

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lawrence**  
**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**  
**September 2016**

**Mark Your Calendars!**  
**Upcoming Events and Important Dates this Month**

<b>Saturday, September 10</b>	<b>LINK</b> (see below)
<b>Saturday, September 10</b>	<b>Women's Group</b> (see below)
<b>Sunday, September 18</b>	<b>Artist Reception</b> between 10:30 and 11:00 a.m.
<b>Tuesday, September 20</b>	<b>Ken Burns film</b> "Defying the Nazis"
<b>Wednesday, September 21</b>	<b>Potluck and Panel Discussion</b> of the film

**UPCOMING 9:30 SUNDAY TRADITIONAL PROGRAMS**

<b>Sept 4 Labor Day</b>	Jennifer Dropkin	<i>"Status of the Workplace During this Age of Corporatocracy."</i>
<b>September 11</b>	Mike Hoeflich	<i>"Assault on the Kansas Judiciary."</i>
<b>September 18</b>	Charles R. Epp	<i>"Pulled Over"</i>
<b>September 25</b>	Eric Anderson	<i>"History of Haskell Indian Nations University (and Predecessors)"</i>
<b>October 2</b>	Jake Kipp	<i>"Humanism from Erasmus to Karl Marx and Intermediate Points."</i>

**NEW ART EXHIBITION IN FOUNDERS HALL**

From September 4 through October 30, we will be featuring the work of Maria Martin. On Sunday, September 18, between 10:30 and 11:00 a.m. we will be able to meet the artist at a reception in Founders Hall.

**UUCL SERVES AT LINK SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th**

**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 UFL 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](mailto:jomarooki@yahoo.com).

## **7th-8th GRADE OUR WHOLE LIVES COMING THIS FALL!**

Beginning September 7 at 6:30 with a mandatory parent meeting, we will be hosting our comprehensive human sexuality class mostly on Wednesday nights at 6:30, with two weekend retreats and one optional Sunday session so that we can finish before Spring Break. The 7th and 8th grade level of Our Whole Lives (OWL) is the most extensive, with 26 sessions.

Brian Vancil and Jeannie Harper will be the primary facilitators this year, with the rest of the team providing backup if they cannot attend.

The cost for the entire session is \$80 for members and \$100 for non-members. Scholarships are available-- contact Rebecca Gant at [rkgant@hotmail.com](mailto:rkgant@hotmail.com) to talk about a scholarship. Payment will be due at the first session with the kids which is September 14.

If parents are unable to attend that night, they will need to make a date with either Bonnie Blosser or Rebecca Gant to review the materials before their child can enroll. (Note: there is nothing else scheduled at UUCL that night, so the 7th and 8th graders do not need to come. If you need childcare for younger children, please indicate that on the registration form)

If you would like more information about the OWL program, please follow the link below or contact Rebecca Gant or Bonnie Blosser.

<http://www.uua.org/re/owl>

And here is the link to register: <http://uufi.net/our-whole-lives-owl/>

### **FROM OUR MINISTER**

#### **What Does It Mean to Be a Community Where Soul Matters?**

**Rev. Jill Jarvis**

Starting in September, members, friends, and newcomers to UUCL will have a joyful opportunity to explore what it does mean to be a community where "Soul Matters." That's the name of a Unitarian Universalist program of theme-based ministry, currently used by nearly 200 UU congregations across the country. As we share resources and experiences among our communities, we greatly enhance our respective congregational lives and our potential for growth of all kinds. At least three of our other Kansas UU congregations will also be participating in Soul Matters creating more opportunities to connect and collaborate.

Soul Matters is a companion program to a congregation's communal worship experience. We'll use monthly worship themes, each of which explores one spiritual value in different ways. Throughout the month, there will be ways to further experience -- not just talk about, but experience -- that theme in various multigenerational areas of congregational life. We'll use stories and questions for individual and family exploration, leading us away from abstraction and intellectualizing, challenging us to think about how the theme applies to our daily living.

