



Mount Helena

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

The Free Spirit

December 2009

UU Happenings This Month...

December 3rd - Knitting for Peace, 7-9pm,
Contact Ruth Luke at 461-7435

December 3rd - bUUK cIUUb, 7-9pm,
Contact Ruth Piccone at 459-5740

December 6th Service – Potluck Sunday
“Unitarian Thoughts on Christmas”
Led by Becky Warren
& Town-House Meeting

December 13th Service – Sunday
“Winter Solstice”
Led by Blake Gardiner

December 17th - Knitting for Peace, 7-9pm,
Contact Ruth Luke at 461-7435

December 20th Service – Sunday
“Winter Holiday Music Service”
Led by Virginia Niccolucci

December 27th – Sunday
“Abundance”
Led by Rebecca Hargis
& Boxing Day Celebration

January 3rd Service – Potluck Sunday



Pledge Drive - Chat with the Board

December 15th Winter Solstice Ceremony 7:00pm, Plymouth Fireside Room



Everyone interested, not just UUs, is invited to attend an earth-centered celebration of the Winter Solstice on Tues. evening, December 15th, 2009. It will be a birth celebration of the Sun's return that takes place during the silent dark night. Our Big Sky UU Earth

Circle will open the ceremony by acknowledging the four directions with the winter solstice having the direction of North. All you need to do is bring a snack to share and a desire to have some earthy fun. If you want more information, contact Jan Ellen at 459-0102, or JEhelena@copper.net

From the President ~ Magalie Belanger

I had trouble writing an article this month because, for me, the winter holiday season is not a particularly joyous one. Perhaps it is some feelings of guilt for not being able to offer as much as I wish to my family and friends. Maybe it is that I am far from some of them and from my culture and I miss it all at this time of year. There is a part of me every December that just wants to mutter Bah Humbug to all the inflatable snowmen, joyous Christmas music and perfect turkey recipe. Do I need the visit of ghosts to help me see the error of my ways? Not yet.



There is a word in French "apprivoiser" which is often translated as "to tame" but really it is to make more sociable. That is what I am trying to do with my inner Ebenezer. Sometimes it means going against the mass current and finding joy in a little simplicity like the family of Tiny Tim. I do find joy in a simple service at the UU Fellowship and remembering the 7 Principles, during this period of stress, to help myself stay centered in all the chaos.

It also means living those values of simplicity and gratitude as I explain to my 5 year old son what we believe is in the spirit of the

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Food Share

This is especially important during the Holidays.



Please donate to our UU food box today.

Big Sky UU

Board of Directors

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

Committees

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

Music Director – Virginia Niccolucci

Mailing Address

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Message Phone

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Services

Plymouth Congregational Church
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Newsletter

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Blake Gardiner at
blake@helena-mont.us

More information at
www.bigskyyu.org

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holidays. It's not always easy but be sure the joy you will see in my eyes on the 20th, our holiday service, will be genuine even if I will never understand and appreciate Frosty the Snowman.

Not Just Any Old Banner by Jan Ellen Siemers

Some time ago, while still meeting in the room at the Waterford, the UU Fellowship wanted a banner and Virginia Niccolucci took on the task. She was working with Andrea Atwood at the time and knew Andrea did fiber work. Virginia helped pick out material and then gave Andrea free reign to create the banner. All Andrea had to go on was our name, Big Sky UU. She came up with the distinctive shape of the UU banner, plus gave us the starry night big sky above the lacy white mountains.

If you are not aware of Andrea's work she is an artist with the Art Center group. They regularly show paintings and fiber art at the Fireside Coffee Shop at 1446 Euclid Ave. You have probably seen the beautiful wall hanging with the maple leaf design that hangs in the Helena library. That is one of Andrea Atwood's pieces. So our wonderful UU banner is not just any old banner, it is truly a work of art!



Big Sky UU Earth Circle

NEXT CLASS SESSION in 2010

January 19, 26, & February 2nd



Imbolc is one of the Celtic cross-quarter holidays that is celebrated halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. It occurs just before our Groundhog Day. Both are about the signs of life stirring beneath the winter snow in anticipation of spring. At this time of year it may seem that winter still holds sway, but hidden beneath the snowy ground the sun and the

longer days are beginning to warm the soil. There are even quiet signs among the animals that they too are anticipating spring and the birthing time that is not far off. How do we humans come into harmony with Earth during this season? This is what you will be taught during this earth-centered class.

Winter session of "We Belong in Nature's Seasons" will be held the end of January into February on Tuesday evenings, 7-9pm, in the Plymouth Fireside Room. It is presented by Jan Ellen Siemers. The final class will be an actual Imbolc / Groundhog Day ceremony.

For more information contact [Jan Ellen](mailto:JanEllen) at 459-0102, or jehelena@copper.net