

Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence

WEEKLY NEWS

October 6, 2009

Sunday, October 11

9:15 Service: *A Religion for Our Time (and Place)*

Rev. Jill Jarvis

Newly elected President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, the Rev. Peter Morales, believes that “we can be, we must be, the religion for our time.” He promises to engage the UUA in the great moral issues facing us: economic justice, peace, and human rights. Here in our Kansas-western Missouri UU congregations, exciting initiatives are underway to bring our life-affirming values to a region saturated by religious fundamentalism. Join us for this spiritual service in honor of Association Sunday, and learn about new opportunities to engage with nearby Unitarian Universalists to nurture our spirituality, enhance our diversity, and help heal our world

10:45 Program: *"Association Sunday 2009: Growing our Diversity"*

Through readings and conversation we will explore ways we as a Fellowship and the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations as our umbrella organization can grow in strength through diversity.-- *Various members of the Fellowship*

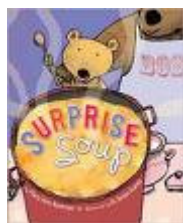
Upcoming--Sunday October 18--9:15 am

Psychotherapist and child psychologist Dr. Sheelagh Manheim will present “The Mind-Body Connection: Symbols and Symptoms.” With Jack Jonathan, Sheelagh co-authored *Yes, You Can . . . Find More Meaning in Your Life*. She has lectured on meditation, mysticism, and general spiritual development.

Food, Fun, and Friendship

Wednesday at the Fellowship

October 7 Everyone's Invited!



5:30 PM to 6:30 PM

Soup!

bean soup and vegetable soup with meat.

* **Mac & Cheese**

PB&J * Hot Dogs * Salads

Relish Tray * Fruit

Cookies and Ice Cream

Suggested donation \$5 Children under 10 free

Child Care 6:30 - 8:30



6:10 PM to 6:30 PM Vespers

6:30 PM to 7:30PM Youth Meeting

6:30 PM to 7:30PM Classes—New and Continuing

- Classes starting Wednesday, Oct 7 at 6:30 are:

- First Wednesday Book Group: What If? Works of Alternate History ; Ted Wilson, leader
- Theology for a Secular Age; Rev Jill Jarvis, presenter **(*****see p.3 for details*****)**
- Book Group: Fingerprints of God, The Science of Spirituality; Susan Harper, leader

Continuing Class: Exploring Membership, second session

Everyone is welcome--

If you didn't get a chance to sign up, feel free to drop in on a class to see what you think.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Boys' Night Out! This coming Friday, October 9, the UFL will be hosting the first of three all-ages sleepovers at the Fellowship. This one's theme is "Boys' Night Out" and we welcome men and boys to spend some quality time together. The sleepover begins at 7 pm on Friday (after dinner!) and wraps up at noon on Saturday (before lunch!) Activities will include snacking, movie watching, breakfast and learning about anti-bullying skills and information. So- here's the pertinent information:

What: Boys' Night Out all ages sleepover

Where: The UFL

When: Friday October 9 through Saturday October 10, 7pm-12pm

Why: Because we can!

RSVP: to Sherry (ufldre@sunflower.com) before 6pm on Thursday, October 8

Bring: Sleeping bags or blankets, pillows, air mattresses or cots if you have them

If you have any questions, please contact Sherry (ufldre@sunflower.com) or Aileen (aileen@flyingdingii.com) as soon as possible.

New Member

We offer a warm welcome to new UFL member Gordon Penny, who joins his daughter Rebecca Gant and her family as Fellowship members. Gordon signed the membership book last Sunday, October 4.

October Teachers Needed!

We still need 3 teachers for October 9:15 RE. The younger kids will be doing World Exploration and Religious Diversity, and the Youts are debating the spirituality in popular TV culture. (Mostly the Simpsons). Please contact Aileen, Sherry or any member of the RE committee to sign up or if you have any questions. aileen@flyingdingii.com or 785-218-8997.

Getting to Know UU. October 11 will be our first “Getting to Know UU” Sunday this fall. Those interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism and UFL, asking questions and getting acquainted, are invited to meet informally with our minister, Jill Jarvis, and a UFL membership representative between the 9:15 service and the 10:45 program. Look for the “Getting to Know UU” sign in the sanctuary after the 9:15 service.

