

Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence  
**WEEKLY NEWS**  
December 22, 2009

**Sunday, December 27**

**9:15 Service** *Infrequently Asked Questions* by Rev. Jill Jarvis

As one of our favorite hymns says, "To question truly is an answer." We do a lot of questioning at UFL, but there are so many topics, and so little time! Many Unitarian Universalist ministers have a yearly tradition of "the Question Box Sermon," and this Sunday, Jill will bring that tradition to our Fellowship. Do you have a question you would like to ask? These may be theological issues, questions about Fellowship activities, professional ministry, Unitarian Universalism, those "hot potato" issues of congregational life -- use your imagination! The idea is to explore ideas and topics together. Jill will briefly answer questions to the best of her ability, and true to our Unitarian Universalist heritage, is happy to share her opinions with you.

**10:45 Program.** *Living with Alzheimer's Disease*

Carole Boulton, Earl Nehring, and George Worth will attempt to describe for us some of the trials, pitfalls, and emotional ups and downs of living with a parent or spouse with Alzheimer's. Carole will also share some of the useful information to be gleaned from professionals who deal with these issues.

**Looking Ahead--**January 3 11:00 Program

Joe Pierron, a judge on the Kansas Court of Appeals will talk at 11:00 January 3, 2010. Judge Pierron says that this is an 'interactive talk' in which he presents legal cases which have come before the U. S. Supreme Court, asks the audience how they would vote, and then reveals the actual Supreme Court decisions

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**Wednesday Night**

Wednesday Night Dinner and Program Volunteers wish you Happy Holidays and want to remind you there is **no Wednesday night dinner this week**, December 29. Please join us Wednesday night January 6, 2010 for dinner, events, and classes.

**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 PM-** Doors will open as we gather for refreshments and caroling in Founders Hall.

**7:00 PM-** Christmas Eve service. Children are welcome to attend all or part of the service.

*Child care will be available*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS**

### **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 ministers' discretionary funds. The board approved our proposal to 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.

### **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!!

### **Thank YOU!**

On Thursday, the UFL learned that 97 families who had been expecting to receive help through Penn House and the Ballard Center had not yet been "adopted" for Christmas. We shared this message with you, and you helped enormously, with: several bags of gift items, \$130 in gift cards and scrip, and \$160 in cash. On Friday, we learned that all of the families had [miraculously?] been adopted overnight but that ECKAN and the WTCS still needed assistance. We were able to share the generosity of our members with those worthy organizations. Thank you, everyone!

Not only that, but our choir also quietly adopted a family. Thank you, choir members!

And thanks to everyone who attended the party Saturday night, when we took advantage of the occasion also to say, "Thank you and bon voyage!" to Graham Kreicker, who will be leaving soon to spend a sabbatical year teaching English in Asuncion, Paraguay.

Happy Holidays, everyone!

~~Betty Baron, chair



## **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**

Our next LINK service date is **January 9, 2010**. Sign-up sheets are on the counter at the Fellowship; we need meat and vegetarian casseroles to serve about 14 and many hands to help serve and clean up. Our LINK Coordinator, Ellen Sward, will be out of town on that date; *we are grateful that Susan Harper has agreed to do the coordinating*, ensuring that we have enough food and help, and making sure things run smoothly at the LINK facility. If you are willing and able, please get in touch with Ellen or Susan Harper. Thanks!!

## **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](mailto:rkgant@hotmail.com)) or Michelle Iwig-Harmon ([miwigharmon@sunflower.com](mailto:miwigharmon@sunflower.com)) with your ideas. Thanks!

## **Classes/groups 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."

**Fourth Wednesday Book Group:** Note this class is changing from the third Wed. to the fourth Wed. Susan Rickman will continue to facilitate a once a month book group beginning Jan. 27, 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.

**The Bible Is a City: A Personal View,** by John Brewer will be a four week class meeting Jan. 27, Feb. 3, 17, and 24. Like any ancient, large city, the Bible has interesting neighborhoods, some good and some bad. As our tour guides and body guards, we'll use Isaac Asimov's Guide to the Bible and the introductory chapters of the Interpreter's Bible. Discussion encouraged. No book purchase required or suggested.

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.

**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**

### **UUSC 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.

**Family Promise Host Week.** Thank you to all who helped with food, fellowship, and finances during the Family Promise Host week at First Baptist Church this week.

**Peace Vigil Every Saturday Noon to 1 pm** at the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> 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, [uflcareteam@sunflower.com](mailto:uflcareteam@sunflower.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 the newsletter for more information.

### **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 and Donna Swall. Contact the Care Team at [uflcareteam@sunflower.com](mailto:uflcareteam@sunflower.com) or call Rev. Jill Jarvis, 816-853-6530. See details at [http://www.uufl.net/comm\\_care\\_team.html](http://www.uufl.net/comm_care_team.html)

**Office Hours for Rev Jill Jarvis:** Beginning again on January 6, Rev Jill Jarvis will hold office hours on Wednesdays from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m., by appointment.

**Deadlines:** Announcements – Thursday Evening at 5:00 p.m. *Send items to [ufloffice@sunflower.com](mailto:ufloffice@sunflower.com)*  
Newsletter articles-- Monday at noon. *Send items to [ufl\\_newsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:ufl_newsletter@yahoo.com)*

### Fellowship Dates to Keep in Mind

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

785.842.3339 [www.uufl.net](http://www.uufl.net)