UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP of LAWRENCE
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

May 12, 2015

The Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence
A Welcoming Congregation

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This Sunday, May 17

9:30 a.m. Traditional Program: "The Holy Terror: Captain William Nichols." "

Dr. William Freeman will discuss his recently published book, "The Holy Terror: Captain William Nichols." Dr. Freeman is a sixth generation direct descendant of Captain Nichols, a privateer sea captain during the War of 1812.

Nichols captured 28 British ships and took 600 prisoners. The British Navy both feared and admired Nichols, whom they called "the Holy Terror."

Freeman reviews the Universalist-Unitarian background of the Nichols family and his own relationship to Nichols. Freeman will also talk about conducting research for his book.

10:30 a.m. Coffee in Founders Hall

11:00 a.m. Worship Service: "Between Idealism and Cynicism: Standing in the Gap" Rev. Jill Jarvis

In many aspects of our lives -- personal, political, congregational -- we live in the tension between hard reality, and what we hope and believe to be possible. What resources help us stand in the gap between idealism and cynicism, resist complacency, and keep moving with hope toward the possible?

Upcoming 9:30 Sunday Programs

May 24: "UUA Green Sanctuary Movement: A Step Along our Path"

May 31: Mission and Vision Committee

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 17th

The Annual General Meeting of the Fellowship will take place on at 12:30 PM after a short lunch break of hamburgers & brats prepared by Chef Ted Wilson.

Barbara Thompson, Chair-Elect, has prepared a proposed budget for 2015-2016, which will be mailed to you shortly under separate cover.

To hold the annual meeting there most be a quorum of 30% of the members. As has been our practice in the past, members may elect to be represented by a proxy. UFL Secretary Susan Cooper prepared the statement below:

Proxy Voting for the Annual Meeting, May 17, 2015

If you *cannot* attend the meeting, please obtain a proxy. Each voting member may hold a proxy for one other member. Proxy forms are available in the lobby at UFL, may also be emailed upon request (ufloffice@sunflower.com). You may give or email the completed form to one of three people:

1. Board Secretary, *Susan Cooper, sccooper33@yahoo.com*, or
2. Membership team representative, *Pam Slawson, slawsongeyer@hotmail.com*,

or

3. To the person representing you to bring to the Annual Meeting.

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From the UFL Nominating Committee

Following are the slates for Executive Board and Nominating Committee for consideration at the UFL Annual General Meeting Sunday May 17.

2015-16 Slate of Executive Board Officers:

Chair-- Barbara Thompson
Co-Chairs Elect --Martha and Bob Burbank
Treasurer-- Nicole Wells
Secretary --Susan Cooper

2015-16 Nominating Committee slate:

Chair--Jake Kipp
Amy Frost
Pam Slawson
Vaun Kampschroeder
Joe Gant

EXECUTIVE BOARD BRIEFS:

Minutes of the April 23 Executive Board meeting are now available. Please check the Board bulletin board near the kitchen for hard copy or contact Jennifer at ufloffice@sunflower.com to request that the minutes be emailed to you.

Congratulations to the following graduates of the New to UU Class of Spring 2015: Andrew Brown, Lynette Forbes, Jessica Gipp, Ann Hamil, E. Jay Hilty, Emily Russell, Jeremy and Sarah Tolbert, and Brad Wertz. Special thanks to co-facilitators Tom Geyer and Audra Fullerton, and to all the guest speakers who helped to make this session an engaging experience for all.

A hearty welcome to new the following new members: Andrew Brown, Lynette Forbes, Jessica Gipp, Ann Hamil, E. Jay Hilty, Karina Novelo, and Brad Wertz. These new members were officially welcomed into our community at the New Member Ceremony on May 3rd...and the people said WELCOME!

If you would like more information about membership, please feel free to contact UFL Membership Team Leader Audra Fullerton at audibird@gmail.com

Mark your calendar! Sunday June 14, 4-6 pm

Coffeehouse!

Help the Tuesday Night Chalice Circle build a UFL Rainbow at this all congregational fund-raiser. All money raised will go for outdoor play equipment for our 'littles.' Snacks, drinks and

variety of talent on stage. Childcare and children's activities provided. Save room in your car for chocolates, wine, and beer raffles.

Stay tuned for more details.

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Our Legacy and Our Dreams: What's Next on Our Path?

Report on the Visit of Patricia D'Auria, Mid-America Region Consultant to the UFL on May 8th and 9th. Over two days addressed our mission and vision with the aid of Patricia D'Auria, we collectively explored our past, frankly discussed current issues and directions, and sought to articulate a collective sense of where our path should lead us as a beacon of liberal religion in Lawrence and Kansas.

