



APRIL 2009 PROGRAMS

APRIL 5 "A RIGHT AND A WRONG"

Suzanne Pharr is an organizer and political strategist who has spent her adult life working to build a broad-based social and economic justice movement. She will talk about the attack on the Tennessee Valley UU Church; consider the context of the shooting, both for the attacker and for the church; and examine some ways we can work to change our culture of violence. Contact *Alley Stoughton* at 341-3041 or stough@ksu.edu

APRIL 12 "UPRISING!"

Reverend Michael Nelson reflects, "Revolution turns things round, surprises the champions of the status quo, and the best are not violent. The 'Singing Revolution' restored independence to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Unitarian Universalist history has many upstarts who remind us of our capacity to rise up and celebrate what's good about humanity." *Michael* may be contacted at (913) 961-2626 or minister@uufm.net

Following the service, we'll gather for our annual EASTER POTLUCK BRUNCH. Learn more on page 4 of this newsletter.

APRIL 19 "FOOD TO FEED OUR SOULS"

Reverend Lisa Romantum Schwartz, minister to the Topeka UU Fellowship, will explore Ethical Eating. She muses, "The United States is to food what Saudi Arabia is to oil. Our land is rich in abundant resources, and agricultural science has helped make our grain belt the envy of the world ... Is there a downside to our massive production and consumption? Our choices, on the farm and at the dinner table, affect the rest of the world." Contact/convenor is *Scott Tanona* at 537-6208 or stanona@sbcglobal.net

APRIL 26 "JOURNEY FROM EVANGELICAL PREACHER TO FREETHINKER"

Dan Barker became an evangelist at age 15, maintaining a touring musical ministry for 17 years. He was a regular guest on Southern California's Spanish language "Praise The Lord" TV show. Then, after several years of reading and study, his religious beliefs evolved and he became an atheist. Today he is co-president of the Freedom From Religion Foundation, and contributing editor of *Freethought Today*. Contact *Dick Beeman* at 539-9369 or rbeeman@cox.net

Following the service and refreshments we'll gather for our ANNUAL MEETING. Review detailed information concerning items on the agenda on pages 8-10.

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SUNDAY SERVICES
begin at 10:45 AM
at 481 ZEANDALE ROAD

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	PAGE
Michael's Musings	2
Minister's Schedule	2
UUFT/UUFM Pulpit Exchange	2
RE / Youth Activities	3
REflections/DRE Schedule	3
Activities and Events	4
Social Action	5
Volunteer Opportunities	5
Words from Our Chair	6
Board / Council of Cmtes Mtg	6
ANNUAL MTG - Sabbatical	8
ANNUAL MTG - Financial	9
ANNUAL MTG - Officer Elections ..	10
Coffee Providers and Greeters	11
Administrator's Schedule	11
Member Info / Subscriptions	11
April Calendar	12

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ...

Sunday, **APRIL 5**, is "Committee Sunday." This is an opportunity for everyone, members and friends, to learn more about our committees, what they do, and sign up to make your service contribution to our Fellowship next year. The event will be held in the old sanctuary (Inez Alsop room) immediately after the service. Current committee members will man the tables and answer questions about what committees do and how you can get involved. Refreshments will be served. Learn more from Board Chair-elect Brice Hobrock at 776-3175 or hobrock@ksu.edu



UUUFM is a WELCOMING CONGREGATION

Learn more about the Welcoming Congregation initiative at www.uua.org/visitors/justicediversity/6252.shtml

MICHAEL'S MUSINGS - REV MICHAEL NELSON, MARCH 25, 2009

Scott Tanona, co-chair of the programming committee, and I, are talking about doing a service on discomfort. Most of us steer away from what we don't like and go to



what we like. What could be more natural? Self-interest can be such a tyrant. Michelle M Moody-Adams, a philosopher and the first African-American dean of Columbia College, believes, "The morally right thing usually takes us beyond self-interest."

In a review of "The Cradle," by P Sommerville, D Bakopoulos in the NY Times Book Review wrote, "Somerville's Midwesterners (like a lot of actual Midwesterners I've known) must often be forced into honest self-examination, preferring to hide behind work and duty to prevent the ice-crusted layers of melting into the present." In my own life, I've known people around the world who prefer work to self-introspection. My parent's lives illustrate this perfectly. Hard work defines meaning and value in a person's life.

Charles believes we'd be more productive and content if we managed our energy instead of our time. As we deal with the complicated aftermath of being struck by lightning, we monitor what overloads our circuits. Life routinely challenges us. We live in the Bermuda Triangle of disability claims with insurance agencies whose actions obfuscate a clear path to resolution. Recently Charles' mother was diagnosed with cancer. Our KC house won't sell. You get the soap opera theme ... I'm learning to do what I can now, and then move on to what's next. If my '76 rust-bucket of a truck doesn't catch on fire or another mini-disaster doesn't conflagrate, I can stay clear of despair's lair. Survival with vitality requires alertness to the early warning signs of getting stuck in the "SUNK IN FUNK PRISON." Enough sleep, exercise, a walk on the prairie, meditating, painting ... these activities promote higher functioning. Calling a friend helps to decrease the post lighting strike symptom of alienation. Doing Fellowship work often launches me out of the doldrums. A pastoral visit, meeting with someone to discuss, envision, plan an event, a program, writing these columns inspires ...

