

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

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

<b>Saturday, November 12</b>	<b>LINK</b> (see below)
<b>Saturday, November 12</b>	<b>Women's Group</b> (see below)
<b>Sunday, November 13</b>	<b>Artist Reception</b> between 10:30 and 11:00 a.m.
<b>Monday, November 14</b>	<b>Meeting of the Executive Board</b>
<b>Saturday, November 26</b>	<b>SAJT meeting</b>

**UUCL SERVES AT LINK SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12th**  
**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).

**UPCOMING 9:30 SUNDAY TRADITIONAL PROGRAMS**

<b>November 6</b>	"The 2016 Presidential Election: A Point of Crisis in American Democracy," Robin Rowland, Professor, KU Communications Studies
<b>November 13</b>	"Spiders of Kansas," Hank Guarisco
<b>November 20</b>	Annual harvest Festival
<b>November 27</b>	"Personality," John Brewer
<b>December 4</b>	"Where are we going and how do we get there?," Jill Jarvis, Rebecca Gant, Shannon VanLandingham

**SHARING OUR ANCESTRAL FOODS**  
**AT THIS YEAR'S HARVEST FESTIVAL**

Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 20, as UUCL prepares for this year's pre-Thanksgiving Harvest Festival. In keeping with our November theme of "Story", the day will focus on stories of refugees, immigrants, and opening our hearts to welcome the strangers who become friends. A highlight of the day will be our holiday communal potluck meal, this

time with a special twist! Everyone is invited to bring a dish to share that reflects some aspect of your family's ethnic roots -- native or immigrant -- or from a culture that speaks to your heart.

It has been a tradition for more than forty years to introduce the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's "Guest at Your Table" program each year on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. GAYT is the UUSC's annual multigenerational program to raise support for and awareness of their work to advance human rights. Their chosen theme this year is "Defying Hate", and at the Program (9:30 a.m.) we'll be sharing stories of hope in which four of our "guests" have found ways to defy hate through action. The Guest at Your Table collection boxes will be distributed in hopes that all will join together to stand on the side of love, bringing in a Harvest of Hope.

Our Worship Service (11 a.m.) will feature a multigenerational story, "The Thanksgiving Door." Using drama, song, music -- and even a conga line for the adventurous -- we'll explore what can happen when people overcome suspicion and fear of differences to come together in new ways.

It will be a great morning to invite your friends and family of all ages! There will be more than enough food, joy, and hope to go around.

### **NEW ART EXHIBITION IN FOUNDERS HALL**

Work by photographer Tony Peterson will be up from November 6 through December 25. We will be able to meet the artist at a reception on Sunday, November 13, between 10:30 and 11:00 a.m. "Peterson uses his camera as a tool to capture the often seen subtle or raw beauty found in the world around him. He's particularly drawn to the interaction of light, pattern, color, and texture, and his work doesn't fit neatly into any particular category or style." (Lawrence Artwalk 2016)

### **UPCOMING 11:00 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES**

(See Soul Matters below for detail)

- November 6** "Please Don't Tell Me How the Story Ends"
- November 13** "Happily Ever After?"
- November 20** "The Thanksgiving Door"
- November 27** "The Story of Us"



### **THEME FOR NOVEMBER**

What Does It Mean To Be  
A Community of Story?



Our lives are not just made up of stories; they are also made by stories. This might be the most important reminder of this month. Indeed, who of us hasn't felt controlled by a story? Stuck in a story? Hopeless about the way our story will end up? Simply put, stories write us as much as we write them.

For instance, who can't relate to the friend that tells us that her family "clings to the story about how I'm the clumsy one." We've never seen our friend trip, not once. Or drop a thing, ever. And yet, somehow, when she goes to her parents' home or back to a family reunion, she spills coffee on at least one outfit, stubs at least one toe and stumbles down at least one step. There it is: the power of story!

Or think about our current struggles with economic or racial justice. The incredible income gap is described as "natural" or "the result of complex global dynamics over which we have little control." Similarly, the story of race in our country is told with an "entrenched" story arc. Talk about a debilitating way of telling the story.

So let's tell a new story! This is the message of our faith: We have a choice. Our stories are not predetermined. Remember that old theological debate our UU fore-fathers and mothers gave their lives for? Some said that God had predestined not just the big story of humanity, but our individual stories too. Some of us were slotted for heaven and others for hell. And God had written the list in ink. Nothing any of us could do about it.

