



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lawrence
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
May 2017

Mark Your Calendars!
Upcoming Events and Important Dates Ahead*

Saturday, May 13	L.I.N.K.
Saturday, May 13	Women's Group at Barbara Schowen's 2-4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 17	Potluck Dinner and Hospitality Assessment 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 21	Artist Reception 10:30-11:00 a.m.

*See body of newsletter for more information

UPCOMING 9:30 SUNDAY TRADITIONAL PROGRAMS

- May 7** **Barbara Schowen** *"The U.S. WW1 Propaganda Machine and How we Taught the Rest of the World"*
Woodrow Wilson was reelected in 1916 with the campaign slogan "He kept us out of the War." Seven days after the April 1917 declaration of war, an officially sanctioned, incredibly sophisticated and effective propaganda machine was unleashed, the likes of which had never been seen before. In a matter of months, the United States changed into a rabidly pro-war and anti-German nation. How did that happen? These propaganda methods later served as models for others. Are there messages for today?
- May 14** **Sylvia Crawford on *the Villages***; also Presentation of ***Unsung Hero Award***
The Villages provides emotionally supportive family-style group foster homes for children and youth in need. A house parent couple lives in each of the homes and cares for the children that they accept into their home. The Villages also provides Adventure Challenge programs on over 400 acres of land to a variety of adult and youth groups from the area.
- May 21** **Graham Kreicker, "*Humanist Manifesto, Part 2*"** Graham will guide us in an open discussion comparing the 15 Humanist affirmations with our seven UU principles and their relevance today.
- May 28** ***Celebration Sunday***
"Celebration Sunday" is an uplifting morning of celebrating and recognizing teachers, students, and newer members, as well as presenting awards for special service to our congregation.

L.I.N.K.
UUCL serves at LINK Saturday, May 13th
Sign up sheet is in the lobby

LINK (Lawrence Interdenominational Nutrition Kitchen) serves hot nutritious meals in a safe and welcoming environment to families and individuals at no cost.

Every other month the UUCL provides and serves a meal for LINK. We bring 15 or more meat dishes, two vegetarian dishes and one vegan dish. Homemade desserts are also

welcome. Fifteen or so volunteers are needed to help serve and clean up. Please come join us as we put our UU principles into action to help our community. Food and volunteers need to be at LINK (basement of First Christian Church on the SE corner of 10th and Kentucky) by 12:30 PM. We serve from 1-2 PM, and clean up is usually finished by 2:45.

If you have any questions, please contact Joe Gant at 832-1030 or jomarooki@yahoo.com.



Our Soul Matters theme for May *What Does It Mean To Be A Community of Embodiment?*

"I spend most time wondering if I should be somewhere else. Instead, I'm learning to shape the words "thank you" with my first breath each morning. My last breath each night. So when the very last breath comes, at least I will know I was grateful for all the places I was so sure I was not supposed to be." - Sarah Kay, *Poet, from The Paradox*



We spend so much time in disappointment. We worry we're missing out. We long for something better. Focused on how imperfect or incomplete our current situation is, we hunger for elsewhere.

And if not embodied in disappointment, we at least try our best to live in that place called "on our way." We tell ourselves that the current situation is only temporary; we're really better than this and meant for something bigger. This current embodiment is only a stepping stone. And, of course, any good psychologist, smart life coach, or savvy talk show host will tell us that, by doing this, we're missing out on peace. Striving for that "perfect life," we miss out on

the solace of the present moment. It's a good message to pay attention to.

But religion wants to push us a bit harder. It wants us to see how we are out of touch, not only with the present moment, but also gratitude itself. The way back into real embodiment, it says, is not just through the skill of attention but also Sarah Kay's skill of "shaping the words 'thank you' with our first and last breath." And not just the skill of 'thank you,' but the skill of listening as well. Every religion worth its salt will tell you that the reason to pay attention to the present moment is so that we can better hear what life and our hearts are trying to tell us!

Embodied living is not simply about being grateful for the unnoticed gifts in front of us; it's also about noticing that every moment and every context — no matter how imperfect, messed up and incomplete — is trying to talk to us! The reason we are called to sink into and care for our bodies is not just to relieve stress; it's so that our body's voice no longer gets drowned out by all the other noise. The reason we are called to allow nature to embody us is not simply so that we can feel our interconnectedness; it's so that we can allow that interconnectedness to tell us its wisdom. The reason to stop trying so hard to change our current circumstances is not simply to "be here now;" it's so that our current circumstances will finally be able to get a word in edgewise about where it thinks we should go! And if we do this - if we shape our 'thank you's' and take listening seriously — then that elusive gift of embodiment will be ours: that sacred sense of being exactly where we are supposed to be!

