



# THE UUFM VOICE

**NOVEMBER 2009**  
**VOLUME 48, ISSUE 6**

## NOVEMBER 2009 PROGRAMS

### NOVEMBER 1 "GAMMA RHO LAMBDA"

Fellowship friend Chelsey Opal Fritch was instrumental in founding the first queer-inclusive sorority at K-State: Gamma Rho Lambda. She and other sorority members will tell the story of GRL's founding, and talk about how their participation in it has changed their lives. Contact/convener is Alley Stoughton 341-3041 or stough@k-state.edu

### NOVEMBER 8 "PERFECTION IS NOT A GOOD MODEL FOR GROWTH"

Reverend Michael Nelson considers, "The relentless pressure to be a perfect parent, teacher, and retiree limits our freedom of choice. It decreases authenticity. It often makes a person secretly miserable and the people around them anxious with a decreased sense of self-confidence. Our free faith encourages each of us to find what integrates us and brings value to our lives. What is right for one may be wrong for another." Contact Michael at 913 961-2626 or minister@uufm.net

### NOVEMBER 15 "DEEP ROOTS IN THE PRAIRIE"

Reverends Thea Nietfeld and Michael Nelson share their reflections. "Prairie grass has deep roots deep in the rocky soil. Our ecological landscape offers a rich metaphor for spiritual life and community. Let's reflect together on the roots and the prairie wind." Contact Michael at 913 961-2626 or minister@uufm.net

### NOVEMBER 22 "CONFESSIONS OF A POOR LISTENER"

Phil Roudebush, long time member of the Topeka Fellowship, will explore the characteristics of a bad listener and consider how we can overcome these attributes to improve our ability to make a difference in each other's lives. Contact Michael Oldfather at 537-3738 or mou812@ksu.edu

### NOVEMBER 29 "RETURN TO YOUR SELF"

Fellowship member Ana Franklin offers an explanation of some basic Yoga teachings and an experience of what makes Yoga so popular. Your questions and comments are welcome at the end of the program. Contact Ana at 341-9908 or yogaconnection@gmail.com. Convener is Mark Moser at 537-5028 or mark@grapeviner.com

*EXPLORING UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM classes continue this month, following the Sunday services on November 1, 8, and 15.*

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

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### EXPLORING UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

Reverend Michael Nelson and the Fellowship's Welcoming and Membership Committee host a four-part series of introductory classes geared toward new members, and anyone who would like to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and our congregational community. All are welcome! Classes meet **Oct 25, Nov 1, Nov 8, and Nov 15**, following Sunday services, at 12:20 pm, in the new sanctuary. Learn more from Michael at 537-2349 or minister@uufm.net



**UUFM is a  
 WELCOMING CONGREGATION**

Learn more about the Welcoming Congregation initiative at  
[www.uua.org/visitors/justicediversity/6252.shtml](http://www.uua.org/visitors/justicediversity/6252.shtml)

*"There is a pervasive form of contemporary violence [and that is] activism and overwork.*

*"The rush and pressure of modern life are a form, perhaps the most common form, of its innate violence. To allow oneself to be carried away by a multitude of conflicting concerns, to surrender to too many demands, to commit oneself to too many projects, to want to help everyone in everything, is to succumb to violence.*

*"The frenzy of our activism neutralizes our work for peace. It destroys our own inner capacity for peace. It destroys the fruitfulness of our own work, because it kills the root of inner wisdom which makes work fruitful." ... Thomas Merton*

John Blevins, our Unitarian Universalist representative to the Unitarian Universalist Association Board of Trustees, began



with this quote as he invited the UU's gathered from the southern cluster of the Prairie Star District camp at Tall Oaks Retreat Center to put their feet in the dirt. It was a cold weekend so most of us kept our socks and shoes on. When John asked me what direction his thoughts should take after

agreeing to begin our retreat, he was surprised when I said that instead of learning how to be a better board or membership chair, Rev Lisa and I thought we should allow ourselves to relax into the beauty of the setting and provide the opportunity for members of the various UU congregations to connect and get to know one another. Reflecting on what it meant to be in retreat challenged John's drive to be productive. The time he spent preparing his invitation lead him and all present to imagine a deeper balance in our lives, where there was not only time to get our toes in the dirt, but a necessity to do so.

People walked in the woods, enhanced their abilities to tell stories and sought the thread of life that carries us to this moment. Rev Jill's fire side-chat asked us to consider the maturity necessary to stick it out in a relationship with a partner or a UU community no matter how difficult the circumstances.