"Well," said our spiritual ancestors, "that's a bit harsh, don't you think!" Forget this extreme fate-driven story, they said. Freedom has a much bigger role than we're giving it credit for. God is not so much the author of the story as she is the magical muse that needles and nags us to put our own stamp on the narratives before us. In other words, we come from a long-line of spiritual relatives who agreed with Shakespeare that "All the world's a stage," but then went on to clarify that it's an improv show to which we've all been invited.

So fate and freedom? This month is much more about the tension between these two than one might have thought, leaving us with questions like: Are you an actor conforming to the scripts handed to you? Or have you found your own way of becoming a director, a screenwriter, an author? How are you struggling right now to regain control of the storyline of your life? How are you and your friends working to regain control of the storyline of our community? Our country?

Or maybe control is not your work. Maybe your spiritual work is about finding a new storyline. Maybe retirement, divorce, illness or the empty-nest has closed the book on one story and is

inviting you to leap into a whole new narrative. Does that leave you excited about what's to come? Scared? A bit of both?

Whatever it is. Wherever you are at. Don't give the storyline away. That's the message of our faith. And hopefully the gift of this month.

Here are our November worship services presenting the theme of "Story", which will be further explored in Spirit Play, the Program, and Sharing Circles during the month.

**November 6** "Please Don't Tell Me How the Story Ends"

We are the stories we tell - as individuals, as a community, as a nation. On this Sunday before Election Day, we ask, who controls the narrative? Which of our many stories is the real one? All of them, or none?

**November 13** "Happily Ever After?"

The past months have brought division, turmoil, and anger that feel unprecedented in living memory. Yet Tuesday's Election results are not the end of the story. We live with the dual reality that we are not in control of outcomes, yet everything we do makes a difference. Especially now.

**November 20** "The Thanksgiving Door"

We celebrate our annual Harvest Festival with our multigenerational ritual of Setting the Harvest Table, followed by worship that centers on an immigrant family's first Thanksgiving. Through story, song, drama, and even a little dancing, we're reminded that Thanksgiving is about opening one's heart in welcome to strangers.

**November 27** "The Story of Us" Our personal narratives come to us from our families and our early experiences. How does your personal narrative shape you, and how do you shape it?

## MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Autumn is already upon us. As we approach Thanksgiving, I'm feeling especially grateful for the energy and excitement I see happening everywhere at UUCL! This looks to be a year of transition and growth, with new initiatives and ongoing programming moving us toward achieving the goals of our shared ministry. The congregational goals for this year are derived from our Mission and Values Statements, as well as decisions from last January's Board/Program Council retreat. Tentatively, the goals are worded as follows:

- Σ Lay the foundation to grow numerically by increasing our visibility, attracting and assimilating diverse newcomers, and attending to member retention
- Σ Encourage and facilitate spiritual growth for all generations by creating a variety of opportunities for connection and exploration
- Σ Enhance connections with interfaith and UU partners to work for justice in our communities

I met with the Program Council, Staff, and some of our Team Leaders in late October. We reviewed these goals with the intention of asking each team and staff member to take a look

at their present activities, to discern what might need to be enhanced, re-organized, eliminated, or better supported. Across our congregational shared ministries, how might we help each other do our best work? How can we all pull together in the same direction to achieve our goals?

Even as we evaluate where we are and where we're heading, there's already a lot of excitement being generated by recently or soon-to-be launched initiatives. We're about to release a new photo directory of UUCL members and friends. The Men's Group is in the process of being revived. We're now in the third month of Soul Matters themes (see separate article), with opportunities to explore these more deeply on a multigenerational basis in Sharing Circles, the Program, and Spirit Play (Religious Exploration for children.) As our Wednesday dinners have gone on hiatus, we're considering the possibility of monthly Sunday lunches where members, friends, and newcomers can relax and get to know each other better. Parenting Circles concurrent children's Religious Exploration have been a welcome and meaningful addition for many young families.

Our Wellspring program of theological and spiritual deepening in the UU tradition is in its second year, in collaborating with the UU Fellowship of Topeka. Also continuing are the pulpit exchanges with other Kansas UU congregations, with the next one scheduled for January. UUCL will host this year's "Building Beloved Community" conference in February, inviting UU and interfaith leaders from across Kansas to enhance our collaboration for social justice. The Program has hosted several dynamic speakers of particular interest in this election season, providing updates and analyses on criminal justice reform (and the controversial jail expansion proposal in Douglas County) and the divisive state and national elections.