How does it actually work? We've convened a Souls Matters working group, comprised of leaders of areas of UUCL interested in participating (with the possibility for others to join later.) We share the monthly resources among us, collaborating on how to best explore the worship theme both respectively and collectively. In September, we'll begin to use Soul Matters to explore the monthly worship theme in Spirit Play (Children's Religious Exploration), Adult Faith Formation classes, and several small groups (some multigenerational) that our ministerial intern, Elizabeth Ide, will be convening. More detailed information is coming soon!

One of my favorite aspects of Soul Matters is that it provides a reminder that Unitarian Universalist is distinctive, not an "anything goes" religion. Each theme focuses on a spiritual value that our faith tradition has historically emphasized (with evolving levels of awareness), promoting a preferred way to be in the world and in relationship. So each monthly theme is framed by the question, "What does it mean to be a community of \_\_\_\_\_?" Beginning in September, and changing monthly, the final word in that question will be: Covenant, Healing, Story, Presence, Prophecy, Identity, Risk, Transformation, Embodiment, and Zest.

This feels to me like a year filled with the promise of transformation on many levels. I'm so excited to be back with you, and eager to get started!

## **REPORT FROM OUR CO-CHAIRS**

Hello from the Co-Chairs and welcome back to UUCL! Things always slow down a little over the summer, with many familiar faces missing, and some activities on hiatus, but we're glad to have everyone back and ready to get back in full swing soon. Here's a recap of what happened at the July and August Board meetings:

The issue was raised that some congregations have policies regarding non-board members speaking at or participating in board meetings. After discussion, it was determined that our policy will be that, any member who has an item they wish to see on the agenda will need to contact a Board member ahead of time so that time can be allotted for that item, or if they wish to speak for any length of time on any particular issue (that's already on the agenda). Also, we will set aside a specific time at the end of each meeting for other "public comments," if non-Board members are present who wish to be heard.

A task force is addressing the process of changing our name from Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence to Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lawrence, as was approved some weeks ago by congregational vote.

Shannon VanLandingham agreed to be Membership Coordinator and has already been working on ways to grow our congregation, both by reaching outside our walls, and by making positive connections with those who come to check us out.

The Experimental Schedules for Sunday Mornings that were the topic of much discussion in the spring were put on hold after concerns were raised about the timing of such changes over the summer, as well as other issues. That topic is again being discussed and new information will be shared as it becomes available.

Some interest has been expressed in the Freethinker Friendly Program in which some UU congregations participate. It is Humanist-based and may have a broad appeal to members and others in the community. More research will be done on this program.

Help Wanted: 1) Graham Kreicker is stepping down as the leader for the Chalice Lighters Grants at UUCL—anyone interested in taking on that job, or learning more about what the Chalice Lighters Grants are, should talk to Graham.

Following the I-70 Choir Concert in April, our music director was approached by a visitor who wished to make a monetary donation to our music department. The policy of not accepting monetary donations earmarked for certain uses was set aside by the Board in this case and the donation accepted. It was felt that the intention of that policy was to keep pledges and other regularly received money from being funneled into areas that may not have as much need for the money as others that may be overlooked, and that the policy should not be cited as a reason to turn away money from outside donors. More research into the origin of the policy will be done to insure we are following intended guidelines.

Those are the issues that were addressed at the meetings.

Other matters of interest: Help Wanted part 2 is that the Finance Committee is in need of at least two more members. This commitment requires attendance at one meeting per month, the first Saturday of each month, for 90 minutes to two hours. Accounting or financial background/experience will gain you respect, but is not a requirement. If interested, contact either of us or Susan Harper, chair of the Finance Committee.

The Board meetings for the rest of 2016 are Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14 & Dec. 12, always at 7:00 p.m., and generally held in the sanctuary.

