



The Free Spirit

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

August-September 2008

UU Happenings This Month ...

Sunday, Aug. 24 – Potluck Sunday! Water service. Led by Cynthia Overturf.

Thursday, Aug. 28 -- - bUUk cIUUb, 7 p.m., at the home of Jan Ellen Siemers near East Helena. Call Jan Ellen at 459-0102.

Sunday, Aug. 31 – The Practice of Reverence. Led by Joyce Kronholm

Sunday, Sept. 7 – Righteousness: Confronting My Own. Led by Pad McCracken. No potluck in September.

Sunday, Sept. 7 – Volunteer fair. Explore opportunities to contribute to our UU fellowship. After service.

Sunday, Sept. 14 – Led by Lynda Saul.

Wednesday, Sept. 17 – Appreciation reception for UU activists and leaders, 5:30 p.m., Benny's restaurant, 108 E. 6th Ave.

Thursday, Sept. 18 - Knitting for Peace, 7 p.m., 301 S. Rodney. Contact Ruth Luke, 442-4045

Sunday, Sept. 21 – Creation: Dominion or Stewardship? Led by Christopher Fuller of Carroll College.

Wednesday, Sept. 24 – Adult RE series on Judaism, Christianity and Islam begins. 7 p.m., 565 5th Ave. Contact Joyce Kronholm, 457-8246

Thursday, Sept. 25 -- - bUUk cIUUb, 7 p.m., at the home of Jan Ellen Siemers near East Helena. Call Jan Ellen at 459-0102.

Sunday, Sept. 28 – Rosh Hashanah. Led by Becky Warren



Summer 2008 ... A good time was had by all



The table was groaning at the Meriwether picnic area at the Gates of the Mountains, at a boat ride and picnic for the Big Sky fellowship.

The July 20 boat tour was donated by Karrie Fairbrother and Joe and Leila Goldes and was a highlight of the UU summer calendar.

After cruising the Gates area, with narration about the Lewis and Clark passage in 1805 and the 1949 Mann Gulch disaster, there was a potluck picnic, followed by swimming and hiking.

Also on the summer calendar was a potluck brunch June 22 at the home of Lowell and Ruth Luke. Their big, tree-shaded backyard was filled with happy children playing with even happier dogs, while the grownups dug into another of those magnificent UU potluck smorgasbords.

Big Sky UU traditionally does not hold regular Sunday worship services during the summer. Fall services resume on Aug. 24 with the annual "water service," led by Cynthia Overturf.

Wanted: Sunday service leaders

By definition, a lay-led fellowship such as BSUUF needs lay leaders. As the Worship Committee schedules services from now through next May, it is actively seeking people to step forward to lead a service.

A priority for the committee this year is to find first-time service leaders. The committee is trying to make this a painless process. Each leader will have a liaison on the committee who can help a first-timer through each step – hymn and reading selections, children's story, timing and planning.

Getting started can be as simple as looking at the services of large UU churches online, or at the "church on loan" offerings of the Church of the Larger Fellowship, until one strikes a chord – "Hey, that would be a great service for us."

Of course, if you have a topic you feel about passionately, original services are just as passionately encouraged.

Either way, whether you are a first-timer or an old hand, please contact chairman Bill Kronholm at 457-8246, or one of the monthly liaisons – September, Pad McCracken; October, Carolyn Laceky; November, Kronholm; December, Lynda Saul, or January, Cynthia Overturf – and let us know.

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)
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Worship
Bill Kronholm (457-8246)

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**

New RE program begins Sept. 24

The fourth UU principle calls for a free and responsible search for truth. That is the guiding principle behind an adult religious education program beginning this fall that will explore the roots of major world religions.

We will examine the three monotheistic religions -- Judaism, Christianity and Islam -- that arose in the Middle East. We will use videos, Huston Smith's book "The World's Religions" and discussion facilitated by UU members. Other spiritual paths will be our focus in future classes.

We will meet on six consecutive Wednesdays beginning Sept. 24, from 7 to 9 p.m., at the home of Lynda Saul, 565 5th Ave. Facilitators will be Ruth Luke, Judaism, Sept. 24 and Oct. 1; Donna Davis, Christianity, Oct. 8 and 15, and Lynda Saul, Islam, Oct. 22 and 29. To register, call Joyce Kronholm at 457-8246.

The mission of our Big Sky UU religious education program is to help members and friends develop their own intellectual and spiritual goals. In doing so, we establish deeper connections with one another in an open and supportive environment. Classes are scheduled each fall and winter.

Donna Davis attends UU Leadership School

By Donna Davis

For one intense week in July, I attended the Russell Lockwood Leadership School in the mountain splendor of Alta, Utah, as a delegate from our fellowship. RLLS is designed to prepare UUs for congregational leadership—and, in my case, to bring back information and tools to help current and future leaders.

Following an immersion schedule that ran from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, we explored topic such as:

- **UU history**, from a presenter who not only knows the topic inside out and backwards, but who is sensitive to the until-recently unwritten history of the remarkable women in early UU American history;
- **A personality analysis** that helps you explore your own distinct personality -- and learn how to dealing with people of another type;
- **Conflict management preferences**, including how to identify your own style, how to accommodate other preferences, and when it's necessary to change your own preferred style;
- **How to help** your congregation through inevitable change;
- **Covenants**, their importance, how to develop them, how to live them, and how to repair them when they get broken; and
- **MUSIC**, more music and even more music every day with the incomparable Judy Fjell.

You will all be hearing more from me about RLLS 2008 in coming months, as I fulfill my commitment to share the wealth of my experiences there. Stay tuned!

With Gratitude ...

... to Georgia Lovelady, Peg Hunter and Carl Junkerman, Becky Warren and Bill Rule, and Magalie Belanger and Ryan Grady, for hosting Circle of Eight dinners this spring.

... to Pad McCracken, who stepped down as chair of the Worship Committee after providing the fellowship with an unbroken series of inspiring and thought-provoking services.

... to Karrie Fairbrother, Joe and Leila Goldes and Ruth and Lowell Luke, for hosting our summer social events.

... to our May coffee hour and potluck hosts and Sunday greeters -- Ruth Piccone, Taryn Mead, Magalie Belanger, Rebecca Hargis, Carolyn Laceky and Georgia Lovelady.