



THE UUFM VOICE

JULY 2009
Volume 48, Issue 2

JULY 2009 PROGRAMS

JULY 5 "JUSTICE DAVID SOUTER'S LEGACY"

As David Souter's tenure is ending, Professor John Fliter, KSU political scientist, will discuss the Justice's role in shaping the Supreme Court's deliberations and decisions. Dr Fliter will also consider the possible impact on the Court of Souter's likely successor. Contact/convener is Michael Oldfather at 537-3738 or mou812@ksu.edu

JULY 12 "TEARS"

We can cry tears of sadness, joy, anger, frustration and pain. Crying can be cathartic, or can pull us deeper into depression. Sometimes, when we crave tears, they won't come; other times, they come when they are especially unwanted. Weeping can be a solitary experience, or a social one. It can be manipulative, induce feelings of shame, or help us bond with others. Join Alley Stoughton as she tries to make sense of her and others' experiences with tears, drawing on a recent New York Times article and the flood of readers' comments that it precipitated. Contact Alley at 341-3041 or stough@k-state.edu

JULY 19 "BEING SINGLE"

Fellowship members Marolyn Caldwell, Anne Cowan, and Ana Franklin will give personal accounts about what being single means to them. Forty percent or over 82 million men and women in the United States are unmarried, signaling the greatest number of single or one-person households in history. Although there may still some stigma attached to being single, there are advantages to living alone ... with no partner to please, singles may have a greater sense of self-knowledge or the freedom to explore their own values, dreams, goals, and spirituality. Contact/convener is Elke Lorenz at 539-3527 or ellorenz@uufm.net

JULY 26 "HOW CAN ANYONE FORGET CHARLIE?"

Rev Ron Knapp calls this sermon, "An ode to the common man and woman, what it is that makes ordinary people 'the most human.'" Those of who are familiar with Ron's work might be suspicious of his claim that this talk will not be "academic, theological, or prophetic." Contact/convener is Dick Beeman at 539-9369 or rbeeman@cox.net

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

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8TH ANNUAL UUFM MUSICALE

Music Committee chair Michael Oldfather announces a call for the musically inclined among us:

A few spots remain for performers who want to strut their stuff at this year's annual showcase of Fellowship musical talent. Members and friends who wish to participate in the UUFM Musicale, on Sunday, August 23 should contact Michael at 537-3738 or mou812@ksu.edu ... Before it's too late.



UUFM is a WELCOMING CONGREGATION

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

In "White Crane," a magazine that explores gay wisdom and culture, I learned in the issue examining the meaning of sanctuary that "The Mountain," a UU retreat center in North Carolina, has hosted the "Gay Spirit Visions Conference" since it began in 1990. Thirty other retreat centers rejected their need to gather in



safety to share and seek wisdom. Andrew Ramer, who wrote the article "Into Loving Arms," detailed what makes this center a sanctuary for him. A prime reason is the "committed, devoted staff that has become family ... Each year they remind us we are as important to them as they are to us. In an often-hostile world such reminders are another of the Mountain's eye-moistening, heart-soothing gifts."

At the Topeka UU Fellowship's celebration of their new building on June 21st, eyes moistened as UU's across the southern cluster of the Prairie Star District joined UUFT to honor the hard work and devotion necessary to build their glorious addition. Their concrete commitment to provide space for the next generations of UU's to grow into their wisdom in a safe and caring place reminded all gathered of the power of community when it moves beyond individual boundaries to a shared vision; lifting up our voices of love and opening our arms to greater possibility.

Being a UU minister challenges me to learn how to love in the real world. The aggression and arrogance of any of us who want to push things through, brings me in direct contact with my own aggression and arrogance. Smugness and elitism does the same thing, as does indifference. Creating sanctuary requires people to expand small mindedness. In an often-hostile world we need to create "safe zones" where differences don't have to be hidden and we celebrate diversity by remaining open to change while love guides. This may sound like the blah, blah, blah of Hallmark card verses, but when I am dispirited because fellowship work overwhelms, becomes too challenging and my efforts seem unequal to the task; at some point when self pity becomes burdensome, I turn to love to help me understand how to practice compassion and openness. If my vision compresses and my work leads me from wisdom, then I

know the challenge is to defuse the pressure to keep loving kindness from being contracted into a hard line. While it may be easier to separate, it tends to compound ones reactivity, making one want to control more and more of what happens in their individual and communal lives. Spite is not a pretty thing.