John, one of the most devoted UU's I know, works tirelessly for this progressive religious movement. Sharon, his long time wife, serves on the regional sub-committee for the ministerial fellowshiping committee. This week they interview 15 candidates for UU ministry after studying their thick

packets describing the life and work path that leads them to want to be a minister. Sharon and John are leaders in their church, their district, and on the national level. They joined All Souls UU Church in Kansas City 43 years ago. Their daughters grew up in that church and now raise their children in UU churches. They live their faith with profound commitment.

Finding the balance which allows maturity to deepen and stabilize our commitments to what we love challenges us to find ways to invigorate, rest and work in ways that draws from the roots of inner wisdom. If frenzy drives our action or non-action we may need to stop and look at a majestic oak; allow ourselves to be replenished by going directly to what feeds and promotes enduring strength and beauty.

May peace be our guide! *Michael*

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### **REVEREND MICHAEL NELSON'S SCHEDULE**

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

Monday,	November	2 - 5 to 7 pm
Thursday,	November	5 - 5 to 7 pm
Wednesday,	November	11 - 12 to 2 pm
Thursday,	November	12 - 4 to 7 pm
Monday,	November	16 - 3 to 5 pm
Tuesday,	November	17 - 11 am to 1 pm
Monday,	November	30 - 3 to 5 pm

During office hours, contact Michael at the Fellowship at 537-2349. At other times, Michael may be contacted at (913) 961-2626 or minister@uufm.net to arrange meetings, talk, or make an appointment.

From November 19 to 22, Michael will attend a seminar, "The Threshold of Truth," at Starhouse in Boulder, Colorado. Afterward, he'll take a few days to be with his family over Thanksgiving, and will return to the Fellowship on November 30.

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### **TOWARD A COVENANT OF RIGHT RELATIONS**

Michael Nelson encourages Fellowship members and friends to join him and Rev Thea Nietfeld on Thursday, NOVEMBER 5, at 7 pm, in the new sanctuary, as we work together to put our responsibilities to each other and the wider community into a comprehensive statement of purpose. Learn more about this series of meetings on *page 8 of this newsletter*.

# RE NEWS

## REFLECTIONS - MARIA SNYDER, DRE, OCTOBER 23, 2009



October has been a busy month. I went to the retreat at Tall Oaks where I met many parents and played with lots of UU kids from Topeka, Wichita, Salina and KC in addition to hanging out with Olivia. We unfortunately had very cold weather so we played inside. I learned that no matter how much you plan, sometimes you just do what the kids want, and there is

great value in a pack of balloons.

I have just gotten through my midterms and am working on some papers. Many of my courses this semester have the common theme of Diversity. It is a topic that Michael and I have talked a great deal about and even worked together to create the Bring a Friend Sunday service with that theme.

As we roll into November, the kids are well into their programming this year and the classes are going well. I still need folks who would like to sign up to work with the teens on Sunday. I will coach you through if you need it. Just let me know. The schedule is wide open.

We are looking forward to our first Intergenerational Program of the curricula year. The children are very excited about the theme of "The Wizard of Oz." We have some great ideas and hope that you will enjoy it and learn with us.

*Maria*

## HOW CAN YOU HELP IN RE?

There are many ways Fellowship members and friends can contribute to our youth activities. Could you serve as an occasional substitute in one of our RE classes, so that regular volunteers can attend a Sunday morning service? Could you volunteer to occasionally help clean and pick up the classrooms? Ask DRE Maria Snyder at 537-2349 or dre@uufm.net or RE Committee co-chairs Kathleen Tanona at 537-6208 or kmtanona@hotmail.com, or Sandy Nelson at 341-0135 or sandralounelson@yahoo.com to learn how you can help.

*Currently, RE leaders seek volunteers to lead our tween and teen curriculum, LISTENING BETWEEN THE LINES, where we consider ideas about UU Identity while listening to popular music from the past four decades.*

## YOUTH CHOIR

The UUFM Youth Choir rehearses with the adults on Sunday, **NOVEMBER 8**, and **NOVEMBER 15**, at 9:30 am, in new sanctuary. All kids are invited to join in our song. Learn more from Sarah Nuss-Warren at 537-3586 or nusswarr@gmail.com

## TEENS - POPCORN THEOLOGY

Teens, tweens, and parents are invited to join us for Popcorn Theology every other Friday, at 6 pm. On **NOVEMBER 6**, we'll watch *Willow*, and explore ways in which doubt holds us back from doing our best.

