



Mount Helena

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

## The Free Spirit

January 2010

### UU Happenings This Month...

**January 3<sup>rd</sup> Service – Potluck Sunday**  
“The Gift of a Year”, Annual Participatory Service  
Led by Cythia Overturf

**January 7<sup>th</sup> - Knitting for Peace**, 7-9pm,  
Contact Ruth Luke at 461-7435

**January 8<sup>th</sup> - Men’s Group**, 6:30pm  
Contact Lowell Luke at 422-6721

**January 10<sup>th</sup> Service – Sunday**  
“Gracious Space”  
Led by Kat Imhoff

**January 17<sup>th</sup> Service – Sunday**  
“A New Adventure;  
Living as a Part of the Web of Life”  
Led by Jim Stoltz

**Followed by the Annual Meeting**

**January 21<sup>st</sup> - Knitting for Peace**, 7-9pm,  
Contact Ruth Luke at 461-7435

**January 24<sup>th</sup> – Sunday**  
“Prison Reform & UU Statement of Conscience”  
Led by Pad McCracken

**January 25<sup>th</sup> –Session 1 of UU Earth Circle**  
class, 6:30pm, Plymouth Fireside Room  
Contact Jan Ellen at 459-0102

**January 28<sup>th</sup> - bUUk cIUUb**, 7-9pm,  
Plymouth Fireside Room  
Contact Ruth Piccone at 459-5740

**January 31<sup>st</sup> – Sunday**  
“Our Universalist Heritage:  
A Modern Movement and an Ancient Heresy”  
Led by Joyce Kronholm

**February 1<sup>st</sup> –Session 2 of UU Earth Circle**  
class, 6:30pm, Plymouth Fireside Room  
and Candlemas / Imbloc Ceremony  
Contact Jan Ellen at 459-0102

### Youth RE Happenings



This year the Youth RE program is taught by Ellie Warren and Mary Decker. Ellie and Mary take turns designing lessons for the children. Topics of lessons have included respect, acceptance, and family. We have demonstrated these principles by ways of stories, artwork, and games.

–Mary

Religious Education this year is going very well. We have a group of wonderful kids who are excited about learning. A usual week seems to include about eight kids, though there are sometimes as few as five or as many as fifteen.

After some thought, we have decided to split the kids into two groups. The older kids want more advanced and active lessons, while the younger kids enjoy lots of crafts and easier activities. Ellis is currently working with the kids above eight years old, while Mary is with the 3 to 7 year olds.

We have both been covering the UU Principles. The younger kids will be learning the basics about environment and habitat, starting with a study of bats and moving to the wider habitat. The older kids are learning about world religions, and different practices and beliefs.

The younger kids start with joys and concerns, and then a story. After that, they have a short discussion and a craft. The older kids start with joys and concerns, the engage in a slightly longer discussion, a quick craft, and then a more active game.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you great kids. --Ellie



The polite side.....



The fun side.....

### Let’s think about RE Chair

Youth RE still needs a RE Chair following Becky’s turn as coordinator. This is a big job, but it is important to the families with children. Maybe two people could take it on.

continued ...

## Food Share

During this Holiday Season



Please donate to the  
Food Box today.

## 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  
PO Box 816  
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  
[JEhelena@copper.net](mailto:JEhelena@copper.net)

### Webmaster

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

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

The Chair would spend about an hour a week keeping in touch with parents, fielding calls from the RE teachers, overseeing choice and development of lessons, and helping with craft supply purchase. The RE Chair is a participating member of the UU board. Talk to Becky Warren or Magalie if you might be interested.

## From the President - Magalie Belanger



There is one word that I perhaps overuse and it's "awesome". I use it daily to show praise to my son, anger at people on the road, the beauty of the sunset in the mountains on my way home. The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines awesome as awe inspiring. When you look at it though maybe our life is awe inspiring. The fact that my son can count to 100 and jump on one foot when 5 years ago he was just a mewling infant to me is awesome. That I can use sticks and thread and I can make myself knitted garments is awesome. That I can write or talk to my family who is hundreds of miles away while sitting on my big red couch is awesome. As an atheist I can't pour all that awe toward one unseen being. It is shared in many little small moment of gratitude toward science, nature, humankind and even sometimes myself! We are starting a new year here at Big Sky Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and who knows where it will take us this year. One thing I am sure of is that it will be filled with awe inspiring moments. Awesome!

## Dates changed for Earth Circle Class;

The once a year Nature-based learning opportunity

Now Monday evenings Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> & Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010



This year the Earth-centered class will be about, among other things, one of the Celtic cross-quarter holidays Imbolc, celebrated halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. It occurs just before our Groundhog Day and is about the signs of life stirring beneath the winter snow in anticipation of spring. Sessions will be held two consecutive Monday evenings, **6:30pm, in the Plymouth Fireside Room**. The final class will be an actual Imbolc / Groundhog Day ceremony. Please contact Jan Ellen at Services, or 459-0102, or [jehelena@copper.net](mailto:jehelena@copper.net)

## How to Become a Member

We are often asked how to become a member of Big Sky UU Fellowship of Helena. The simple answer is to sign our Membership Book in the presence of a member of our Board. So the act of membership is simple. But, we do want to take church membership seriously.

We are part of a long, liberal tradition of reason, tolerance, and hope without the constraints of dogma or creed and we encourage you to search for your own truth and meaning. Members are dedicated to the principles of freedom of belief, the use of reason, justice, democracy and the interdependence of all existence. Membership is open to anyone age 16 and above. Membership may be withdrawn at any time with written notification.

If you have been attending services as a friend of the Fellowship and are considering membership, we welcome you. With membership come obligations and responsibilities. As you are able, we want you to be involved in the church program, to attend worship services and congregational meetings; to contribute financially to the church to the extent of your ability. In return, we have the responsibility to see that you are made welcome and that you find a place in our midst where you can make friends and continue your spiritual journey. Please see the "Welcome Table" on Sunday, or contact Joyce Kronholm, Membership Chair, 457-8246, [w.kronholm@bresnan.net](mailto:w.kronholm@bresnan.net).