

THE WARTMANN LECTURE SERIES

by *Brittany Crawford, Communications Coordinator*

In June 2018, we said farewell to FUS member and community leader, Bill Wartmann. Bill and his wife, Joyce Wartmann, were generous benefactors to many area organizations, including FUS. In 1995, the Wartmanns endowed the Joyce & William Wartmann Lecture on human sexuality and the liberal religious tradition which FUS has organized since its inception. As a self-identified bisexual man, Bill hoped these lectures would provide a space for LGBTQ youth to engage in conversation in the context of a supportive and welcoming environment. Over the years, the lecture series has hosted a variety of speakers addressing topics including abortion, same-sex marriage, and sexual exploitation and the trafficking of women.

In 2018, the lecture series was expanded to include topics on human rights, social justice, and environmental justice, in addition to the continuation of human sexuality. For the 2019 lecture, we wanted to honor Joyce and Bill's love of the arts and to honor the original purpose of the lecture series. To this end, we're thrilled to announce a three-part series for the 2019 Wartmann Lecture.

To honor Bill and Joyce's story and love of the arts, we're hosting the Wartmann StorySlam on April 6 at 7 pm in the Atrium Auditorium. StorySlams have become immensely popular events across the country, especially in Madison. These events attract a broad audience and provide a space for performance, storytelling, and active listening. StorySlams center around a theme with ten people (who elect to sign-up) chosen to share their story to the audience in five minutes or less. Often slams are competitive which means selected audience members rate the story on a scale and the person with the highest average wins. StorySlams encourage



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the storyteller to share their story in an engaging way for the audience, and it provides an opportunity for the audience to consider new perspectives.

To prepare for the StorySlam, we're also holding the Wartmann StorySlam Workshop on March 16 from 10 am to 1 pm. This workshop is designed to help you discover, craft, and tell your story. We're grateful to partner with Ex-Fabula, a Milwaukee-based organization, who will lead both the workshop and the StorySlam. To learn more about this organization, visit their website at www.exfabula.org. Even if you're not sure you want to share your story at the StorySlam event, this workshop can help you develop storytelling techniques you can apply to everyday settings. Registration will be limited to the first 50 individuals for the workshop.

The third part of the Wartmann Lecture Series is the traditional lecture held on Sunday, April 28. Our 2019 lecturer is Dr. Kate Ott, Associate Professor of Christian Social Ethics at Drew Theological School

in New Jersey. In returning to the roots of the Wartmann lecture, Dr. Ott will present on “Good Sex: Living our values with body and soul.” This lecture will examine how our UU values can be lived out in our embodiment of sexuality. She will also discuss how we can talk about sexuality and our UU values with youth across both gender and sexuality spectrums. Starting at 5 pm, Dr. Ott will also present an age-appropriate workshop for youth on the same subject. All FUS and Madison-area youth ages 14 to 18 are welcome to attend the youth workshop.

A graduate of Union Theological Seminary in New York, Yale Divinity School, and UW-Madison, Dr. Ott describes herself as an author, professor, and parent. More about Dr. Kate Ott and her work will be available in the April edition of

The Madison Unitarian. In the meantime, you can learn more about her work, including access to articles she’s written, at kateott.org.

The 2019 Wartmann Lecture Series aims to return to its roots and to expand the possibilities. Through the generosity of the Wartmanns, we’re able to offer the workshop, story slam, and lecture free of charge to all FUS members and the Madison community. However, we need your help getting the word out to the community about these opportunities. You can share our Facebook events with your friends, take a poster to put up in a place you frequent, and invite folks you know! We have a formal plan, but the personal invitation and word-of-mouth can make all the difference.

To learn more or to register for the workshop, please visit www.fusmadison.org/wartmann.