Scott wrote, "If one has emotional reactions, intuitions, etc, that seem to be inconsistent with one's general principles, one should try to adjust the one or the other to make them more coherent." Brain research shows that we often don't do the right thing, because we don't feel like it--some part of the brain responds with "NO!" Without realizing it, we habitually do what we think we

think is right even though it is wrong. The brain's elasticity allows us to reroute the path to a decision so that it is consistent with our principles. We need to apply reason to move outside the rut of our habitual response. Remapping our brains often requires enduring the discomfort change can bring so that we can do the morally right thing. Patterns of righteousness, anger, becoming easily frustrated, needing to condemn ... often result from the habit of blaming someone for a problem. This syndrome is a black hole, which sucks up huge amounts of energy. We'd manage our energy better if we weren't usually irritated when things don't go as we had planned. Perfection is a punishing model to evaluate ourselves and others. Yes, we want to refine our skills, but increasing our capacity to love is more life enhancing than a frozen idea of what is right. Forgiveness is an often-untapped resource of power. For me, this is often tough, but my motto, when I remember, is "Choose elasticity over rigidity!"

What pattern of behavior do you repeat, which if rewired, might produce an infusion of energy?

Michael

REVEREND MICHAEL NELSON'S SCHEDULE

In April, Michael Nelson will be in the Fellowship office on:

Wednesday, April	1 - 12 to 2 pm
Wednesday, April	8 - 3 to 5 pm
Thursday, April	9 - 4 to 7 pm
Monday, April	13 - 3 to 5 pm
Tuesday, April	14 - 4 to 6 pm
Wednesday, April	22 - 3 to 5 pm
Thursday, April	23 - 3 to 5 pm
Wednesday, April	29 - 12 to 2 pm
Thursday, April	30 - 3 to 5 pm

April 15 thru April 21, Michael will be attending a continuing education workshop on Healing Communities in River Falls, Wisconsin. He will be *available for emergencies only* during this six-day period. During office hours, call Michael at the Fellowship at 537-2349. Contact Michael at (913) 961-2626 or minister@uufm.net to arrange meetings at other times.

PULPIT EXCHANGE WITH UUFT ...

During our annual pulpit exchange with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Topeka, Reverend Lisa Romantum Schwartz will deliver the sermon at our Fellowship on Sunday, April 19. Reverend Michael Nelson will speak at UUFTopeka on Sunday, April 5. Our Fellowships have shared a mutually cooperative and beneficial relationship over the past 50 years.

RE NEWS

REFLECTIONS - MARIA SNYDER, DRE, MARCH 26, 2009



As we come to the end of the school year, we are saying goodbye to Timeless Traditions and hello to the UU Travelers program. This will be the last full month of Timeless Traditions and of course we will be celebrating the Easter holiday.

March saw the first meeting of our "Popcorn Theology" Teen Group. We watched "Back to the Future" and talked about how our choices

affect our future. We will continue our series on The Choices We Make with "Star Trek Generations" on April 8 with the theme "Don't Worry, Be Happy," and "Forrest Gump" on April 22 with the theme "Life is Like a Box of Chocolates." We will meet every other week, Wednesday evenings, for popcorn, movies, conversation and activities. We explore religious themes and UU identity through pop culture. Please feel free to invite interested tweens and teens to our group. Parents are also welcome to join us.

The schedule for the summer RE program is filling up. If you are planning on being a tour guide for one of our Sunday adventures please make sure to sign up for your date and let me know what materials you will need. We will be taking a different tour each Sunday to different places through food, music, dance and other activities. The places we are visiting range from our own backyard to Oz, from Ghana to Japan, and everywhere in between.

This fall we would like to try a different method of scheduling teachers, so that each teacher will have the opportunity to attend worship services. In order to make this happen, we will need more teachers than we have had in the past. Ideally each teacher would do a class every other month. If you would be interested in teaching please let me know.

As always if you have kids that would like to attend Youth Group or Sunday RE and need a ride please let me know and we will work out a ride.

Maria

Learn more from Director of Religious Education Maria Snyder at 537-2349 or dre@uufm.net

TEENS - POPCORN THEOLOGY

Teens, tweens, and parents are invited to attend Popcorn Theology sessions every other Wednesday, at 6 pm. On **APRIL 8**, we'll watch Star Trek Generations, and on **APRIL 22**, we'll view Forrest Gump. Learn more from DRE Maria Snyder at 537-2349 or dre@uufm.net

THIS YEAR IN RE ...

The Fellowship offers organized Sunday morning religious education experiences for students from preschool through high school. Childcare is available for younger children.

This year's theme is "Exploring our Judeo-Christian Heritage." Programs for all ages--pre-school through senior high--draw from various curricula and introduce our children to religious literature that is central to North American culture and to Unitarian Universalist heritage. Children will become familiar with their cultural heritage, and the human issues that inspired these scriptures: the timeless themes of transcendent power, human responsibility, love of freedom, speaking out against injustice, respect for the beliefs of others, love of one's neighbor, and forgiveness.

