



# The Free Spirit

April 2009

## UU Happenings This Month...

### April 5<sup>th</sup> Service – Pot Luck Sunday

“The Miracle of Passover”

Led by Kendra Nickel & Beth Steele

(A suggestion is to follow Passover tradition and not bring leavened breads.)

Plus.....

### New Member Welcoming Ceremony

To take place at the conclusion of Sunday Service

Led by Joyce Kronholm

### April 7<sup>th</sup> - Knitting for Peace, 7-9pm,

Home of Ruth Luke, 301 S. Rodney, 461-7435

### April 12<sup>th</sup> Service – Easter Sunday

“Easter: It’s Not Just for Christians Anymore”

Led by Bill Kronholm

### April 19<sup>th</sup> Service - Sunday

Earth Day Message

Guest Speaker Diego Rivas

Montanans for a Healthy Climate

### April 21<sup>st</sup> - Knitting for Peace, 7-9pm,

Home of Ruth Luke, 301 S. Rodney, 461-7435

### April 22<sup>nd</sup> - Earth Day Celebrated

### April 26<sup>th</sup> Service – Sunday

Beltane - May Day

Led by Jan Ellen Siemers

### April 28<sup>th</sup> - bUUK cIUUb, 7-9pm,

Poetry Month – Donna Davis

Contact Georgia Lovelady 443-7204

### April 29<sup>th</sup> - Trash for Trees Spring Collection

### May 3<sup>rd</sup> Service – Pot Luck Sunday

May 15<sup>th</sup> UU Fundraiser with

Jim Stoltz at the Myrna Loy

## Thoughts of Spring by President Magalie Belanger (with family)

With all the changes that spring brings to our surroundings (often all in the same day in Montana) one can't help but be in awe of nature. Put in a Unitarian Universalist way, we can't help but have respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. Our 7<sup>th</sup> Principle is also, as Rev. Ted Small said, "both a timeless spiritual truth and an urgent call to action". I think most of us try to do our best to take action, although at times we do need a reminder like Earth Day or Trash for Trees. I know our family is certainly not up to my ideal of creating only one tiny bag of garbage a month like David Suzuki. [www.davidsuzuki.org/NatureChallenge/](http://www.davidsuzuki.org/NatureChallenge/)



Helpers Bastien...



and Ryan Grandy

For some people the start of the year is in January, for others it follows the tax season, and for others the rhythm of school, but for me the start of the year is Spring. I don't make my resolutions in January as much as I make them in April. This April I invite you all to take one resolution you can easily follow that will support this beautiful web of life, from planting trees to switching the lights off when you are not in a room. Big or small, it will make a difference.

## A Heads Up about the UU Fundraiser on May 15<sup>th</sup>

In May Jim Stolz will be performing at the Myrna Loy as a benefit for our Fellowship. This event needs **many** volunteers to succeed. Because there will also be a silent art auction, UUs are asked to donate a piece of art they have created or one they are happy to no longer look at. Please contact Donna Davis, 449-7766.

## UUA Revisions of Purposes, Sources, and Principles for GA

*The UUA Commission on Appraisal prepared this revision after an earlier draft generated 1,700 comments. The board has placed the revision on the General Assembly agenda. Two consecutive General Assemblies will need to approve the new text before it will take effect.*

**ARTICLE II: Covenant** (Since 1961, Article II has been called "Principles and Purposes"; the Commission proposes renaming it "Covenant.")

**Section C-2.1 Purposes.** (In two places, the new text describes the UUA as an association of "free yet interdependent congregations," whereas the current text speaks only of "free congregations." The new text retains a Freedom of Belief clause that forbids the use of any creedal test for membership.)

***This association of free yet interdependent congregations devotes its resources to and exercises its corporate powers for religious, educational, and humanitarian purposes. It supports the creation, vitality, and growth of congregations that aspire to live out the Unitarian Universalist Principles. Through public witness and advocacy, it advances the Principles in the world.***

Revisions Continued on p. 3.....

## Closing Songs

Donna Davis found out how the other Montana UU congregations end their services.

**Bozeman** sings this:

From you I receive,  
To you I give,  
Together we share,  
and from this we live. (2 times)

**Billings** does the Shalom Havareem, singing “Shalom, *Salaam*” rather than Shalom, Shalom:

Shalom my friends,  
Salaam my friends,  
Shalom, Salaam.  
Till we meet again,  
Till we meet again,  
Shalom, Salaam. (Once)

**Kalispell** fellowship reports this:  
We sing the  
“Come, Come whoever you are,  
worshiper, wanderer.... # 188

We also sing the song  
“Go now in Peace”. # 413

Yes, we do have choices!

## Many, many thanks to...



**Kellie McBride** and **Pad McCracken** for their dedicated work as Service Leaders during the month of March. Kellie did extra duty by leading in both Feb. and March, along with giving two recent services herself, one was on “How to say a UU Prayer” and the other was on “Florence Nightingale.”



**Please consider giving a service too!**

## Welcoming Committee by Rebecca Hargis, Chair



Happy 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Rebecca!

Volunteering as a greeter and host to do coffee hour/potluck does afford me the opportunity to connect while also serving to keep our UU Fellowship alive. I joined Big Sky UU not only because it fits who I am, but because I want to be connected to a community that lives its principles and acts on them.

Christine Robinson from her article “Imagineers of Soul” in the latest issue of UU World said it well, “Why do people come to church? It is not to learn. People don’t even go to museums to learn. It’s not to be entertained. People don’t even go to Disneyland just to be entertained. They come to church—especially they come to church—to quench a thirst, find meaningfulness, to have an authentic experience, or, in a more traditional religious language, to connect with mystery and see their everyday lives reflected in the mirror of eternity. Churches, then, and the lay and ordained people who lead them, are Imagineers of Soul, sorcerer’s apprentices in the art of quenching thirst, filling voids, opening the doors of meaning.” All of us can be sorcerer’s apprentices even in the ordinary tasks of keeping the fellowship running.