On Patricia's arrival in Lawrence she met with the members of the Executive Board and Mission and Vision Task Force for a working dinner devoted to the weekend's

theme and the questions developed by the MVTF, the Board, and individual members. The group, which included Reverend Jarvis and Director of Life-Long Learning Blouser, met for over two hours on Friday evening. Patricia shared with us what she had read about from our history, the activities of the MVTF, and other materials provided. MVTF members talked at length about the process in which they have been engaged for the last year and emphasized the fact that they did not want to force the process to a conclusion and were prepared to continue their work into the next FY. Patricia questioned those in attendance about the major issues raised during the MVTF events, including the role of our Called Minister in fellowship life. She discussed the process for the two meetings with the congregation on Saturday and on the basis of the questions provided to her identified the five questions she would focus upon during those sessions: What strengths and legacies does our history endow us with? What does having a called minister mean to me? To us as a community? How do you picture our congregation in five years? In 20? What are our dreams for our community? What difference in the world would you like our congregation to make? The working dinner ended at 9:30 PM and members stayed to clean up afterwards.

The first meeting with the members of our congregation took place at 9:30 AM on Saturday morning and lasted until 11:30 AM. The afternoon session began at 1 PM and ended at 3 PM with a wrap-up session for the MVTF and Board members following. The attendance at the morning session was 39 persons. Patricia led the group into a candid discussion of both strengths and weaknesses in our community life, including areas of conflict and sources of tensions along with what provides us with our vital center from which we draw our common inspiration and sense of community. The discussion about the role of the program as a traditional humanist event and that of the worship service raised a debate about "staying a fellowship" and "fear of becoming a church." The diversity of religious sentiment within those assembled became clear and included humanists, atheists, agnostics, theists, and Christians. Patricia listened to our concerns, reminded us that we are all members of a congregation devoted to liberal religion, which rejecting dogma does seek support for living in our seven principles Patricia guided us back when we were in heated discussions to the wisdom contained therein: Principle 1"accepting the worth and dignity of each person," then Principle 2 "Justice, equity and compassion in human relations" then Principle 3 "Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations," and Principle 4 "A free and responsible search for truth and meaning." The discussion remained lively but courteous, reflecting a willingness to listen. Patricia on several occasions reminded us that our growth put a great strain on the mechanisms that we used to manage our relations when we were a smaller, family community. We have been adapting to our larger size but may not have yet found the way to assure effective and humane communications among ourselves. This is very important because in order to frame the way we govern ourselves, we should

embrace Principle 5 "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large."

The second session, 1-3 PM, had a different dynamic. Attendance was about the same 38 persons, but 22 of those had also attended the morning session. This reflected deeper commitment to the process but also greater tensions over the issue of a called minister and the letter of covenant between the congregation and the minister. There was more questioning of the decision to invite a minister, since some thought the very invitation lead to an undermining of the humanist tradition of the Fellowship. Patricia was asked about what having a called minister meant to lay governance. She pointed out that the congregation called the minister and set the terms of service by its letter of covenant. This is the tradition, which founding fathers brought to North America in their search for religious liberty. She added that today ministry was envisioned as a partnership between laity and minister with the minister in charge of spiritual life of the fellowship. Several persons spoke for a broader understanding of spiritual life beyond conducting the worship service to include all that the minister does to help congregation members in time of crisis and need. They emphasized that the lack of such services had been one of the reasons for recruiting a minister. The discussion came back to the schedule change of a few years ago with some supporting the idea that it should be reviewed again, including an examination of some way to include adult religious education into Sunday morning. One suggestions was to create a three-hour morning with program, adult RE, and Worship running from 9 AM to 12 with a very short break between events. There were strong voices for including the coffee sacrament or making coffee available at each venue. Some skeptics questioned whether Lawrence UUs would ever get to the follow-on events on time, citing a continuing tradition of late arrivals. There was a real sense that another look at Sunday scheduling might be in order.

The members of the MVTF and Board along with Reverend Jarvis met with Patricia at 3:30 for a two-hour-long wrap-up session, where the participants reviewed the sessions and discussed outcomes. Patricia note the tone of the meetings, the engagement of participants and their willing to respect the opinions of others. There was a sense that the consultation had served the mission and vision process and would help make possible progress in those areas over the next few months. Patricia stated that she would shortly provide us with her report and so share with us her comments on the process.

On her departure Patricia suggested that I might find it worthwhile to look at Mark Nepo's "The The Book of Awakening" for quote (from his May 10 offering) below:

Fourteenth-century Japanese, Anonymous

From across the centuries, this nameless voice tells us that at the heart of all struggles there is a peaceful enduring center, if we can reach it. All the wisdom traditions affirm this.

Still, a deeper paradox of life is carried here. For the gull flies through the peaceful center; it does not live there. The work, it seems, is to draw sustenance from that central, eternal space without denying the experience of the storm.

Repeatedly, we are thrown into the storm and into the center. When in the storm, we are exacerbated by our humanness. When in the center, we are relieved by our spiritual place in the Oneness of things. So, to find the center and spread our battered wings is to feel the god within.

