

Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence  
**WEEKLY NEWS**  
November 24, 2009

**Sunday, November 29**

**9:15 Service.** “Foxhole Religion: Where It Came From and What It Means” *Ted Wilson*

To most people the term, “Foxhole Religion,” is most closely linked with the assertion that “there are no atheists in foxholes.” Supposedly first uttered by a Catholic chaplain on Bataan in 1942, the phrase has found a receptive audience--especially in America and among those who are familiar with the need to turn to something outside one’s self or community in times of physical danger or grave psychological crisis. But is it true? Do soldiers and others in peril always become believers? Today’s reflection will explore various aspects of “foxhole religion” and examine its connection to the growth of religious fundamentalism in this country. As well, we will consider the role of religious belief in the armed forces, the reemergence of a “Christian crusade” mentality, and the responses of Unitarian Universalists to these questions

**10:45 Program.** "Families of Origin"

Judy Wilson and Joshua Petersen will share some of their family history and how this has contributed to the people they are today.

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**Wednesday at the Fellowship**

Wednesday Night Dinner and Program Volunteers wish you a Happy Thanksgiving and want to remind you there is ***NO Wednesday night dinner this week.*** Please join us Wednesday night next week, December 2, 2009 for dinner, events, and classes.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS**

**“The Times They Are A’Changin’”**

**Sunday Morning**

Responding to members’ almost-unanimous desire to move our starting times, the board agreed that, as of January 3, 2010, our services will begin at 9:30 and end at 10:30 a.m., and our programs will start at 11 and finish at noon. We will make every effort to accommodate those who need rides and wish to leave immediately after the program. If *you* need a ride to or from the service, program, or the Wednesday night events, please contact the Care Team, [uflcareteam@sunflower.com](mailto:uflcareteam@sunflower.com), or call the Rev. Jill Jarvis.

**Board Meetings**

Incidentally, we would like to remind everyone that we have also changed the time of the board meeting to 6:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month. Our next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 9.

**Chair, Chair-elect, Past Chair Weekly Meetings**

The three chairs (past, present, and future) meet weekly with Jill on Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m., with occasional exceptions.  
*Betty Baron, chair*

## **Sexuality Education for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Children, Save the Dates**

*Our Whole Lives* 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/>.

Starting with a **parent and child orientation on January 10 from 9:15 to 11:45**, we will be offering the nine-part series for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade children on Sunday mornings at 9:15. The usual Sunday morning religious education classes will continue to be available for those who choose not to participate in OWL. Taught by Peter Graham and Carol Eades Delnevo, the cost will be \$15 for Members and Friends, \$35 for non-members. Scholarships are available. For more information, join us for a **parent meeting on Sunday, December 13** from 9:15 to 10:45 in the adult RE room. Childcare will be provided. Contact Carol Eades Delnevo for more information. [askeades@aol.com](mailto:askeades@aol.com), 856-9165.

## **Three New UFL Members**

Three members have recently joined the Fellowship. Laura Houston-Weaver signed the membership book on October 25. Joshua Petersen joined last Sunday, as did Ashley Strand. Congratulations and a warm welcome to each of you!

## **Minister's Discretionary Fund Proposed**

Having become aware of financial needs for which no community resource existed, the Pastoral Care Task Force and Community Care Team explored the possibility of creating a fund for such needs. Rev. Jill Jarvis researched other UU congregations' methods of collecting, distributing, and reporting minister's discretionary funds. The board is proposing that we designate a special collection at every Christmas Eve service exclusively for this fund, so that we do not compete with budgeted expenses and Community Connections' requests. Members may also make tax-deductible contributions to the fund at any time. Within certain guidelines, the minister will have sole discretion for disbursing the funds and will maintain strict confidentiality concerning recipients. We believe that establishing this fund is an expression of our commitment to creating and sustaining a caring community.

*Betty Baron, chair*

## **The UFL RE Committee is sponsoring a Parents' Morning Out on Saturday, December 5.**

But wait! That's the Lawrence Old-Fashioned Christmas Parade! **EXACTLY.** Bring your kids to Callahan Creek (805 New Hampshire) between 10 and 10:30 that Saturday morning, and we'll take them to the parade. Afterward, it's back to Callahan for hot cocoa, pizza, ping pong, foosball, TV and whatever else ruckus we can raise until 2pm. At that time we'll turn them back over to the parents. We request that each child bring \$5 to cover the cost of pizza and refreshments. Scholarships are available, please contact Sherry or Aileen for information.

**It is imperative we know ahead of time if your kids are planning on participating.** Please RSVP no later than Thursday 12/3 to [aileen@flyingdingii.com](mailto:aileen@flyingdingii.com).

