



UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP of LAWRENCE

# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

March 5, 2013

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

1263 North 1100 Road  
Lawrence, Kansas 66047  
785.842.3339  
www.uufl.net

## **Reminders/Notes:**

**Please help with LINK  
March 9 (p. 2)**

### **Inside:**

Holcombe Award	p.2
A Thank You	p.2
Life Long Learning Task	
Force Results & Report	p.3
Open Discussion: Hiring	p.3
Pulpit Editorial	p.4
Auction	p.5
Wed. night	p.5
Soc.Action/Justice	p.6
ECM events	p.6
Message from Chair-elect	p.6
Ongoing and Reminders	p.8

**Sunday, March 10**

**9:30 a.m. Program: "On Some of Darwin's Hypotheses in The Origins of Species and The Responses to Them by Various Religious Denominations." Prof. Jorge Soberon, KU Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology**

This Program is in keeping with the Fellowship's tradition of celebrating Charles Darwin's birthday (February 12, 1809) and of Unitarian Universalism's Seventh Principle: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." Professor Soberon is interested in documenting and understanding large-scale spatial patterns in the biodiversity of terrestrial species. He makes extensive use of databases of specimens from scientific collections, or from observations. His topic is in keeping with the Fellowship's commitment to science and to honor Darwin, which is part of our call to honor those Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science. UFL member and Professor Chris Brown will introduce Professor Soberon.

**10:30 a.m. Artist's Reception, Founders Hall**

Bar Geyer's show features mixed media pieces inspired by nature and expressive of her spirituality. Bar received her bachelor-of-fine arts degree in design from KU. Come to the reception and meet the artist!

**11:00 a.m. Spiritual Service: "Compassion, Courage, and the Risk of Solidarity"  
Rev. Jill Jarvis with Worship Associate Lara Wilson and a multigenerational cast of players**

Have you ever risked getting in trouble because you wanted to support someone you care about who is treated unfairly? Members, friends, and newcomers of all ages are invited to join us for this special multigenerational service of drama, song, music, and wisdom, as we celebrate the risks and rewards of standing on the side of love.

**2013 Sunday Morning Schedule**

- 9:30-10:30 Traditional Program plus Religious Exploration for children (plus infant/toddler childcare)  
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)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS*****Thad Holcombe Receives Tensie Oldfather Award***

In a preview of coming attractions, during the program this past Sunday, Forrest Swall presented the prestigious "Tensie Oldfather Award for Exceptional Service to the Lawrence Community" to Rev. Thad Holcombe. He is only the third person to receive the award, including Tensie and Hilda Enoch. After more than two decades of leadership at Ecumenical Campus Ministries, Thad will retire on June 30. But his official retirement celebration will be an open house at ECM from 4:00 to 7:00 on Sunday, May 5, while KU is still in session. At that time, Forrest will make the actual presentation during the festivities. We are all invited to the event, details to follow.

***A Big THANK YOU***

To all who visited me in the hospital following my recent hip surgery. And those who came to my surprise 70th birthday party and all of you who sent all the cards. *Bob Harper*

***UUSC holiday card snafu:***

Due to a problem with the mail, UUSC did not receive the money I sent for the holiday cards. There are 3 of you out there, I think, who wrote checks for the cards, but I don't remember who you are. If you wrote a check for holiday cards, please contact me ASAP so we can sort this out. Thanks very much. *Lynne Bodle (843-8263)*

***We Serve at LINK on March 9!***

Our next date for serving at LINK is Saturday, March 9. We will need about 18 meat main dishes, each to serve 12-14 people; two high-protein vegetarian dishes (things like veggie lasagna), and one vegan dish. We could also use some homemade desserts. In addition, we need about ten people to serve the meal and about 6 for cleanup. The meal is served from 1-2 p.m. at the First Christian Church, 10<sup>th</sup> and Vermont, but food and helpers need to be there by 12:30. Please consider joining us in this worthwhile, fun, and rewarding endeavor! We especially welcome those who have not participated before. Sign-up sheets

will be available in the lobby starting on Sunday, February 17, or you can contact the Fellowship's LINK coordinator, Ellen Sward, at 842-3078 or [esward@ku.edu](mailto:esward@ku.edu).

***UFL Board Meets Monday, March 11, 6:30 pm.***

UFL members are invited to attend. The last meeting was February 11. Board Minutes are available to UFL members in the office.

***Exciting times ahead for Lifelong Learning at the Fellowship!***

The Lifelong Learning Task Force has finished its work, and wants to share with you a forward-looking vision of birth-adult learning at UFL. We have drafted a mission and vision, a statement of values, a three-year list of goals, and a position description for our new Director of Lifelong Learning. We'd love to talk with you about these documents, and about our shared vision for future learning, next month. Find us in Founders Hall at the Lifelong Learning display between services on March 10, and after dinner on Wednesday, March 6. We will also be presenting a Program on March 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:30. Questions or feedback in the meantime? *Contact Carol Eades Delnevo at [askeades@aol.com](mailto:askeades@aol.com).*

***Join us for a discussion to guide the Board on hiring policy at 7 PM, Wednesday, March 6 in Founders Hall***

The Life Long Learning Task Force will shortly present its recommendations to the Fellowship Board and to all members, looking toward the launch of a search for our .75 Director of Life Long Learning. In addition, we have the potential to hire two more staff people, depending on the outcome of the Annual Budget Drive.