On **NOVEMBER 20**, we'll view the first part of the Lord of the Rings trilogy, *The Fellowship of the Ring*, as we consider the concepts of temptation and evil, exploring ways people have overcome temptation in order to do what's right.



## CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENTS REQUESTED

The one-year anniversary of our hiring a new Director of Religious Education (DRE), Maria Snyder, is fast approaching. To facilitate a first year evaluation, your constructive feedback is solicited. Feedback must be submitted in writing and may be placed in the Religious Education or Chair mailbox above the coat rack or emailed to RE committee co-chairs Kathleen Tanona at kmtanona@hotmail.com, Sandy Nelson at sandralounelson@yahoo.com, or Chair Brice Hobrock at bhobrock@uufm.net. *Your comments must be received by November 1.* A summarization of comments received will be presented to the Executive Board at the December 10 meeting.

## MARIA SNYDER'S SCHEDULE

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

Tuesday, November	3 - 9 am to 12 pm
Friday, November	6 - 3 to 6 pm
Tuesday, November	10 - 9 am to 12 pm
Friday, November	13 - 2 to 5 pm
Tuesday, November	17 - 9 am to 12 pm
Friday, November	20 - 3 to 6 pm
Tuesday, November	24 - 9 am to 12 pm
Friday, November	27 - 2 to 5 pm

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

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UUFM Community Minister Reverend Thea Nietfeld facilitates a **DIVORCE AND SEPARATION SUPPORT GROUP** in the Fellowship's New Sanctuary, at 7 pm, on Monday, **NOVEMBER 2**, and **NOVEMBER 16**. Fellowship members and those from the wider community, women and men, gay and straight, all are welcome. Learn more from Thea at 918 207-2444 or thean@k-state.edu

The **MEN'S LUNCH** meets **EVERY WEDNESDAY**, at 12 noon, in the Fellowship's large RE room. Bring a desire for stimulating conversation and a sack lunch for yourself. Learn more from Jack Warren at 539-4073 or jomega@ksu.edu, or Charley Kempthorne at 564-1118 or charleykempthorne@dishmail.net

Join us for one or more sessions of a workshop, **TOWARD A COVENANT OF RIGHT RELATIONS**, facilitated by Rev Thea Nietfeld on Thursday, **NOVEMBER 5**, at 7 pm, Saturday, **NOVEMBER 14**, at to 10 am, and Thursday, **DECEMBER 3**, at 7 pm, in the Fellowship's New Sanctuary. Learn more on *page 8* of this newsletter.

The **WOMEN'S LUNCH GROUP** meets Wednesday, **NOVEMBER 11**, at 12 noon, in the back room at Harry's, in the Wareham Building, 418 Poyntz Avenue. Learn more from Florence Schwab at 539-0976 or fschwab@cox.net

The **UUFM DRUM CIRCLE** gathers on Friday, **NOVEMBER 13**, at 7 pm, in the Fellowship's new sanctuary. UUFM 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

Fellowship member Zac Bailey leads our monthly **MEDITATION** practice on Thursday, **NOVEMBER 19**, in the new sanctuary, at 5:30 pm, before our regular Third Thursday meal. Come take a deep breath after a long day, and then join us for supper. Learn more from Sue Turner at 537-2349 or office@uufm.net

**THIRD THURSDAY SUPPER** gathers on **NOVEMBER 19**, at 6 pm, in the Inez Alsop all-purpose room (old sanctuary). This is not a potluck. Those attending may bring a dish to share, but it is not required. Just bring your smile, family, and friends and join us for supper and great conversation! Learn more from Susan Turner at 537-2349 or office@uufm.net

This month, the UUFM **BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** will combine the November and December meetings, gathering at 7 pm, on Wednesday, **DECEMBER 9**, at the Geiselman residence. All interested Fellowship members and friends are encouraged to join us for congenial and thoughtful discussion. Contact Gwen Geiselman for the title at 776-4505.