Remember- it can be coooold at the parade, so bundle up the younguns! Blankets are recommended, warm jackets, hats and gloves a necessity.

What: Parents' Morning Out

Why: To give the adults a little free time to possibly get ready for the holidays

Where: Downtown Lawrence (Callahan Creek, 805 New Hampshire)

When: 12/5, 10am-2pm

RSVP: no later than 12/3 to [aileen@flyingdingii.com](mailto:aileen@flyingdingii.com)

### **Hospitality? Hospitality!**

Such a feast and so much help from so many! Tables so quickly set up and cleared away. So many prepared foods, marvelous to see and taste. The "committee of the whole" worked wonders with those helping and forming an impromptu group in the kitchen -- super -- and those who transformed the meeting room before and after the dining. Congratulations and joy! What a treat! Thanks to all. At least 80 grateful people participated. ~Barbara James

**UUSC Holiday Cards** The UUSC Holiday Cards are here and available for sale at coffee hour.

### **All Night Cookie Bake a Delicious Success**

It was going to be my joy Sunday morning (Nov. 8) that we survived the baking of over 200 cookies and could still speak, but I was just a bit too sleep deprived to manage to share my excitement through the Sunday morning channels. Eleven youth and four adults spent hours making 4 recipes and packaging up cookies for their "On A Mission" fundraiser that will take us to Oklahoma in the Spring. I am forever grateful to Harley's Dad - Doug Holub, Lisa Hallberg, and Roxie Warren for their energy, hours of work, and ability to patiently work with our young people who worked so hard to fill the cookie orders they spent weeks gathering. And best of all - Roxie came in on Sunday morning early and made us breakfast! If you have not yet gotten your cookie order, call Sherry Warren at 785-594-3993. She has likely been trying to get them to you and hopefully you all have them now. ***Thanks for your support of our youth program!*** ~Sherry Warren

*(Apologies from the newsletter team for the late reporting of this item. The cookies were wonderful!)*

### **Claim your lost items!**

If you have lost something, please locate and claim it from the box in the basement on or before Nov 30. ***Everything will be removed and taken to the Social Services League store on December 1st.***

### **Annual Winter Holiday Party**

Our annual winter holiday party (for adults with childcare available) is scheduled for Sat. Dec 19, tentatively planned at the Fellowship at 7:30 pm. ***If you would like to help plan, decorate, arrange food and beverages, or help with set-up or clean up, please contact Betty Baron, 842-1728 or [baronbetty@yahoo.com](mailto:baronbetty@yahoo.com).***

## **Chocolate and Coffee**

Our Equal Exchange offerings are expanding just in time for the holidays! Be sure to look for wonderful chocolate bars, chocolate mini-bars, roasted and salted pecans, sweetened dried cranberries and tamari almonds in addition to hot chocolate and several varieties of coffee. Contact Susan Harper or see last week's newsletter for more information.

## **Lawrence Civic Choir Poinsettia Sales**

Order poinsettias from the Lawrence Civic Choir by the end of Nov. The price is \$9.75 per plant. Fill out the form in the lobby at coffee hour. Or, contact Ellie Unruh at 843-8849 or at [ellie@unruhly.org](mailto:ellie@unruhly.org) to order plants for pick-up at the Fellowship on Sunday, Dec 6. If needed, arrangements can be made for delivery to your home.

## **Obituary Notice--Hildred Cyr**

Some of our long-time members will remember Hildred from the 70s. I am sorry to report that Hildred died in mid October in Washington state where she had lived for many years. A memorial service is planned there for December 20 at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Whidbey Island. She was a beloved teacher in the Wellsville elementary school and had two sons Craig and Clark. Hildred left the area to work in Boston for the UUA. If you wish more information, please contact me.

~Barbara Schowen

## **COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS: from the Social Action Committee**

**Community Connection for November: Success by Six** Success by Six's mission is, "to insure that all Douglas County families of children under 6 have what they need to successfully parent their young children, thereby fostering positive relationships and preparing children for success in school and life." Contributions may be made by cash or by check to UFL with "Success by Six" on the memo line.

**Family Promise Family Gift Cards.** Our *Family Promise* partner church, First Baptist, has asked for Christmas fundraising help. They would like to purchase gift cards that the parents of the families in the program can use to buy Christmas presents for their children. The parents know exactly what their children want/need, and this option gives the families more autonomy than having church members purchase gifts directly. The objective is to provide a \$100 gift card for each of the four families being served by Family Promise. To donate, please write a check to UFL with "Family Promise gift card" on the memo line. *If you have questions contact Donna Eades 842-3867.*

## **Other Community Connection Events**

**Fair Trade Holiday Market;** Nov 27- Dec 3, 8 am-7 pm, Lawrence's Annual Fair Trade Holiday Market at Ecumenical Christian Ministries, 1204 Oread.