In wisdom traditions the road to liberating truth is not through mindless passivity or the doctrinaire, "I am the one with the right answer" approach, but rather through an intelligent surrendering of one's fears to a larger inclusion, a dream that moves into reality, shaping the lives of all involved so that more is possible instead of less. This power navigates pessimism to a place where gladness has room to flourish. The yin side of this might be the empathy pouring forth from Fellowship members over George Marchin's unexpected death. Love teaches us to share in our joy and grief, to know as William Blake did, "that joy and woe are woven fine." Let us do the good work of finely weaving love together.

Abigail Conrad summed it up well in an email from Maine, "I know you and the UUFM family will be a great support to Anne; it is part of the reason we are all members ... to be there for each other when the world falls apart."

Michael



*REVEREND MICHAEL NELSON
SHARES AN ORIGINAL STORY WITH RE STUDENTS
DURING THE SERVICE ON SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 15, 2009*

RE NEWS

REFLECTIONS - MARIA SNYDER, DRE, JUNE 26, 2009

June has been a fun month in RE. We are in full swing of our summer RE program, Postcards from UUFM, based on the UU World Travelers curriculum. Our tours began with Sue Turner and the World in Our Backyard. We learned about mason bees, Woodhouse toads and bats. We made a toad village. Check it out on your way in or out near the main entrance. Next we did yoga with Emily Ragan. Then we toured the capitals Prague, Vienna, Bratislava, and Budapest with Lily Colburn. As this edition comes out we will be on our last adventure of the month with tour guide Larry Weaver. We will be canoeing Pillsbury Crossing. We will have a wonderful and wet time!



July tours will also be exciting. Join us for a tour along the Yellow Brick Road with me, Maria Snyder on the 5th. Join Scott Tanona on the 12th for a trip underworld--not too far. We are going to look at the World Under our Feet, getting to know the bugs and such that help us and the earth. We will also tour the mountains of Colorado with tour guides Blake and Kim Belanger. We will wrap up July with a tour of India with tour guide Ana Franklin.

On a personal note, my July will be full of travel and learning. I will be on vacation for a week during which I will be going to the national conference of my sorority, Gamma Rho Lambda. I will be back for a short couple of days before heading off with Thea to the MidWest Leadership Conference. I am sure to come out of July with far more knowledge than when I went into it.

Maria

VISIT UUFM TOAD TOWN, CREATED BY RE STUDENTS TO SUPPORT THREATENED AMPHIBIANS IN OUR GARDENS



POSTCARDS FROM UUFM ...



This month, our RE students continue their wide ranging travels. Thanks to the efforts and contributions of Fellowship members young and old, students have already visited the world in our own backyards, learned about yoga, visited magical capital cities of eastern Europe, and embarked on a Kansas canoeing adventure.

In July, a new series of explorations awaits:

- July 5: *The Yellow Brick Road* w/Maria Snyder
- July 12: *World Under Our Feet* w/Scott Tanona
- July 19: *Colorado Mountains* w/the Belangers
- July 26: *India* w/Ana Franklin

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

TEENS - POPCORN THEOLOGY

Teens, tweens, and parents are invited to join us for Popcorn Theology every other Wednesday, at 6 pm. On **JULY 1**, we'll watch *Bruce Almighty*, on **JULY 15**, *Heaven Can Wait*, and on **JULY 29**, *Contact*. Learn more from Maria Snyder at 537-2349 or dre@uufm.net

YOUTH CHOIR

The Youth Choir rehearses in the Inez Alsop room (old sanctuary) on Sunday, **JULY 5**, and **JULY 19**, at 10:15 am. Learn more from Sarah Nuss-Warren at 537-3586 or nusswarr@gmail.com

MARIA SNYDER'S SCHEDULE

In July, Maria will be available in the Fellowship office on:

