

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lawrence
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
August 2016

Mark Your Calendars!
Upcoming Events and Important Dates this Month

Saturday, August 6--Memorial Service for Donna Swall—2:00 p.m. at UUCL

Wednesday, August 31--Blessing of the Bookbags, 6:00 p.m.

Join us for a multigenerational gathering in which we bless one another and the community! You are invited to bring your own book bag, laptop, notebook, or any other item that represents your "work" in the world, as well as some school supplies to donate. Together we'll create a ritual of blessing for ourselves and for children in our community for the new school year.

The most needed items are backpacks, folders, highlighters, and binders, although any (new) school supplies will be welcome. The school supplies will be given to an elementary school with a high level of need.

After the ritual of blessing, we'll enjoy our first Wednesday night meal of the year. It will be a potluck.

UPCOMING 9:30 SUNDAY TRADITIONAL PROGRAMS

August 7 Diana Carlin: The Great and Not So Great of Presidential Debates

August 14 Curtis Marsh: The DeBruce Center: Lawrence's New Home for Naismith's Original Rules of Basketball

August 21 Two one-act mini-plays; "Oh Hell" and "Grim Reaper," introduced by playwright, Dean Bevan

August 28 Graham Kreicker: Humanism 101, New Molecular Evidence for the Perfectibility of Humankind (film)

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

Community Connection for August: Equality Kansas

Equality Kansas (formerly the Kansas Equality Coalition) is our agency of the month for August.

The missions of Equality Kansas are to end discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity/expression, to ensure the dignity, safety and equality of all Kansans, and to make schools fair and safe. They have been very effective in combating the hostile atmosphere in Topeka and advocating for positive change.

SAJT REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

An SAJT member traveled to Kansas City Friday night, July 8, to participate in a walk, starting at Zion AME Church, 2828 Prospect Ave. The walk proceeded peacefully, with about 100 people attending including all ages, with black folks and whites participating. The aim was to highlight the value of Black lives within the U.S. and to confront the dehumanization of people of color.

A vigil was organized for South Park on Sunday, July 10, and several Social Justice members came to participate, bringing and displaying the Black Lives Matter banner and the Standing on the Side of Love banner. All speakers were Black folks who described feelings of despair, anger, hope and fatigue with all the violence in our country recently. White folks were asked to surround the Blacks protectively, and also were asked to escort our Black neighbors to their cars safely, after the vigil.

Two SAJT members attended a meeting of the Coalition for Homeless Concerns at the Lawrence Community Shelter on Tuesday, July 12. The meeting included discussion on officer discretion in making arrests; questioned if there is a fine for being jailed; questioned if camping is illegal, and a letter will be drafted to the Chief of Police asking him to clarify these questions. Another concern was the proposed jail expansion and the crisis center, the latter designed to be an alternative to incarceration, by assessing persons with mental health crises when police are called.

The Lawrence Journal World says that July 18 will be the date to begin to cast votes for August 2 primary election.

The Movement for Black Lives:

On July 21 at 6pm, about 75 people gathered at Hobbs Park and were offered bottles of water and given direction on the route of the march, which led from the park down to New Hampshire and back to Massachusetts, south on Mass., turning at 11th and Mass. and gathering again at the police station. One UUCL member attended, wearing Standing on the Side of Love t-shirt. Marchers were heard saying, "Hey, hey, ho, ho, police brutality got to go" and "What do we want? Justice! When do we want it? Now!" and "No justice; no peace; no racist police!" Assembled at the police station, speakers talked about their personal experiences and marchers were given colored chalk to write the names of deceased Black folks on the sidewalks. A few police officers were observing, on bicycles.

UPCOMING

August 9, meeting of the Coalition for Homeless Concerns at the Library, 3:30pm.

~Barbara Johnston, SAJTeam Leader bwjohnston3579@gmail.com 816-812-6725

UUCL Friday Folders, Join the group!

We have an **exciting** opportunity for a couple of lucky UUCL members/friends! We are looking for someone to fill a slot or two on our 'Friday Folders' group. Volunteers come in one Friday per month, usually about 3 p.m. and cut/fold our Sunday morning Order of Service and Bulletin. Please contact Jennifer at uflooffice@sunflower.com or call the office at 842-3339 if you might be available. We currently have openings on the 4th and 5th Friday of the month. Thanks for considering!

PARTY ON!

We have some openings in several of the events that were generously donated during the auction. Please visit <http://uufi.net/giving/> to read more about these events and sign up. Pay for your event by putting a check in the box in the sanctuary. Write "Auction" on the memo. Help us make a little more money for UUCL and have fun in the process!

Here are the parties available for the rest of 2016:

Lowcountry Dinner—August 27, 6:00pm, Donated by Shannon VanLandingham and Rebecca Gant, \$50.
2 SPOTS OPEN.

Sundaes on a Sunday—August 28, 1:00 p.m., Donated by Brian and Sara Vancil, \$10.
6 SPOTS OPEN.