May this month's work help all of us stumble back to and better embody that wonderful space!

Worship Services for May

May 7 Joining more than 500 UU congregations across the continent, we will disrupt our usual Sunday worship schedule for a **Teach-in on White Supremacy Culture**.

May 14 Our ministerial intern, **Elizabeth Ide**, will delivery her final sermon to **UUCL** as we celebrate gratitude, transitions, and the bittersweet feelings of letting go.

May 21 Our graduating high school senior, **Eli Jost**, will co-lead our traditional Bridging Ceremony celebrating youth and the transition to young adulthood

May 28 On this Memorial Day weekend, we celebrate our humanity and the generations whose spirits and stories we now embody.

#UUWhiteSupremacyTeachIn

SUN APR 30 or SUN MAY 7



Everyone has to start somewhere, and it takes a commitment to disrupt business as usual.

BlackLivesUU.com/uuwhitesupremacyteachin

UUCL joins more than 600 UU congregations in taking this action on Sunday, May 7. Watch for details in our Facebook group, and by eblast in upcoming days.

UUs around the country in this large-scale historic action.

This call to action and worship comes from a growing network of UUs--religious professionals and lay leaders from both within and outside congregations--led by UUs of color and white UUs working together.

Over the past few weeks, many have been responding to calls by UUs of color to look critically *within* our faith communities--including hiring practices, power brokers, and cultural habits--for the ways racism, sexism, and white supremacy live.

“White supremacy” is a provocative phrase, as it conjures up images of hoods and mobs. Yet in 2017, actual “white supremacists” are not required in order to uphold white supremacist culture. Building a faith full of people who understand that key distinction is essential as we work toward a more just society in difficult political times.

For more information on what spurred this call to action, head to UUWorld.org and click the article “Critics decry white supremacy in hiring practices.” It has become clear that, in order for us to be more effective at tackling the white supremacy beyond our walls, we must also identify ways in which systems of supremacy and inequality live within our faith and our lives.

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

MONTHLY COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Each week, our Sunday collection is given to a community organization that reflects our values and is chosen by our Social Action and Justice Team,

COMMUNITY CONNECTION FOR MAY 2017

Our agency of the month for may will be the Peggy Bowman Second Chance Fund whose mission is “to assist Kansas women in need of financial support to obtain abortion services.” “We are here to help Kansas woman gain control over their reproductive healthcare and to give them a second chance.”



Faith in Action: the Community Connection report

For the month of February, our congregation collected **\$1,127.55!!** for donation to Centro Hispano and the check was delivered by SAJT member **Jake Kipp**.

Note: Some UUCL members were at a recent fundraiser for Centro Hispano where they mentioned ever so gratefully their appreciation for our UUCL donation.

SAJT NEWS

SAJT Report for April and Upcoming Events

April 8 was the date for **Open House at the Islamic Center of Lawrence**. Several UUCL members attended this event which included a presentation on the articles of faith; the Qur'an; the responsibility to do charity work; fasting during Ramadan; Sharia; women's issues and human rights. We learned that 30 refugee families have been resettled in Kansas City thanks to the coordination by the Islamic community.

April 10--the Citizens Advisory Board for Fair and Impartial Policing met at City Hall. Only 4 of the Board members were present, and the meeting lasted for about 30 minutes, revealing once again that the effect of this Board is extremely limited. Public participation will be encouraged for the next meeting in June.

April 22: One UUCL member attended the **Topeka March for Science**, while others traveled to Kansas City to join thousands gathered to proclaim the importance of science in our lives, and our society.

April 29--the Peoples Climate Mobilization will convene in Washington, D.C., "marching for jobs, justice and the climate." This date is also Day 100 of the Trump administration.

Sunday, April 30, 3:30 pm at the ECM Center, 1204 Oread, a presentation will be made on **"How Does Climate Change Effect People Outside of the U.S.?"** Dr. Richard Randolph will be the speaker. He is a family physician in Lenexa, Kansas, who serves as the Chief Medical Officer for Heart to Heart International.

May Day/International Workers' Day 2017. Designated as a day for a global general strike, thousands are organizing throughout the country as unions and non-union workers (the "alt-labor" force) aim to make May 1 a day of demonstrations and strikes.

