



The Free Spirit

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

February 2008

UU Happenings
This Month ...

**Sunday, Feb. 2 – Pot Luck Sunday!
Candlemas: The Promise of Spring. Led
by Jan Ellen Siemers.**

Wednesday, Feb. 6 - Knitting for Peace, 7
p.m., 301 So. Rodney. Contact Ruth Luke,
442-4045

Wednesday, Feb. 6 - "Spiritual
Discussions" Adult RE, 7 p.m., at 541
East 6th Ave. Contact Jeanne Powell,
465-0954

**Sunday, Feb. 10 – Darwin and the
Seventh Principle. Led by Joyce
Kronholm.**

Wednesday, Feb. 13 - "Spiritual
Discussions" Adult RE, 7 p.m., at 541
East 6th Ave. Call 465-0954

Sunday, Feb. 17 - Led by Kellie McBride.

Wednesday, Feb. 20 - Knitting for Peace,
7 p.m., 301 So. Rodney. Call 442-4045

Wednesday, Feb. 20 - "Spiritual
Discussions" Adult RE, 7 p.m., at 565 5th
Ave., the home of Lynda Saul, 461-2838

**Sunday, Feb. 24 - Liberation Theology
and Unitarian Universalism. Led by
Rachel Carroll.**

Wednesday, Feb. 27 - "Spiritual
Discussions" Adult RE, 7 p.m., at 565 5th
Ave. Contact Lynda Saul, 461-2838

Thursday, Feb. 28 - bUUK cIUb, 7 p.m. at
the home of Carol Barnes, 930 State
Street, 422-5439.

Friday, Feb. 29 - Men's Night Out, 6:30
p.m., at the home of Jay Johnson near
Townsend. Call Bill Kronholm, 457-8246

**Sunday, March 2 – Potluck Sunday!
Nurturing Your Spirit. Led by Pad
McCracken.**

'Change for Change' Joins Busy Social Justice Agenda



You may have noticed the glass jar at fellowship, with loose change jangling in the bottom. "Change for Change" is the latest project by the Social Justice Committee, and aims to show that furthering social justice doesn't always mean big money. In this case, Change for Change will be happy to take any loose change in your pocket, because a dime can make a world of difference to some.

The change is going to the Central Asia Institute of Bozeman, whose mission is to promote and provide community-based education and literacy programs, especially for girls, in remote mountain regions of Central Asia. The Institute was co-founded by Greg Mortenson, author of the best-seller "Three Cups of Tea," and the Institute's executive director. "Three Cups of Tea" is about Mortenson's quest to build schools in the wildest parts of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Mortenson advocates girls' education as the top priority to promote economic development, peace and prosperity, saying "you can drop bombs, hand out condoms, build roads, or put in electricity, but until the girls are educated a society won't change". So far, the Institute has created 61 schools. More information on the Institute is at <http://www.ikat.org/>. (Image above courtesy Greg Mortenson)

Global Art for Peace

Also on the agenda for the Social Justice Committee is participation in the 8th annual Global Art Project for Peace, an attempt to spread world peace by promoting tolerance and non-violence through art.

The Project expresses the idea: We Are All One. People of all ages and from all around the world each create a work of art expressing their vision
(Continued on next page)



We unite in this fellowship to seek truth, deepen our awareness of religious values, strengthen one another in our free search, maintain the sanctity of the individual conscience bound by no dogmas or creed, and uphold freedom, community, and equal rights for all.

Board of Directors

Joyce Kronholm - President (457-8246)
Nick Hopkins – Vice President
Jeanne Powell – Treasurer
Carol Barnes – Secretary
Magalie Belanger
Jan Ellen Siemers

Committees

Membership
Cynthia Overturf
Religious Education
Becky Warren (449-6908)
Social Justice
Magalie Belanger (202-0629)
Welcoming
Rebecca Hargis (459-0380)
Worship
Pad McCracken (443-8208)

Mailing Address

Big Sky UU Fellowship
PO Box 816
Helena, MT 59624
Message Phone: (406) 449-3096

Services

Christian Science Church
1800 Highland
Helena, MT 59601
11:30 a.m. - Everyone Welcome!

Sign up to receive email updates and our newsletter. Write to w.kronholm@bresnan.net

Webmaster:
Blake Gardiner at:
blake@helena-mont.us

More information at
www.bigskyyu.org

Big Sky UU Fellowship founded 1983
Helena Unitarian Society founded 1891

**Food Share
Sunday is Every
Sunday**

Social Justice On the Move

(Continued from first page)

of global unity. The art is displayed locally in each participant's community.

Global Art Project (<http://www.global-art.org/>) then organizes an international exchange by matching participants group-to-group and individual-to-individual.

In Helena, Big Sky UU is working with Helena Peace Seekers, MOMS Club, RMDC Head Start and others. Art works created in the project will be displayed at the Staggering Ox in the Lundy Center from April 1-22.

The exchange then occurs April 23-30, resulting in thousands of people sending messages of global peace and goodwill around the world at one time--visions of love and peace simultaneously encircling the earth. The art is sent as a gift of global friendship and exhibited in the receiving community.

