

UUCL July Monthly Newsletter



Upcoming Events and Important Dates this Month

Saturday, July 9 We serve at LINK

L.I.N.K

UUCL SERVES AT LINK SATURDAY, JULY 9TH 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 UUCL provides and serves a meal for LINK. **We need 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

Upcoming 9:30 Programs

- July 3 Jim Ogle: Sharing Freedom's Story.
- July 10 Subarna Bhattachan: Nepal
- July 17 Cathy Callen: Running out of Footprints, Genealogical Journey
- July 24 Allan Hanson: Polynesian Religion
- July 31 Frank Baron: Double Feature: A. von Humboldt & Hudson River School; The Origin of the Jayhawk (videos)

Social Action/Justice Team News

Community Connection for June—Health Care Access

The Willow is a safe space for people of all sexual identities and gender expressions. All services are accessible to those in need of a translator or physical accommodation; all services are free of charge, confidential and available to all survivors of domestic abuse and human trafficking who live in Douglas, Franklin or Jefferson County in Kansas. The Center has a 24-hour Crisis Hotline, an Emergency Shelter, Support Services for adults and children, Court and Systems Advocacy, and other programs.

Double Up Food Bucks is coming to Lawrence!

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture has awarded \$2.9 million to a coalition of partners in Kansas and Missouri to expand Double Up Food Bucks, a healthy food incentive program that helps low-income families eat more healthy food and supports local farmers. In this program, for every dollar in SNAP benefits customers spend on locally grown produce, they receive a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$25/day that can be spent on any produce at the same site. Douglas County will grow the program to 18 farmers markets and 2 grocery stores by 2018.

Gun Safety - Huffington Post has published "An Easy Guide to Contacting Your Elected Representatives About Gun Control" blog where you can find your Senator, find your Representative, and learn which Senators voted on expanded background checks. The site provides a form letter to your Representative, a phone script, or a tweet to Congress members. You can access this information at <http://m.huffpost.com/us/entry/8708154.html>

Several UUCL members attended the **LETUS (Lawrence Ecology Teams United in Sustainability) annual meeting** at ECM on June 23, and heard speakers Professor Kelly Kindscher and George Frazier talk about wild places in Douglas County and wild places in the state of Kansas, focusing on preserving what wilderness is left, and building a movement to appreciate and work for wild places in our environment.

At the SAJT meeting on June 25, the team reviewed a survey developed by Alan Monroe, which we may circulate to the congregation in August, to get a sense of what is important for the team to work on in the next year.

Next meeting of Social Justice Team will be on July 23, Saturday, 10am at the UUCL. You are invited!

PARTY ON!

PARTY ON!

We have some openings in several of the parties folks have generously donated. Please click the link below and check your calendars to see if you can join in the fun (and make a little dough for UUCL ;-)

<http://goo.gl/forms/hHEi0tBazqL3A6ay2>

Here are the parties available for July:

Balderdash Party -- July 8, 2016, 6:30PM, Donated by Shannon VanLandingham and Rebecca Gant, \$25

Do you like word games? Can you bluff and make up fictional definitions that will crack up your opponents? Please bring a potluck dish to share. No need to bring your furphy, we will have drinks. We will enjoy our delicious food and libations, but try to avoid crapulence!

Godwottery is encouraged, but no skullduggery or slangwhangers will be allowed. The winners will be

allowed a brief period to blivate.

Scrabble Party -- July 9, 2016, 6:00PM, Donated by Jake and Masha Kipp, \$20

Come get your word play on! We will have two tables of four players each with dinner and drinks. Maybe you'll play QUIZZIFY, QUETZALS, GHERKINS or MUZJIKS!

The Best Of Summer -- July 30, 2016, 6:00PM, Donated by Belinda Holmes, \$40

From a special cocktail hour through a delicious dessert, get ready for a few hours of good wine and food, fun and lively conversation. Here is the menu to tantalize your taste buds:

Appetizers

Local cheese drizzled with honey, Crostini, Grilled peaches (or other seasonal fruit)

First course

Chilled avocado soup garnished with smoked salmon

Palate cleanser

Campari sorbet

Main course

Grilled fish (to be determined based on availability of sustainable fish)

Fresh corn salad

Dessert

Lemon mousse with seasonal fresh berries

Minister's Musings

"This is not a moment. This is a Movement!"

This was the rallying cry at Thursday's public witness event during General Assembly as nearly 4000 Unitarian Universalists gathered in Columbus, Ohio. Black Lives of UU Organizing Collective, an organization that works to expand the role and visibility of Black people within our faith, developed one of the major programming emphases: to prioritize the experiences and voices of UUs who identify as Black.

I've been going to General Assembly for about fifteen years, and never have I seen such a racially diverse attendance! And so many youth and young adults of all colors, taking active roles in workshops, governance, and worship. The energy and diversity of this year's GA gives me hope for our future and for our ongoing work on racial justice, which is will be the explicit theme of next year's General Assembly in New Orleans.