Martha and Bob Burbank

**OPPORTUNITY FOR SMALL GROUP SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT COMING SOON!  
COME TO WORSHIP ON SEPTEMBER 4 TO LEARN MORE!**

After a year piloting the program, Lawrence and Topeka UUs will be again working together to bring the Wellspring experience to our two congregations. Wellspring is a 10-month program which seeks to deepen the spiritual lives of those who participate. Wellspring has five elements designed to balance a knowledge of Unitarian Universalist history and theology

with personal spiritual practice and engagement with the world. The five elements are:

- A commitment to daily spiritual practice
- Participation in a small-group community
- Individual work with a spiritual director
- Readings and resources for knowledge and reflection
- Reflection and commitment to live out our values in the world

Six members of UUCL and five members of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Topeka participated last year. The participants shared that their lives were greatly enriched by the experience of making deep connections with other UUs, learning UU history and theology, laughing and crying together. This year, we hope to open it to five people from each congregation. We will alternate gathering in Topeka and in Lawrence. Sessions are two hours long and will be on Wednesday evenings approximately every two weeks on the Wednesdays we don't have dinner and other adult activities at UUCL.

Interested in learning more? Have questions? Check out this website <http://uuwellspring.org> or contact Rebecca Gant at [rkgant@hotmail.com](mailto:rkgant@hotmail.com) or Rev. Jill Jarvis at [jjarvis1@kc.rr.com](mailto:jjarvis1@kc.rr.com)

## **MEMBERSHIP STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP NEWS**

Your Executive Board has identified Growth as one of its primary areas of focus for this year. Congregational growth is about many things—not just numbers. Four ways that congregations grow are:

- numerical—the number of people attending worship and programming, or number of members
- maturational—the spiritual maturity of each member
- organic—a congregation's ability to maintain its health and engage the world
- incarnational—making real and living our values in the world

Each of these areas relates to the others: as our congregation grows in health, maturity, and outward-focused values, we support our growth in numbers.

Membership plays a large role in growth, so the Board appointed me, as Chair-Elect, to the role of Membership Coordinator. My job this year is to focus on membership issues, set goals, plan and implement new initiatives, and recruit a Membership Team to put these initiatives in place when we have clearly identified what they are.

We assembled the Strategic Planning Group, and tried to include the stakeholders who have been active in membership issues related to our Four Identified Areas, which were suggested in part by the congregational conversation in May.

The Four areas are:

- Welcoming/Greeting
- Outreach/Increased visibility
- Growth strategy
- Tracking and analysis of data.

The members of the Membership Strategic Planning Group are Rev. Jill Jarvis, Jennifer Donnelly, our office manager, Valerie Roper, long time Membership Team member, Bonnie Blosser, our Director of Lifelong Learning, Rebecca Gant, Greeter Coordinator, Brita Calnon, our Youth Group advisor, and Shannon VanLandingham, former Membership Team Chair. We have had a couple of meetings and set some short and long term goals, and have some ideas for how to achieve them. This group will function in the strategic planning mode until we have a clear picture of what we want to do, and can recruit a Membership Team.

Look for new ideas and new ways of doing things as we work to achieve our goals. Some of the things you might see are better signage, more opportunities for small groups through Soul Matters and Wellspring, t-shirts, coffee cups and banners featuring our new logo and mission, recorded sermons available on the website, a new photo directory, a database which will help us track attendance, and follow up with members and visitors, and new hospitality teams which emphasize that we are all responsible for creating a welcoming experience. It's an exciting new year. Let's Grow!

*Shannon VanLandingham, Membership Coordinator*

## **SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS**

### **Community Connection for September: Parents as Teachers**

Parents as Teachers is a FUN and FREE early childhood education program available to anyone who is pregnant or has a child under the age of 3 and lives within the USD 497 school district. It is designed to give children the best possible start in life and to prepare them for school success by supporting parents in their role as their children's first and most influential teachers. The Lawrence Parents as Teachers is an Affiliate program of the Parents as Teachers National Center, which uses an evidence-based curriculum infused with the most current neuroscience research to support child development and parent education.

