



UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP of LAWRENCE

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

January 15, 2013

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

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Sunday, January 20, 2013

9:30 Program: " The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals."

The Fellowship is committed to immigration justice reform and to policies of fairness in the treatment of undocumented members of our community. This Sunday will provide an opportunity to learn about the unique challenges children and young adults face when living in the United States without immigration documentation. Dennis Highberger and Jennifer Ananda, attorneys who are working to effectively address the challenges children and young adults face in negotiating US immigration laws and systems, will discuss what "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals" can and can't do for these individuals as well as other immigration solutions that may be available.

This will be an opportunity to learn how the Fellowship, and members can support this justice initiative. Come and be a part of the discussion.

11:00 Service: "A Revolution of Values" Rev. Jill Jarvis with worship associate Ellen Reid Gold

Even as a nation celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King as an American hero, it ignores his radical critique of the most cherished values of America. Dr. King's post-civil-rights activism was as an alienated social prophet in the struggle to end poverty. His was a cry to save the soul of the nation by radically transforming the American dream.

Americans of that era refused to hear. In today's era of worsening economic injustice, are we willing to hear the message even as we honor the messenger?

New Sunday Morning Schedule

9:30-10:30 Traditional Program **plus Religious Exploration for children** (also childcare for infants and toddlers)

10:30-11:00 Coffee and Conversation

11:00-12:00 Spiritual Celebration (**to include children and youth 9 years old and older**); younger children will be sung out after the story for all ages

11:00-12:00 Childcare for infants and toddlers

11:20-12:00: Activities Program for ages 4-8 (after the story)

Sunday Programs for 2013 at the new 9:30 time

January 20: Martin Luther King Sunday. Dennis "Boog" Highberger and Jennifer Ananda on Legal Help for Dream Act Undocumented Youth.

January 27: Carol Eades Delnevo, Shannon VanLandingham, Jordinn Nelson Long, Mid-West Leadership School: What It Meant to This Year's Attendees.

February 3: Bryan Welch, Publisher and Editor of *Mother Earth News*, "Beautiful & Abundant: Building the World We Want."

February 10: "What you always wanted to know about ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder)" will be presented by Rhonda Stubbs, case manager at Bert Nash Mental Health Center, and her son.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annotated Bibliography from CASA

...as mentioned at last Sunday's Program by Director Diana Frederick is found on page 8.

Chamber Music Series—Last Sunday's Performance

The Lawrence Chamber Orchestra Baroque Ensemble was one of the best concerts of the series--ever--and was enjoyed by over 100 delighted listeners. I was entranced and failed to get an audience count, but you get an idea of the crowd by an estimated count of 20 empty seats!

The success of this concert is due to the faithful efforts of Jake and Masha Kipp, Nancy Jorn (responsible for the great coverage of the LJW and KPR's interview and live performance broadcast ahead of the concert), Jennifer's generous preparation and printing of the 3 page program, Rebecca's ability to print additional programs for the audience who kept on coming in, and the constantly outstanding reception committee of Silke and Bruce Johanning and their sons, and Carole Boulton and Masha.

The next concert in the series is January 27: The MidAmerica Woodwind Quartet, from Emporia State University. If season ticket holders cannot attend, it would be great to give your tickets to someone who can. The impression of so many non-UFL folks at the concert was very positive.

Coffee and Tea Lovers this is for you!

As of next week we have limited help for Sunday morning coffee, etc. As I have stated, we will cease coffee service if no one signs up to help. I hate it but we have no one as dedicated as our Coffee Ladies from the last years. It is a long morning, but once a semester or even once a year really isn't too much to ask. Please help hospitality or there will be a dark kitchen on Sundays.

It's Talent Show Time x 2!

Our Annual Talent Show Extravaganza is scheduled for Saturday evening, February 23! We're looking for all kinds of talent – musical, readings, acting, dance, magic, you name it! Because of time constraints, the number of entrants will be limited and the 'act' should be limited to about 5 minutes. Please contact Susan Harper, sbharper@sbcglobal.net, 785-830-8487, for more information. (Also looking for a Mistress or Master of Ceremonies)

The Children's Talent Show--

will be held during the Program, 9:30, on Sunday, February 17! We're looking for the same kinds of talent as for the adult talent show, so think creatively! Contact Susan sbharper@sbcglobal.net or Becky Pruitt bpruitt@sunflower.com. They will be recruiting some help with this show.