## EXPLORING UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

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Reverend Michael Nelson, the UUFM Welcoming and Membership Committee, and fellowship members and staff continue a four-part series of classes this month, geared toward new members, and anyone who would like to learn more about our congregational community and the wide and varied Unitarian Universalist world. All are welcome! Classes meet in the new sanctuary on Sunday, **NOVEMBER 1**, **NOVEMBER 8**, and **NOVEMBER 15**, at 12:20 pm, following morning services and coffee. Learn more from Michael at 537-2349 or minister@uufm.net, or Welcoming and Membership Committee chair Jo Maseberg-Tomlinson at 477-2759 or jo.maseberg@gmail.com.

## WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?

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Fellowship member Zac Bailey, former group leader for Joint Base Balad (Iraq) Open Circle, will present "*Who are These People and What are They Doing in My Military?*" a PowerPoint presentation about the beliefs and practices of Pagans and Wiccans, created to educate military commanders and leaders. Join us on Monday, **NOVEMBER 2**, at 7 pm, in the Inez Alsop room (old sanctuary), for this fascinating look into Pagan and Wiccan life in the military.

## HOLIDAY CRAFT AND BAKE SALE

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Our annual Craft and Bake Sale will be held Sunday, **DECEMBER 6**. It's time to bring out those cherished holiday cookie recipes and soften the butter, dust off your sewing machine, or get those knitting needles flying. We're even looking for a few great gift wrappers on the day of the sale! Not feeling talented? Not to worry, helping hands will be needed for set up and clean up. Of course,



by taking advantage of this unique opportunity to find beautiful hand-crafted gifts to fill out your holiday list, you'll be positively contributing to the financial health of our Fellowship. To find out how you can donate your crafts, baked goods, or other assistance, talk with Sarah Severns at (802) 598-3606 or sarahseverns@hotmail.com

## UUFM SINGERS

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The Adult and Children's Choir rehearse on Sunday, **NOVEMBER 8**, and **NOVEMBER 15**, at 9:30 am, in the new sanctuary. Learn more 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 *seeking a few volunteers* to serve on new **REFRESHMENT AND GREETING TEAMS**. This is an easy way to give to the Fellowship with a minimal investment of time--only three Sundays each year. Learn more from Jo Maseberg-Tomlinson at 477-2759 or [jo.maseberg@gmail.com](mailto:jo.maseberg@gmail.com)

Sunflower **CASA PROJECT** offers independent study training for volunteers who wish to make a difference in the life of a child in the foster care system. Learn more--email [sunfCasa@interkan.net](mailto:sunfCasa@interkan.net) or call 537-6367, or visit <http://casa.manhattanks.org>. There is a child waiting for your voice--become a Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for a neglected child in the court system.

This month, Fellowship volunteers will prepare and serve **HAPPY KITCHEN COMMUNITY BREAKFASTS** on Friday, NOVEMBER 13, and NOVEMBER 27 from 7:30 to 9 am, at St Paul's Episcopal Church. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED**. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in front of the coat rack. 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 at 776-3175 or [shirleyjhobrock@hotmail.com](mailto:shirleyjhobrock@hotmail.com)

The **FLINT HILLS AREA AGENCY ON AGING** is seeking volunteer Medicare insurance counselors to provide unbiased, confidential assistance to beneficiaries, caregivers and others with questions about Medicare. Volunteers will help people understand and enroll in Medicare Part D prescription drug plans, and are primarily active from Nov 15 to Dec 31. The agency is specifically seeking those with experience with seniors, and retired health care professionals. Learn more from Karen Mayse at 776-9294 or [kmayse@ncfhaa.com](mailto:kmayse@ncfhaa.com)

## HELPING HANDS SUNDAY

Each month our Social Action Committee designates an agency or association to receive the morning offerings on the second Sunday. On Sunday, **NOVEMBER 8**, our morning collection will jointly benefit the **UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION** of Congregations, in support of it's efforts to promote our free faith; and the **SOUTHERN CLUSTER OUTREACH AND EXTENSION MINISTRY (SCORE)**, to aid their efforts to foster and support existing and emerging UU congregations in the more conservative regions of Kansas and western Missouri. These two organizations work hand in hand to promote justice, equity, and compassion across the nation.

All cash contributions and checks placed in the offering basket on the second Sunday of the month go to the Helping Hands Sunday beneficiaries, and should be made out to UUFM. Write "for UUFM" in the memo line if you wish your contribution to benefit the Fellowship. Learn more from our Helping Hands Sunday coordinator Betty Banner at 776-1887 or [bettybanner@gmail.com](mailto:bettybanner@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto: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 be purchased for your own use, or donated to families seeking help through Shepherd's Crossing.