**Health Care Access Holiday Homes Tour,** December 6th from 1 - 6 pm. The 5th Annual Health Care Access Clinic Holiday Homes Tour will benefit the Health Care Access Clinic. The Tour is open to the public and will showcase holiday decorating ideas from a variety of traditions at several exclusive locations in Lawrence. Arts and crafts and homemade baked goods will also be available for

purchase at Corpus Christi Catholic Church with all of the proceeds also going to the clinic. Health Care access is one of our Fellowship's major Community Connections.

**Peace Vigil Every Saturday Noon to 1 pm** at the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> and Mass, downtown Lawrence. Come and stand for peace in the world, "and may it begin with me." Yes, the weather is becoming a little wintrier, but the faithful few continue to stand on the side of peace! Come and join, make your/our stand a part of the global peace initiative. *Remember the first step in working for social justice is in just showing up.*

## SUMMARIES

### Nov. 8, 2009 10:45 a.m. RETHINKING FOOD IN AN AGE OF PLENTY

Our own **Jennifer Dropkin** was the speaker. There are lots of questions to ask yourself when you purchase food: "Where did this come from? Was it grown locally or mass-produced? Is it organic or grown commercially with pesticides? Were any workers or animals treated barbarically in order for me to buy this? Is the product genetically altered? Does the packaging have chemicals that will leak into this food and make me ill?"

Some of these questions have entered my mind when shopping for groceries, but most have not. Jennifer also reminded us to read food labels, avoid partially hydrogenated fats, and take one step at a time to change our eating habits. Thanks to Jennifer, I went home feeling like I can and will make better choices for myself and my family. Sunday evening we had a family dinner. My brother came with his family and do you know what he brought? Homegrown pickles and pickled okra. They tasted fantastic! –*Summary by Sheila Warren*

### Nov. 8, 2009 9:15 a.m. THE TENSION OF THE OPPOSITES

**Rev. Jill Jarvis** told the children's story, and then revisited it in her sermon. There once was a beautiful powerful tiger who was captured and kept in a cage. Reviled by her captors, she began to believe their untruths, as they told her that she was timid and weak. But one day a lion assured her she was really beautiful and powerful, and she reclaimed her heritage and busted out of the unlocked cage.

Each of us can be both a timid and a powerful tiger, Jill said, swinging between a commitment to our own ideals vs. tolerance of others, or between individuality vs. community, living with this tension of opposites. We may be taught that one polarity is bad (such as pro-war, or pro-life fundamentalists) but then we discover new and unexpected solutions if we empathize with that side. That is what happened when Jill empathized with a hospitalized man's grief, although he was from a fundamentalist religion that did not ordain women. Jill emphasized "We must continue to ask Who am I, and learn to love The Other, and learn that The Other is also ourself." The sermon was accompanied by Cindy Novelo's lovely violin-playing ("How Can I Keep from Singing?" and "Amazing Grace"). By the way, "Amazing Grace" was written by a man who swung between opposites, by changing from slave-trader to minister after a horrific storm at sea. –*Summary by Jean Dirks*

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### **Art This Month in Founders' Hall**

We are pleased to feature the work of Lawrence artist, spinner and weaver, **Carla Tilghman**. (see previous newsletters for more detail.)

## **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. Care Team Coordinators are Beth Chao, Susan Cooper, and Donna Swall. To contact the Care Team, e-mail [uflcareteam@sunflower.com](mailto:uflcareteam@sunflower.com) or call Rev. Jill Jarvis at 816-853-6530.

## **Office Hours for Minister**

Office hours for Rev Jill Jarvis are on Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., although not this week, November 25.

## **Deadlines**

Announcements for the Sunday Bulletin: Thursday evening at 5:00 p.m. [ufloffice@sunflower.com](mailto:ufloffice@sunflower.com)  
Articles for the Newsletter: Monday at noon: [ufl\\_newsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:ufl_newsletter@yahoo.com)

## **Fellowship Dates to Keep in Mind**

**Wed., Nov. 25** No Wednesday evening activities. They resume Wed., Dec. 2

**Wed., Dec. 9** Fellowship board meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**Sat., Dec. 19** Annual Adult Holiday Party, at the Fellowship 7:30 p.m.

## **The Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence *A Welcoming Congregation***

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