



UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP of LAWRENCE

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

May 19, 2015

Sunday, May 24

9:30 a.m. Traditional Program: “UUA Green Sanctuary:
A Step (or Leap) Along Our Path *Social Action-Justice Team*

Most of us are aware of the enormous environmental challenges our globe faces today. None of us is called upon to solve them on our own. We are called simply to do our part - whether it by small steps or long leaps - together we can make choices that lead to a sustainable and life-enhancing future. The *Green Sanctuary Program* is a congregational and personal journey toward this ideal.

SAJT members Susan Cooper and Joyce Pearl Jones, a former Green Sanctuary Chair at First UU St Louis, will explore what is required for the first steps/leaps on this journey toward *environmental self-awareness and personal action*; and in the end -- *UUA Green Sanctuary accreditation*.

10:30 a.m. Coffee in Founders Hall

UFL Children and Youth Art Show is up and running through June
(See Page 8)



11:00 a.m. Spiritual Celebration: “A Home for All”
Lara Wilson and Rebecca Gant

Some of us come to Unitarian Universalism from other faith traditions, but many are "unchurched", finding their way to us for many different reasons. Our children today are given opportunities to develop their own belief structure, to find their own spirituality, but it was not the same in the distant past. It has been said, if a bit tongue in cheek, that the UU children of the 60s and 70s were pretty much unchurched as well. So, how do we all together, coming from disparate backgrounds and faiths and no faith at all, make this a place where all faiths and beliefs are welcome and given freedom to develop?

Upcoming 9:30 Program:

May 31: Mission and Vision Committee

UFL – Jacob Kipp Citation for 2015 Warriner Award

As announced on Ceremony Sunday, this year's Charles Warriner Award for exceptional service to our congregation is being presented to our retiring Chair, Jacob Kipp.

Jake has devoted the major portion of his professional life to the service of our country as a civilian employee of the Department of Defense. Using his fluent mastery of the Russian language and his pervasive knowledge of both the historic and current Russian strategic defense postures, he has been an advisor to both military and political leaders. He has been equally successful teaching in the military classroom and in meetings with Putin. Capstones in his career included founding of the Foreign Military Studies Office in 1986 and serving as its director from 2003-2006; and then in 2006-2009 serving as Deputy Director for Civilian Faculty of the US Army School of Advanced Military Studies during the development of a new curriculum embracing systemic operational design. He oversaw a growth in civil faculty in support of an expansion of the school to meet wartime requirements. Those privileged to attend his retirement ceremony at Fort Leavenworth know in what very high esteem his colleagues hold Jake.

Jake has always brought to his volunteer assignments here at our congregation, the same drive, strategic overview, thorough situational analysis and complete follow through that marked his successful career.

We have benefitted greatly from his wisdom and his strict adherence to the democratic process in all committee assignments and Executive Board work. We especially appreciate his service on our Finance committee and his prudent oversight of finances during these difficult years.

In addition to serving on many committees, Jake has with distinction served two terms as Chair-elect and Chair. Including the duties of Immediate Past Chair, by a year from today Jake will have served six years in the highest level of our congregation's elected leadership.

As many of us know, just after agreeing to serve a second term as Chair, Jake received a diagnosis of serious illness with an uncertain outcome. True to his principles and sense of duty, after a period of very serious contemplation and discernment, he decided to continue to serve our congregation and has left no stone unturned in leading us so very successfully this past year.

It is a true blessing that we are all here, together today, to celebrate and recognize Jake's perseverance and dedication in the face of uncertain odds and to honor him with the Charles K. Warriner Award for exceptional service to our congregation!



The State of the Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence

17 May 2015

This has been a challenging year. Last year we learned that the UUA had identified us as a "breakthrough congregation. And we spent a good deal of time last summer preparing for the visit of Don Skinner as he worked on the article about us for *UU World*. There could have been no brighter beginning. But there were also unexpected problems. These began with the discovery of the theft of funds from five Wednesday Night deposits and one Sunday collection in the spring of 2014. The Safety and Security Task Force took on the investigation of the thefts, identified the key vulnerabilities and took measures to correct for them, including creating a new lock box and instituting procedures to ensure that large amounts of cash were not kept in

the building. The Finance Committee approved these measures and the Safety and Security Task Force installed a new lock box in the office door.