## MANHATTAN EMERGENCY SHELTER DONATIONS

RE students have created a beautiful box to collect donations for the Manhattan Emergency Shelter. Many small items are needed, such as disposable razors, deodor-ant, ibuprofen, pacifiers, nail clippers, and kids' socks. Due to recent state budget cuts, FOOD is most needed at this time. A list of required food items will be posted monthly on the bulletin board. Learn more from Social Action Committee chair Yvonne Lacy at 539-4404 or [socialjustice@uufm.net](mailto:socialjustice@uufm.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.

Shakespeare had it right with "what's past is prologue" in *The Tempest*, meaning that history repeats itself and



continually influences the present.

I've been researching and writing family history for the past few years under the tutelage of UUFM's Charles Kempthorne and Barbara Bascom. I want answers to many questions about my family, not

because I have concerns, but just curiosity. You'll find that when you get to a certain age, the absence of oral and written information about one's family leaves us with many questions. Why do I look like this? Why do I think this way? Have family characteristics, attitudes and behaviors just been repeated? Unfortunately, failure to compile available photographs and stories before they are forever lost just condemns our children to more unanswerable questions.

As I look back into the 19th Century, totaling my age, and those of my father, grandfather, and great grandfather, an unbroken history of 170 years fills the page. What has happened during that time that affected individuals and whole families? War after war, landless peasants in search of land and a better life? Disease, accidents, it's really all a game of chance that the survivors produced me. But, we know that DNA defines family traits and I would be unequivocally linked by heredity to those individuals.

Research, tells that our distant ancestors were not so different from us. My grandmother's letters of 1929, 80 years ago, describe a life no different than the experiences and conditions of my childhood. Mentally, using the photographs and stories, I find myself transported into their shoes, far into the past. I guess I am like I am because of those who came before. Fortunately, knowing that, I can resolve to be better than that and care more about my fellow humans and the earth. Yes, history does repeat itself and influence it, but we don't have to be condemned to it.

I'll know more after I visit the ancestral home in Lower Saxony next month.

*Brice Hobrock*, UUFM Executive Board Chair

Contact Brice at 776-3175 or [bhobrock@uufm.net](mailto:bhobrock@uufm.net)

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## ***KOINONIA PECANS***

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Koinonia is a multi-racial farm community founded in 1942. Located in Americus, Georgia, it is the birthplace of Habitat for Humanity, Fuller Center for Housing, and other ministries. The mission of this cooperative community is to offer opportunities for spiritual renewal and to work for social justice by participating in projects fostering peace and reconciliation throughout the world. Each year, as Koinonia farm's pecan harvest comes in, Fellowship member Enell Foerster coordinates orders for those interested in supporting the community, and purchasing their fresh, organic pecan products (shelled pecan pieces, dark and milk chocolate pecan bark, and a variety of delicious pecan cakes and candies). Learn more from *Enell* at 537-0977 or [foer@kansas.net](mailto:foer@kansas.net)

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## **FIRST AID AND CPR TRAINING**

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The UUFM Emergency Preparedness Committee is providing an opportunity for Fellowship members and friends to take a Red Cross First Aid and CPR class, to be offered at the American Red Cross classroom, 2601 Anderson Avenue, in Manhattan. Arrangements have been made for eight Fellowship participants to attend. First Aid training will be offered on a weekday afternoon, from 1:30 to 4:30 pm. CPR training will also be offered on a weekday, from 1 to 5 pm. Total cost for the course is \$20, and includes the book *Community First Aid and CPR*. Arrangements could also be made for a full day on Saturday covering both sections, but we have been advised that it is generally better to break up the sessions.

Those interested in participating should contact Enell Foerster at 537-0977 or [foer@kansas.net](mailto:foer@kansas.net). Please indicate what days of the week would be convenient for you, to assist us in planning the class. If a large number of people are interested, a second class will be planned.

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

The Executive Board meets Thursday, **NOVEMBER 8**, 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 Board Chair Brice Hobrock at 776-3175 or [bhobrock@uufm.net](mailto:bhobrock@uufm.net)



## GREETING AND REFRESHMENT TEAMS

- Nov 1: **POTLUCK** coffee and snacks
- Nov 8: Shirley and Brice Hobrock, Monta Manney, and Angela Hayes
- Nov 15: **POTLUCK** coffee and snacks
- Nov 22: **POTLUCK** coffee and snacks
- Nov 29: **STONE SOUP** potluck meal

Coffee and greeting teams consist of one leader/coordinator, and three or four friends to help provide Sunday morning greeting and refreshments. Teams sign up for only three Sundays each year.

