



# The Free Spirit

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

May 2008

## UU Happenings This Month ...

Thursday, May 1 - Knitting for Peace has been canceled. Next session May 15

**Sunday, May 4 – Potluck Sunday! Mountain Desert District in Action. Led by Social Justice Committee.**

**Sunday, May 11 – What Our Mothers Have to Teach Us. Led by Lynda Saul.**

Tuesday, May 13 – Food sorting at Helena Food Share, 1616 Lewis, 6 p.m. Contact Magalie Belanger, 202-0629

Thursday, May 15 -- Knitting for Peace, 7 p.m., 720 Hauser Blvd. Contact Joyce Kronholm, 457-8246.

**Sunday, May 18 – Musings on the Economy. Led by Jan Ellen Siemers.**

Sunday, May 18 – Circle of Eight Dinners, 5 p.m.

Thursday, May 22 -- bUUK cIUUb, 7 p.m., 706 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. Contact Nisan Burbridge, 443-8208.

Friday, May 23 – Men's Night Out, 6 p.m., 720 Hauser Blvd. Contact Bill Kronholm, 457-8246

**Sunday, May 25 – Memorial Day service. Led by Pad McCracken.**



**Food Share  
Sunday is  
Every Sunday**

## It's almost summertime, And, yes, the living is easy

Although our April weather may have prompted some doubts, summer is in fact on its way, and that means an approaching lull in the UU calendar.

Traditionally we have not held regular Sunday services in the summer, although we've always scheduled get-togethers during the season. This summer is no exception, and the Worship Committee hopes to hold brief services in connection with the June and July gatherings.

Here are some dates to mark on your calendar:

**Sunday, June 22, Potluck Brunch** -- at 10 a.m. in the backyard of the home of Lowell and Ruth Luke, 301 South Rodney, 461-7435. This is for the whole family. There is plenty of room for the children to play and the adults too.

Bring a brunch dish to share. Afterwards there are trails to climb in the hills above their home with great views of the Helena Valley and the Big Belt Mountains.

**Sunday, July 20, Gates of the Mountain Boat Tour** -- Are we ever in for a load of fun! Joe and Leila Goldes won this at a fundraiser, and they have lovingly and generously given it to our Big Sky Fellowship to enjoy. There's room for 48.

You'll be getting more of the details closer to the date through our Googlegroups listserv.

**Sunday, Aug. 24 Service** – Our regular 11:30 a.m. services resume at the Christian Science Church. We'll begin our fellowship year with our traditional "Water Service."

We ask you to bring a small vial of water from a place that is special to you. Water is an ancient symbol of spiritual life. During the service you will be invited, one at a time, to pour your water into a common bowl and give a brief statement why this water is special to you. The combined water is symbolic of our shared faith coming from many different sources.

If you would like to plan an activity or a spur of the moment get-together during the summer, feel free to do so. Just let us all know via our listserv, [bigskyuu@googlegroups.com](mailto:bigskyuu@googlegroups.com)

## Circle of Eight dinners Planned May 18

We've scheduled this spring's Circle of Eight Dinners for Sunday, May 18, at 5 p.m. Four hosts have volunteered to have the dinners at their homes, typically for eight people.

These dinners are casual and fun opportunities to get to know one another in a smaller group setting. Our past dinners have been hugely popular.

(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)  
Magalie Belanger - Vice President  
Jeanne Powell - Treasurer  
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#### **Committees**

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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)

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

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

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

*"The freedom of the mind is the beginning of all other freedoms." – Rev. Clinton Lee Scott*

## **Circle of Eight ... continued**

For those of you who haven't attended one, here's how it works. You sign up in advance to attend a dinner. There will be sign-up sheets at church for the next three Sundays. The cut-off date to sign up is May 11.

A dinner host will then contact you to ask you to bring a main dish, side dish, or dessert to the dinner and give you the location of the host's home. One home will be especially for parents who want to bring their young children.

That's all there is to it. You'll share a fun evening with good food and conversation with your fellow UUs.

For further information contact Jeanne Powell, 465-0954.

## **Board seeking candidates for UU Leadership School**

Feeling a desire to nurture your spiritual journey through UU? If you're serious about the effort, you may want to consider a week-long program of the Mountain Desert District called the Russell Lockwood Leadership School.

Offered annually and scheduled this year for July 20-26 at Alta, Utah, leadership school is a week communing with fellow adult UUs from around the West, exploring the history, values, policies, inspirations and complexities of the Unitarian Universalist liberal religious tradition.

Leadership School prepares UUs for congregational leadership. Year after year, graduates attest to the personal impact the school can have as a powerful immersion experience where participants are supported and encouraged to engage in deep exploration while also promoting the assimilation of practical tools to take back home.

For more information go to [www.rlls.mdduuu.org](http://www.rlls.mdduuu.org). This year our Board of Trustees has budgeted \$1,500 to pay expenses for leadership opportunities for Big Sky Fellowship members. Contact Jeanne Powell if you are interested. Enrollment fills fast.

## **BSUUF website has 'hits' From all over the world**

We're amazed at the number of "hits" we've received on our website. Since webmaster Blake Gardiner installed a counter on our site in February, we're nearing 300 visitors.

The majority were from Montana and the United States -- from California, Iowa, Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Missouri, and Connecticut in April alone.

In the past three months, however, we've also had visits from India, Hungary, Germany and England, all of which have Unitarian congregations in their countries. Plus, we've received many compliments from fellow Montana UUs about our site layout and how easy it is to find.

## **With gratitude ...**

... to the April coffee hosts – Carolyn Laceky, Alyssa Hudders and Jeanette Ulland -- and to the April greeters – Jeanne Powell and Christy Baez. It takes a lot of volunteers, planning, and effort to make our Sunday services run smoothly. Thank you all!

... to Blake Gardiner who donated a beautiful silver chalice to our fellowship.

... to Jon Cardiello who joins Dorothy Johnson in playing for us twice a month