



Mount Helena

News from the Big Sky Unitarian Universalist Fellowship – Helena, Montana

The Free Spirit

February 2010

UU Happenings This Month...

March 1st - Knitting for Peace, 7-9pm,
Contact Ruth Luke at 461-7435

March 7th Service – Potluck Sunday
“The Qur’an & the Culture of Women”
Guest Speaker Jeanette Fregulia
of Carroll College

March - Men’s Group, 6:30pm
Contact Jeff Palmer at 442-5887

March 14th Service – Sunday
“Is This the UU Good Book?”
Guest Speaker: Mimi Stevenson,
member of the Mount Vernon Unitarian
Universalist Church in Alexandria, Virginia
Come prepared to sing!

March 15th - Knitting for Peace, 7-9pm,
Contact Ruth Luke at 461-7435

March 18th – UU Cocktail Party, 5-7pm,
Contact Kat Imhoff at kimhoff@tnc.org

March 21st – Sunday
“A UUer in the Health Insurance Business
Looks at the Health Care Debate”
Led by Jeff Palmer

March 25th - bUUk cIUUb, 7-9pm,
Plymouth Fireside Room
Contact Ruth Piccone at 459-5740

March 28th – Sunday
Membership Sunday
Led by Joyce Kronholm

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**April 4<sup>th</sup> Service – Potluck Sunday**

### From President Magalie Belanger



We have many great UU's who happen to be women in our faith history. We happen to have quite a few extraordinary women right with in our fellowship, women who have reached excellence in and outside the home. **March 8<sup>th</sup> is International Women Day** and though respect and recognition to women all over the world should not be limited to one day it's a great opportunity to reflect. I often hear things like "I am not a feminist but..." Such a statement is usually followed by a pro-feminist idea but the term feminist is always drenched with such negativity often from both genders. It's important to respect a movement that advocates for gender equality for women and fights for women's right. A sustainable participation in society for both men and women is an important challenge. Despite dramatic changes, gender inequality persists. Women are under-represented in management, assume most domestic responsibilities, and have higher poverty rates.

We as Unitarian Universalist often view equality as something that we have acquired. We are open to all walks of life, gender, and sexual orientation. Still my mother often told me that what women had fought for was never acquired definitively. That only our vigilance will enable us to preserve what we gained. So on this upcoming Women's Day, March 8<sup>th</sup> 2010, take a moment to reflect on where all of us have grown from. Give thanks to these women who preceded us, whose names have been forgotten, who walked and paved the way for us.

### So You Want to Be a UU? Path to Membership Class March 7



On Sunday, March 7, after the service the Membership Team will lead a class on becoming a member of our Big Sky Fellowship. This includes an opportunity to share stories of our spiritual journeys, to learn how our fellowship works, to hear our history and theological beliefs, and the basics on getting involved in our spiritual community. At the end of the class you are invited, not pressured, to join our fellowship.

All are welcome to attend, including members who would like a “tune up” on how our fellowship works. March 7 is Potluck Sunday! so fill your plate and we will then meet together and begin the class. Please RSVP to Joyce Kronholm, 457-8246 or email to [w.kronholm@bresnan.net](mailto:w.kronholm@bresnan.net) so we can plan for handouts. The class will last no later than 2:30.

# Big Sky UU

## Board of Directors

Magalie Belanger – President  
Jan Ellen Siemers – Vice President  
Rebecca Hargis – Treasure  
Patrick Johnson – Secretary  
Jeff Palmer – At Large Member  
Virginia Niccolucci – At Large Member

## Committees

Membership - Joyce Kronholm  
Religious Ed. Youth –  
Religious Ed. Adult – Lynda Saul  
Social Justice – Patrick Johnson  
& Peg Hunger  
Welcoming – Carolyn Laceky  
Worship - Bill Kronholm

**Music Director** – Virginia Niccolucci

## Mailing Address

Big Sky UU Fellowship  
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Helena, MT 59624

## Message Phone

(406) 449-3096

## Services

Plymouth Congregational Church  
400 S. Oakes Dr.  
Helena, MT 59601

## Newsletter

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

## Webmaster

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

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

## How about a UU May Pole dance?

**Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>** we have the possibility of doing a fellowship May Pole dance. A committee is now forming to make it happen. If you are interested, talk to Jan Ellen Siemers or Katie Campbell.



## Kat and Jeep are hosting UU Cocktail Party



We UUs already know how much Kat loves to entertain from the coffee time she has after service. Now Kat and Jeep are inviting the Fellowship to a Thursday evening cocktail party on **March 18, 5-7pm.** at their home at 5528 Treasure Canyon Dr. Please bring something to share (or not). You can park along driveway or along Treasure Canyon Drive. Come and enjoy a chance to get to know your fellow UU's over a crisp glass of chardonnay or your choice of beverage. Kat will be sending out directions as the time gets closer. So watch for a BSUUF-Google Groups message.



## Haiti Relief Concert Report

On Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, our U.U. fellowship offered the Helena community a wonderful evening of music and a chance to show their support for the people of Haiti hit hard by their recent tragedy. Our goal was to raise money for Doctors Without Borders and their work in Haiti, and to do it in a way that was both inspiring and financially successful for the cause. We began gathering a wide spectrum of Helena's musical community and various people in our fellowship began tackling different aspects of what needed to be done. A poster was designed, press releases and PSA's were sent out, websites notified, email lists were contacted, food was gathered, reporters were contacted, and a couple dozen other details were slowly ironed out. It was wonderful to see such teamwork and "can do" spirit flowing amongst us.

During the days leading up to the concert emails were flying! Posters were going up! Word was getting out. Every one of us was spreading the news about the event. The Independent Record did TWO stories, one of which appeared with a picture on the front page of Saturday's paper!! A buzz was in the air. And then came the night of the show!

The sanctuary at Plymouth Congregational was nearly full and what a wonderful evening of jazz, folk, blues, classical, spoken word, Americana, and even Native American drummers and singers and dancers.

Berkalie Campbell-Woods also sang a beautiful little song as people were coming in. Those who performed in the first half of the show included myself, then Dan Hunthausen (his wife joined him on one song, too), Will Harmon and Dawn Buckley, Born 2 Late, Teak Hoiness & Mark Schummer, our own Donna Davis doing a reading from Haitian author, Edwidge Danticat, the Kevin Mathews Trio, and finished with Jeremy Red Eagle and Robert Simpson's group, Soldier Gulch, a drum circle with Native American drummers/singers and dancers.

After intermission we had Jerry Olson & Gary Burgess, Donna and myself doing a reading with Mark Walker on piano, the incredible Serendipity Trio, Sassafra Stomp, Alex Swaney, and I closed with a new song written for the event.

All in all the entire concert came off quite smoothly. The feedback was very positive, but even better was the news about how much money we raised. On the night of the show we raised \$3,388.32. I asked about the 32 cents and was told that children were digging into their pockets to contribute as much as they could to help those people in need. With donations that came in afterward we sent off more than \$3500 to Doctors Without Borders. Many of us heard stories of other donations afterwards from people who heard about our efforts and decided to contribute on their own. Jeff Palmer tells us that Blue Cross Blue Shield donated another \$2000. So our care and concern definitely had a ripple effect that spread beyond our event. Thank you all for all your efforts on this. WE DID IT!!!! (And I would like to propose that we do this again next winter for another charity.) :-)

-- Jim Stoltz