To learn more about Youth Religious Education at UUFM, and to learn how you can contribute to our youth activities, contact DRE *Maria Snyder* at 537-2349 or dre@uufm.net

MARIA SNYDER'S SCHEDULE

Maria will be available in the Fellowship office on:

Wednesday, April	1 - 2 to 5 pm
Friday, April	3 - 1 to 4 pm
Saturday, April	4 - 10 am to 2 pm
Sunday, April	5 - 10 am to 1 pm
Tuesday, April	7 - 4 to 7 pm
Wednesday, April	8 - 4:30 to 6 pm
Thursday, April	9 - 4 to 7 pm
Friday, April	10 - 1 to 4 pm
Saturday, April	11 - 10 am to 2 pm
Sunday, April	12 - 9 am to 1 pm
Wednesday, April	15 - 2 to 5 pm
Thursday, April	16 - 4 to 9 pm
Friday, April	17 - 1 to 4 pm
Saturday, April	18 - 10 am to 2 pm
Sunday, April	19 - 10 am to 1 pm
Wednesday, April	22 - 4:30 to 6 pm
Friday, April	24 - 1 to 4 pm
Wednesday, April	29 - 2 to 5 pm

During office hours, call Maria at 537-2349, or drop by the Fellowship building. Contact Maria by email at dre@uufm.net

YOUTH CHOIR

The Youth Choir rehearses in the Inez Alsop all-purpose room on Sunday, **APRIL 5**, and **APRIL 19**, at 10:15 am. All kids are invited! Learn more from *Sarah Nuss-Warren* at 537-3586 or nusswarr@gmail.com

APRIL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

The **MEN'S LUNCH** meets EVERY WEDNESDAY, at 12 noon, in the Inez Alsop all-purpose room (old sanctuary). Bring a desire for stimulating conversation and a sack lunch for yourself. Contact Charley Kempthorne at 564-1118, or Jack Warren at 539-4073 or jomega@ksu.edu

The **WOMEN'S LUNCH GROUP** meets Wednesday, APRIL 8, at 12 noon, at Meadowlark Hills in the Manhattan Room (next to the Pub and across from the Game Room). Enter through the front door of the main building. All interested Fellowship members, friends, and guests are invited! Contact Florence Schwab at 539-0976 or fschwab@cox.net, to learn more.

The **UU DRUM CIRCLE** gathers on Friday, APRIL 10, at 7 pm, at the Fellowship. Bring your favorite drum or rhythm instrument, or use one that will be available to borrow. We will drum, sing and dance mostly to Native American rhythms, but African, Asian and other cultural drumming, singing and dancing are very welcome. Singles, couples, partners, families and guests are welcome. Come join in the fun and feel good drumming! Learn more from Pat Embers at 539-2819 or embers1@cox.net.

The Fellowship's Spring **WORK DAY**--originally scheduled on March 28--was postponed due to inclement weather. It has been rescheduled on Saturday, APRIL 11, beginning at 9 am. Members and friends are invited to join in as we tackle a variety of maintenance projects around the building, and on the grounds and in the gardens. Lunch will be provided. Learn more from Facilities Committee chair Mark Moser at 537-5028 or mark@grapeviner.com

THIRD THURSDAY SUPPER gathers on APRIL 16, at 6 pm, in the Inez Alsop all-purpose room (old sanctuary). You may bring food to share, but it's not required. Bring your smile, family, friends, and guests, and let Susan Turner and Maria Snyder take care of dinner! Contact Sue at 539-3272 or office@uufm.net to learn more.

The Fellowship's annual fundraising **GARAGE SALE** will be held Friday, APRIL 24, and Saturday, APRIL 25, at 1701 Westbank Way, in Manhattan. Members and friends are asked to begin sorting through attics, basements, and closets for items in good condition for the sale. Only children's and baby clothing will be sold (no adult sizes). *Volunteers are needed* to help sort and price donations, move tables, help with set-up and clean up, and to staff the sale on Friday and Saturday. If you need help transporting large items, or for more information, contact Shirley Hobrock at 776-3175 or shirleyjhobrock@hotmail.com, or Barbara Hacker at 587-8002.

In celebration of the Kentucky Derby this month, the **BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** will read *Seabiscuit: An American Legend*, by Laura Hillenbrand. We meet on Wednesday, APRIL 25, at 7 pm. The book is available through the Manhattan Public Library's book kit. Watch for announcements in Sunday orders of service for location, or learn more from Barbara Hacker at 587-8002.

ADULT DISCUSSION SERIES-- LIVING AS A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Following the service on Sunday, **APRIL 5**, UU community minister Rev Thea Nietfeld facilitates the final in a series of three discussion sessions exploring the integration of our religious values into life beyond home and religious. The group will meet in the large RE room. The topic is *Welcoming Ourselves*. Contact Thea at (918) 207-2444 or okiethoreau@yahoo.com to learn more.

NEW ART EXHIBITION

The art that is currently hanging will be removed on April 26. Please pick-up your items as soon as convenient. Fiber Art for the next exhibit should be submitted between **APRIL 26** and **APRIL 29**. It must be suitable for wall display. For hanging display suggestions and help consult Building Chair, Tom Manney at 537-0624 or tmanney@ksu.edu. Fiber arts can include anything made of natural or man-made fiber, including but not limited to items that are felted, knotted, knitted, crocheted, stitched, collaged, quilted, woven, embroidered or otherwise combined for visual or tactile effect. That includes garments and other utilitarian objects, as long as they can be hung. Contact Harriette Janke at 539-0865 or ahjanke@sbcglobal.net, or Monta Manney at 537-0624 to learn more.