**BECAUSE WE STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS TO FORM THREE OR FOUR ADDITIONAL TEAMS, NOVEMBER HAS BEEN DESIGNATED A POTLUCK COFFEE AND SNACK MONTH.** We ask members and friends to bring snacks to share following Sunday services.

*THANKS SO MUCH* to everyone who has already volunteered to join or lead one of our teams! Learn more from Welcoming and Membership Committee chair Jo Maseberg-Tomlinson at 477-2759 or jo.maseberg@gmail.com

### Administrator's Schedule

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

- Monday, November 2 - 6 to 8 pm
- Tuesday, November 3 - 12 to 5 pm
- Thursday, November 5 - 5 to 7 pm
- Monday, November 9 - 3 to 5 pm
- Tuesday, November 10 - 12 to 5 pm
- Thursday, November 12 - 4 to 7 pm
- Monday, November 16 - 3 to 5 pm
- Tuesday, November 17 - 12 to 5 pm
- Thursday, November 19 - 4 to 9 pm
- Saturday, November 28 - 11 am to 6 pm
- Monday, November 30 - 3 to 5 pm

Call Susan 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 Susan during her posted office hours (*seen at bottom left*) at 537-2349.

If you have been considering **BECOMING A MEMBER** of UUFM, please ask 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. UU World is also available on audiotape, for those with visual or reading difficulties. Contact Fellowship administrator Susan Turner at 539-3272 or office@uufm.net. Read UU World online: 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 information 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 or bjhacker@networksplus.net

## 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

## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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

## **TOWARD A COVENANT OF RIGHT RELATIONS**

for the UU Fellowship of Manhattan, Fall 2009

### **FROM REV MICHAEL NELSON:**

*As our Fellowship brims with activity it becomes increasingly important for us to have a set of guidelines that help us be proactive about possible conflict. Rev Nietfeld will conduct four sessions that will help our community move forward in identifying the values, to give shape and meaning to guidelines that will deepen the vitality of our Fellowship. The more people who assist in this process, the stronger the foundation for the support of shared lives will be. Please attend and help us become better peacemakers.*

### **INTENTION:**

That a proposed Covenant of Right Relations be presented to the Board at its December meeting for review and possible recommendation to the congregation for adoption. This covenant will include members' intentions in relationships and conflict and a process for accountability and resolution/reconciliation.

### **RATIONALE:**

As self-governing, democratic, spiritually focused associations, Unitarian Universalist congregations are bound by members' covenants and processes developed by members for their own use.

UU congregations have found covenants of right relations to be helpful as a link between our stated values and purposes and our behavior within the congregation.

### **PROCESS:**

UUFM will hold four meetings for the purpose of developing this covenant proposal. Everyone is welcome and may attend one or all meetings. Rev Thea Nietfeld, UUFM Community Minister, will facilitate the meetings, using non-violence and consensus-building exercises and brainstorming questions. She will seek note-takers and covenant-drafters from among those who attend and will be responsible that the proposal that reaches the Board was developed through this open process.

### **MEETING DATES:**

Sessions will be held on:

Thursday, November 5, at 7 pm  
Saturday, November 14, at 10 am  
Thursday, December 3, at 7 pm

Meetings will last no more than 1 1/2 hours. Participants are not required to attend all four sessions, and may choose the date, or dates, that are most convenient. Fellowship members and involved friends are encouraged join in this opportunity to help positively shape our community's future.

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### **NEXT STEP TOWARD A COVENANT OF RIGHT RELATIONS**

At the November 5 meeting, we will build on discussion from the first meeting on October 3--which is reflected on the old sanctuary bulletin board. We'll discuss how the skills of right relations are practiced now in the Fellowship:

- ✓ What covenants--spoken and unspoken--support using our best relational skills?
- ✓ How do we manage ourselves when others aren't at their best or aren't yet relationally skillful?
- ✓ What covenantal or structural supports would be helpful?
- ✓ How do we recognize and name congregational stressors and what skills do we need to manage these?

If you'd like to give these questions some thought before you come November 5, our discussion will benefit. Thanks for your interest in developing a UUFM Covenant of Right Relations.

*Thea*, UUFM community minister