"A movement, not a moment" is a reminder to Unitarian Universalists of the struggle still ahead -- a struggle we must not abandon this time. At the annual Service of the Living Tradition, the Rev. Bill Sinkford (past and first Black UUA President) recalled the General Assembly of fifty years ago, when Dr. Martin Luther King gave the Ware Lecture to another crowd of UUs. "Don't sleep through the revolution!" he challenged us, and thousands leapt to their feet, clapping and cheering, many with tears rolling down their faces. As a faith community those Unitarian Universalists -- many of them Black -- were ready to take their place in the revolution.

But we soon pulled back from the struggle, when confronting the results of generations of racism turned out to

involve more than marching, protesting, and passing laws. It became too hard, too painful, and we withdrew. Many of today's Unitarian Universalists don't know about this disturbing period of our denominational history, which occurred only four years after so many of laypeople and clergy answered Dr. King's call to come to Selma to march for voting rights. We don't talk much about what's called The Black Empowerment Controversy, even though it's a crucial part of our UU history we mustn't forget, especially now (read about it here: <http://www.uuworld.org/articles/empowerment-tragedy>). Rev. Sinkford referred to it as "a fit of white entitlement." Many Black UUs -- including the young Bill Sinkford -- left our congregations, feeling betrayed. Unlike Rev. Sinkford, most never found their way back.

"And we will never know what this faith might look like or be like today, if they could have remained." (I'd encourage you to listen to Rev. Sinkford's sermon, which begins at 1:31 here <http://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2016/worship/slt>)

Last week I saw glimpses of what another chance might look like for Unitarian Universalists.

Thursday's standing-room-only event, where leaders the United Church of Christ, the Union for Reform Judaism, the Islamic Circle of North America, and the North Carolina NAACP praised our support for Black Lives Matter, shared our commitment, and reminded us this is only the beginning. "We stand here united in the struggle for justice and compassion," said UUA President Rev. Peter Morales, "that means supporting the struggle for Black Lives Matters. We recommit ourselves to stand on the side of love, and we are one."

Saturday's special collection at the plenary session, to support the work of Black Lives of UU. Young adult and UU World writer Kenny Wiley made the introduction. It so rocked the assembly that when the donations were counted they'd reached (at that point) nearly \$90,000, far exceeding the \$60,000 we had dared to hope for.

Sunday afternoon, when Youth Caucus leaders, supported by Black Lives of UU, expressed their frustrated at the uneven progress of UU congregations on racial justice. They'd drafted a resolution to express their grievances and their hopes for our faith. "We as a religion have acknowledged we support the Black Lives Matter movement, but voices of color continue to be marginalized and spoken over and for." The resolution to create a multi-year report on anti-racism work was presented to the delegates and passed almost unanimously.

Just one more -- but this is my personal favorite! I decided to attend a Saturday workshop on "The Spirituality of Hip Hop." I got there early -- the room looked like it held about 350 chairs -- and watched in amazement and the hundreds of young people of all colors poured into the room (along with several dozens of older people, including yours truly.) People were standing in the aisles and sitting on the floor. A Hip-Hop group called The Sanctuaries led us in exploring this art form for marginalized voices, a form which is under appreciated and misunderstood by many in this country. They had us laughing, crying, and rapping! (You'll definitely be hearing more about this some Sunday next year.)

I'm proud to serve a Unitarian Universalist congregation that not only supports the Black Lives Matter movement, but that also -- through the pro-active efforts of our Social Action and Justice Team -- has reached

out to our local interfaith community to further engage this commitment. During the summer I'll be sharing more news about that engagement. This is an exciting, though often uncomfortable, time to be a Unitarian Universalist. It's in our discomfort that we so often find the opportunities for awareness and transformation.
Rev. Jill Jarvis

2016 UUA General Assembly Recap

2016 UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECAP

Rev. Jill Jarvis and I represented UUCL at General Assembly in Columbus, Ohio. It was a great session, with larger than expected attendance of 3,754 registered onsite and 154 congregations or individuals participating online. There were many emotional references to the Orlando shootings. We were "honored" by the folks from Westboro Baptist Church coming all the way to do some picketing.

There were many excellent conversations regarding our role as a liberal religious denomination in the 21st century and the ways we can make UUA a more diverse and democratic movement. One "take away" is that we should be inviting friends from Haskell Indian Nations University to attend our annual Thanksgiving potlucks.

The opening session included presentations by the President of the United Church of Christ and the President of the Union of Reformed Jews. UUA is leading the way in building multi-faith connections and collaborations. Offerings were received during the three worship services held and a record breaking total in excess of \$200,000 was collected! Graham Kreicker

Art in Founders Hall

Photographer Elizabeth Stevens will be sharing images of the Baker Wetlands from July 3 through August 28. She will join us for a reception on Sunday, August 7, from 10:30 to 11.