It's In The Cards -- September 9, 2016, 6:30PM, Donated by Eleanor Patton with Martha Burkhart, \$20.
22 SPOTS OPEN.

Oktoberfest -- September 30, 2016, 6:30PM, Donated by Shannon VanLandingham and Rebecca Gant, \$45.
3 SPOTS OPEN.

S'mores etc. -- October 14, 2016, 7:00PM, Donated by Carol Eades Delnevo, \$10.
13 SPOTS OPEN.

Beer Tasting with Food Pairings -- November 4, 2016, 6:30PM, Donated by Shannon VanLandingham and Rebecca Gant, \$20.
15 SPOTS OPEN.

LIFELONG LEARNING

Lifelong Learning Calendar items and News

Time flies – especially vacations and study/leave! Thank you for supporting this precious time for me to breathe, reflect, learn & explore with focus. Preparations for our final summer events and fall programming are well underway. *Please open your calendars and note the following:*

- **Fall Teacher workshop – August 20th** from 9-noon for all children's and middle youth teachers, Spirit Play storytellers and greeters. If you are interested in joining an awesome group of folks in RE, this workshop is a great place to begin.
- **Splash Day – Sunday August 21st** our annual water-filled good bye to summer for UUCL children.
- **Wednesday evening start-up – August 31st** at 6 pm. Salad Potluck! Main event: "Blessing of the Bookbags" *for all ages!*

- **Fall Roll-out – Sunday Sept 11th** – families are invited to share breakfast, hear about this years curricula, check out our RE rooms and get registration taken care of.
- **First day of fall curriculum – Sunday Sept 18th**
- **Our Whole Lives – Grades 7 & 8.** Our middle youth OWL facilitators are meeting this week to create a schedule. Details will be sent in email and posted on UUCL's OWL webpage.

As you may already know UUCL hosted an OWL facilitator's workshop in June. We had nearly 30 people here from Colorado to Georgia and Texas to Omaha. I wanted to share a few of the comments from the workshop evaluation because so many of you were involved in its success. Everyone loves good food and not surprisingly our highest compliments went to the chef's and kitchen supporters (a team of OWL facilitators lead by Shannon VanLandingham) that provided snacks and 'well organized' meals from Friday dinner to Sunday lunch. 'Delicious, healthy foods that accommodated a variety of dietary considerations was graciously served with love. Hosts provided everything we needed. Great environment, beautiful church and beautiful people. Everyone was kind and eager to make us comfortable as possible. Homestay host bent over backwards to take care of us. Hospitality of church was great'. Many folks returned home with a warm place in their hearts for UUCL. Thank you.

I have been connecting more and more with Kansas DRE's and am excited to tell you that after visiting our Spirit Play classroom and observing a class, UU Fellowship of Topeka is launching Spirit Play for their Sunday programming. Jean Ryan, DRE at UUFT asked me to join forces to host a national Spirit Play Training workshop in August. Folks at UU's MidAmerica office are sharing our collaboration efforts in an upcoming article.

Last year I was excited about launching Spirit Play, but this year I am charged up by what we will be able to accomplish and offer this year in every area of lifelong Learning.

Ashley Strand will continue as Children's Team Leader and will be very busy this month! I will be collaborating with her as she heads up this year's fall Teacher Workshop. Twice a year we bring all RE volunteers together to connect with each other, review the nuts & bolts of RE and to promote the connection of the work we do each Sunday to the larger work of spreading of compassion, justice and hope for our families, our congregation, our world and our future. Ashley will be attending the Spirit Play training in Topeka where no doubt that after a year of leading and storytelling, she will come away with several ideas to tweak, revamp or create. Last year our Spirit Play curriculum was drawn from the 6 Sources of Unitarian Universalism. This year our Spirit Play curriculum will focus on learning and living out our 7 Principles, while threading and connecting these stories to UUCL's monthly themes.

Michelle Iwig-Harmon is passionate about growing our Middle Youth demographic. She will be leading a team of curriculum 'leaders' and they already have some creative ideas that may just change the way our middle youth learn and live out the values of Unitarian Universalism.

Paul Calnon, Graham Kreicker and 5 of our youth spent a very hot week in New Orleans at The Center For Ethical Living and Social Justice Renewal in early July. Three of these youth graduated this year and the lessons they took away from this social justice service experience will go with them to be spread through the people they meet in Oklahoma, London England and Nebraska. Eli Jost and Jillian Schwartz will participate in a service for us at UUCL on Sept 18th. Every one of us at UUCL has contributed to what they gained from their New Orleans experience and have brought back to UUCL and Lawrence. Paul Calnon is staying on as Youth Leader but he and I are looking for someone that shares a commitment to growing a just and peaceful future through our youth.