### **SAJT NEWS, AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 2016**

Memorial for Donna Swall. On August 6 at 2pm, a memorial for UUCL member Donna Swall was held in the sanctuary, with many members and friends attending. SAJT was asked to provide the snacks for a reception following the service, and Judy Wilson served punch in Founders Hall, and helped to organize the event.

Worship Service to Honor Black Lives, and meeting following the service. The UU Congregation of Lawrence heard a moving sermon from two members of the community, Tai-Amri Spann-Wilson and Caleb Stephens on Sunday August 7. After the worship service, congregation was invited to a meeting in Founders Hall, regarding the Citizens Advisory Board for Fair and Impartial Policing. Present in this meeting were our two speakers from the service and several community members. The discussion began with Chalice Lighting by Student Minister Elizabeth Ide, and then a report from a community member Conor Brown, on the Citizens' Advisory Board for Fair and Impartial Policing and the history of the organization. Caleb spoke on the importance of showing up to work for justice; that not doing so is failing the very people we advocate for. Wendy Smith spoke on the

Ann Arbor police review board, and Kimberly Lundine spoke on her experience living in Iowa and familiarity with Lawrence's current City Manager. The meeting concluded with encouragement to attend the Police Review Board hearing the following day, at 6:30pm.

Citizens Advisory Board for Fair and Impartial Policing, August 8 at City Commission Chambers.

One of the Board members at the Citizens Advisory Board meeting said she'd never seen such a crowd before. There were 7 board members present, appointed by the Mayor and City Commission, and many UUCL members and attendees from the previous afternoon meeting at Founders Hall were there as observers. There were 4 reports from the police officers. One of the Board members said "we do not work for the Police Department; we are working for the citizens of Lawrence." The public was invited to speak, although the Board would not answer questions during the meeting. Concerns were noted: the ethnicity of the person identified in the complaint should be reported; officers should participate in ongoing de-escalation techniques; transparency should characterize the reports; young people should be involved through use of social media. The Board stated that there will be a community dialogue event on October 15 where police and community could interact, perhaps at a potluck dinner and would include KU personnel.

Meeting of Douglas County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Aug. 9, 2016. This group met at the County Courthouse at 11am. One SAJT member attended, with Kimberly Lundine and 2 friends. These attendees departed the courtroom at 12pm to honor Michael Brown who was killed 2 years ago in Ferguson, MO, standing silent together for 5 minutes. The purpose of the meeting, according to the agenda, was to discuss CJCC's role in shaping criminal justice policy; to request fact-finding inquiries and to develop recommendations regarding criminal justice policy. Attendees thought that this discussion would include the jail expansion topic, but this was only briefly discussed. One of the Council members stated that the group should involve community members, and to establish long-term function in the community. Another member stated their purpose is to advise and recommend, that "the judges and Sheriff's Department make the decisions" and that "the budget is determined by others." One of the public attendees stood to speak, saying that residents with mental health problems should be included in these discussions, since police are often faced with calls for help regarding an agitated or severely depressed person, or one under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

On August 28, members and friends participated in the Black Lives Matter banner dedication at Ecumenical Campus Ministries. The event began inside ECM with Rev. Jill describing the circumstances leading up to the placement of the banner. Barb Johnston of SAJT said a few words about the team's involvement in the development of the banner, and Reggie Harris, a singer and storyteller from New York, led the large gathering in some spirited singing and hand-clapping. Rev. Edith Guffey of Plymouth Congregational Church spoke on her experience as a mother of 2 black sons and the necessity of continuing support for people of color. Rev. Thad Holcomb, retired minister of the Presbyterian Church and leader of LETUS, spoke on the history of Lawrence, including racial strife in the 1882 when 3 lynchings occurred, and also the importance of recognizing white privilege, and the need for continuing support for our black and brown neighbors.

