



The Free Spirit

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

December 2007

UU Happenings
This Month ...

Sunday, Dec. 2 – Potluck Sunday! The Five Contemplations: Gratitude and Worldview. Led by Donna Davis.

Wednesday, Dec. 5 - Knitting for Peace at the home of Ruth Luke, 442-4045, 301 So. Rodney St., 7 – 9 pm.

Thursday, Dec. 6 – Board of Trustees meeting in CSC basement, 6 – 8:30 pm. Enter north door. All are welcome.

Saturday, Dec. 8 - Volunteer to work on a Habitat for Humanity house, 9 to 4 p.m., Contact Magalie Belanger, 202-0629.

Sunday Dec. 9 - Welcoming Service for New Members

Monday, Dec. 10 – Volunteer at Food Share, 6-8 p.m. Contact Magalie Belanger, 202-0629

Thursday, Dec. 13 - UU bUUk cLUb at the home of Katie Campbell and Sam Woods, 461-5754, 1504 Harrison Ave. (just north of Lundy Shopping Center), 7-9 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 16 – Creative Vision. Led by Elaine Dahl

Sunday, Dec. 16 - The Christian Scientists have asked us to join them from 11:15 to 11:30 am prior to our service at the CSC to sing Christmas carols. They will then join us for our service.

Wednesday, Dec. 19 - Knitting for Peace at the home of Ruth Luke, 442-4045, 301 So. Rodney St., 7 – 9 pm.

Friday, Dec. 21 - Friday Night Ministry at the home of Nick and Ellie Hopkins, 439-0578, 626 Monroe Ave., at 7 pm. We'll meet to go Christmas caroling

Sunday, Dec. 23 - Winter Solstice Around the World. Led by Ryan Hazen

Sunday, Dec. 30 - The Hero with a Thousand Faces. Led by Ellie Furbush and Jean Weeks.

Sunday, Jan. 6 – Potluck Sunday ! 2007 Reflective Service. Led by Lynda Saul

Mountain Desert District Conference Draws 216 from Six States to Billings

By Joyce Kronholm

More than 200 people from six western states attended our regional Unitarian Universalist conference held in Billings October 12-14, including eight from BSUUF: Donna Davis, Karrie Fairbrother, Cynthia Overturf, Magalie Belanger and Ryan Grundy and Bastein, and Bill and Joyce Kronholm.

There were three services providing spiritual nourishment led by the Revs. Armida Alexander, Kalispell, Wanda Daniel, Billings and Missoula, and Lois VanLear, Bozeman. It was a inspiring to hear our Montana UU pastors.

Dr. Janine Pease was the Saturday evening speaker. She is the founder of Little Big Horn College, a Crow Indian educator, civil rights activist, MacArthur “genius grant” recipient, and vice president of American Indian Affairs at Rocky Mountain College. She also is a member of the Billings UU Fellowship.

Dressed in Crow regalia and a gifted storyteller, she entertained and educated us with “Crow Stories: Heroes, Tricksters, and Homeland.” Afterward, there was dancing, singing, and drumming by Crow tribal members. And we danced too! The evening was magical.

There were 20 separate inspiring workshops to choose from – tough to make a decision. Ask us about them!

The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker, President of the Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, Calif., challenged our thinking when she spoke on her book, *Saving Paradise*. The book deals with how early Christian views of Jesus and of Paradise have been distorted.

The music during the conference was superb. Judy Fjell sang Friday evening and at the Sunday morning service. What a voice! She got us going! There were a variety of musical instruments and even a choir.

Meeting and visiting with fellow UUsers was a highlight. One morning all of us Montanans gathered together for breakfast. It was a great opportunity to get to know one another and exchange ideas. I especially enjoyed talking to board members from Montana's four other fellowships.

It was definitely worth the time and expense of going and we came back rejuvenated and full of ideas. Next year's District Conference will likely be in Colorado.



Food Share Sunday is every Sunday

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

More information at

www.bigskyuu.org

Big Sky UU Fellowship founded 1983
Helena Unitarian Society founded 1891

Fellowship Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 13, 2008

Following fellowship

- **Approve 2008 Budget**
- **Approve By-laws changes**
- **Vote for 2008-09 new board members**
- **Appreciation for retiring board members**
- **2007 Accomplishments & Goals for 2008**
- **Opportunity to pledge your support for BSUUF**

Everyone is welcome

Still Short of Hymnals

Have you noticed on Sundays that we run short of our hymnal, *Singing the Living Tradition*? Our fellowship is growing faster than our supply of hymnals!

Would you be willing to donate \$28 to buy a hymnal for the fellowship? If so, please make out a check for that amount to BSUUF and write in the lower left memo "hymnal".

Each Sunday in December there will be a sign up sheet downstairs after the service where you can give your name and leave your check. The hymnals will have a book plate inside the front cover where your name will be written. If you prefer, it can be given in honor or in memory of someone special to you.

Exploring Options to Handheld Mike

No, you're not going deaf. We're all having trouble hearing each other during Joys and Concerns, Story for All Ages, and Reflections. The present hand-held microphone isn't loud enough and it's also awkward to hold and tell a story at the same time.

Pad McCracken is looking into a multi channel receiver which would allow us to have a handheld microphone and a clip-on microphone. The present system at the CSC will not accommodate this. The cost could be \$150 to \$250. Pad is doing the research to find the right system that will work for us at the best price.

And Thanks to ...

To all the volunteers who greet, set up, arrange, and clean up our after service fellowship and potlucks. This fellowship couldn't do without the time you so generously give.

To Patti Borneman for her dedication and commitment as editor of our newsletter. Bill Kronholm is now putting it together.

To Lynda Saul for planning and facilitating the adult education class "The Unitarian Universalist Story" that was held six Tuesday evenings in October and November. There was an enthusiastic group of about eight each week. All came away with a better understanding of our faith and its heritage, and all wanting more adult RE offerings.

To the hosts of this year's three Circle of 8 Dinners. Offering their homes and preparing the entrée were Jim Clarke and Jennifer Forker, Jeanne Powell, Bill and Joyce Kronholm, Carolyn and Tom Lacey, Rebecca Hargis, Joe and Leila Goldes and Karrie Fairbrother, Magalie Belanger and Ryan Grandy, Donna Davis, and Katie Campbell and Sam Woods. Good times and good food were had by all.