



# The Free Spirit

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

January 2008

## UU Happenings This Month ...

**Sunday, Jan. 6 - Pot Luck Sunday!**  
Reflections on 2007. Led by Pad  
McCracken.

**Friday, Jan. 11 - Men's Night Out, 6 p.m.,**  
626 Monroe, Contact Nick Hopkins, 439-  
0578

**Sunday, Jan. 13 - Finding Spirituality.**  
Led by Jay Johnson.

**Wednesday, Jan. 16 - Knitting for Peace,**  
7 p.m., 301 So. Rodney. Contact Ruth  
Luke, 442-4045

**Sunday, Jan. 20 - Compassion and  
Politics.** Led by Albert Niccolucci.

**Wednesday, Jan. 23 - "Spiritual  
Discussions" Adult RE, 7 p.m., at 541  
East 6th Ave. Contact Jeanne Powell,  
465-0954**

**Thursday, Jan. 24 - bUUK cIUb, 7 p.m. at**  
301 S. Rodney. Contact Ruth Luke, 442-  
4045

**Sunday, Jan. 27 - The Philosophy of  
Freemasons.** Led by Blake Gardiner.

**Wednesday, Jan. 30 - "Spiritual  
Discussions" Adult RE, 7 p.m. at 541  
East 6th Ave. Contact Jeanne Powell,  
465-0954**

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



**Food Share  
Sunday is Every  
Sunday**

## Ten New Members Join on Dec. 9



Please welcome new members, from left, Blake Gardiner, Rachel Carroll, Georgia Lovelady, Jan Ellen Siemers, Kellie and Peter McBride, and Katie Campbell. Pictured behind is Nick Hopkins, Membership Committee. Also joining that day were Carol Barnes, Paul Melvin, and Sam Woods.

## Annual Meeting Sunday, Jan. 13

Plan to attend our Annual Meeting on Sunday, Jan. 13, immediately after our service. It will last approximately one hour. There will be an appreciation for retiring board members Patti Borneman, Lynda Saul, and Winston Swift; election of 2008 new board and nominating committee members; approval of the 2008 budget; and approval of by-laws changes. Pizza will be delivered for lunch downstairs following the meeting.

## 'Spiritual Discussions' Class Begins Jan. 23; Just Come As You Can

For eight Wednesdays, beginning Jan. 23 and ending March 12, we have a new Adult RE class, "Spiritual Discussions", based on our Fellowship's keen interest in discussion and our goal of providing more spirituality. The class will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. each Wednesday.

As a group, we will listen to a different sermon each week delivered by one of our leading Unitarian Universalist ministers, learn a bit about these leaders and their faith, and then engage in a facilitated discussion.

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**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)  
Jeanne Powell - Secretary  
Patti Borneman - Treasurer  
Magalie Belanger  
Nick Hopkins  
Lynda Saul  
Winston Swift

#### **Committees**

Membership  
Nick Hopkins (439-0578)  
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](mailto:w.kronholm@bresnan.net)

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

**Big Sky UU Fellowship founded 1983**  
**Helena Unitarian Society founded 1891**

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## **Can You Help?**

... Volunteer to inventory and order Equal Exchange coffee, tea, and chocolate as needed?

... Donate a smaller size bookcase to house our library downstairs?

## **New Adult RE Series Beginning**

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We've selected outstanding preachers, such as current UUA President Rev. William Sinkford, Rev. Bob Hardies of All Souls Church Unitarian in Washington, D.C.; Rev. Dr. Marilyn Sewell of the First Unitarian Church in Portland, Ore.; Rev. Forrest Church of All Souls Unitarian Church in New York City, preaching sermons such as "The Practice of Reverence," "What Good Is God?", and "The Purpose of Prayer".

The first four classes, Jan. 23 and 30 and Feb. 6 and 13, will be held at the home of Jeanne Powell, at 541 East 6th Ave.; the next four classes, Feb. 20 and 27 and March 5 and 12, will be held at the home of Lynda Saul, 565 5th Ave.

Drop-ins are welcome; just show up. You don't need to attend all the sessions, just come as you wish. If you know now that you plan to attend most classes, however, please contact Lynda Saul at 461-2838 to let her know for planning purposes.

We are excited to offer this class to our fellowship. Co-facilitators are Lynda Saul, Pad McCracken, and Joyce Kronholm. Please join us to grow in your spirituality, to connect with other friends and members, and to learn more of the practice of our liberal faith.

## **Four Volunteer to Lead Special Services**

On our journeys through life, there will be occasions when we wish to conduct special services and ceremonies to mark passages. Memorial or funeral services, marriages or ceremonies of union, a child naming or dedication -- all are a part of our lives and the life of our fellowship. The lack of a minister does not change the need for someone to appropriately plan and conduct such ceremonies.

Four members of our leadership have generously offered to step in, upon request. They are Nick Hopkins, Pad McCracken, Cynthia Overturf, and Lynda Saul. If you need their help, please call one of them, or call anyone on the board.

For those of you who don't know, in Montana it is not mandatory that an ordained minister officiate at a marriage ceremony for it to be legal. Anyone of your choosing can perform a marriage ceremony. We have members of our fellowship who have had ceremonies and memorial services conducted by a dear friend or a member of our fellowship.

In our library we have two books that can help in the planning of special services and ceremonies. We encourage you to check them out. They are *Handbook for Religious Services* published by the UU Church of the Larger Fellowship, and *In Memoriam: A Guide to Modern Funeral and Memorial Services* by the Rev. Edward Searl, a UU pastor.

## **And Thanks to ...**

... Margaret Corcoran, Scout Ferrel and David Percival, Peg Hunter, Bill and Joyce Kronholm, Georgia Lovelady and son Cole Speer, Ruth Luke, Jan Ellen Siemers, and Becky Warren. This well organized crew did a two-hour job in one hour unpacking a weekend's donations for the Helena Food Share, and had a good time doing it, too.

... Ellie Furbush who cataloged our library of books, CDs, and DVDs. They are ready for you to check out in the upstairs storeroom. Look for them soon to be downstairs for you to check out during our after-service fellowship.

... Pad McCracken for researching the best buy for our new hand-held and clip-on microphones. Both can be used on any sound system. Pad and Patti Borneman installed them in time for our Dec. 23 service.