UUFM SINGERS

The Choir rehearses this month on Sunday, **APRIL 5**, and **APRIL 19**, at 9:30 am, in the new sanctuary. Ask Michael Oldfather at 537-3738 or mou812@ksu.edu to learn more about choral opportunities at UUFM.



ANNUAL EASTER BRUNCH

Following the morning service on Sunday, **APRIL 12**, the Fellowship will hold our annual Easter Potluck Brunch. Members and friends who plan to attend are asked to bring a favorite Easter dish to share.

MAPJ FILM SERIES

The Manhattan Alliance for Peace and Justice is hosting monthly films. This month, *Occupation 101: Voices of the Silenced Majority*, will be shown on Tuesday, **APRIL 21**, at 6:30 pm, in the Manhattan Public Library Auditorium. This powerful film documents the current and historical causes of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Christopher Renner at 770-8309 or renner@ksu.edu

SOCIAL ACTION AT UUFM

VOLUNTEER AND SOCIAL ACTION OPPORTUNITIES

REFRESHMENT AND GREETING TEAMS are being formed now, in an effort to make planning and providing welcoming hospitality at our Sunday services easier for our valued volunteers. Teams have four members--one leader/coordinator, and three additional members--who share greeting, and preparation and service of coffee and refreshments. Each team will choose three Sundays during the year. This is an easy way to give to the Fellowship with a minimal investment of time. Learn more from Membership and Welcoming co-chair Jo Maseberg-Tomlinson at 477-2759 or jo.maseberg@gmail.com

This month, Fellowship volunteers prepare and serve **HAPPY KITCHEN COMMUNITY BREAKFASTS** on Friday, APRIL 3, and APRIL 17, from 7:30 to 9 am, at St Paul's Episcopal Church. Occasional **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** to fill in when regular volunteers are absent. The meal is free and all are invited to join us for good food and fellowship. Of course, your donations are welcome. Learn more from Anne Marchin at 539-3026 or annemarchin22@hotmail.com

Fellowship volunteers periodically deliver government food commodities to individuals unable to pick them up from **FLINT-HILLS BREADBASKET**. If you can share two hours of your time during an upcoming delivery, it would make a world of difference to someone. For more information, contact Pat Weisenburger at 539-4711 or patw@ksu.edu

The **RILEY COUNTY SENIOR CENTER** desperately needs drivers to deliver meals to homebound residents. Pick one day of the week and one week of the month when it would be easy for you to deliver meals to Riley County residents. To volunteer or learn more, please contact Judy Houdeshell at 776-9294 or judyh@ncfhaaa.com

The **MANHATTAN EMERGENCY SHELTER** has received two HUD grants to help make rental housing more affordable, and is seeking landlords to participate. They can offer two year contracts, and some property management. Learn more from Mandy at 537-3113, ext 5.

HELPING HANDS SUNDAY

Each month our Social Action Committee designates an agency or association to receive the offerings for the day. On APRIL 5, our congregation will collect funds for The **PEGGY BOWMAN SECOND CHANCE FUND**, which offers financial assistance to low income women to access equal access to reproductive health and pregnancy termination services. Learn more by viewing the Peggy Bowman Fund web site at www.pbscf.org

All cash contributions and checks placed in the offering basket on the second Sunday of the month will go to the Helping Hands Sunday beneficiary, and should be made out to UUFM. Write "UUFM" in the memo line if you wish your contribution to benefit the Fellowship. Learn more from our Helping Hands Sunday coordinator Yvonne Lacy at 539-4404 or yvcq67lacy@sbcglobal.net

EQUAL EXCHANGE COFFEE AND CFL SALES

FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS are offered for purchase at the Fellowship following Sunday programs. Whole bean, ground, and decaf coffees, as well as chocolate, and tea are available. Special orders may be placed. To learn more, or to purchase Fair Trade products, please contact Anne Cowan at 537-2025 or anne_cowan@sbcglobal.net or ask her on Sunday mornings. Learn more at www.equalexchange.com



Anne also coordinates the sale of **COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS (CFLs)** on Sunday mornings, in support of the Fellowship's efforts to encourage green living. Bulbs are \$4 each, and may be purchased to donate to families seeking help through Shepherd's Crossing.

CHALICE LIGHTERS PROJECT

The Chalice Lighters Project of the Prairie Star District (PSD) provides grants to UU Churches and Fellowships to promote growth. Our congregation has been a recipient three times. In 1994, a grant helped us hire our first minister; in 2000, we received assistance for our building expansion; and in 2009, we received about \$8,000 to hire our first Director of Religious Education. Grants are funded by individual donations from UU members throughout the PSD, and are made three times a year with participants sending \$20 for each grant after receiving information about the project.

UUFM hopes to increase Chalice Lighter participation to 30 from last year's level of seven. Our RE students have made, and will maintain, a goal-graph on the bulletin board across from the coat rack. There are pamphlets with forms in the information rack in the Narthex. In the past month we have increased our participation to 22 members. Eight more and we will reach our goal! Please consider becoming a Chalice Lighter and help the growth of UUs throughout our District. Give your application to Anne Cowan at the Fair Trade Coffee table on Sunday mornings, or put it in the Sunday morning collection basket. Contact Anne at 537-2025 or anne_cowan@sbcglobal.net to learn more.

WORDS FROM OUR CHAIR - ELKE LORENZ, MARCH 23, 2009

Dear Fellowship Members and Friends,

The monthly Executive Board meeting took place on Thursday, March 12. The Board welcomed Brice Hobrock as chair-elect.