Movie Night is almost here! Please join us October 14th, for a film by Yann Arthus-Bertrand called, “HOME.” We are living in exceptional times. Scientists tell us that we have 10 years to change the way we live, avert the depletion of natural resources and the catastrophic evolution of the earth’s climate. The stakes are high for us and our children. Everyone should take part in the effort, and HOME has been conceived to take a message of mobilization out to every human being. The movie begins at 6:30, and is FREE. Childcare is provided. To see a trailer of the movie, go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G8IozVfph7I>. For more information, please contact Janet Fitzgerald at waxplanet@sunflower.com.

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 Rev. Jill Jarvis at 816-853-6530.

Southern Cluster Fall Retreat Come join other UUs from the southern part of the Prairie Star District October 9th, 10th, and 11th to build old friendships and create new ones. This year we will be at Tall Oaks Camp and Conference Center *close to home—in Linwood!* This is a family friendly weekend with activities for all and workshops focusing on growing the UU movement in the heartland. For more info *on the best Cluster Retreat ever*, go to www.psduua.org/SCORE/SCORE

*******Theology for a Secular Age: Join UFL consulting minister Rev. Jill Jarvis for a course based in this year's "UU University" General Assembly offering--starts Wed., Oct. 7 at 6:30 pm.**

In a secular age, people who believe in science can be genuinely religious – if theology itself is transformed. Theology is the process of talking about faith in a thoughtful and organized way – how faith arises, what sustains it, why it falters, and where it can make a difference in our lives and world. For centuries, theology has described how divine revelation accounts for our experience and dictates our actions. What happens to religion when reason, rather than revelation, becomes our most reliable source of knowledge?

This Wednesday’s opening session introduces the course goal (“How might we begin to think about faith, religion, and community in a different way?”) and the first of seven questions: “How do we know what we most truly know?” *The main function of religion is not to affirm that certain facts are true. Rather, it is to develop a life of meaning and purpose in light of what we know.*

Subsequent Wednesday sessions: October 21--What is the nature of existence and how do we fit into the picture? October 28--What in the world is divine, if anything? What is the uniquely human challenge? November 4--What are the purpose of faith and the role of religion? November 18--What does it mean to be a religious community? December 2--How shall we live in order to transform ourselves and the world?

Women's "Final Friday" Night: This month's women's group will meet on the fourth (but not final) Friday of the month! October 23. Look for details next week. 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

FROM THE SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Membership meeting to consider a Health Care Resolution by the Social Action

Committee October 18. A **membership** meeting of the Fellowship for the purpose of considering a Resolution on Health Care will be held between the two morning programs on October 18. The resolution procedure requires one third of the membership present for a quorum. The proposed Resolution on Health Care officially adopted at the open Social Action Committee on October 4 reads as follows:

Resolved that the Lawrence Unitarian Fellowship affirm the 2008 Action of Immediate Witness calling for “congregations to become informed advocates for universal access to nonprofit health care financing through social action and adult religious education,” and,

be it further resolved: the Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence encourage members to work with other people of good will to actively support and advocate for health care reform including single-payer universal health care, and

be it further resolved: that the Chair of the Fellowship, acting on behalf of the members of the Fellowship Community, communicate the position of Unitarian Universalists and the Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence on this issue to the President and members of Congress and advocate passage of universal health care legislation.

October Community Connection: Women's Transitional Care Services. October is Domestic Violence Month.

Women's Transitional Care Services, Inc. (WTCS) works toward the elimination of family violence and peace in the world by elimination of violence in our communities. WTCS is dedicated to the empowerment of women and children; the creation of peaceful, safe space; the promotion of equality and respect for all people; the appreciation of differences; and the social action necessary to achieve these goals. Contributions may be made to the UFL with *WTCS* noted on the memo line.

October is also Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender History Month.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) History Month is intended to encourage honesty and openness about being gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender. National Coming Out Day is Sunday, October 11.

GLBT History Month was launched by the Equality Forum in 2006, GLBT History Month honors 31 Icons—one each day—with a video, bio, bibliography, downloadable images and educational resources, and special features for students. The videos are broadcast on cable TV channels and are available as a free download to organizations and the public. GLBT History Month is free and all 124 Icons (2006-2009) are archived on the site. Visit www.GLBTHistoryMonth.com. *The Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence is an open, affirming and welcoming congregation.*

In keeping with GLBT History Month Fellowship members are invited to participate in a free Fall Film Festival at **First United Methodist Church** showing three different feature documentaries dealing with themes of sexual orientation and gender identity. All sessions are Sunday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:30 in their Brady hall. The films will be followed by short discussions.