Black Lives of U.U. The Movement for Black Lives calls on the Unitarian Universalist faith — a faith willing to make the bold proclamation that each person inherently matters — to live up to that claim by working toward a future in which Black lives are truly valued in our society. We call on UUs to actively resist notions that Black lives only matter if conformed to white, middle-class norms, and to challenge assumptions of worth centered around clothing, diction, education, or other status. Our value is not conditional. Based on these tenets, UU churches are encouraged to designate **May 7 as a teach-in day**, discussing ways in which white supremacy and white privilege act as barriers to mental and physical health for all races in our society, but especially to people of color.

Acknowledgement of white privilege will be the starting point for discussions on race on May 7.

LIFELONG LEARNING

Bonnie Blosser

- **Harry Potter Social Justice Camp** needs volunteers from muggles to wizards and elves! There are many options to help out but because of my summer vacation/study leave from mid-June to mid-July we need to have most of the spots filled. I hope to open registration for UUCL members and friends by mid-May but we will only host this camp if we have the volunteer support. Our social justice focus for this camp is inequality and privilege. This is a fun community outreach event!
 - July 31st -August 4th from 1-4 pm with a congregation wide potluck and show Friday evening. Cost will be \$75 per child. Youth going into grades 9-12 are Prefects, middle youth going into grades 6-8 are Junior Prefects (their creative volunteer energy is priceless).
 - **Magical Minds:** assist with planning, problem solving and crafting
 - **Professors:** Divination, Potions, Magical Creatures, Defense of the Dark Arts and more!
 - **Elves:** Academy Elves (serve snacks to houses) and Behind the Scenes elves
 - **Heads of House, Cafeteria Elves (Friday potluck), Construction Elves (change UUCL from church to Academy) and Deconstruction Elves (no magic available, just Saturday morning clean up with no evidence of our Academy!)**

- **Storytelling Workshop!** Priscilla Howe, Lawrence's world-renowned storyteller is coming to UUCL to give us storytelling tips! This workshop is not just for Spirit Play storytellers – everyone at UUCL is invited! Priscilla will begin with a story before children will go to another area for story related activities. Adults will stay on with Priscilla to learn some finer points of storytelling. Stay tuned for the workshop date and details (most likely early June).

- **Our Faith Like a River** adult faith development class is going strong on Sunday mornings at 9:30 in our library. May's workshop themes are UU Prophets and Social Justice. (See more information farther on.)
 - **May 7th "Freedom"** - Freedom is a value integral to the Unitarian Universalist tradition. Does valuing freedom primarily mean that we uphold the right to individual stances in religious, social, or political life? Or does it call us to movements of liberation for all who are oppressed?
 - **May 14th "Idealism and Utopianism"** –This workshop introduces transcendentalism, spiritualism and utopianism and examines how these movements shaped our faith, and identify strains of idealism in Unitarian Universalism today.

- **May 21st “Evangelists”** – We may not think of ourselves as an evangelical faith but come is see how individuals and groups in our history helped our movement to grow.
- **Want to help grow our natural playground?** Email **Paul Calnon** at paul.calnon@gmail.com for the next workday or to take on an individual (or summer family) project.
- **Lifelong Learning becomes Faith Development.** We are moving toward changing my title and area from Lifelong Learning to Faith Development. The primary reasons for doing so are: consistency with UU terminology, the growth of my position into greater ministerial duties and the potential changes to the Fair Labor Standards Act. Please bear with me as I stumble through this transition of language!
- Opportunities abound in all corners of our Faith Development Programming. Please email me if you are interested in deepening your faith and understanding of Unitarian Universalism through leading or assisting in a children’s class this summer!
- **Missing Art?** I still have children’s art in my office from last year’s Art Show! I am not in my office on Sunday mornings and don’t think to return art to the rightful owners.



Adult Faith Development

***Faith Like a River* continues- It's not too late to sign up!**

In these times of political turmoil, Unitarian Universalism seems even more relevant. Your Adult Faith Development program here at UUCL hopes to give you more grounding in our faith to help you face our unfolding reality. Starting in April, we'll be offering the course *Faith Like a River*. This course explores Unitarian, Universalist, and Unitarian Universalist (UU) history—the people, ideas, and movements that have shaped our faith heritage. It invites participants to place themselves into our history and consider its legacies. What lessons do the stories of our history teach that can help us live more faithfully in the present? What lessons do they offer to be lived into the future?

Each month, we'll focus on a different topic. You may register for only one topic, several topics or all of the topics. All of the sessions will be held at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. Here's the schedule:

5/7, 5/14, 5/21-- Prophets and Social Justice

6/4, 6/11, 6/18-- Institutionalism (the U and the U and the UU)

7/2, 7/9, 7/16-- Diverse Community

8/6, 8/13, 8/20-- Unitarian Universalist Identity

You may register here: <http://uufi.net/faith-like-a-river/> or on the clipboard in the lobby.