Program Survey Results from 6 January 2013

Jake Kipp, Program Team Leader

The results of the Program Survey administered to attendees on 6 January are in and have been tabulated. Out of a total attendance of 70 persons on the first Sunday of our new morning schedule, 46 forms were returned from 47 persons (two people put their responses on one form). The results have given the Program Team good guidance and raised a number of issues to consider as we begin the new schedule. Some of these issues are beyond the scope of the Program Team's mandate and charter.

On the first question regarding level of interest, the largest group (21) said they attend regularly and found the programs of interest. The second largest group (17) said they attend occasionally the Program services and find some of interest. Four persons stated that they seldom attend the Program services and do not find much of interest to them. Three persons said that they had never attended a program before and were there for the first time. One person stated that he was a "1.5" coming in halfway between one and two.

The second question asked "What changes would make the Program services more effective in meeting your needs and the needs of the Fellowship's members?" 24 persons provided written responses. Several suggested having both "small group" Religious Education and continuing the Program. Some suggested creating series of programs around particular themes, including social justice, parenting, Unitarian-Universalist history and ideas. Two of these areas, social justice and parenting are being addressed by on-going series. But the comments also suggested specific directions for these program series. They included: "more family-focused programs-ADHA, life-span look at sleep problems, single parents and parenting, clutter and hoarding among us and our kids, caring for aging parents. Are youth too focused on grades?" On social action/social justice programs they proposed one program per month. There were also strong expressions for more involvement of the congregation in the program in terms of extended Questions and Answers, fewer lectures, more panels, and more experiments

with circular seating. Some suggested that the program devote more time to new members and their stories: “more programs that introduce us to new members. I want more connections.” One comment reminded the Team that program success had as much to do with form as it did content: “Any topic or theme as long as speaker is interesting, articulate and does not speak on a dull monotone.” One person suggested making sure that they stay for the coffee and conversation following the program. Several warned that other events should not be scheduled during the Program because this was insulting to the speakers who come as volunteers and suggested that such scheduling would create the impression that the program is not a vital part of the Fellowship’s life. Some worried that the earlier time might make getting volunteer speakers harder.

The third question on what program categories or events they supported contained some surprises and challenges. The most popular type of program was musical performances with 31 results. This type of program, however, involves some high costs to support the events, and the Team is investigating ways to do more performances with no or little increase in costs. The second most popular program is the Christmas Mitten Tree (28), which combines both UFL tradition and intergenerational activities. There is strong support for getting KU speakers (28) and doing Religious Odysseys (27). The next area in popularity was science topics (26). The popularity of topics followed in this order: (24) Social Action/Social Justice Topics and Issues of Conscience, (23) Local History, (21) Issues of Public Policy, (20) Parenting by the Seven UU Principles, (19) Issues Concerning Family Life and Children, (19) Harvest Festival, (19) Other Religions & Interfaith Issues, (17) Sharing Pleasures, (15) Dance Performances, (15) Ingathering of the Waters, and (13) Intergenerational Topics. The two least popular program topics came as something of a surprise: (9) Fellowship Visioning and Governance, and (7) UUA and GA Topics. This may be a matter of how programs are done in these areas or reflect a desire to reduce the number of such programs. The Program Team has seen such events as serving an important communication function in the Fellowship because such topics are a vital part of congregational life. The Team will be seeking guidance on this issue from the Program Council and the Task Force on Communications. For its part the Program Team will try to find a way of reducing the number of such programs and making those presented more interesting and engaging.

There were 18 responses to the *final question (suggestions for Programs)* and these answers provided some good guidance for the Team. One suggested focusing on our members’ life experiences and expertise as a source of quality programs. Along the same lines one person simply said “more Religious Odysseys.” Another suggested making use of quality TV programs and documentaries. A third suggested having programs where local artists could combine exhibits with talks about their art. Some suggested specific new program topics: gun control, life lessons of Star Trek, other religions, particularly Islam, and aging and the challenge of change for all age groups. Many comments addressed the concept of Adult Religious Education. One reminded us of the Fellowship’s commitment to Social Action and Social Justice Programs and suggested that this should not be lost to Adult RE. Others stated that they feel a real and compelling need for small group Adult Religious Education. Other supported Adult Religious Education but wanted it to be a once-a-month event and on Wednesday nights. Finally, one member raised the idea of small group Adult RE at the same hour as the Program and offered a very clear and explicit rationale: “I would like Adult RE/small group during this time. I want to feed my soul, not just my head.” What these comments suggest is a ***real need for continuing dialogue on the issue of small group Adult Religious Education among the congregation.*** There is a clear need for experimentation in this area. The Program has a role in this experimentation and discussion. We would like to invite those proposing such a small group Adult Religious Education program to share those ideas through a Program at a time and in a fashion selected by them.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

