UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP of LAWRENCE
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

May 14, 2013

The Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence
A Welcoming Congregation

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Reminders/Notes:

Annual Meeting on Sunday!

Potluck for last Wed dinner of the season

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Sunday, May 19, 2013

9:00 a.m. Registration Begins
9:30 a.m. UFL Annual Meeting
This is a congregation-wide gathering in which we will hear a brief "State of the Fellowship" report and members may cast their votes for officers and an at-large member of the Executive Board, the proposed 2013-2014 budget, and proposed changes in the Bylaws. The meeting will begin at 9:30; you may register beginning at 9:00. Plan to arrive a bit early--and if you cannot attend, please either pick up a proxy form from the counter in the lobby or from Craig Long or Valerie Roper.

11:00 a.m. Spiritual Celebration: "Our Tradition of Principles" Rev. Jim Parrish, guest minister from the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Topeka

The evolution of our Principles can give us insight into the development of our tradition. And frankly, it involved a lot of angry people! Change, who needs it? It just messes things up! For better or worse, we belong to a messy religious tradition that changes the culture around us as we struggle with change.

Prepare for Annual Meeting

The proposed changes in the Bylaws are available at http://uufl.net/proposed-changes.htm.

The proposed 2013-2014 budget was mailed to all members this week.

The slate of officers is as follows:
Chair-elect: To be announced shortly
Treasurer: Nicole Wells
Secretary: To be announced shortly
At-large Board member: Brita Matiatos-Calnon

Sunday Morning Coffee!!

The Sunday Morning Hospitality Team has dates open for coffee and snacks. Please consider signing up if this is important to you.
June 2, no snacks and
June 9, 16 and 23, no coffee or snacks.
Contact Judy Wilson jwilson@sunflower.com or 785-887-6223
Thanks to those who have stepped up in recent weeks.
~*Sunday Morning Hospitality Team*

Annual Budget Drive Interim Report

Annual Budget Drive Chair, Elle Patton, ABD Team members, and our visiting steward volunteers are pleased to report the end of a very successful drive. Annual commitments increased from a total last year of $138,000 to a current total of $144,500 with additional pledges expected. In addition, several of our members contributed to provide $9200 as a challenge for current members to increase their pledges. Thirty-three households met that challenge! The total $153,700 represents a gratifying 73% of our annual income, more than ever. We are clearly moving steadily toward our goal of 80% of annual budget coming from pledges, and a decreased reliance on our dwindling cushion account.

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

May Community Connection: Parents as Teachers

Parents as Teachers supports parents of children birth to three as their child's first and most important teacher by providing home-based parenting education and support. The program helps parents give their young children the best start in life to prepare them to enter school ready to learn. Operated by the Lawrence school district, each locally donated $1 is matched by $1.54 in state education funds to expand the program's reach.

Members' Generous Giving Continues

Our April Community Connection was the Douglas County Aids Project, **DCAP**, and all four Sunday collections were for their benefit. They will receive our check for **$625**. Several members regularly contribute specifically to Just Food, so we are sending JustFood a check for **$225**.

JUST FOOD Gathering Sunday

24,000 pounds of food were collected by mail carriers in the annual 2013 **"Stamp Out Hunger"** drive in Douglas County. On Saturday pick-up truck after pick-up truck, brought grocery bags of food from the two post office buildings in Lawrence, to be unloaded at the JUST FOOD warehouse on East 11th Street.

Ellie Unruh, member of the Fellowship, was at the JUST FOOD warehouse along with fifteen or twenty other volunteers to unload, weigh and store the volume of food generously contributed by families and individuals in Douglas County. Ellie volunteers every Wednesday afternoon, assisting people in the newly developed "choice" program in selecting needed food items for their families.

JUST FOOD has become a major player in addressing food insecurity in Douglas County. More than just an agency to distribute food, JUST FOOD is working in collaboration with the 40 plus food pantries in serving families---children, adults, and seniors---facing nutritional challenges. For seven or eight years the Fellowship has been one of many churches and originations providing continuing support.