Our constant struggle is in living both sides of this paradox. For we cannot get to the center without going through the storm that surrounds it. Yet the storm of human experience can only be endured by knowing what the gull knows. The storm can only be survived from the center. In how we pass each other from storm to center and back - there you'll find the trials and gifts of love

Jacob Kipp, UFL Chair

I would like to express my appreciation to all of those who took part in the consultation and hope that I have reflected what they experienced. I would also like to thank those who read, commented upon, and edited the first draft of this article: Susan Cooper, Patricia D'Auria, Rebecca Gant, and Jill Jarvis. Their comments were invaluable. Any failings contained herein are the author's.

SOCIAL ACTION-JUSTICE TEAM NEWS

May Community Connection: Van Go

Founded in 1997, Van Go, Inc. is an arts-based social service agency that provides year-round after-school and summer job-training programs to high-needs and under-served youth, ages 14-21. The mission is to improve the lives of high-needs youth using art as the vehicle for self-expression, self-confidence, and hope for the future. Van Go has over 100 employment opportunities for qualifying Douglas County teens and young adults each year. Van-Go offers additional programs in Academic Support, Credit Recovery, Healthy Living, Job Skills Training, Life Skills Training, Mental Health Services, Health Screening, Money Management, and Accessing Community Resources. Go to www.van-go.org.

May 5th Sunday offering will go to relief efforts in Nepal
The Board has accepted the suggestion of the SAJT that we direct the 5th Sunday offering toward relief efforts in Nepal. The SAJT is researching best use of the money that we collect including possible UUSC efforts, local efforts spearheaded by affected families and students, and suggestions by our UFL members with connections to the area. We will report the decision to the congregation.

SAJT on Facebook!
We have created a new SAJT Facebook Group!
Go to UFL Social Action-Justice Group and join us!
This Group is for UFL members to discuss issues of social action & social justice, to coordinate events and actions, to share information, and to offer ideas. This is a Closed Group. Any members may add new members, but the Admin must approve them. We will also continue to use the newsletter, bulletin, and emails for information sharing.

S AJT-related upcoming events & news
May 23, 9:30am: SAJT meeting at UFL
May 24 9:30am: SAJT Presents Traditional Program: "UUA Green Sanctuary Program: A Step Along Our Path"

Standing on the Side of Love Apparel
Anyone may order the yellow T-shirts at any time by going to this site: www.uuabookstore.org/Standing-on-the-Side-of-Love-C1307.aspx Short-sleeved T-shirts, long-sleeved T-shirts, sweatshirts, and hoodies are available. Also caps, totes, bumper stickers, buttons, etc. **OR** if you would like to order through the SAJT, please pre-pay at the SAJT table on Sunday.

Wednesday Night Meals and classes are taking a break until Fall

ONGOING and SPECIAL INTEREST

Harry Potter Social Justice Camp - July 6-10
Chocolate frogs, Quidditch and conversations of social justice are stirring as we conjure details of our Harry Potter Social Justice Camp this July! Camp will run Monday July 6 – Thursday July 9 from 1 to 4 pm at UFL. Friday's July 10th the camp day will extend into the evening with a Talent Show for Everyone at 7 pm followed by a settling in movie and overnight camping. Pick up will be 10 am Saturday morning. Campers from 4 years – 10 years will be assisted by Prefects (age 11-17) and Professors (ages 18-1000). So mark your calendars and plan your summer activities with this special week in mind. Cost will be $50 for the week, but please see Bonnie Blosser, DLL if assistance is needed with this fee. Middle School and Youth assistance is especially encouraged to help as this is a fun way to develop leadership skills!
For questions on any of these exciting events, please email Bonnie Blosser, DLL at ufl.dll@gmail.com

Men's Brown Corduroy Blazer Found
Someone left a nice, brown men's corduroy jacket on the game table in the basement. Please claim it before it goes to Good Will next week.

Meditation Group
Sessions are held on the third Thursday of the month from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the UFL sanctuary. New and continuing participants are invited to attend the mindfulness meditation sessions.

Art in Founders Hall
See the show of talented artists among the children and youth of the UFL. Have you met them?

CONTACT INFORMATION, OFFICE HOURS AND DEADLINES

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 Valerie Roper at 785-979-8339, or 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 are normally Mon, & Wed. from 1:00-5:00 p.m.
However, it is good 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 Sun. through Wed. Contact her at ufl.dll@gmail.com or call 785-318-6030 for an appointment.

Administrative Office Hours:
New UFL office hours are:
MWF 8:30-12:30; Tue-Th 8:30-11:30

Deadlines: Announcements for Sunday Orders of Service due **Wednesday noon**
Send items to ufloffice@sunflower.com
Newsletter articles due **Monday at noon**.
Send items to ufl_newsletter@yahoo.com

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