Worship which is more multi-sensory and creative is being planned with the help of "Worship Design Studio," an online intensive program to integrate drama, movement, music, the spoken word, and story to carry the message. On a recent Friday evening we held our first Brainstorming party with a dozen smart, funny, talented UUCL members. Within two hours they'd generated an amazing stream-of-consciousness list of visual images, phrases, songs, videos, stories, artwork, propositions, philosophical/social issues, and more! – inspired by upcoming worship themes: Prophecy (January), Identity (February), and Risk (March.) We'll hold our next Brainstorming Party in January.

Behind the scenes, the Membership and Growth Strategy Group has been meeting intensively. You'll soon be seeing the results of their efforts! Systems will be put into place to track and analyze attendance, especially the numbers of new and returning visitors. Sunday morning greeting procedures will be revised and enhanced. A series of "Soulful Suppers" will be offered, for small groups of members to interact in a home atmosphere over good food and conversation. And every UUCL member and friend will be invited to join a Hospitality Team –this is a great community-enhancing program that's been successful in growing UU congregations.

Let's all give thanks for our many devoted volunteers who dedicate their time, energy, money, experience and creativity to make the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lawrence a place to love inclusively, nurture spiritual growth and connection, freely explore life's big questions, and act for justice.

*Rev. Jill Jarvis*

## BOARD MEETING DATES

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

*Martha and Bob Burbank, Co-chairs*

## SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS.

**COMMUNITY CONNECTION FOR NOVEMBER: The Sexual Trauma & Abuse Care Center**, previously known as GaDuGi Safe Center; the name was changed in early October.

The mission of The Sexual Trauma & Abuse Care Center is to promote a culture of consent while providing 24/7 support to anyone affected by sexual trauma and abuse in Douglas, Franklin, and Jefferson Counties. The Care Center envisions a community free of sexual trauma & abuse while supporting healing for survivors. Since 1972, the center has provided counseling, advocacy and response, and education. Phone 24/7 is 785 843 8985 and website <http://stacarecenter.org/>

### SAJT OCTOBER-NOVEMBER REPORT

**October 9**, several SAJT and UUCL members visited Haskell University's open house, viewing artwork, hearing drums, music and dancing, and touring the museum and library. The Experience Haskell event preceded Indigenous Peoples Day on October 10, celebrated with a parade down Massachusetts with many participants in their traditional regalia. American Indians have been demonstrating on 23rd Street with signs discouraging cultural appropriation of Indian icons such as the designation of the Washington, D.C. football team and in baseball, the Cleveland Indians, as well as other inappropriate use of Indian cultural symbols.

**Also on October 10**, the Affordable Housing Advisory Board met with Paula Monroe attending. Two developers who have projects in the pipeline, one on Vermont and the other, a mixed use development on Pennsylvania, will enable the commission to develop concrete guidelines to present to the City Commission. Examples of guidelines would include, but are not limited to, range of income levels, universal design standards, equity issues, including parking charges, HOA fees.

**October 12** was the date for Ecumenical Campus Ministries to hear from one of the key attorneys of the Innocence Project. One of our SAJT members attended this presentation on the several-year effort to release Floyd Bledsoe from prison, after he was convicted of murdering his sister-in-law. Floyd's brother confessed initially, but then charged brother Floyd with the crime. Floyd has been released but has received no restitution from the State.

October 16 was to be the presentation by author Leonard Zeskind to discuss racism, Donald Trump and white nationalists, but he did not show for the Program. 2 days following, he sent an e-mail saying that he had open heart surgery and rehab, and was not able to communicate until then. Hopefully we will schedule him again in the future.

The Social Action and Justice Team met on **October 22**. November meeting will be on November 26.

Starting on October 23, the SAJT placed a box for contributions to the Sacred Stone Camp, to support Native Americans and allies protesting the invasion of the Dakota Access Pipeline development. Money and clothing or toiletries will be collected and sent to the camp. The box will be in the lobby on successive Sundays. Alternatively clothing and other items can be taken to the Lawrence Cultural Center, 411 East 9th Street.

November 9--ECM will have a program on Immigration justice with luncheon at 11:30 and the program at 12:00 noon.

November 12--LINK will be served.

## **LIFELONG LEARNING**

### ***REGISTRATION is the focus this month...100% is the goal!***

Participation in Religious Exploration for children and youth will now require a completed registration. Visitor children and youth may attend 3 Sundays before registering.