- Friday, July 3 - 1 to 4 pm
- Tuesday, July 28 - 9 am to 12 noon
- Friday, July 31 - 1 to 4 pm

Maria will be using a few well-earned vacation days July 6 thru 12, and from July 16 to 26, she'll be attending the PSD Midwest Leadership School. During office hours, call Maria at 537-2349, or drop by the Fellowship building. Contact Maria by email at anytime at dre@uufm.net

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. Learn more from Jack Warren at 539-4073 or jomega@ksu.edu

The **WOMEN'S LUNCH GROUP** meets Wednesday, JULY 8, at 12 noon, at the Manhattan Country Club, at the invitation of Fellowship friend Jane Westfall. If you require an elevator, go to the back of the building near the pool. For more information, or to arrange a ride, please contact Florence Schwab at 539-0976 or fschwab@cox.net

The **UUFM DRUM CIRCLE** gathers on Friday, JULY 10, at 7 pm, at the UU fire pit outside or inside in the event of rain. UU members, guests, and community people of all ages are welcome. We drum, sing and dance and are learning some new songs. Bring your favorite instrument, or there are also plenty of instruments available to borrow. Learn more from Pat Embers at 539-2819 or embers1@cox.net

THIRD THURSDAY SUPPER gathers on July 16, at 6 pm, in the Inez Alsop all-purpose room (old sanctuary). We'll be a bit short-handed this month, as Michael Nelson and Maria Snyder will be away. *If you can provide a single dish, or assist with set-up before and cleaning up afterwards, please let Sue Turner know.* Otherwise, bring your smile, family, friends, and guests, and join us for supper and conversation! Contact Sue at 539-3272 or office@uufm.net to learn more.

Musical members and friends who wish to share their talents with the rest of us are encouraged to sign up for a spot in the celebrated annual **UUFM MUSICAL**, which will be held on Sunday morning, AUGUST 23. Interested singers, instrumentalists, dancers, and other musical performers should contact Music Committee Chair Michael Oldfather at 537-3738 or mou812@ksu.edu to learn more.

The **BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** *will not meet in July.* Watch Sunday morning order of service announcements for the August location and title. All interested members and friends are welcome to join the group. Learn more from Lorrie Cross at 539-7883 or lmcross@kansas.net

SUMMER SALAD POTLUCK

Join us following the morning service at 12:15 pm, on Sunday, JULY 19, for a special summer **SALAD POTLUCK** meal. Bring your favorite salad to share, or try out a new recipe. Our Social Committee will provide bread and beverages. To learn more, please contact Social Committee chair Courtney Markle at 236-1563 or clmarkle@hotmail.com



DIVORCE/SEPARATION SUPPORT

UUFM Community Minister Rev Thea Nietfeld will facilitate a new group at the Fellowship. Members and friends, women and men, gay and straight are all welcome to the initial gathering of a divorce/separation support group on Wednesday, **JULY 15**, at 7 pm, in the Fellowship's large RE room. For more information, contact Thea at 918 207-2444 or okiethoreau@yahoo.com



DRUMMING INVITATION

Fellowship friend Maya Zahira invites Fellowship members and friends to join in a weekly Drum Circle, which meets on Wednesdays, at 5:45 pm, at UFM, 1221 Thurston Street, in Manhattan. The circle focuses on Middle-Eastern and African rhythms. This is a UFM class, and registration is required. To register call UFM at 539-8763. Learn more at Maya's website, www.mayazahira.com, or email info@mayazahira.com

UUFM SINGERS

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

SOCIAL ACTION AT UUFM

VOLUNTEER AND SOCIAL ACTION OPPORTUNITIES

Our Welcoming and Membership Committee is in the process of recruiting one or two additional **REFRESHMENT AND GREETING TEAMS**, 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. Occasional substitute team members are also needed. This is an easy way to give to the Fellowship with a minimal investment of time. Learn more from Jo Maseberg-Tomlinson at 477-2759 or jo.maseberg@gmail.com

This month, Fellowship volunteers prepare and serve **HAPPY KITCHEN COMMUNITY BREAKFASTS** on Friday, JULY 10 and JULY 24, 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 Shirley Hobrock, 776-3175 or shirleyjhobrock@hotmail.com

The **RILEY COUNTY SENIOR CENTER** 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

HELPING HANDS SUNDAY

Each month our Social Action Committee designates an agency or association to receive the offerings for the day. On Sunday **JULY 12**, our morning collection will go to the **FLINT HILLS COMMUNITY CLINIC**. The clinic provides services to low-income and uninsured families. Physicians, nurses, and other professionals donate their time to medically underserved members of our community, in the old Federal Building at 401 Houston Street, Suite C. Learn more clinic services and volunteer opportunities by calling the clinic at 323-4351.

