



The Free Spirit

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

March 2008

UU Happenings This Month ...

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

Tuesday, March 4 - Knitting for Peace, 7 p.m., 301 S. Rodney. Contact Ruth Luke, 442-4045

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

**Sunday, March 9 – Listening to Bat Qol:
What I Learned about Creativity Since
Becoming a Unitarian Universalist. Led
by Carolyn Laceky.**

Sunday, March 9 – Social Justice Committee meets. CSC downstairs 10:30 a.m. Use north (back) door.

Wednesday, March 12 - "Spiritual Discussions" Adult RE, 7 p.m., at 565 5th Ave. Contact Lynda Saul, 461-2838

**Sunday, March 16 – The Spirituality of
Travel. Led by Pad McCracken. Guest
speaker Clay Scott.**

Tuesday, March 18 - Knitting for Peace, Location to be announced.

Sunday, March 23 –To be announced.

Thursday, March 27 - bUUK cIUb, 7 p.m. at the home of Joyce Kronholm, 720 Hauser Blvd., 457-8246.

**Sunday, March 30 – The Cost of War.
Led by David Percival and the Social
Justice Committee.**

Wednesday, April 2 – Newcomer Orientation, 6-8:30 pm, 720 Hauser Blvd., Joyce Kronholm, 457-8246.

Saturday-Sunday April 5-6 – Montana UU Spring Meeting, Boulder Hot Springs

**Sunday, April 6 - NO SERVICE IN
HELENA. Service at Boulder Hot Springs
at 10 a.m., led by the Rev. Wanda Daniel
of Missoula**

Montana UUs to Meet at Boulder Hot Springs April 5-6

The annual meeting of the Montana Area UU Association (MAUUA) is nearing! The gathering, April 5-6 at Boulder Hot Springs, will be a chance to meet with UU folks from the other fellowships of Montana for group sessions, song, great food and spiritual growth. There also will be free time for hiking, conversation, and enjoying the hot springs pools.

The spring meeting is a chance to share thoughts and insights with other UUs about making your congregation the best it can be.

Sessions begin at 12:30 p.m. Saturday afternoon, and conclude Sunday about noon, after the MAUUA business meeting and a 10 a.m. worship service now planned to be led by the Rev. Wanda Daniel, the UU minister in Missoula and Billings.

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).

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 and meals by March 15.** Saturday evening buffet costs \$16 and Sunday breakfast is \$9.

BSUU's Global Art for Peace Opens April 1 at Staggering Ox, Lundy Center

Give a big show of support on Tuesday, April 1, at 7 p.m. to celebrate the grand opening of the Helena's first Global Art Project, sponsored by the Big Sky UU Social Justice Committee.

Our fellowship, along with several other Helena nonprofits, will display art to depict peace and promote non-violence and tolerance.

This is the 8th Global Art Project for Peace with participation from schools and organizations from all over the world, expressing their vision of global unity. Participants will then exchange art projects, sent as a gift of global friendship and exhibited in the receiving community.

Contact Magalie Belanger, 202-0629, if you want to help with this project.

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**

2008 Generosity Campaign Report

By Joyce Kronholm

As of Feb. 28, we are still \$2,540 short of pledges for our \$15,015 budget for this year. We hope this shortfall can be made-up from weekly plate offerings by Big Sky UU friends.

The board still hopes to meet our goal of putting aside money toward the hiring of a part-time minister or administrator in the future, as we continue growing. If you have questions or comments about the budget, please feel free to talk to any of the board members.

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all members and friends who pledged this year, as well as to everyone who supports Big Sky UU with their plate offerings throughout the year. It is because of you that we can bring a liberal voice to religion in Helena.

The numbers as of Feb. 28:

Number of Pledging Member Households: 25

Number of Pledging Friends Households: 3

Total Amount Pledged: \$12,475

Median Annual Pledge: \$355 Highest: \$1,000 Lowest: \$120

Number of New Members in 2007: 17

Total Number of Members: 41

Number of New Pledges: 7

Number of Non-pledging Member households: 6

Newcomer Orientation Planned April 2

This is for those who are considering membership and/or would like to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and the Big Sky UU Fellowship. We will discuss the history of the Unitarian Universalism and that of our own Fellowship, how our board and committees work, how to get connected, share our own spiritual journeys, and address your questions and comments

We will meet at the home of Bill and Joyce Kronholm, 720 Hauser Blvd., at 6 p.m. to share a simple dinner. The evening will conclude at 8:30 pm. Call Cynthia Overturf, 431-8955, or Joyce Kronholm, 457-8246 if you will be attending.

Missoula UU Invites Big Sky UU To Join Book Discussion

Missoula's Rev. Wanda Daniel is leading a discussion on Thich Nhat Hahn's book, "Living Buddha, Living Christ," and we are invited to attend on Saturday, March 15, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at their Fellowship at 102 McLeod Ave. in Missoula. It includes a potluck lunch.

The book can be ordered used at www.amazon.com for \$4.50 plus shipping. Contact Bonna Graham-Hall at bgrahamhall@gmail.com if you'd like to attend.

And Thanks to ...

... Blake Gardiner who has taken on management of our Big Sky UU Fellowship website. Blake installed a counter, and in one month's time we had over 70 "hits," the majority from across the country and Montana with the fewest from Helena. Look for more additions to our website in the coming months.

... The Worship Committee and Chair Pad McCracken for their dedication to quality services, and to our members and friends who give their time and talents to lead our services. Services are planned through May, except for March 23, which needs a service leader.