This Changes Everything is a film by Naomi Klein, on climate change, and will be shown at the

Public Library on September 12, 6:50pm. SAJT is co-sponsoring the film.

Defying the Nazis, a film by Ken Burns, **will be shown at the Congregation on September 20**. This is a film about Unitarians Waitstill and Martha Sharp who undertook secret missions in Nazi-occupied Europe to rescue Jews, dissidents and refugee children at great personal sacrifice during World War 2. We are fortunate to have this film/DVD, as it will be broadcast on the same day by PBS.

*Following the film, there will be opportunities for guided small group discussion.*

**On the 21st**, you're invited to come to a potluck, followed by a panel discussion related to the issues raised by the film. More information about both events is coming soon to an email inbox near you!

SAJT has a survey for the Congregation, to know your thoughts on the activity of SAJT; to make suggestions or ways of improving, growing; specific issues that we should be working on, etc. The survey will be enclosed within the Sunday bulletins on September 12 and 26.

Next meeting of SAJT will be on September 24 at 10am at the Congregation. All members and friends are welcome, including parents with children.

## LIFELONG LEARNING

### **Children's Religious Exploration (pre-k through 8<sup>th</sup> grade)**

All families are invited to our annual Fall "Roll Out" September 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-10:30 am. Gather at 9:00 to share a healthy breakfast with our UUCL families followed by an activity for children and information for parents. We will meet this year in the Gilles RE Wing and informally divide into 2 groups – families with older children and families with younger children. Rev. Jill will be joining us! Our first day of fall curriculum will be September 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am with Spirit Play and Middle Youth classes.

**Spirit Play** (one room schoolhouse Montessori method of religious exploration for 4 yr. olds – 5<sup>th</sup> grade) will be taking our Soul Matters themes and linking them to stories that embody our 7 principles.

**Middle Youth** (Grades 6-8) will meet in the youth room each week with time for individual exploration, games and friendship building.

**Youth Group** (Grades 9-12)

Plans are underway to gather our youth and create a group experience that will empower them to make a difference in their lives and those in communities around them.

### **Adult Enrichment and Faith Formation**

**Yoga** Bring peace and increased well being to your body, mind and soul while deepening your strength, flexibility and balance by studying the ancient art of yoga in our beautiful sanctuary Sundays from 3:00-4:15 pm this fall October 2-December 11. Trained yogi's Annemarie Chilton and Kristen Spencer accept donations with a percentage going to UUCL.

**Building Your Own Theology 3.** This Building Your Own Theology series supposes that ethics is not a realm of discourse distinct from theology, but rather the way we behave is determined in large part by what we believe. Curtis and Deb Russell will guide the class through a personal faith development process by exploring the many dimensions of ethical behavior. Wednesday nights at 6:30 after dinner at UUCL.

**August 31** – Authority – Can We BE Good Without God? *(7 pm start time this night only)*

**September 12** – Motivation – Doing the Right Thing For the Wrong Reason

**September 28** – Responsibility – The Difficult Art of Doing the Right Thing

**“Defying the Nazis: The Sharp’s War”** is a new documentary about the daring WW2 mission of Unitarian minister Waitstill Sharp and his wife Martha. Leaving their children in the care of the parish, they travel to Europe and over 2 years rescue hundreds of dissidents and Jewish refugees. This powerful film will be shown nationwide on September 20<sup>th</sup> but KCPT’s Lindsey Foat will be bringing this film to UUCL as we host a special screening. Events to reflect, discuss and process this film are being planned so stay tuned!

**Additional Adult Faith Formation opportunities** will be launched throughout the fall! Jill, Rebecca and I are working on several classes (see Jill’s newsletter piece). One that we are particularly excited about is a forum/listening circle based gathering for parents that coincide with their children’s 9:30 RE classes.



