

Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence
WEEKLY NEWS
December 15, 2009

Sunday, December 20

9:15 Service. *Annual Solstice Service*

Heather Coffman weaves Solstice ritual into our traditional Sunday morning service.

10:45 Program. *A music program for the season arranged by Carole Boulton*

Come prepared to enjoy a variety of musical offerings, as well as joining together to sing some favorite Christmas Carols.

Wednesday, December 16, Food, Fun, and Friendship; Everyone's Invited!

5:30 PM to 6:30 PM Dinner

Tortellini Soup * Vegetarian Soup* Salad * Vegetables with hummus * Bread * Mac 'n' Cheese *
Hot Dogs * Dessert: Sugar Cookies to decorate and EAT!
Suggested donation \$5 Children under 10 free
Child Care 6:30 – 8:30

6:30 PM Holiday Party for all! NO CLASSES

Join us for holiday crafts, and stringing popcorn and cranberries for the tree

6:30 PM to 8:30 PM Youth Meeting

7:30 PM Choir Practice

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Annual Winter Holiday Party

Mark the date to celebrate at a party you can help make great!

We'll serve the famous Morris Pratt Punch, and you may bring a bunch

Of finger foods to share. You don't drink punch? I have a hunch

That we'll have other drinks there. Where? In the sanctuary/meeting hall,

Where, we hope, we'll all have a ball. When? On **Saturday, December 19,**

At **7:30 in the evening.** We'll provide child care and some snacks to share.

If you play a musical instrument, and you'd like to add to the merriment by leading or accompanying a sing-along, please do.

Do you need a ride? Please don't be shy. Tell the care team. It's no imposition; it's our tradition. Are you willing to pick someone up?

Tell the care team. We'd like everyone to come!

Join us the evening of December 24 for our Christmas Eve service

Our traditional Christmas Eve service is filled with candlelight, carols, beautiful music, and stories of hope, both ancient and new. Invite your families and friends to join us for this evening of wonder and beauty.

6:15 Doors will open as we gather for refreshments and caroling in Founders Hall

7:00 Christmas Eve service

Children are welcome to attend all or part of the service. Child care will also be available

Minister's Discretionary Fund

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 approved 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 Connection 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

End-of-Year Operating Fund Appeal

Just a reminder that as the year ends, pledge payments made before December 31 will assist with the Fellowship's budget and cash flow during the winter months and will assist you with deductions if you itemize your taxes. If your budget permits, an extra contribution this month will be enormously helpful and gratefully appreciated. Please write "operations pledge" or "operations donation" on the memo line. Checks may also be mailed to Treasurer, Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence, 1263 N. 1100 Rd, Lawrence KS 66047. Many thanks!!

Guest-at-your-table boxes

If you haven't returned the UUSC guest-at-your-table boxes yet, or simply a check, it's not too late! They can be brought to the Fellowship anytime between now and January 10, when we will send in the final tally of contributions. We continue to support the important work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. The UUSC is our Community Connection for the month of December. Checks can be made out to UFL with UUSC on the memo line.

Inclement Weather Policy Notice

In case of inclement weather on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings, please check the Fellowship Web site (<http://www.uufl.net>) for cancellation notice or call the Fellowship at 842-3339, where the answering machine message will indicate whether Fellowship events have been canceled. In the event of cancellation, notices or phone messages will be posted at least an hour prior to the event. For other committee meetings or small-group activities, please contact the chair or host of the event.

LINK--need a coordinator to replace Ellen next month

Our next LINK service date is **January 9, 2010**. Sign-up sheets are on the counter at the Fellowship. Our LINK Coordinator, Ellen Sward, will be out of town on that date, **so we need someone to take over coordination for that date**. It will be a matter of ensuring that we have enough food and help, and making sure things run smoothly at the LINK facility. There are a lot of members with substantial experience at LINK, and we hope one of you will be able to do this! If you are willing and able, please get in touch with Ellen at 842-3078 or esward@ku.edu. Thanks!!

Spring Wednesday Night Classes and Groups--Several already being planned

Watch for sign-up sheets for these groups and hopefully more in the coming weeks!

First Wednesday Book Group: Ted Wilson will continue a once a month book group on Feb. 3 titled "What If? Works of Alternate History."

Third Wednesday Book Group: Susan Rickman will continue to facilitate a once a month book group beginning Jan. 20, centered on Huston Smith's, The Illustrated World's Religions: A Guide to Our Wisdom Traditions.

We are considering options for another class led by **Jill Jarvis**, so be on the lookout for a short survey to help us determine which option will be interesting to the most people.