One issue that has as yet not been resolved (and has occasioned much discussion) is whether or not to establish a policy excluding current UFL members from being considered for any staff position. Oral tradition claims that staff members may not be active members, but a diligent search of the UFL By-Laws and easily accessible documentation (Board Minutes and Policy and Procedure Manual) does not reveal any policy statement regarding exclusion of UFL members from consideration for staff positions OR whether, should a member be hired for a staff position, she/he would be required to resign her/his membership. Does anyone have information bearing on this issue?

Neither the UUA nor the Prairie Star District mandates any policy in this area (after all, we are Unitarian Universalists!), although both present helpful material regarding policies relating to staff appointments.

Join us as we discuss the "pros" and "cons" on both sides of this matter. We welcome your thoughts and insights. *Rebecca Gant, Fellowship Chair*

***Pulpit Editorial--Fingerprints on my life—Ellen Reid Gold***

For me the Unitarian Fellowship has always been about the people. The founders decided long ago that we were not about religion and some of them even gave social justice a dismissive wave of their hand.

But for me, it's always about the people and their imprint on my life.

This Fellowship has an old tradition which we still observe even today in which two members read the names of all the members of the Fellowship who have died.

I don't remember everyone, but when I hear the names of people I do remember, it's like a small electric jolt, a shadow of the person crossing my mind.

So here's my own list—some have departed; others are still around. It's much too short—but so is time.

Eldon—The most authentic person I've ever known.

Lynne—"We've got to go down and integrate the swimming pool."

Bill --owner of the Sunday School

Del—opened the door for me

Michelle—"Ellen, what's the point?"

Linda—Winter park: my first ski trip

Hildred—A committed feminist—but loud.

Stuart—"Show me the money."

Della -- Della, we've never pledged before.

Forrest—enlarged my vision of social justice

Cliff—urged me to spend a semester in Washington, D.C.

Alice—"I don't do garbage!"

Helen--probably kept me from destroying my teeth

Tim—needlepoint in the back

Jeff—originated the spirituality program

Jean—chronicler

Dave—to thy own self be true

Celia—the red schoolhouse

And Shelley

Graham

Mary

Rebecca

Judy

Valerie

And Jake

And Barbara

And Emily

Masha

John

Carol

And of course, Richard.

Hearing the list of past Unitarians always reminds me to stay in the moment and to appreciate, not just my loved ones, but everyone who passes through,

Who touches our lives, sometimes in unexpected ways. Who knew that I would remember this detail.

To paraphrase James Carville, "It's the people, stupid, their fingerprints on our lives."



Dust off your blue suede shoes for our annual Live & Silent Auction event! The party will be Saturday, April 27th from 5:00-8:00 pm and a blue plate dinner special will be served along with custom cocktails. Tickets will be sold every Wednesday night and Sunday morning starting Sunday the 10th. Be there or be square!

## 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.

Have you been considering a one-time or short class or group? Now's the opportune time! We have plenty of room available on Wednesday nights for the next two months. Ongoing are the Bible group (third Wed. at 4:50 p.m.) and the Craftarians (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wed.s at 7:00 p.m.)....both are open to drop-ins. For the Craftarians, just bring your project and enjoy fellowship as you work along-side others. Contact Michelle Iwig-Harmon at [miwigharmon@sunflower.com](mailto:miwigharmon@sunflower.com) with questions or to schedule a new group.

***Dinner from 6:00-6:45 p.m.******This Wednesday, March 6, we'll have a potluck!***

Everybody please bring your favorite dish to share. There are still 2-3 volunteers needed for clean-up!

***Classes for March 6***

**6:30 p.m. Senior High Youth** (Wollstonecraft Room)

**7:30 p.m. Choir** (Sanctuary)

*Childcare will be provided for children 6th grade and younger from 6:30-8:30 p.m.*

**SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS*****March Community Connections: Peace and Justice Activities***

*Our March offerings will support the peace and justice activities of the Lawrence Coalition for Peace and Justice (LCPJ) and Ecumenical Campus Ministries (ECM).*

LCPJ informs and advocates through vigils, demonstrations, and a regularly published newsletter. ECM is our campus partner at KU and supports multiple peace and justice activities, including holiday fair trade market, community service alternative breaks, eco-justice activities, and a solidarity library.

***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.

***This Week at the ECM***

**At the ECM, 1204 Oread, This Week:** Wed., Mar. 6, noon to 1 p.m. (or at 11:30, with lunch, for a donation of \$3.50) "The People of the Americas" by Rolfe Mandel, professor of anthropology at KU and geoarcheologist at Kansas Geological Survey.

Also *Wed., Feb. 20, go for a meal at 6:30. p.m.* At 7:00, "An Attempt at Spirit," with Rev. Hal LeMert, retired pastor.