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. To learn more, or to purchase Fair Trade products, ask Anne Cowan at 537-2025 or anne_cowan@sbcglobal.net or ask her on Sunday mornings.



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 also be purchased to donate to families seeking help through Shepherd's Crossing.

CASA SUMMER TRAINING

Volunteer to be the difference between abuse and hope--become a Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). Independent study training is available for those wishing to participate. Learn more at 537-6367 or sunfcasa@interkan.net, or visit <http://casa.manhattanks.org>. There is a child waiting for your voice.

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING

The UUFM Social Action Committee will meet on Tuesday, **JULY 7**, at 5:30 pm, in the large RE room at the Fellowship. This month, Helping Hands Sunday beneficiaries for the coming year will be discussed and selected. All interested members and friends are invited. Learn more from Yvonne Lacy at 539-4404 or yvcq67lacy@sbcglobal.net



Shepherd's
Crossing
FAITH HOPE LOVE

Eat at **SIRLOIN STOCKADE** on the *Third Tuesday* each month. Sirloin Stockade will donate a generous part of the cost of your meal to Shepherd's Crossing to assist families with rent, utilities, or prescription medication. Give this coupon and your receipt to the cashier at Sirloin Stockade on Tuesday any time after 11 am.

The 2010 UUFM Executive Board and Staff got off to a strong start with a June 5 Retreat, hosted by Brice and Shirley Hobrock. The agenda was ambitious but the discussion followed its own course when coupled with food and drink as the basis for getting acquainted, building cohesiveness,



and setting goals for the year. The discussion largely focused on membership and budget issues, largely our static, but high quality membership, and acquiring pledges necessary to support our staff and programs. Assessing the current state of the congregation, we acknowledged that great strides have been made, especially with religious education, pastoral care, social activities, programming, facilities, and social action. I believe that the congregational mood quotient is high.

The Board continued discussions of creative membership growth and meeting the 2010 Budget with sufficient pledges at its first formal meeting on June 9. The Finance Committee Chair, Mark Mayfield outlined the fact that we may be \$14,000 short of meeting our 2010 pledge goal of \$97,500. You will recall that our 2010 Budget was unanimously approved by the membership at the 2009 Annual Meeting in April. The Board also considered a Draft of a Past Chair job description, and reviewed a new chapter, "Pandemic and Epidemic Illness" in the *UUFM Emergency Preparedness Guide* [note that the World Health Organization has issued a warning of pandemic swine flu recently]. Other safety issues included better greeter training and the scheduling of Sunday post-service awareness emergency awareness sessions for members in late summer and fall. Future agendas will include reviews of issues raised in the *UUFM Annual Review 2009* conducted by the Committee on Ministry, namely, leadership development, improved communications, mission/vision/covenant, et al.

The new member and friend welcome dinner on June 15 featured good food and conversation. It was noted that some would like to see more community social programming. A review of our activities, plus those commitments by individuals throughout the community, indicate that we are deeply involved. I will note that the review of "Breakthrough Congregations 2008" indicates a very

large commitment to community social programming. However, consideration of congregation size, financial capability, and community are factors in a congregation's capacity to take on more projects.

This will be an active year. We hope that you like the new team approach being used by Membership for Sunday hospitality; also, teams managing the Happy Kitchen Fridays are underway. Other committees are moving ahead with plans. Especially, the Social Committee has already mapped out an ambitious program that will be of interest to all. Long-Range Planning will be conducting a new survey of member needs using focus groups. Committee chairs should meet and prepare to report at the first Council of Committees meeting.