## MUSIC NOTES

Good Grief! Where did the summer go? Choir started rehearsals on August 31 and will be sharing our love of music with you on September 4. As usual, we will be presenting some pieces we have done before in early September since we won’t have much time to rehearse. I’m really excited about a new piece we will be preparing for September 25. I heard an interview with composer Mark Hayes on KCUR a few weeks ago. He is an outstanding choral composer and I learned he lives in Kansas City! One of the pieces I heard was a brand new composition. I contacted him and learned it was at the printers. He arranged to have copies shipped to me and UUCL choir will be one of the first in the nation to present “I Will Be That Peace”!

This is the perfect time to get involved in choir! We meet Wednesday evenings at 7:00 in the UUCL Sanctuary. There is childcare available on the days there are Religious Education classes. For more information, please contact me.

~Susan Harper, Music Director, [sbharper@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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://uufl.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](mailto:shannyvan@gmail.com), Tom Geyer at [geyertom76@gmail.com](mailto:geyertom76@gmail.com) or Mary Holm at [msholm1@gmail.com](mailto:msholm1@gmail.com)

### KUDOS...

...to our Director of lifelong learning, **Bonnie Blosser**, and to our office manager, **Jennifer Donnelly**. Both were nominated as "Workers Who Shine" to be honored by Cindy Novelo at her *Labor Day Concert at the Cider Gallery at 7PM on Friday, September 2*.

In order to make her concert a true celebration of Labor Day, Cindy solicited nominations of people who make a difference in our world through their work, whether it be paid, volunteer, or family. Bonnie was selected for her dedication to our young ones, their families, and our congregation. Jennifer was nominated for her exceptional skills and dedication to our congregation, keeping everything flowing smoothly (even gentle but firm reminders to the rest of us as needed!). We are very proud of both of them; please let them know that you appreciate them, too!

### ECM FALL 2016 COMMUNITY FORUM SPEAKER SERIES

University Community Forum is sponsored by Ecumenical Campus Ministries. This program is held each Wednesday during the Spring and Fall semesters at the Ecumenical Campus Ministries (ECM). All presentations are free and open to the University and Lawrence communities.

Every presentation begins at 12:00 noon and usually includes a brief question and answer period before concluding at 1:00 p.m. We also serve an optional light lunch at 11:30 am for \$6.50 (\$3.50 for students). Free parking is available in the ECM parking lot for attendees.

### **Fall 2016 Schedule as of 6/29/16**

August 24- David Topliker, "UFO's Cold Case Kansas"

August 31- Elizabeth Kronk-Warner, "Sport Mascots and Native Americans"

September 7- TBD

September 14- TBD  
September 21- Mark Joslyn, "Genetics/Sexual Orientation and Attitude Change"  
September 28- Dennis O'Rourke, "Beringia and the Global Dispersal of Modern Humans"  
October 5- TBD  
October 12- Jean Phillips, "Innocence Project-The Floyd Bledsoe Case"  
October 19-TBD  
October 26- Tom Markus, "The State of the City"  
November 2- Walter Babbit, "The Roots of Country Music"  
November 9- Josh Spain, "Immigration Justice"  
November 16- Erik McHenry , 2015-2017 Kansas Poet Laureate  
November 30-Curtis Marsh, "The DeBruce Center"  
December 7- University-Community Forum Planning Meeting

### **UUCL WOMEN'S GROUP**

The Women's Group will hold their September meeting on SEPT. 10 (because of the labor day holiday) from 2-4PM at the home of Barbara Thompson, 2012 Inverness. No agenda, just a pleasant afternoon of conversation and camaraderie. Bring a snack to share if you wish, but mostly just bring yourselves. The newer and younger among us are especially invited. For a ride or further information, contact Lynne Bodle, 843-8263, before Sept. 7.

*To contact the NewsTeam, please email [uflcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:uflcommunications@gmail.com)*

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lawrence  
A Welcoming Congregation  
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