We invite you to join us each Wednesday night for dinner, classes and groups. Being part of this small group opportunity is a great way to cultivate a deeper connection to the people you enjoy seeing on Sunday mornings! Dinner is from 6:00-6:45 p.m. for a suggested donation of \$5, free for children 10 and under. Childcare is provided from 6:30-8:30. Sign-up sheets for classes and groups are available on the counter in the Social Hall, or e-mail Michelle Iwig-Harmon at miwigharmon@sunflower.com. Getting you signed up helps us plan ahead, but even if you don't get the chance, feel free to attend. Watch future newsletters for more groups and classes as they start throughout the semester.

Dinner from 6:00-6:45 p.m.

This Wed. the Newbies: Shannon, Nicole and Shane Wells, Paul and Brita Calnon, Drew and Lilly Smith, Bob and Martha Burbank are fixing "Brinner", breakfast for dinner: quiche, breakfast casseroles, french toast, sausage, fruit, etc.

Classes

Starts this week....don't miss this unique opportunity!

Reproductive Justice; UUA Congregational Study/Action Issue:

(6:45-8:30) As Unitarian Universalists, we are the inheritors of a 50-year history of reproductive rights advocacy of which we should be very proud. We also share a strong commitment to racial and social justice that is fundamental to our theology and modern identity. At the convergence of these interests, UUs are called to answer the chilling political debate on reproductive rights with calls for reproductive justice and respect for the fullness of every person's reproductive and sexual life. The election of the 2012-2016 Congregational Study/Action Issue, "Reproductive Justice: Expanding our Social Justice Calling," is a milestone opportunity for UUs to live this call. Carol Eades Delnevo will facilitate this class utilizing curriculum written to help prepare UUs to take on this call to action. Class will meet in the basement for six weeks, January 16 through February 20.

Bible Study Group:

(4:50-6:00 in the Sanctuary) Facilitated by Ellen Reid Gold, this monthly group welcomes everyone, whether you've had to time to read the selection or not. The first selection of the new year is Exodus, in the King James, New Revised, American Standard or whatever translation you prefer. Ellen will say a few words about the stories, and discussion will follow. Exodus has some of the best-known stories: Moses in the bulrushes, crossing the red sea, the ten commandments, etc. Class meets every 3rd Wed. starting January 16.

Our Whole Lives for Middle School: (6:30-8:00) OWL for pre-registered Middle School students (7th-8th) will meet in the Alcott Room.

Youth: (6:30-8:00) Senior High Youth (9th-12th) meets in the Wollstonecraft Room.

Contact Lily Wright Smith at cubanlilly@gmail.com or Drew Smith at drewsmith84@gmail.com for more information.

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

January Agency-of-the-Month: The Peggy Bowman Second Chance Fund

This agency helps women with no other financial option to pay a portion of the cost of pregnancy termination. Although there is freedom of choice for women with means to pay, there is no choice for women without the upfront cash required to pay for the procedure. Volunteers administer the fund so 100% of donations go to women in need.

Just Food

It is never too late to help our area food bank. Needs are great and ongoing. Checks made out to UFL with Just Food in the memo line may be placed in the offering baskets or the box at the back of the room. Your gifts are appreciated.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dinners For Eight

Several wonderful hosts have seats at their tables for a fun evening of food and fellowship. Check out the reservation forms in the foyer or sign up by contacting Shannon at shannyvan@gmail.com or by calling 785-856-0413.

New To UU?

A new class will be starting in February for those who want to know more about UFL and Unitarian Universalism. It will be held on Sunday mornings for 6 weeks from February 3 through March 10. Childcare will be provided. A registration sheet is on the Welcome table. All are welcome.

Art in Founders Hall--Paintings by Stephanie Freeman.

The artist speaks: "This new work is a major departure from my traditional style of brightly saturated and heavily textured oil paintings. These liberated works are the result of a process in which fire and water either make or influence marks on raw canvas. They play on themes of damage, fragility, and freedom. In a casual and haphazard way, creation arises from the destruction of material. These paintings tell a story that parallels my own personal experiences with transcendence and revival after experiencing health problems while working on this series."