Brice Hobrock, UUFM Executive Board Chair

Contact Brice at 776-3175 (home), 477-3982 (cell), or bhobrock@uufm.net

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The Executive Board meets Thursday, **JULY 9**, at 7 pm, in the Inez Alsop all-purpose room (old sanctuary). Interested members and friends are invited to attend and observe the proceedings. Learn more from Executive Board Chair Brice Hobrock at 776-3175 or bhobrock@uufm.net



BRICE SHARES A STORY WITH STUDENTS DURING THE SUNDAY PROGRAM ON APRIL 13, 2008



GREETING AND REFRESHMENT TEAMS

- July 5: June and Charley Kempthorne, Brock Dale, Jack Warren, and Anne Cowan
- July 12: Harriette Janke, Tom Phillips, and Anne Marchin
- July 19: *Salad Potluck* / Social Committee
- July 26: Shirley and Brice Hobrock, Monta Manney, and Angela Hayes

Coffee and greeting teams of four volunteers consist of one leader/coordinator, and three friends to help provide Sunday morning greeting and refreshments. Teams sign up for only three Sundays each year. We hope this new organizational method will 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 teams! We're still recruiting two additional teams and occasional substitutes! Learn more from Welcoming and Membership Committee chair Jo Maseberg-Tomlinson at jo.maseberg@gmail.com or 477-2759.

Administrator's Schedule

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

- Thursday, July 2 - 12 to 5 pm
- Monday, July 6 - 3 to 5 pm
- Tuesday, July 7 - 12 to 5 pm
- Thursday, July 9 - 4 to 7 pm
- Monday, July 13 - 3 to 5 pm
- Tuesday, July 14 - 12 to 5 pm
- Thursday, July 16 - 4 to 9 pm
- Thursday, July 23 - 12 to 5 pm
- Saturday, July 25 - 11 am to 6 pm
- Monday, July 27 - 3 to 5 pm
- Tuesday, July 28 - 12 to 5 pm
- Thursday, July 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 bottom left*) at 537-2349.

If you have been considering **BECOMING A MEMBER** of UUFM, please contact our Welcoming and Membership Committee chair, Jo Maseberg-Tomlinson at 477-2759 or jo.maseberg@gmail.com, or Rev Michael Nelson at 913 961-2626 or minister@uufm.net, 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. View UU World 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 form from the information rack in our narthex.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please contact fellowship administrator Susan Turner at 537-2349 or office@uufm.net, **NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY EVENING** 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

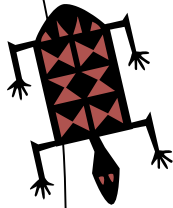
Please check with Susan Turner to be sure your desired date is available before finalizing plans for **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**, Fellowship activities, or private events that will be held in the Fellowship building. To confirm building availability and schedule your activity, or for more information, contact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

AUGUST NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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

NEW FEATURES AT UUFM.NET

The Minister's Poetry page, at <http://uufm.net/index.php?pr=Poems>, is up and running. The page may also be accessed by going to our web site home page at www.uufm.net, then clicking on the "Minister" button on the left side of the page. Scroll to the bottom of the Minister's page to find a link to Michael's Poetry. Michael will periodically post his original verse, and looks forward to hearing members' and friends' comments and thoughts. In July, Michael offers the following selection:



The Petroglyph Tells Its Story

by Michael Nelson

Eventually, you come to Big Creek
where time stops to tell you how time
fills with time, how the rocks are filled with wings,
at least twenty-five kinds of birds
in flight above all that happens then and now,
rocks that tell the story of how deer prints
began as a song in the air
and now live in sandstone,
how the opossum, lizard, two snakes
and a turtle listen endlessly for the life
that goes on inside the mind of creation,
and urges us to say again the names
of all the children, to remember
again how it all began--
shadow of hawk, eagle,
the split tail of the swallow,
water breaking onto the ground,
how daughter became mother,
becomes a craving for more,
the little one hungry
for all the names, to learn
how one shape fits inside another,
crawls away from what she knows
to test the taste of dirt, to see how mud
feels between the toes, to know
how in the end words always fail,
the answer always beyond reach,
the sky instructing us to fly.