MDD Community Action

Social Justice also is the lead committee of the Big Sky UU for a special Earth Day event planned by the UU Mountain Desert District.

Congregations in the seven states that comprise the district are joining to make small improvements in the lives of a few people in our community.

Friends and members of our Big Sky UU Fellowship will have three opportunities to give of their time to a Helena family or a nonprofit agency in April. Please plan to take part in these events.

Activities will be videotaped for a showing at our Sunday, May 4, service. At that service, we'll celebrate our collaboration, camaraderie, and community spirit.

The Social Justice Committee is chaired by Magalie Belanger. Its members are Rebecca Hargis, Mary Jo Olson, Ruth Luke, Rachel Carroll, Jeanette Uland, Scout Ferrel, Kelly McBride, Jean Weeks and Ellie Furbush.

'Men's Night Out' Hits the Road for Townsend on Feb. 29

The next Men's Night Out is planned Friday, Feb. 29, at the home of Jay Johnson, just north of Townsend. And while we like the idea of passing around the opportunity to host the men's discussion group, it's going to require a few adjustments.

First, we're bumping the starting time to 6:30 p.m. instead of 6 p.m., to allow for driving time. And second, we're changing the menu. Instead of pizza, plan on showing up for a bowl (or two) of Jay's famous chili, with French bread and veggies on the side. As usual, we'll all chip in there to cover food costs.

Jay's address is 62 Whitehorse Road in Townsend, and MapQuest directions are good. From Wal-Mart, drive 26.5 miles east on U.S. 12. Turn right onto Whitehorse Road, and it's a half-mile to Jay's place. MapQuest puts driving time at 27 minutes from Wal-Mart; adjust accordingly from your starting point.

Car-pooling is encouraged. If you want to share a ride, call Bill Kronholm at 457-8246.

As always, Men's Night Out is open to all UU men. No reservations required -- just show up for good food and even better conversation. Discussion topic will be distributed by e-mail earlier that week.

(More UU news on the next page)

CLF: Online Courses for UU Folks

UU educational opportunities go beyond those offerings we've crafted for the fellowship here in Helena. The Church of the Larger Fellowship, a service of national UU that provides resources for smaller congregations and individual UUs, offers online courses. Some are free, some carry a fee. Scholarships are at the discretion of each teacher and are administered by the CLF minister for lifespan learning, Lynn Ungar.

Among the current offerings:

Raising Ethical Children

This course is designed both to help parents apply their own sense of ethics to their childrearing practices, and also to help parents find ways to develop a sense of ethics and responsibility in their children.

Taught by the Rev. Ken Reeves, a UU minister and clinical psychologist, this course begins February 18th and runs four weeks.

Spirit of Life

This course was originally created by the Rev. Barbara Hamilton-Holway as a way to foster spiritual and ethical development in UUs while deepening our sense of UU religious identity. It is highly participatory and calls upon our spirituality and creativity in exploring how our day-to-day lives reflect and refract the holy and ourselves.

Taught by CLF ministerial intern Dan Kane, this course begins February 18th and runs nine weeks.

An Introduction to Ralph Waldo Emerson: What Emerson Might Teach Us Now

Ralph Waldo Emerson was, for a very brief tenure, a Unitarian minister. Then he became a Unitarian contrarian, challenging the stiff and staid ways of traditional Unitarianism. We'll look at the life of Emerson, read some primary texts, and ask together what we might still have to learn from Emerson's critique.

Taught by the Rev. Jay Leach, UU minister and Emerson scholar, this course begins March 10th and runs six weeks.

For further information or to enroll, go to <http://clf.uua.org/learn/>. These classes carry a \$40 registration fee, to enable the CLF to bring in experts from beyond the CLF staff. There is no cost for introductory courses about UU basics.



Montana UU Spring Meeting Planned April 5-6

Mark your calendar now for the annual spring meeting of the Montana Area UU Association, planned April 5-6 at Boulder Hot Springs. It's a chance to meet with UU folks from the other fellowships of Montana for discussion sessions, song, great food and – this year – great soaks. It's a chance to share thoughts and insights with other UUs about building our fellowship.

Helena folks are likely commute to Boulder, but if you would like to stay there, rooms at Boulder Hot Springs are \$100 a night for a bed and breakfast room hosting up to three people, or \$80 a night for a regular room for two. You can also camp for \$15. All accommodations allow unlimited access to the hot spring pools and showers, but meals are extra (except for breakfast for bed-and-breakfast rooms).

Sessions begin at 12:30 p.m. Saturday afternoon, and conclude Sunday about noon, after a worship service featuring a guest UU minister and the MAUUA business meeting.

If you would like to attend, please make your reservations directly with Boulder Hot Springs at 406-225-4339. Be sure to say you're with the MAUUA group; the entire facility is reserved for us so if you don't mention UU, you will be told the inn is full. Please book rooms by March 1, so that they can rent unused rooms to other guests.

The Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.