AUCTION WRAP-UP and REPORT

We set a record with income of almost **\$21,000!!!**

Thank you to all who donated, attended, bid, and met us on the beach for an “Evening in Paradise” during our annual auction. Special thanks goes out to the fabulous Auction Team: **Brita Calnon, Sara Vancil, Janis Kivett, Amanda VanLankfelt, Rachael Gehringer, Mary Holm, Jenny Ikenberry, and Denise Perpich.**



It is always a pleasure to create this event with these amazing, talented, hard working people. The Auction takes five months of planning, and our team truly serves with joy. We also want to thank those who helped on Saturday night: **Rebecca Gant** for organizing dinner; the cooks: **Denise Perpich, Lori Herndon, Paula Monroe, Carol Boulton, Belinda Holmes, Lynne Renick, and Elle Patton**; the folks who welcomed you, registered credit cards, and sold raffle tickets **Lara Wilson, Judy Wilson, Grace Oliver, Mary Holm, and Deb Russell**; our kitchen cleanup warrior **John Brewer**; **Bob Barron** for tech help; **Paul Calnon** for helping in the bar, and our cocktail mixologist extraordinaire **Chris Gehringer.**

It was a spectacular evening. As always, our auctioneers Lester and Mark Edgecomb brought the fun.

We still have some spots left in events and parties.

Let's don't leave that money on the table. Check out the sheets in the lobby and see if you can sign up for something fun. It's a great time to bring a friend.

~Shannon VanLandingham, Auction Chair



MUSIC NOTES

May 7th will bring some outstanding music to UUCL! Our own wonderful instrumental ensemble (**John Brewer**, piano; **Chris Brown**, saxophone and **Jason Brown**, percussion) will add a guest musician: **Michael Paull** on electric guitar! They will accompany our choir for “I Need You to Survive”, a really moving composition that has become the ‘anthem’ of Black Lives of UU. You can find more information about Michael at

<http://www.michaelpaullmusic.com/>

On May 14th, we will be bidding farewell (and we really mean ‘fare well’) to UUCL intern minister, **Elizabeth Ide**. Please join us in saying a heartfelt good bye to her with “The Goodbye Song” by Jester Hairston.

I must confess that the musical selections for the remaining two Sundays in May are still a bit up in the air! Be assured, there will be music to lift your spirits or warm your hearts or help heal your soul.

The UUCL choir season is winding down for the summer as we give them a well-deserved hiatus. The choir will probably sing one or two Sundays in June before the break. During that break, we rely even more heavily on vocal and instrumental solos and ensembles. It is very possible we will have a 'pop-up' choir on any given Sunday. A summer pop-up choir will rehearse something very easy, possibly a round, immediately after the 9:30 Program and then sing it during the Worship Service. I promise: these pieces will be easy, very accessible and all ages will be welcome! Your UUCL Music Community is committed to providing a musical interlude every Sunday, as we believe music is an integral part of a worship service. If you would like to participate during the summer months (sometimes people have more time than due to their schedules) please let me know.

And, not to fear, drummers! We are working with **Dylan Bassett** to host some Drumming Circles in the coming months! You don't need to have any drumming experience to participate as Dylan is a fantastic and enthusiastic instructor who makes drumming extremely accessible and fun! Many of the participants in the earlier workshop found drumming to be a meditative and spiritual experience, as the group all comes together in rhythm. If you are interested in learning more, please contact me.

Watch UUCL Members and Friends Facebook page for information on these summer events. Our UUCL Music Community welcomes all who would like to share their talents with the UUCL Greater Community. For information, please contact:

Susan Harper, UUCL Music Director, UUCLMusicDirector@gmail.com 785-830-8487.

MEMBERSHIP STRATEGY GROUP NEWS

UUCL T-shirt and Mug Sales

How cool are these?! Thanks to **Michelle Compton**, we have new designs and logos. These will help us move toward our goal of being more visible in the community and letting people know what our mission is.



We have the shirts in kids and adult sizes. Kid's shirts come from XS-XL. Adult's come S-5XL. The shirts are \$10 for adults and \$6 for kids. The mugs are \$5 each or \$10 BOGO (Buy One Give One back to UUCL.) We need to have 100 of each to place our order, and we are about halfway there. Please place your order soon so we can get them ordered. You can pay by cash, check, or credit card on Sunday mornings or by contacting Shannon.