The intention for registration is primarily safety but through communication we can foster a more positive experience for our children at UUCL. Registering:

- Provides our RE teachers and leaders current allergy information. We occasionally will have 'feast' days in Spirit Play and our Middle Youth and Youth meetings often include treats to sweeten the morning experience.
- Alerts our teachers and leaders to any physical, emotional, social or other concerns you may have while your child is with us.
- Makes communication easier with current contact information.
- Provides a general release for basic emergency medical care if the need arises.
- Is a great place to call our attention to areas of special interests/talents we could possibly connect to our lessons (our special considerations section).
- Includes a photo permission area -we love to show the congregation what is going on in RE through photos.

From our youngest nursery playmates to our youth cohorts....register even if you do not attend regularly! Every year UUCL reports the size of our membership and RE program to the Unitarian Universalist Association.

REMINDER: Art Show participants (last May!) – I still have many pieces of precious art in my office! Please come and retrieve them!

Both UU Parents Circle and Soul Matters Sharing Circle on Sunday mornings are a success! These small groups allow for exploring relevant and meaningful topics with each other. UU Parent topics for discussion will be listed in the UUCL email during the week. Soul Matters Sharing Circle explores the monthly theme through additional reading, individual spiritual exercises and sharing conversation. We also offer a Soul Matters Sharing Circle on Wednesday evenings twice a month.

Families create powerful stories that are passed on through our generations. In this traditional month of gratitude, does your family's story include thanks giving?



## MUSIC NOTES

It has been a pleasure working with Reverend Jill Jarvis, Director of Lifelong Learning Bonnie Blosser, ministerial intern Elizabeth Ides, Worship Associates Team Leader Rebecca Gant and many other Worship Associates and friends planning upcoming services. We are really fortunate to have so many people who want to be engaged in planning our worship services. November may be a stressful time for some UUCL members. Our choir number for November 6 will be uplifting and positive; we hope you find comfort and hope in it. The lyrics are the poem "I Dream a World" by Langston Hughes. As many of you know, this African American poet spent his childhood in Lawrence, living with his maternal grandmother. The following Sunday, we plan to feature a first time soloist with the choir as we present "Turn! Turn! Turn!". The words were adapted from the Book of Ecclesiastes by another American bard, Pete Seeger, who also wrote the music which was adapted for choir by Roger Emerson. Our final choral presentation for the month will be November 20, celebrating our UUCL Harvest Festival. "Thanksgiving Song" by Mary Chapin Carpenter, another outstanding American songwriter, evokes a warm and perhaps nostalgic image of Thanksgiving gatherings. John Purifoy arranged this piece for choir. November 27 will feature one or more of our outstanding volunteer musicians.

If you are a singer or an instrumentalist who would like to become involved in our UUCL Music Program, please contact me.

~Susan Harper, Music Director, [sbharper@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sbharper@sbcglobal.net) 785-830-8487.

## SOULFUL SUPPERS COMING IN JANUARY!

Please join us for a new way to connect with others in our congregation. Soulful Suppers are potluck dinners held in people's homes or at UUCL. Some of the dinners will be adults-only and others will be kid-friendly (kid-friendly dinners may start earlier). On that evening, you will have an opportunity to discuss your response to the theme of the month (January's theme is Prophecy- Charting our Course), followed by free-flowing conversation, laughs, and getting to know one another better.

The first Soulful Supper will be on January 21st. You may sign up [here](#). Questions? Contact Shannon VanLandingham at [shannyvan@gmail.com](mailto:shannyvan@gmail.com) or Rebecca Gant at [rgant@hotmail.com](mailto:rgant@hotmail.com).

## 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**

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 November women's group meeting will be on the second Saturday, November 12, from 2-4PM with Janney Burgess in the parlor at the Dogwood unit of Brandon Woods Assisted Living, 4721 Bob Billings Parkway. All are welcome, especially the newer and younger among us. Please join us for a relaxed afternoon of conversation and camaraderie as we get to know each other better. Bring a snack to share if you wish, but mostly just bring yourselves. Drinks will be provided. Contact Lynne Bodle, 843-8263, for a ride or further information. See you there!

**To contact the NewsTeam, please email [uflcommunications@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jjarvis1@kc.rr.com) or

Valerie Roper at 785-979-8339, or [vgracev@sunflower.com](mailto:vgracev@sunflower.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](mailto:ufl.dll@gmail.com) or call 785-318-6030 for an appointment.

### **Administrative Office Hours:**

Monday 12:30-5:00 pm Tuesday 8:00-12:00 noon Wednesday Closed Thursday 8:00-12:00 noon

Friday 12:30-5:00 pm *Please be sure to call first, 785-842-3339, if coming out during the week as doors are often locked.*