Eric Banner, Past Chair and Nominating Committee chair, brought before the board the names of Fellowship members willing to serve on the Board during the next fiscal year, which begins

on June 1, 2009. The Board voted unanimously to approve the nominees to be presented to the congregation: Larry Weaver, Chair-elect; Dick Beeman, Secretary; and Kim Belanger, Member-at-large. Anne Cowan will be on the Board for another year as Member-at-large, so will the Treasurer Mark Mayfield, and I as immediate Past Chair. Terri Franz's two-year term as Secretary, and Eric Banner's term as immediate Past Chair will be running out. Dick, who filled a one-year vacancy as Member-at-large, will remain on the Board as Secretary. Please see Eric's column [page 10] in this newsletter for more detail. The new Board members will have to be approved by the congregation during the Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 26. The Annual Meeting will follow a regular Sunday program and will start at 12:30 pm. Please make sure to partake in this important Fellowship event.

The board, under the leadership of Mark Mayfield, discussed and approved the proposed budget for 2010. All committees were involved in creating the budget. It will also have to be approved by the congregation at the Annual Meeting. It can be viewed in this newsletter [page 9], together with some explanations by Mark.

In February, we appointed a task force under the leadership of Michael Oldfather to work out details regarding Rev Michael Nelson's sabbatical, which, in accordance with his contract, will begin in January of 2010. So far, the task force focused on reviewing the letter of agreement between UUFM and Rev Nelson, on planning for replacement of some of the minister's activities during his absence, on how to assist the minister and the congregation to insure that the sabbatical will be mutually beneficial, and on budgetary implications in conjunction with the sabbatical. The Board voted unanimously to use the services of Rev Thea Nietfeld to fulfill some ministerial duties in Michael Nelson's absence. Please see Michael Oldfather's column [page 8] in this newsletter for more information.

The Board approved a request by Michael Nelson to endorse Thea Nietfeld as UUFM's community minister to give her an affiliation with a UU congregation. Thea, who has met many of our members and friends over the past few months, currently serves the Salina congregation once a month. As community minister, Thea will, for example, support social justice efforts. She is currently leading a

workshop series on UU principles for us. There is no permanent pay or employment agreement between the community minister and UUFM.

As indicated in the March newsletter, the chairs of the Caring, Social, and Membership and Welcoming Committees, together with the minister and Board members have decided to try a new approach to Sunday morning procedures. After an initial phase of adjustment, the move toward having teams of 4 taking care of greeting, coffee and refreshments, and clean-up duties will make the Sunday morning life easier and will, hopefully, involve all Fellowship members (and friends too).

Our new Membership and Welcoming Committee chair, Jo Maseberg-Tomlinson, has taken on the task of working out the details. All members who are not regular RE teachers or technical support are asked to please join a Sunday morning team. If you have not been asked by one of the 16 team leaders to join a particular team, please get in touch with Jo or myself and we will place you with a team. Each team will be asked to greet and take care of snacks 3 times per year and has the option to sign-up several weeks in advance for their shifts. The team approach is used in congregations across the country. It helps to get all members (and friends) involved in sharing Sunday morning responsibilities and builds a great sense of community. Thank you for your involvement in this effort!

Please feel free to discuss any questions, suggestions, or concerns you may have with regard to the work of the Board with any Board member. Looking forward to seeing all of you at the Annual Meeting on April 26 after the regular Sunday program,

Elke Lorenz, UUFM Executive Board Chair

Contact Elke at 539-3527 or ellorenz@uufm.net

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The Executive Board meets Thursday, APRIL 9, at 7 pm, in the Inez Alsop all-purpose room (old sanctuary). Interested members and friends are encouraged to attend. Learn more from Executive Board Chair Elke Lorenz at 539-3527 or ellorenz@uufm.net

COUNCIL OF COMMITTEES MEETING

The Council of Committees meets Wednesday, **APRIL 15**, at 7 pm, in the old sanctuary. The agenda will be to a) report on committee leadership and membership for next year, and b) to begin review and training on the EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GUIDE [see Brice's column on page 7]. Both old and new committee chairs are urged to attend to begin training. Learn more from Brice Hobrock at 776-3175 or hobrock@ksu.edu

REPORT FROM OUR CHAIR-ELECT

- BRICE HOBROCK, MARCH 24, 2009

The Long Range Planning Committee is completing work on an EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GUIDE. Considering unexpected weather events here in Manhattan and intrusions in religious venues across the country this past year, the committee believed that preparation and training was a priority. Have you thought about that you would do in the event of an emergency?



Initial training will be focused on board members and committee chairs [see *Council of Committees Meeting, page 6*], but it is something that we will all want to think about. An adult education program or sessions following Sunday services will expose everyone to these issues in the next few months.

The GUIDE is organized for easy reference and access to assistance during an emergency. However, its real value is in teaching "preparedness." It focuses on situational instances in the general areas of Child Safety; Personal Safety; Dangerous Weather including Tornadoes, Wind and Lightning; Intrusions; Disruptive Individuals; Medical Emergencies; Terrorist Threats; Physical Plant Failures; Fire; Human Violence; and Dangerous Animals.