We want everyone to have a shirt who wants one, and we will order extras. So if your finances are tight, please email Shannon at uuclconnections@gmail.com and let us know what size you will need.

Hospitality Teams--are on the Job!

Many thanks for everyone's efforts on Hospitality! The teams that will prepare snacks and coffee,

greet us and serve as ushers in May are as follows:

May 7- Red

May 14- Orange

May 21-Yellow

May 28- Green

HOW WELCOMING IS UUCL?

Come To A Potluck Dinner And Hospitality Assessment May 17

Join us for an important conversation on May 17. We'll gather at 5:30 and eat at 6:00. After dinner, we'll assess ourselves using a tool developed for congregants to evaluate their congregation's welcoming and hospitality strategies and practices.

ART EXHIBITION IN FOUNDERS HALL

Through May 7 **E. Jay Hilty's photographs**

May 14-June 25 **New Show titled "Reconnect"**

For over a year local artists **Lisa Grossman** and **Justin Marable** teamed up to create a series of collaborative painterly prints. Many of these unique works involve layering Lisa's watercolors and acrylic painting with Justin's inventive silkscreen processes. Both artists contributed photographic imagery to the work. Grossman and Marable live and work as full time artists in Lawrence, Justin attends the UUCL with his family. Also on display is jewelry by **Bailey Marable**. These handmade sterling silver pieces are created with nature, activism, and home as inspiration. Bailey is a full-time high school art teacher and mother to three sweet girls.

There will be an artist reception on Sunday, May 21 from 10:30-11:00 a.m.

THIRD THURSDAY UUCL MEDITATION GROUP

Not Meeting In May, Resumes In June

Beginners, family and friends alike are invited to participate again on June 15 in the UUCL Meditation Group monthly session from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. This ongoing, open group has met at UUCL for over 4 years. Though largely derived from Buddhist traditions, our mindfulness meditation sessions are nonsectarian. We meet in the sanctuary, using the chairs there for sitting.

Leader **Jeff Nichols**, a mindfulness meditator since 1975, is a psychiatric physician with background in biofeedback and psychophysiology who's taught relaxation and meditation skills for many years. He will be participating in an annual meditation retreat in mid-May, will return for the June session.

UUCL sessions are offered on a voluntary donation basis; donations are shared with UUCL. If you have questions about the group or would like more information, please contact **Dale Nimz** at dale.nimz@gmail.com, or **Valerie Roper** at vgracev@sunflower.com .

UUCL WOMEN'S GROUP

The UUCL women's group had a lively discussion and plant/seed exchange on April 8 at Mary Beth Musick's home.

**The May meeting will be with Barbara Schowen, 962 E. 1338 Road,
on Saturday, May 13, from 2-4PM.**

If you still have plants or seeds to share or want some to enliven your garden, let's continue the exchange. We had some new faces last month, and would love to see some this month, too. Come along, and bring a friend with you. Bring a snack to share if you wish, but mostly just come ready to continue the conversations. Contact **Lynne Bodle**, 843-8263, for more information or for a ride or **Barbara Schowen** bschowen@sunflower.com 842-4371 for directions. See you in the merry month of May!

To contact the NewsTeam, please email uflcommunications@gmail.com

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lawrence
A Welcoming Congregation
1263 N. 1100 Rd.
Lawrence, KS 66047
785-842-3999**

Helping Hands Team

uflhelpinghands@gmail.com

or call UFL office, 842-3339

This team provides short-term practical assistance, e.g., meals, respite, rides.

Transportation Line

785-842-7529 (to UFL events or medical appointments)

Pastoral Care Associates: Rev. Jill Jarvis at 816-853-6530 jjarvis1@kc.rr.com or

Deb Russell at email Deb@Ks-Russells.com

This team provides confidential listening for those experiencing bereavement, illness, unemployment, life transitions, aging, loneliness, etc.

Minister Office Hours

Rev. Jill Jarvis' hours tend to be variable. It is best to contact her for an appointment 816/853-6530 or <mailto:jjarvis1@kc.rr.com>

Director of Lifelong Learning

Bonnie Blosser works at her UFL office and from home

Sunday through Wednesday Contact her at ufl.dll@gmail.com or call 785-318-6030 for an appointment.

Administrative Office Hours:

Administrative office hours are typically

Monday 1-5 p.m.

Tuesday 8:30-4:30 p.m.

Thursday 8:30-4:30 p.m.

Friday 1-5 p.m.

Please be sure to call first, [785-842-3339](tel:785-842-3339), if coming out during the week as doors are kept locked.