October 11, (next Sunday): “For the Bible Tells Me So” --discussion leader, Bob Shelton—exploring how literal biblical interpretation affects our understanding of sexual orientation.

October 25: “Fall From Grace” ---Ted Kihm---which traces the history and motivations of Fred Phelps’ hateful rhetoric.

November 8: “Call Me Malcolm” ---discussion leader, Dennis Dailey---which personalizes the journey of a female to male transition for a seminarian to connect his faith with his gender identity.

October 29: Kansas Equality Coalition ongoing Film Series: Liberty Hall 7 to 8:30 pm. The Lawrence/Douglas County KEC Chapter will be hosting films every few months as part of their Never-ending festival. We are invited to join KEC for some popcorn, soda, beer and community and share the powerful and touching Israeli film, “**Yossi and Jagger**”, winner of the 2004 Glitter Award Best Picture, 2003 Torino International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival Audience Award Best Feature Film.

Social Justice Calendar

Thursday, October 7: “Aging In Place” 7 to 8:30 pm, KU Continuing Education, 1515 St. Andrews Drive, preceded by a reception. Registration is not necessary.

Friday, October 8: Legislative Forum on “issues Affecting Older People”; 2 to 4 pm Lawrence Public Library. Registration is not necessary.

Sunday, October 18, 2 to 5 pm A benefit for Kansas Advocate For Better Care honoring **Congressman Dennis Moore** with the inaugural “**Stand By Me Award.**” at Springhill Suites by Marriott, Lawrence. Music will be provided by Johnny J and the Receders with Jannelle Frost for listening and dancing. There is no cost however contributions will be generously accepted.

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

SUMMARIES

Sept. 27, 2009 10:45 a.m. SHOULD WE PRODUCE POWER FROM NUCLEAR ENERGY?

Dr. Michael Murray, Professor of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Kansas, explained that burning uranium to get power is more efficient – and emits less radiation – than burning coal. But uranium also carries risks. We all know of the Chernobyl accident, when the Russians removed the “moderators” that could have slowed a nuclear reaction down. But even outside a nuclear plant, uranium can pose unforeseen dangers. For example, Germany in World War II at times used uranium tanks or bullets, which were so hard that they sliced through steel. But when that uranium was burned, it created a chemical hazard when people breathed it in.

For the future, Dr. Murray isn’t necessarily advocating nuclear power, but he wants to examine it, and see what would make it feasible. Nowadays, the risk of accidents at nuclear power plants has been reduced by “passive safety systems” which trigger automatically --without human intervention -- when things go wrong. And the risks of transporting nuclear waste long distances to a waste site will be minimized if we take the advice of the new Director of Energy, and leave the nuclear waste where it is produced. Another promising safety step would be to use the French system, and certify a particular design of a nuclear plant, and the safety specifications that go with that design. Then, whenever a nuclear plant is built to those specifications, it could be certified. –*Summary by Jean Dirks*

OCT. 4, 2009 10:45 A.M. MOUNTAIN TOP MONASTERIES, STAR TREK, SHEEP, AND

HIPPIE MAGIC: A TRIP ACROSS THE WORLD IN SEARCH OF MYSELF AND WHAT I FOUND OUT

Fellowship member Bruce Johanning related his fascinating and enlightened story as a career Army officer. He recalled his time in Cold War Germany, when the Army mobilized and went right up to the “line” of war. Particularly important in the formulation of his philosophy of life was his friendship with a Buddhist monk, Mike, when Bruce was stationed in Korea a few miles south of the DMZ. Mike’s advice, in a last conversation at the mountaintop monastery, was that you would be OK if you could just hold onto “one grain of hope,” no matter how bleak things look. This advice later saved Bruce’s life. On another posting to the Army Training Facility at Fort Irwin, near Death Valley, Bruce and the Army learned the importance of “out of the box” thinking.

About 20 years ago, Bruce met his future wife Silke, in a KU class. Their sons have shared their musical talents with us here at the Fellowship. –*Summary by Tom Cravens*

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

- Oct 9,10,11** Southern Cluster Retreat
- Oct 11** Getting to Know UU
- Oct 11** Association Sunday
- Oct 14** Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- Oct 16,17** Spirituality and Health Lecture, Workshop
- Oct 18** Just Food Sunday

The Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence A Welcoming Congregation

1263 North 1100 Road | Lawrence, Kansas 66047

785.842.3339 www.uufl.net