Questions? Please contact Brice at 776-3175 or hobrock@ksu.edu

TASK FORCE ON MINISTER'S SABBATICAL

Michael Oldfather reports on the Task Force on the Minister's Sabbatical. Please contact Michael at 537-3738 or mou812@ksu.edu to learn more.

In February, the Executive Board asked me to chair a task force to help Michael Nelson and the congregation prepare for the minister's sabbatical, approved by the Board for the period January 1 through May 31, 2010. Alley Stoughton and Jason Maseberg-Tomlinson have agreed to serve with me. Our charge (which is, of course, subject to modification and/or expansion) is threefold.

First, we have to address the issue of which activities of the minister can be replaced by volunteers, and which will require expenditure of UUJM funds. Fortunately, changes in Rev Thea Nietfeld's life have brought an experienced UU minister to Manhattan for a sojourn of indeterminate length. She has agreed to provide a sermon a month during Michael's absence, to be on call for emergencies, and to devote some time to assist committees where there's alignment between our needs and her experience. The budget to be considered at the Annual Meeting includes the Executive Board's recommendation for Rev Nietfeld's compensation.

Second, we have the responsibility to help minister and congregation arrive at a plan for the sabbatical that permits both parties to feel that the leave promises to be mutually rewarding and beneficial.

Third, our charge includes planning for Michael's reintegration into the life of the Fellowship when he returns next June. During a minister's sabbatical, both he and the congregation may change in interesting, unexpected, and exciting ways.

REMEMBERING MILLIE KATZ

News has been received of the passing of founding Fellowship member, Mildred Popov Katz, at her home in Bennington, Vermont. Founding and current Fellowship member Jeune Kirmser shares some memories:

When at the Fellowship, pause, look around, and know that the activist idea-person responsible for starting this Fellowship over half a century ago has concluded her journey. At 85, Millie Katz has died.

Our friendship began in 1955 at a party. I learned Millie's entrance meant the activist conscience of the city had arrived. Her graceful intelligence, awareness of community lacks, organizational sense of how to diminish needs, finding volunteers who had experience in areas useful for her innovations--all of these things made up the magnetic presence that was Millie.

The Riley County Mental Health Clinic, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, and the Human Rights Committee all had the mark of Millie. She remains a passionate presence for me, available to call up and remember happily.



MILLIE KATZ AND HER CAT, CA 1969

ANNUAL MEETING 2009

Our Annual Meeting will be held following the Sunday service on APRIL 28. Please review the information provided on the following pages, to familiarize yourself with the issues and items to be discussed and voted upon. Only members who signed the Membership Book at least 30 days before April 28, will be eligible to vote at this meeting, as outlined in the Fellowship's Bylaws.

Michael Oldfather reports on the initial work and findings of the Sabbatical Leave Task Force. Please also review Michael's written commentary on the responsibilities of the Task Force, at the bottom of the previous page (page 7) of this newsletter. Contact Michael with questions at 537-3738 or mou812@ksu.edu

REPORT OF SABBATICAL LEAVE TASK FORCE Michael Oldfather (Chair), Alley Stoughton, and Jason Maseberg-Tomlinson UUFM Annual Meeting – April 26, 2009

Outline of Responsibilities:

- A. Arranging for partial replacement of minister's services by hiring Rev. Thea Nietfeld for 5 months @ \$500, for total cost of \$2,500. Funds to be provided from Jeune and Philip Kirmser gift, as per proposed FY 2010 budget.
- B. Assisting minister and congregation in planning for sabbatical.
- C. Planning for minister's reintegration into Fellowship following sabbatical.

From Letter of Agreement between Fellowship and Minister:

3.8. Sabbatical Leave

3.8.1 the Minister shall use sabbatical leave for study, education, writing, meditation, and other forms of professional and religious growth. Sabbatical leave accrues at the rate of one month per year of service, with leave to be taken after four but before seven years of service. No more than six months of sabbatical leave may be used within any twelve-month period. The dates of the sabbatical plan must be approved by the Executive Board at least one year in advance.

3.8.2 The Congregation will continue full salary, housing allowance, and benefits during sabbatical leave. Professional expenses may be adjusted.

3.8.3 Every fiscal year, the Congregation will consider sequestering funds for use in funding the Congregation's additional expenses during the Minister's sabbatical. The sabbatical fund is the property of the Congregation.

3.8.4 In the event of the Minister's resignation, termination, or retirement, unused sabbatical leave is not compensable.

3.8.5 The Minister agrees not to resign from full-time service to the Congregation for a minimum of one year following the end of each sabbatical leave.

3.8.6 The Congregation agrees to take no action on ministerial tenure during a sabbatical leave.

3.8.7 Accrual of vacation, study leave and sabbatical leave time began January 1, 2005.

ANNUAL MEETING 2009 (CONTINUED)

Below, Fellowship Treasurer Mark Mayfield offers detailed figures and comments on the proposed UUFM Budget for the upcoming fiscal year 2009/10 (June 1, 2009, through May 31, 2010). Please review this information carefully. Following thorough examination and discussion at the Annual Meeting on April 26, members will consider approval of the budget. Contact Mark with questions at 776-6495 or ferguson_mayfield@mac.com

THE FY 2009/2010 BUDGET

The Finance Committee presents the 2010 budget proposal for consideration by UUFM members at the Annual Meeting on April 26. Last year's total budget was \$112,452 and, as proposed, this year's is \$123,608. Most of the increase in the budget is due to previously approved plans for increase in payroll expenses.