The decision of the Executive Board for 2013-2014 to exhaust the capital reserve fund in 2014-2015 placed on this year's Executive Board the need to ensure that the pledge drive for 2015-2016 would raise sufficient money along with other sources of revenue to cover anticipated expenses. This was the topic of your Chair's first article in the UFL Newsletter for 29 July 2014 under the title: "Happy New Fiscal Year, 2014-2015: A Frank Talk about a Critical Topic." The Board recognized the need to develop the Stewardship effort into a year-round process and invited board members and former members of Stewardship Task Force to take the UUA's Forth Stewardship Development Self -Assessment Test, which was designed to assess just where a congregation stood on stewardship. There was a very strong response and the effort to mobilize a standing board committee devoted to Stewardship began. Carine Ullom provided over all leadership but there were many members engaged in communications, logo development, creation of a stewardship team. One of the team's first functions was to set a pledge drive goal, which would ensure our ability to operate out of current revenues for the first time in eight years. {We thought originally that the capital reserve of \$100,000. would last for five years, but we will be in our eight year when it is exhausted. Adelante proved popular mascot with Syndie K. and Graham K. making sure it was visible. Our target was \$178,000 and we matched and exceeded it thanks to an anonymous matching fund of \$8,500. Since the inception of capital reserve fund, we have sought each pledge drive to reach the point where 70% of our revenues came from pledges. And over the years we got closer and closer to 70%. This year we reached 81%, which by UUA standards makes us a very healthy congregation. The general spirit among members in trying to make the goal was evident in a real push to increase scrip sales, another spectacularly successful auction, and other fund raising events which added to the total income for 2014-2015. In this regard the last year was a real success.

In some other areas we faced serious problems. We lost a dear member who had been the moving force of our social action and social justice effort. Forrest Swall knew everyone, worked with everyone, and moved many to do more than the thought possible. Forrest and Donna were the moving forces in getting UFL to be a welcoming congregation. They kept LGTBQ issues before us. They brought the Standing on the Side of Love T-shirts to us and made wearing them a badge of commitment when we showed up at rallies, protests, and committee hearings. With Marta, Forrest founded Lawrence Action Network for Diversity at the ECM. He was the moving spirit behind our community connection collections. If we have a vibrant SAJT it is because Forrest infected its members with a spirit of engagement. We were very fortunate that he mentored a leader to follow in his footsteps, Susan Cooper. SAJT remains a lively and engaged team with a great cross sections of young and old members and a wide range of interests. Their healthy eating dinner was a great success.

Our Mission and Vision Task Force made a valiant effort to engage us about our past, our present, and our future. Their efforts were herculean. Their task is not yet over. But they have served a valuable purpose in exposing a deep source of anxiety among our members. There was a profound sense that something was wrong in our relations one with another. In trying to define the problem we invoked the Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM), the MVTF, and Program Council. The formal manifestation of the problem seemed to be about relations between the Program and the Service with some claiming that they were co-equal institutions. The Program with its foundation in UFL tradition seemed to have the greater weight. But the Service under the direction of our called minister had a claim based on the covenant which the congregation had agreed to in 2013. Some rejected the very concept of a called minister, our suggested that they had not understood the covenant. The sharpest manifestation of this conflict between Program and Service was over the teaching of New to UU classes by the membership Team. Membership and Program had made a deal to have the first round of such classes at 9:30 AM to coincide with the Program and RE. That set of courses proved successful and Membership sought to have the course repeated at the same time. The Program Team objected and raised the question of having course taught at 11 AM at the time of the Service. This issue was considered several times by the Program Council with each decision saying that the course could be taught again at 9:30 AM but that a long-term answer would await action by the MVTF. Deep division became evident in the Fellowship, pitting program supporters against service supporters. The Program Council addressed the issue in January as an issue between Membership, which wanted to have the classes, and Program, which opposed having the classes at 9:30 AM. After long deliberations the Council voted to support holding the classes at 9:30 AM. The Board initially saw this issue as a technical one within the prevue of the Program Council. Over time, however, it became apparent that the issue involved the content of the letter of covenant, which the congregation had made with the called minister. Her authority over worship, her freedom of the pulpit, and specific elements of the covenant were binding in those areas. Lay governance had called the minister and had amended our Bylaws to reflect the new relationship. For the welfare of this congregation and its future, it was necessary to return to the principles of mutual respect, good will, and shared vision by the called minister and the congregation. Otherwise, we will cease to be the beloved community.

