massachusetts St., noon to 1 pm on Saturdays.
Lawrencians advocating peace 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

Wednesday, Sept 16:

Wednesday Night Dinners kicks off new season

Sunday, Sept 20

Just Food collection

Greeter orientation/social meeting with lunch (noon)

Friday, Sept 25

Women's Final Friday

Oct 9,10,11

Southern Cluster Retreat

The Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence

A Welcoming Congregation

1263 North 1100 Road | Lawrence, Kansas 66047

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