During the upcoming fiscal year, Sue Turner, fellowship administrator, moves into the 4th year of a 5-year salary plan that was approved in 2006 which includes an increase of \$1375. This brings her near to the median of the recommended salary range for an office administrator in a small (<150) congregation.

Maria Snyder, our half-time Director of Religious Education, will be paid for the full year whereas last year she started in November 2008, after 5 months of the fiscal year had elapsed.

Reverend Michael Nelson receives a cost of living adjustment in January 2010. A new expense line is added is to compensate for his 5-month sabbatical leave. This money will be used to pay Reverend Thea Nietfeld to be consulting minister while Reverend Nelson is away. This budget proposes that \$2500 of funds remaining from a donation by Philip and Jeune Kirmser be used to offset this expense (see INCOME in table).

Aside from these payroll increases, the net change in expenses is *down* by \$400 compared to last years budget.

Communications, Music and Membership budgets are up while all others are down, or have remained unchanged from last year. The \$100 line for the committee on Ministry is new for this fiscal year.

On the income side, the proposed budget for FY 2010 requires a nearly 10% increase in contributions pledged by members. As mentioned above, most of this required increase is the result of increases in payroll.

Please be ready to discuss any items about which you have questions at the Annual Meeting.

Mark Mayfield

Finance Committee chair

UUFM Fiscal Year 2009/2010 Proposed Budget

as approved by the UUFM Executive Board on March 12, 2009

INCOME	
Chalice Lighters Grant	\$4,000
Contributions-Cash	\$2,000
Contributions-Non-pledge	\$5,000
Contributions-Pledges	\$97,508
DRE Special Gifts& Memorials	\$9,000
Kirmser Gift money (2007)	\$2,500
Fund Raising	\$2,500
Interest	\$100
Other Income (mostly rental)	\$1,000
Total Income	123,608
EXPENSES	
Administration	\$1,500
Building Contingency Fund	\$2,000
Caring	\$125
Committee on Ministry	\$100
Communications/Publicity	\$3,870
Dues	\$8,086
Facilities	\$6,700
Green Sanctuary	\$100
Housekeeping	\$3,445
Insurance	\$2,500
Leadership Development	\$1,000
Legal Fees	\$40
Membership	\$520
Minister's Discretionary Fund	\$250
Miscellaneous	\$200
Music	\$1,665
Payroll	\$76,337
Program	\$1,850
Religious Education	\$1,740
Sabbatical Expenses	\$2,500
Sitter	\$1,300
Social	\$800
Social Action	\$680
Utilities	\$6,000
Welcoming Congregation	\$300
Total Expense	123,608
Net Income	0

EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICER CANDIDATES

Nominating Committee chair Eric Banner presents the slate of Executive Board officers for the congregation's consideration. A vote will be called following discussion at the Annual Meeting on April 26. Please contact Eric at 776-7649 or eric.banner@gmail.com with questions.

This year, with the able assistance of Kathleen Oldfather and Scott Tanona, the nominating committee has completed our work to ensure continued high quality leadership at UUFM. For those who have been around a long-time, you may have noticed a change in process that started under Doreen Shanteau's leadership a couple of years ago.

Unlike in the past, when the nominating committee was charged to find leaders for every board post and committee every year, we now have a split system. The nominating committee now works directly with each committee, while always encouraging committees to build and support emerging leaders from within. When an individual committee needs assistance finding a new committee chair, the nominating committee works with the committee to locate new leadership. These committee chairs are brought into office by the committees, and require no congregational action. Each committee has successfully located leadership for the coming year, and we see a good balance between new or emerging leaders and steady hands that continue to guide our organization.

The second part of the split system calls for the nominating committee to locate leaders for election by the congregation at the Annual Meeting to serve on the Executive Board. Pursuant to by-laws/governance changes initiated two years ago, we now elect only three of the seven board members each year. This year the nominating committee is proud to present replacements for member-at-large, Kim Belanger, secretary, Dick Beeman, and chair-elect, Larry Weaver. In combination with our continuing board members, Elke Lorenz, Brice Hobrock, Mark Mayfield and Anne Cowan, we believe we achieve the ever elusive balance of age, gender, membership-tenure, and do so while bring three great leaders to the board. We believe that each of these three brings strong backgrounds in congregational life, important connections to the many parts of our organization and community, and clear and thoughtful consideration to the work that they do. We hope you agree, and look forward to answering any questions you may have in the weeks until the annual meeting.

Eric Banner, Nominating Committee chair

UUA PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

Our congregation's choice from among the candidates in the upcoming Unitarian Universalist Association presidential election will be addressed at our Annual Meeting on April 26. There are two candidates running for this position--Rev Peter Morales (www.moralesforuupresident.org), and Rev Laurel Hallman (www.hallmanforuupresident.com). View additional information, video clips, and details concerning the UUA presidential campaign at www.uua.org/aboutus/governance/elections/president/index.shtml

PETITION TO ENDORSE LAUREL HALLMAN

A sufficient percentage of the Fellowship's voting members have signed a petition to bring the following question before the membership at the Annual meeting on April 26:

SHALL UUFM DESIGNATE OUR VOTES IN THE 2009 ELECTION OF THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION (UUA) FOR REV LAUREL HALLMAN?