To get to that point we might reflect upon the seven principles which unite us, not in dogma but in respect, love, and community. There are many examples of that spirit in our congregation. The morning meetings of Building and Grounds combine camaraderie, Emily's muffins, and hard work under their long-time leader Bob Harper. The Newsletter Team, which each week delivers a product to keep us informed about our fellowship's life, deserves note. Our Choir under Susan Harper practices hard to deliver fine music every Sunday. We benefit from a group of loyal volunteers who play their instruments and give us pleasure. Then there is the membership team under

Audra Fullerton, whose volunteers greet guests each week, teach a course on New to UU so those guests can start on the path to becoming members. There are the worship associates who work with our minister to provide us with a spiritual experience each week. There are the volunteers who work with Bonnie to teach each week in RE, educating our children. There are the volunteers who serve on the Program Team under Ellen Reid Gold and deliver quality programs each week to inform and entertain us. There are those unsung volunteers who fold and stuff our orders of service each week. Everyday there are volunteers doing the work that keeps this place running. They do this work selflessly and deep dedication. To each and every one of you I want to say thank you for your efforts.

Shortly, my term of service will be over. After much reflection and consultation with my wife and doctor, I am going to resign as Program Council Chair. My treatment schedule has become much shorter and I find myself weaker and in a shorter period of time. Masha and I, therefore, are going to devote our energy to fighting to keep Karina with us as a legal resident in the United States. I hope you all will understand this decision. Thank you all!-----*Jacob W. Kipp, UFL Chair*

Summary of Annual Meeting: May 17*

Jake Kipp convened the 2015 UFL Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 17. Secretary Susan Cooper announced that there were 92 voters registered either in-person or via verified proxy, thus meeting the required quorum of 59.

Business of the meeting included:

- Report from marci francisco, chair of the Endowment Committee.
- Current year financial report from Nicole Wells, treasurer.
- Presentation of the proposed budget by Barbara Thompson, chair-elect.
- After opportunity for questions and discussion, Jake Kipp conducted the vote to accept the proposed budget, which passed unanimously as presented.
- Presentation by Carol Eades Delnevo, immediate past-chair, of the Charles Warriner Award to Jake Kipp for his exceptional service to the UFL.
- State of the Fellowship report by Jake Kipp.
- Words from minister Jill Jarvis.
- Report on the activities of the Mission-Vision Task Force by Bob Burbank, MVTF member.
- Submitted for vote by Carol Eades Delnevo of the slate of officers for 2015-16, which passed unanimously. The slate consists of the following: Co-Chairs Elect: Bob & Martha Burbank; Treasurer: Nicole Wells; Secretary: Lynne Renick. (Barb Thompson will be chair, Jake Kipp will be past-chair, members at-large are Brita Calnon in 3rd year of 3, and Chris Gehringer in 2nd year of 3).
- Submitted for vote by Carol Eades Delnevo of slate of members for nominating committee for 2015-16, which passed unanimously. The slate consists of the following: chair Jake Kipp, Amy Frost, Pam Slawson, Vaun Kampschroeder, and Joe Gant.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:05pm.

~Susan Cooper, Secretary, UFL Executive Board

**This article is a summary of the items of business conducted at the meeting, and not the official minutes of the meeting. Those minutes will be made available to the congregation within the next two weeks.*

EXECUTIVE BOARD BRIEFS:

Team and Committee Chairs: Please submit all receipts for reimbursement as soon as possible. Financial books for FY 2014-15 will be closed by mid-June. Contact treasurer Nicole Wells with any questions.

Next Board meeting (last of FY 2014-15) June 15, 7:00pm, Founders' Hall. All members are welcome!

The UFL women's group

Meet at Janney Burgess' home from 2-4 on **Saturday, June 6**. All are welcome to come, relax, and enjoy each other's company. Bring a snack to share, if you wish, but do come! For more information, or if you need a ride, contact Lynne Bodle.

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.

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 underserved 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.

SAJT-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"

UFL Children and Youth Art Show is up In Founders Hall and running through June

It turns out most of our art on display is "Priceless" and thus not for sale (this seems to be age related!)