As chair of the Welcoming Committee I would also like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude; gratitude to the members of this fellowship that pitch in on any given Sunday when they see a need without having signed up to fill that need, gratitude to all those who have volunteered this past season and for the month of March:



Michele Webster

Nisan Burbridge, Michele Webster, Katie Campbell, Magalia Belanger, Dave & Emmi Highness, Carolyn Laceky, Barb Harris, the Palmer’s and the Leonard’s; and my gratitude to the members of the *Welcoming Committee*, **Carolyn Laceky, Barb Harris, Michele Webster, Katie Campbell, and Kelly McBride.**

Also a thank you to each of the Board Members who stay to lock up each Sunday.

## Dear UU members,

I recently read an article that asked personal questions. One of those questions was, “Do you feel spiritually satisfied?” I was surprised when I thought, “Yes!” I knew right away it was because I attended the Earth-centered class taught by Jan Ellen Siemers. It has helped me tremendously! Each person in the class was assigned a direction, East, South, West, North, and Center. When we began class we would speak about the direction and what it symbolizes. I would begin thanking the rising yellow sun, new beginnings, the 4<sup>th</sup> – heart chakra – love and the feather which floats peacefully in the air. The feather was chosen to represent the East instead of the sword, likely due to UU’s stance on peace. I chose a totem animal and made a bird mask. I also celebrated the Earth with a wonderful group of people!

Thank you, Jan Ellen, for the opportunity to be Earthy!  
Namaste, Katie A.

# Big Sky UU

## Board of Directors

Magalie Belanger – President  
Jan Ellen Siemers – Vice President  
Michele Webster – Treasure  
Patrick Johnson – Secretary  
Jeff Palmer – At Large Member

## Committees

Membership - Joyce Kronholm  
Religious Ed. Child – Jeanette Uland  
Religious Ed. Adult – Lynda Saul  
Social Justice - Magalie Belanger  
Welcoming - Rebecca Hargis  
Worship - Bill Kronholm

## Mailing Address

Big Sky UU Fellowship  
PO Box 816  
Helena, MT 59624

## Message Phone

(406) 449-3096

## Services

Christian Science Church  
1800 Highland Dr.  
Helena, MT 59601

## Newsletter

Jan Ellen Siemers 459-0102  
[JEhelena@copper.net](mailto:JEhelena@copper.net)

## Webmaster

Blake Gardiner at  
[blake@helena-mont.us](mailto:blake@helena-mont.us)

More information at  
[www.bigskyyuu.org](http://www.bigskyyuu.org)

Thank you

**Pamela Sourbeer**

our new volunteer who takes  
collected food to the Food Bank



Please remember  
**Food Share is every  
Sunday**

Revisions...Continued from p. 1

**Section C-2.3 Principles.** (All Seven Principles adopted by the UUA in 1985 remain in the new text, but slight changes have been made to three of them.)

**Grateful for the gift of life, we commit ourselves as member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association to embody together the transforming power of love as we covenant to honor and uphold:**

1. **The inherent worth and dignity of every person;**
2. **Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;**
3. **Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth;**

The Third Principle (Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations) is no longer set in the context of congregational life but applied more generally.

4. **A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;**
5. **The right of conscience and the use of democratic processes;**  
The Fifth Principle (The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.) is, as above in the Third Principle, applied more generally.
6. **The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;**
7. **Reverence for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.**  
The Seventh Principle rephrases "respect for the interdependent web" as "reverence for the interdependent web."

**Section C-2.2 Sources.** To be in next newsletter

## We Belong in Nature's Seasons by Jan Ellen Siemers

A small group of five dedicated people attended the first Big Sky UU Earth-centered class. During the initial session we discovered the *Covenant of UU Pagans*. "To our knowledge CUUPs is unique in its existence. It is the officially-recognized Pagan resource of a non-Pagan religion, Unitarian Universalism. Its status as an Interest Group of the UUA makes a statement that the leadership and members of the Unitarian Universalist Assoc. recognize Pagan paths as a valid expression of spirituality and a legitimate path to religious truth for individuals. It gives Pagan-identified UUs the unique and delightful experience of being able to pursue individual journeys from a variety of Pagan beliefs and thought, without having to deny themselves the benefits and resources of church affiliation." [www.cuups.org/content2/aboutcuups/](http://www.cuups.org/content2/aboutcuups/)

In the second session we learned Spring Equinox is in the direction of East the element of air and of flying creatures, thus the making of bird masks. There are many meanings for the bird totems we have chosen, but the most important lesson was how difficult it is to glue feathers on a mask with a glue gun!

The final session was our spring ceremony itself and since this time also corresponds to the child time in our own growing cycle each of us was encouraged to let our kid out to play. You can see we did!! Everyone not only got to know and enjoy each other while experiencing a seasonal ceremony, but there is interest in doing another Earth-centered celebration.

Patrick Barn Owl, Katie Many Birds – Jeanette Meadowlark, Jan Ellen Raven,  
Kendra Cardinal, Peg Blue Heron, picture by guest Erin Pheasant Woman



From the UU author of the book *In Nature's Honor*, "Whether we live in Australia or Angola, Amsterdam or Afghanistan, Antarctica or America, on this day we share the common experience of equal light and dark". Since humans are tasked with loving and caring for our small blue planet, we suggest that the March or Sept. equinox can be an ideal day for people, wherever they are, to meditate on balance and world peace.