Please take a few minutes to learn about each candidate, and about the democratic selection of leaders within the Unitarian Universalist Association by visiting www.uua.org/aboutus/governance/elections/president/index.shtml

UUA PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION COMMENTARY

- ERIC BANNER

This year, as is the case every four years, the Unitarian Universalist Association will elect a new president at General Assembly in June. Perhaps more than ever before the choice we make will have lasting influences on the larger Unitarian Universalist movement. In a year where the UUA is already planning more than a 10% budget cut, whoever is elected will be faced with difficult choices that impact our congregation and other UU congregations throughout the world. Unlike any other business of the UUA, our congregation is entitled to vote by absentee ballot on this election, or by sending delegates to General Assembly to cast our votes in person.

I believe that it is essential to our long-term health at UUFM that we be actively engaged in the larger association as often as possible. For that reason, and after careful review of the candidates, I have chosen to endorse Rev Dr Laurel Hallman for UUA President. Pursuant to our Bylaws, I have also obtained sufficient signatures to put the question [seen above] before the congregation at our Annual Meeting at the end of April.

Eric Banner



GREETING AND REFRESHMENT TEAMS

- April 5: Shirley and Brice Hobrock, Angela Hayes, Monta Manney
- April 12: Jo Maseberg-Tomlinson, Sarah Nuss-Warren, Social Cmte
- April 19: Elke Lorenz, Yvonne Lacy, M Caldwell, S Mull, M Westfall
- April 26: Courtney Markle, Jennifer Askey Dick and Sylvia Beeman

Beginning in April, coffee and greeting each Sunday will be accomplished by a team of four volunteers with one leader/coordinator, and three friends to help. Teams sign up for only three Sundays each year. We hope this new organizational method will actually help lighten the load, and allow those without much time to give a little.

Thanks so much to everyone who has already volunteered to join or lead one of our 16 teams! Team members and occasional substitutes are still needed! Ask Jo Maseberg-Tomlinson at 477-2759 or jo.maseberg@gmail.com to learn more about Coffee and Greeting Teams.

Administrator's Schedule

In April, Susan Turner will be available in the Fellowship office on:

- Thursday, April 2 - 12 to 5 pm
- Monday, April 6 - 3 to 5 pm
- Tuesday, April 7 - 12 to 5 pm
- Thursday, April 9 - 4 to 7 pm
- Monday, April 13 - 3 to 5 pm
- Tuesday, April 14 - 12 to 5 pm
- Thursday, April 16 - 4 to 9 pm
- Thursday, April 23 - 12 to 5 pm
- Saturday, April 25 - 11 am to 6 pm
- Monday, April 27 - 3 to 5 pm
- Tuesday, April 28 - 12 to 5 pm
- Thursday, April 30 - 12 to 5 pm

Call Sue at 537-2349 during office hours, or drop by the office. She may be reached at any time by email at office@uufm.net

HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Contact Fellowship administrator Susan Turner at 539-3272 or office@uufm.net to **UPDATE YOUR MAILING, PHONE, or EMAIL** information, or to **CANCEL YOUR SUBSCRIPTION** to this newsletter. Members and friends may also reach Sue during her posted office hours (*seen at center left*) at 537-2349.

If you have been considering **BECOMING A MEMBER** of UUFM, please contact our Welcoming and Membership Committee co-chairs, Mary Westfall at 539-5397 or westyks@hotmail.com; Cathy Hedge at 537-1101 or cjhedgewriter@yahoo.ca; or Jo Maseberg-Tomlinson at 477-2759 or jo.maseberg@gmail.com for information and assistance.

Fellowship members may receive the UUA magazine **UU WORLD**, without cost. Contact Fellowship administrator Susan Turner at 539-3272 or office@uufm.net. UU World may be viewed online at www.uuworld.org

Join in email discussions of interest to Fellowship members and friends on our **EMAIL LIST SERV**. List serv members may choose to receive each message individually; as one daily "digest;" or check messages by logging into our list serv web site. Contact list serv moderator Ruth Welti at welti@ksu.edu to subscribe.

UUFM bookkeeper Kathleen Oldfather would be happy to help you set up **ELECTRONIC PAYMENT** of your pledge contributions. If you wish, pledge installments can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account on a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly basis. There is no cost for this service. Ask Kathleen at 537-3738 or koldfather@yahoo.com, or pick up literature and a payment form on the info table in our narthex.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please contact fellowship administrator Susan Turner at 537-2349 or office@uufm.net, **NO LATER THAN THURSDAY MORNING** with announcements and events for inclusion in the Sunday morning Order of Service bulletin. Remember to check the bulletin each week for important announcements of upcoming activities and events.

CARING FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

If you could use a hand, or if you know members or friends who are experiencing life challenges, and would appreciate assistance, please let our Caring Committee know. Contact Caring Committee co-chairs Yvonne Lacy at 539-4404 or yvcq67lacy@sbcglobal.net, or Barbara Hacker at 587-8002.

BUILDING USE AND SCHEDULING

Please check with Susan Turner to be sure your desired date is available before finalizing plans for committee meetings, Fellowship activities, or private events that will be held in the Fellowship building. To confirm building availability and schedule your activity, or for more information, contact Sue at 537-2349 or office@uufm.net

MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the April edition of *The UUFM Voice* is Sunday, **APRIL 15**. Please send news, meetings, announcements, and events to Susan Turner at 539-3272 or office@uufm.net