If you are ready to purchase art that is being offered for sale:

Make a check out payable to Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence for the *full purchase amount*. On the memo line record: For Art Show purchase.

Put your check in an envelope (available in shelving by the elevator off Founder's Hall) and on the envelope write the artists name and Option A (50/50 split) or Option B (33/33/33 split).

Give the envelope to Bonnie Blosser, DLL or put in the Office Administrators door slot.

Harry Potter Social Justice Camp

You can now register (aka Nominate) your child(ren) for our Harry Potter Social Justice Camp: "The Institute of The Sacred Flame" on our HPSJC webpage on UFL's website: <http://ufl.net/>

Deadline for camp registration is June 29th !

Last minute camp attendance will only be granted through openings from registered student drop-outs.

Students will spend the weekdays, from 1-4pm, playing quiddich, doing magical crafts, and exploring the first UU principle ("the inherent worth and dignity of all living beings") through J.K.Rowling's first book "Harry Potter and the Sorcerers Stone".

Children ages 4-5th grade will be magically informed of their nomination to become a "Guardian of the Sacred Flame" by Owl Post (USMail).

Harry Potter Camp July 6th – July 11th Sacred Flame”

“Institute of the

Monday – Thursday afternoons 1 pm – 4 pm

(12:00 - day's volunteers arrive, 12:30 prefect meeting/set up)

1:00 Students Gather, Opening ceremony -Lighting of the chalice

1:30-2:00 House meetings: covenant, house talent act, discussion of needed topics

2:00-3:00 Curriculum –how HP relates to 7 principles - focus on 1st principle, crafts, guests

3:00-3:45 Quidditch & snack

3:45-4:00 Extinguish chalice, **pick up**

Friday afternoon – Saturday morning

1:00 Campers Gather, Opening ceremony -Lighting of the chalice

1:30-2:00 House meetings: covenant, house talent act, discussion of needed topics

2:00-3:00 Curriculum –how HP relates to 7 principles - focus on 1st principle, crafts, guests

3:00-3:45 Quidditch & snack

3:45-6:00 Camp set up and dinner

7:00-8:00 Talent Show

8:00-10:00 Movie

10:30 pm Lights out

8:00-9:00 Wake and breakfast

9:00-10:00 Cleanup and **Pick up**

Schedule is subject to magically change (or even apparate) without notice

Cost for campers (ages 4 yrs old – 5th grade):

1 child - \$50.00 2nd child - \$40.00 3rd child - \$30.00

Prefects (Grades 6-12) are camp staff and thus are free!

Any child age 4-10 registered for RE at UFL this past year, or child/grandchild of UFL member is eligible for camp fee assistance. Please contact Bonnie Blosser, DLL at ufl.dll@gmail.com

A limited number of camp fee waivers are available for any family with a child(ren) age 4-10 not registered for RE at UFL. If fee assistance is needed, please contact Bonnie Blosser, DLL by June 15th at ufl.dll@gmail.com for more information.

Make camp payment checks payable to: *Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence*

On memo line put “*HPSJC and campers name(s)*”

Mail to: Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence 1263 N. 1100 Road Lawrence, KS 66047

Why do the kids have all the fun? They don't! You can also participate in the fun and magic through volunteering as a Professor (lead the curriculum hour in costume!), or serving as a camp elf or Hogsmeade villager (Friday evening) for the cookout, talent show and campout.

Contact Bonnie Blosser, DLL at ufl.dll@gmail.com or Maggie Beedles at maggiebeedles@gmail.com

Coffee House

Save the Date 14 June 4-6p.m.

Potpourri of Drinks!!!

Extravagant coffee (\$5); Rococo wine (\$4)

Assorted beer (\$3) Lemonade w/KALE,
Pure Kaw H2O

Assorted rainbow tickets: Violet (\$10),

Indigo (\$25), Blue (\$50), Green (\$100)

Yellow (\$250) Orange (\$500), Red (\$1000)



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](tel: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 uflooffice@sunflower.com

Newsletter articles due **Monday at noon.**

Send items to ufl_newsletter@yahoo.com

The Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence

A Welcoming Congregation

1263 North 1100 Road | Lawrence, Kansas 66047

785.842.3339 www.ufl.net