This Sunday is our **"Gathering Sunday."** It is a day for bringing non-perishable food and/or making cash contribution to be used by JUST FOOD in carrying out the mission of addressing food insecurity in Douglas County. Every month we receive a card or note acknowledging our contributions. We

are making a difference for children, families and seniors across Douglas County who are faced with nutritional challenges.

When convenient, members are encouraged to write checks for Just Food since they buy wholesale and their money goes further than when we buy food at retail prices. When using a check, please make it out to UFL and write Just Food on the memo line. Checks may be placed in the offering baskets or the box at the back of the room. Your gifts are appreciated.

Standing on the Side of Love T-Shirts

Now available between services on Sunday morning or check with Pennie Von Achen or Forrest Swall.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Dinner Wednesday, May 15 from 6:00-6:45 p.m.

This Wednesday, May 15 will be the last dinner in this season. It'll be a potluck, so please bring a dish: meat, vegetable, casserole, salad, dessert, whatever your specialty is to share! Clean-up help is needed.

A big Thank You to all the diligent cooks, shoppers and people helping with set-up and cleanup. Without your willingness to cook, we wouldn't have the great meals and the fellowship! Thanks again for donating your time.

Also: during the summer break we will be planning for the next cooking season: September 2013 to May 2014. We are looking for

a) new people to join a cooking team,
b) people to be guest chefs on a single date and
c) which of the "oldies" are willing to continue.
Please, think about it and contact me. More information will follow.

Thanks!! *~Silke Johanning*

Classes and Groups meet at 6:30 and 7:00 p.m.
Senior High Youth 6:30 p.m.
Choir rehearses at 7:30 p.m.
Childcare is offered from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

FROM LAST WEEK

Announcing Second Annual Leadership 101 on Friday evening, June 7, and Saturday, June 8. Fun, Food, and Fellowship-- and a bit of governance :)

Here is your chance to make connections with other UFL members and learn how our fellowship governance works. The course will help you be an effective team or committee member, serve on the Executive Board, be a member of our Program Council, and even understand the Earl Chart. Attendees will get the chance to take the Myers-Briggs Personality Type Test and then figure out how to utilize your talents and those of others to solve complex problems. Unitarian Universalist governance depends upon active involvement of the members of the congregation. Leadership 101 is open to all UFL members and friends. If you are interested in attending or have questions, please contact Rebecca Gant or the Leadership 101 Team at: uflleadership@gmail.com.

ONGOING

Art in Founders Hall

We have a new show: Cindy Oliver's "Wire and Found Objects."
Be sure and check it out when you go upstairs.

Herbs Study Group

The Kaw Valley Herbs Study Group meets monthly to learn about herbs. $2 charge to cover costs. (KVHSG is a non-profit group; no charge for students). No pets. No children under 10. For newsletter & Updates: herbstudygroup@gmail.com

UU Pagans:

The Lawrence branch of CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) meets monthly. We practice earth-based spirituality, and we plan services for UUFL to celebrate the earth holidays, including the solstices and equinoxes. For more information: LawrenceCUUPS@gmail.com

REMINDERS

Dates to Remember

Annual Meeting May 19

Deadlines

Announcements for Sunday due **Wednesday evening**.

Send items to
ufloffice@sunflower.com
Newsletter articles due **Monday at noon**.
Send items to
ufl_newsletter@yahoo.com

Minister Office Hours

Office Hours: Rev Jarvis is at UFL most Monday and Wednesday afternoons, though may leave the office for outside appointments. To verify availability, it's recommended you contact her at jjarvis1@kc.rr.com or 816-853-6530.

Community Care Team

The UFL has a group of volunteers available to assist and support members and friends of the Fellowship during times of special need. Community Care Team Leaders are Laura Wilson and Kristen Spencer. To contact the Care Team, e-mail UFLCareTeam@gmail.com. You may also contact Jill Jarvis at jjarvis1@kc.rr.com or 816-853-6530.

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