Rebecca Gant is donning a second lifelong learning hat and taking on adult programming at UUCL. For the first time in over 2 years I will be collaborating with an Adult Team Leader! Already Jill, Rebecca and I have been reading, meeting and planning. We are looking forward to taking our Adult Enrichment classes to new levels this year! Jill and I made a connection at the spring UU MidAmerica conference and are hoping to sponsor either a cluster workshop or national religious education credentialing Renaissance Module on Adult Faith Formation.

Our Children's Art Show this May & June showcased many of our talented and budding artists. I have a large pile of 'priceless' art pieces in my office. *Please stop by my office Sunday to pick up your child's work.*

Opportunities to get involved in Lifelong Learning:

- Splash Day (Sunday Aug 21st) coordinator: Main focus – set up, recruit monitors, take down. We have notes from previous years. This is a good event to dip your toes into volunteering in RE!
- OWL – Team leader: Main focus - to coordinate registration/payment this fall, make copies/gather supplies for facilitators. Rebecca can help you get started!
- Youth Leader – Main focus – assist Paul and participate in youth meetings twice a month.
- Spirit Play Greeters – Main focus – welcome children to Spirit Play, provide a calm presence and assist storyteller with children as needed.
- Bulletin Board creator – Main focus – create awesome and artistic learning and sharing bulletin boards in the RE wing.

The heat index continues to top 100 degrees but fall Lifelong Learning preparations are well underway.



MUSIC NOTES

Oh my good good goodness! The UU Musicians' Network (UUMN) conference in Madison, WI, was absolutely GRAND! The First Unitarian Society facilities are beautiful. The 'legacy' building, which is still used, was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. The larger and newer building is designed to complement the original building and is a welcoming and functional space.

Marcia McFee, internationally recognized expert in worship planning, was featured at two plenary sessions that were outstanding. She also worked with a worship team of UUMN members in crafting four beautiful, moving and inspiring worship services presented on the four mornings of the conference. On Sunday, the conference choir participated in the 9:00 and 11:00 worship services which meant we attended two identical services and we were enthralled both times! Ministers and worship associates were invited to join the musicians at the conference this year because of the emphasis on worship planning. We are very fortunate that UUCL worship associate Rebecca Gant joined me in Madison. We both really enjoyed learning more about planning dynamic and meaningful worship services. Stay tuned for more information this fall...actually, just plan on coming to worship services as we plan to share some of what we learned!

The conference choir was directed by Dr. Adam Con, a third generation Chinese-Canadian, who is an outstanding director and teacher of Tai Chi Chuan. The entire choir learned six Qigong breathing techniques and accompanying movements, which were incorporated in an original choral work. I never dreamed I would be singing in Chinese while doing Tai Chi! I believe it was the most peaceful music I have ever participated in! He shared many wonderful directing techniques – I think he was one of the best choral clinicians I've seen at the conferences I have attended.

The UU Children's Choir was in Madison the same time we were. Forty-eight enthusiastic young singers between the ages of 9 and 12 from all over the U.S. and Canada presented a concert Saturday night and were featured in the Sunday services. The two choirs joined in a moving (figuratively and literally!) benediction on Sunday. Other highlights included several choral-reading sessions during which I identified some new pieces for us as well as other workshops. It was also wonderful to see friends I've made at past conferences and make new ones. The opportunities to network are wonderful with such a warm and supportive group of musicians.

Thank you so much for your support of the Music Program at UUCL by funding my attendance at this conference.

I also want to thank the wonderful musicians at UUCL for their willingness to share their talents throughout the year! Please remember to express your appreciation to the soloists, members of the ensembles and our pianists! It really means a lot to them.

Our music program is a wonderful way to get involved at UUCL. I encourage anyone who likes to sing or who plays an instrument to contact me and learn how to get involved. Don't worry – you won't be pressured to participate more than you wish!

~Susan Harper, Music Director, sbharper@sbcglobal.net 785-830-8487.

NEW TO UU ORIENTATION COMING SOON!

The New to UU Class is a great way to meet other newcomers and learn a bit more about what goes on at UUCL. It will be held from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings for 6 weeks this fall. The dates are September 11-October 16. Childcare will be provided in the nursery and older children may join their RE classes. Look for a signup sheet on the Welcome table, online through the website <http://uufi.net/new-to-uu-orientation/>, or ask a friendly Greeter about the class. We hope to see you there.

Session topics include:

- Theology and Worship – What it looks like at UFL, Evolution of UU
- Where Do We Come From? – UU Roots
- How We Grow in Faith – Philosophy of Religious Education
- Social Justice Philosophy and Practice
- How Are Decisions Made? Governance and Polity
- Membership

Any questions? contact our Membership Coordinator, Shannon at shannyvan@gmail.com, Tom Geyer at geyertom76@gmail.com or Mary Holm at msholm1@gmail.com

UUCL WOMEN'S GROUP

The UUCL women's group will meet the SECOND Saturday, August 13 from 2-4 pm.
Location TBD.

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

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