Rebecca Gant will facilitate a two-session discussion of the book: **Sex and Sensibility: The Thinking Parent's Guide to Talking Sense About Sex.** Do you find yourself a little uncomfortable when the topic of S-E-X comes up around your children? Would you like to have more meaningful conversations with your kids to pass along your values in our sex-saturated society? Written by a long-time sexuality educator, the book is divided into two sections: a section titled "New Ways of Thinking and Talking," and the second, titled "Raising Sexually Healthy Children." It is full of research-based and anecdotal information about sexuality, and encouragement for parents as they have those difficult but crucial conversations. Exact dates to be determined.

More class ideas welcome!

Suggest a Class for Wednesday Nights this Spring!

Have you read a book about which you are enthusiastic? Do you want to share a creative skill such as cooking, writing, or photography? Are you a storyteller? A magician? A peacekeeper? Is there a spiritual practice that you find meaningful? Let us know your ideas for classes for our Wednesday night programs at the fellowship.

Willing to facilitate but don't know what topic? Check out the UUA's website for the Tapestry of Faith curricula. There you'll find fully developed programs on various topics that you can download, use, and modify as needed.

Link: <http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/tapestryfaith/index.shtml>

Contact Rebecca Gant (rkgant@hotmail.com) or Michelle Iwig-Harmon

(miwigharmon@sunflower.com) with your ideas. Thanks!

Youth: The youth will meet weekly from 6:30-8:00 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.

Art This Month in Founders' Hall

We are pleased to feature the work of Lawrence artist, Karen Wiley. If any word describes Karen's art it would be EXPLORATION! Most of Karen's focus is on texture and color, her work is mainly abstract or geometric. Since she rarely starts with a specific idea or design, she has learned to have patience, searching for the textural effects that please her and discovering along the way that each layer of texture usually adds something positive to the final layer she has been looking for. Please be sure to check out this new display in Founder's Hall.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS --- From the Social Action Committee

Community Connections and Fellowship Members' Generosity

Contributions by members of the Fellowship this fiscal year, July through November total \$2,330. This figure includes: \$200 Lawrence Community Nursery foundation; \$155 to IJAM; \$505 for Family Promise; \$240 to WTCS; \$312 for LINK; \$390 JUST FOOD; Centro Hispano, \$298; and in November, Success by Six \$230. This does not include the nearly \$500 contributions for holiday gift cards for Family Promise families **making a generous total of approximately \$2,830. Thank you, one and all!!!!**

JUST FOOD Gathering Next Sunday. Sunday, the 20th is the December JUST FOOD gathering day. Food pantries are especially needing paper products for families including: diapers for infants, toilet paper, paper towels, in addition to nutritional food. With the emphasis on Christmas baskets, etc. there is concern that the every day needs of low income families with children, and others, will be overlooked. As always contributions in cash are welcome *with checks made payable to the Fellowship and JUST FOOD on the memo line.*

Peace Vigil Every Saturday Noon to 1 pm at the corner of 9th and Mass, downtown Lawrence. Even through the wintry Saturdays of December, January and February.

REMINDERS

Time Change. 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 am** and end at **10:30 am**, and our programs will start at **11 am** 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 contact the Care Team, ulfcareteam@sunflower.com, or call Rev. Jill Jarvis.

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 the newsletter for more information.

UUSC Holiday Cards: UUSC Holiday cards (packs of 10 cards for \$10) are here and will be sold during coffee hour. Help the UUSC do its important work at the same time you find just the perfect card for your holiday greetings.

Community Care Team:

The UFL Community Care Team is available to assist members and friends of the Fellowship. The Care Team's role 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, Janney Burgess, and Donna Swall. Contact the Care Team at ulfcareteam@sunflower.com or call Rev. Jill Jarvis, 816-853-6530.

See details at http://www.uufl.net/comm_care_team.html

Office Hours for Rev Jill Jarvis: Office hours for Rev Jill Jarvis are on Wednesdays from 12:00-5:00 p.m. by appointment.

Deadlines: Announcements – Thursday Evening at 5:00 p.m. *Send items to ufloffice@sunflower.com*

Newsletter articles-- Monday at noon. *Send items to ufl_newsletter@yahoo.com*

Fellowship Dates to Keep in Mind

Dec 19 Sat., Annual Adult Holiday Party (childcare available), 7:30 p.m.

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service (childcare available) 7:00 pm

Jan 3 Sunday morning time changes: service starts at 9:30 a.m. and the program at 11:00 a.m.

Jan 9 Sat., LINK

The Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence

A Welcoming Congregation

1263 North 1100 Road | Lawrence, Kansas 66047

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