Don't forget to add your comments in the guest book on the table near the east wall. We'll share them with the artist.

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

Meditation

3rd Thursday of every month - 7:00pm in the Library/Lounge downstairs.

REMINDERS

Dates to Remember

LINK Jan. 12

Newcomers Brunch Jan 20

Talent Show Feb 23

Deadlines

Announcements for Sunday due **Wednesday evening**.

Send items to

uflooffice@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 816-853-6530 or jjarvis1@kc.rr.com

Community Care Team

The UUFL has a group of volunteers available to assist and support members and friends of the Fellowship during times of special need. Community Care Coordinators are Laura Wilson and Carine Ullom. To contact the coordinators send an email to uflcareteam@sunflower.com or call Jill Jarvis at 816-853-6530. Visit the Community Care Team bulletin board in the UFL lobby (to the left of the recycling bins). Fill out a card requesting attention for yourself or another person and deposit it in the secure box, checked weekly. Or you may email Jill Jarvis at jjarvis1@kc.rr.co

Recommended Reading List – Douglas County CASA Resource Library

Three little words - a memoir – by Ashley Rhodes-Courter

Ashley Rhodes-Courter spent nine years of her life in fourteen different foster homes. As her mother spirals out of control, Ashley is left clinging to an unpredictable, dissolving relationship, all the while getting pulled deeper and deeper into the foster care system. Painful memories of being taken away from her home quickly become consumed by real-life horrors, where Ashley is juggled between caseworkers, shuffled from school to school, and forced to endure manipulative, humiliating treatment from a very abusive foster family. In this inspiring, unforgettable memoir, Ashley finds the courage to succeed – and in doing so, discovers the power of her own voice.

Hope's Boy – A memoir – by Andrew Bridge

From the moment he was born, Andrew Bridge and his mother, Hope, shared a love so deep that it felt like nothing else mattered. Trapped in desperate poverty and confronted with unthinkable tragedies, all Andrew ever wanted was to be with his mom. But as her mental health steadily declined, and with no one else left to care for him, authorities arrived and tore Andrew from his screaming mother's arms. In that moment, the life he knew came crashing down around him. He was only seven years old.

Hope was institutionalized, and Andrew was placed in what would be his devastating reality for the next eleven years – foster care. After surviving one of our country's most notorious children's facilities, Andrew was thrust into a savagely loveless foster family that refused to accept him as one of their own. Deprived of the nurturing he needed, Andrew clung to academics and the kindness of teachers. All the while, he refused to surrender the love he held for his mother in his heart. Ultimately, Andrew earned a scholarship to Wesleyan, went on to Harvard law School, and became a Fulbright Scholar.

The Language of Flowers – by Vanessa Diffenbaugh - a novel

A mesmerizing, moving, and elegantly written debut novel, *The Language of Flowers* beautifully weaves past and present, creating a vivid portrait of an unforgettable woman whose gift for flowers helps her change the lives of others even as she struggles to overcome her own troubled past. The Victorian language of flowers was used to convey romantic expressions: honeysuckle for devotion, asters for patience, and red roses for love. But for Victoria Jones, it's been more useful in communicating grief, mistrust, and solitude. After a childhood spent in the foster-care system, she is unable to get close to anybody, and her only connection to the world is through flowers and their meanings.

Now 18 and emancipated from the system, Victoria has nowhere to go and sleeps in a public park, where she plants a small garden of her own. Soon a local florist discovers her talents, and Victoria realizes she has a gift for helping others through the flowers she chooses for them. But a mysterious vendor at the flower market has her questioning what's been missing in her life, and when she's forced to confront a painful secret from her past, she must decide whether it's worth risking everything for a second chance at happiness. (also see www.camellianetwork.org)

Winter's Bone by Daniel Woodrell Read Across Lawrence 2012

Ree Dolly's father has skipped bail on charges that he ran a crystal meth lab and the Dolly's will lose their house if he doesn't show up for his next court date. With two young brothers depending on her, 16-year-old Ree knows she has to bring her father back, dead or alive. Living in the harsh poverty of the Ozarks, Ree learns quickly that asking questions of the rough Dolly clan can be a fatal mistake. But, as an unsettling revelation lurks, Ree discovers unforeseen depths in herself and in a family network that protects its own at any cost.