***Valuing our Future:******A message from Carol Eades Delnevo, Chair Elect***

In the year 2000, the new millennium, things started to change around here. We had about 100 members, we met in Founders Hall, and had one Sunday morning Program. We were a do-it yourself Fellowship,

sharing leadership for the Sunday Program, building an RE wing with our own hands, even taking down the old Founders Hall paneling that lives on in infamy. But we needed to change. And we needed to look to the future. And of all the things we could have done then, we decided to start by hiring a Director of Religious Education. We looked to the future by investing in our children.

Fast forward to the early 2012 when we started the dialogue circles. Have you felt that WHOOSH of energy that built up to that moment and still continues? We have vitality and momentum, we're growing and changing, keeping the best of our traditions and moving forward with the new. These truly are exciting times!

And so when I look at the numbers and the fact that our commitment to the future means that we currently spend 25% of our annual budget on Religious Exploration, that means something. It also means something that we spend 23% of our annual budget maintaining and improving our beautiful building. Just look around. And 24% building community through our Membership Team, Committee on Shared Ministry, Care Team and much more. And at least \$500 per month is given directly to our Community Connection, generosity that is not even reflected in our budget numbers. That means a lot in times that are hard for so many in our wider Lawrence community.

I have had the privilege to scrutinize our current year budget in detail along with the budgets of two other congregations. They are similar in size to us and are also both in the Prairie Star District. As a parent, I have experienced our commitment to Religious Exploration for children and youth, but I hadn't realized how that translates into a budget figure. To put it in real numbers, it adds up to about \$45,000 including DRE salary, child, youth and adult programming costs, and childcare. Interestingly, our figure is 16% more than one comparison congregation and 30% more than the other. We can truly say that we have a deep commitment to lifelong learning that is reflected not only in the work of the Lifelong Learning Task Force (stay tuned for more information about that over the next few weeks) but we can also see that commitment reflected in our budget. Of course, more money does not necessarily mean better programming, but it is a very useful metric. Our commitment to the future shines through in the numbers. And then, there is the other side to the coin, so to speak. As you already know, we have had the luxury of a cushion fund to draw on over these past five years to supplement our operating income during this time of growth and change. The cushion fund will eventually be depleted as we move toward financial sustainability. We are not there yet. Our total current year budget is \$204,000. We fund 68% of that with our pledge commitments, the other portion coming from the cushion fund, a large matching gift last year, and fundraising activities like scrip sales and the auction. A financially sustainable congregation funds 80% of their operating budget with pledge commitments. We have as our goal this year to raise at least 75%, moving us closer and closer to that 80% figure. We are laying the financial groundwork for our future.

One of the most interesting findings in my budget review is that our two PSD comparison congregations are able to fund 86% and 91% of their budget from pledge commitments, with annual budgets that are significantly higher than ours for congregations that are about the same size. That's a big difference from us at 68%. Why could that be? I don't know much about these congregations other than their budgets but I suspect that they have had a tradition of professional staff for much longer than we have. And it might have something to do with our history of being a do-it-yourself fellowship. We have come from a culture where we haven't really wanted to talk about money but that is starting to change. Never-the-less, our pledging has not yet kept up with our vision of who we are and we have become too dependent on a few households who give a large percentage of our budget. This is the year that we can turn that around. Make no mistake about this: We have been moving in the right direction for several years, thanks to that WHOOSH of energy I mentioned earlier. For at least the past three years we have had very successful annual budget drives with increases of over 10% each year and an increase of 15% last year. According to our UUA consultant, these figures are impressive. This is the year to maintain that momentum, giving

as we are able, to go over the top. We're in this together, with joy, gratitude and a spirit of generosity, for our future.

## OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Craft Day**

Join us for an exciting day of crafting in Founders' Hall on Saturday, March 16th from 10am – 3pm. Spend your day scrapbooking, card making, knitting, crocheting, quilting, making jewelry, or working on any other craft you enjoy. Bring your creativity, your projects, and your supplies, and enjoy crafting, socializing, and seeing what others are creating. Look for more details in upcoming newsletters. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Brita at [brita.calnon@gmail.com](mailto:brita.calnon@gmail.com).

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:LawrenceCUUPS@gmail.com)

## REMINDERS

### **Dates to Remember**

LINK March 9  
Craft Day Mar 16  
Auction April 27

### **Deadlines**

Announcements for Sunday due **Wednesday evening**.

Send items to

[uflooffice@sunflower.com](mailto:uflooffice@sunflower.com)

Newsletter articles due

**Monday at noon**.

Send items to

[ufl\\_newsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:ufl_newsletter@yahoo.com)

end items to [ufl\\_newsletter@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:jjarvis1@kc.rr.com)

### **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](mailto:UFLCareTeam@gmail.com). You may also contact Jill Jarvis at [jjarvis1@kc.rr.com](mailto:jjarvis1@kc.rr.com) or 816-853-6530.

**Remember to “Like” the UFL Facebook page!**

<https://www.facebook.com/TheUFL>