A native of southern California, Stevens majored in photography at Spokane Falls Community College. Her work has appeared in the Los Angeles Times Book Review, in a video for the Jayhawk Audubon Society, and at the Douglas County Courthouse. She has worked with the feature film industry in Hollywood and currently gives feedback to screenwriting students at KU.

She also works part-time in the Office of Institutional Research and Planning at KU.

Lifelong Learning

Openings in Lifelong Learning

OWL Team Leader – help with tracking OWL registrations & payments, write short blurbs on our awesome OWL programming, help with end of year celebration... Whoooo will step into this gentle leadership role?

Co Youth Leaders – Paul and Brita are staying on but they are looking for 2 people to join them. Were you moved by our wonderful youth at last week's Bridging service? Do you want to live your life with extreme hope for our future? This is a volunteer slot in which you receive gifts.

Lifelong Learning Area Coordinator – We are creating a new focus for this position while maintaining the importance of being a voting member of the Program Council. This person will assist the DLL in several areas – depending on your strengths and interest. I am looking for someone that could help:

- track attendance,
- secure RE registrations,
- cover DLL Sundays off (one of several people),
- communicate with new families and families we haven't seen in a while.
- Attend monthly Program Council meetings
- Other ideas could include:
 - create/change bulletin boards in RE wing,
 - create new brochures
 - take photos
 - assist with special events (Easter Egg Hunt, Art Show, Fall Roll Out)

Harry Potter Social Justice Camp 2016 – has been cancelled.

Music Notes



This month I will be privileged to attend the annual Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network Conference! Our congregation has generously supported my attendance at this wonderful conference for three prior years (Tulsa, Dallas and Boston). This year it is being held in Madison, WI, so I'll be driving up. It opens Wednesday evening, July 20 and concludes with a Sunday Worship Service on July 24. Everyone there loves music and loves to sing so, naturally, we spend much of our time singing! We have choir rehearsals with a guest clinician to prepare several special choral numbers we will present during the Sunday service. We sight-read new music, much by UU composers. This year the UU Children's Choir will be singing at the Sunday service as well, as they will be in Madison the same time we are. And we will learn the winners of the biennial Silliman hymn writing competition...many of our beloved hymns have been previous winners and the composers are usually in attendance. We have workshops on many music related topics and it is hard to choose just a few. This year we will also work on worship design with a highly regarded expert in the field. It is a really intense and exhausting but exhilarating experience and we have little if any time off! Although we probably will not get to attend the wonderful Saturday Farmer's Market, it's not all work and no play. Friday evening there is a special dinner followed by a talent show! In the past, many of the numbers were so funny I almost fell off my chair laughing! It is truly a grand time to network with other UU Music Directors and musicians, learning more about how we can enrich the congregational life of our churches. I'll tell you about it some next month. Thank you so much for giving me this wonderful opportunity! I am very grateful.

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

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

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

Volunteer Opportunities at UFL



Volunteering for one task, or several, is a way both to serve our community and to make lasting connections with other members.

Each month in this space we will feature one or more specific tasks or teams that will welcome your participation.

TEAMS FOR SUNDAY MORNINGS (more next month)

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE AND HOSPITALITY

Team members come early, get the coffee brewing, set out tea supplies, sugar/sweeteners, creamers, plus donated snacks, and clean up. Sign up for those Sunday time slots most convenient to you and know that you are contributing to a welcoming environment for all. *Interested? Please see Joe Gant or sign up in the lobby!*

Following is a list of some of our other teams and their contact persons.

- **Traditional Sunday Morning Program** (Paul Enos)
- **Sunday Morning Coffee and Hospitality** (Joe Gant)
- **Music** (Susan Harper)
- **Social Action and Justice** (Barb Johnston)
- **Celebration of Life** (help with memorial services; Jill Jarvis)
- **Helping Hands** (practical emergency short-term assistance, e.g., meals, child-care, transportation, errands; Kristen Spencer)
- **Wednesday Night Cooking or Set-up or Clean-up** (Judy Wilson)
- **Special Occasion Hospitality** (e.g., seasonal potlucks, receptions; Barbara Schowen)
- **Buildings and Grounds** (John Curry or Bob Harper)
- **Auction** (Shannon VanLandingham)
- **Lifelong Learning, esp. Adult Enrichment or Children's Activity Time** (Bonnie Blosser)

More information about these and other teams can be found in materials in the lobby and in the "Get

Involved” Section of our website www.uufl.net

UFL Women’s Group

The UUCL women's group will meet not be meeting in July; watch this space for news of the next meeting.

CONTACT INFORMATION & OFFICE HOURS

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

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 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 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. The doors are usually locked unless we expect you.



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