



The Free Spirit

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

February 2007



Margaret Corcoran and Ruth Luke co-leading a service and giving a sermon entitled "Unitarians, Universalists, Cats and Dogs."

Sunday Service Schedule for January 2007

February 4

Lent and Asceticism. Does Sacrifice Sanctify?

Led by Pad McCracken and Nisan Burbridge

First Sunday Potluck

February 11

Four Buddhist Modes of Love

Presented by guest speaker Zan Murray and introduced by Board Member and Worship Committee Chair Lynda Saul

February 18

A Special Reading from UU World

Led by Winston Swift

February 25

TBA

Leader TBA

ALL SERVICES TAKE PLACE AT 11:30 A.M. AT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, 1800 HIGHLAND (CORNER OF HIGHLAND & LAMBORN)

Visit www.bigskyyuu.org to read some of the sermons given at the fellowship.

Circles of 7 (or 8) Dinners to begin March 17

Long a UU tradition, Circles of Eight Dinners are coming to Big Sky UU beginning in March. These friendly home-based dinners offer a good way for fellowship members, friends, and newcomers to get acquainted and learn more about UU principles and activities. At our annual meeting in January a majority of us indicated an interest, so we are going to try it this spring.



The dinners rotate among hosts who provide the main dish while those attending provide the side dishes and dessert. The dinners vary from six to 10 participants depending on the number of guests the host can accommodate. The idea is to invite seven and leave open one more place at the table for a new guest. If there's enough interest, more than one dinner can occur on the same evening.

The dinners will be at 6 p.m. on the third Saturday evening in March, May, and October. Our first two dinners will be on March 17 and May 19.

Welcoming & Membership Committee member Carolyn Laceky has offered to organize the dinners. We have a growing list of members willing to host and attend dinners. If you'd like to sign up, call Carolyn at 443-4267.

DID YOU KNOW?

Famous Unitarian or Universalists in American Politics

John Adams	U.S. President
John Quincy Adams	U.S. President
Chester Bliss Bowles	Governor of Connecticut
Harold Hitz Burton	U.S. Supreme Court Justice
William S. Cohen	U.S. Secretary of Defense
Ben Franklin	Scientist, author, statesmen
Millard Fillmore	U.S. President
Paul H. Douglas	U.S. Senator, Illinois
Horace Greeley	Journalist, politician
Oliver Wendell Holmes	Author, U.S. Supreme Court Justice
Thomas Jefferson	Philosopher, U.S. President
Maurine Neuberger	U.S. Senator, Oregon
Josiah Quincy	U.S. Congressman, Massachusetts
Paul Revere	Revolutionary War patriot
Adlai Stevenson	Governor of Illinois, pres. candidate
William Taft	U.S. President
Daniel Webster	Orator, presidential candidate

More information can be found at www.famousuus.com.

The Free Spirit

BIG SKY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

February 2007

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

Jim Clarke - Co-Chair
Joyce Kronholm - Co-Chair
Jeanne Powell, Secretary
Patti Borneman - Treasurer
Lynda Saul
Winston Swift

COMMITTEES

WELCOMING & MEMBERSHIP
Jeanne Powell (465-0954)

WORSHIP/SERVICE
Lynda Saul (461-2838)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Becky Warren (449-6908)

COMMUNITY SERVICE & SOCIAL JUSTICE
Jennifer Forker (442-6698)

WEBSITE/NEWSLETTER/E-MAIL LIST
Patti Borneman (442-0656)

MAILING ADDRESS

Big Sky Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
PO Box 816
Helena, MT 59624
PHONE: (406) 449-3096

SERVICES

First Church of Christ, Scientist
1800 Highland
Helena, MT 59601
11:30 am - Everyone Welcome!

Sign up to receive email updates and our newsletter: write to pattib@mt.net or call (406) 442-0656.

www.bigskyyuu.org

Helena Unitarian Society founded 1891
NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE:
20TH OF EACH MONTH. SEND TO:
pattib@mt.net

SAVE THE DATE!



- February 14 - St. Valentine's Day
- February 17-19, 2007 - President's Day Weekend at Yellowstone. Everyone welcome! Another MAUUA event that is mostly social.
- February 22 / March 20 / April 17 - BSUUF Board Meeting - 6:30 - 8:30 pm (lower level of church).
- May 4-6 - MDD Growth Workshop, Billings, Montana
- May 27 - Last BSUUF service before summer break.
- June 21-25 - UUA General Assembly held in Portland, Oregon.
- September 9 - First BSUUF service after summer break.
- October 12-14 - Mountain Desert District annual meeting will take place in Billings (see article on back page).

Greeters & Potluck Helpers Schedule

This is where we post the schedule of Greeters and Potluck Helpers for upcoming Sundays. If you've signed up to help, your name is below. If you want to volunteer, please contact Carolyn Laceky at 443-4267.

- February 4: Greeter: Magalie Belanger and Ryan Grandy
Potluck helpers: Rebecca Hargis and Mary Jo Olson
- February 11: Mary Jo Olson
- February 18: TBA
- February 25: Carolyn Laceky

What do greeters and potluck organizers do?

GREETING: Church foyer

- Put sandwich board on corner of Lamborn and Highland
- Put up nametag board in foyer
- Lay out UU literature, guest sign-in book
- Introduce yourself to guests as they arrive
- Have newcomers sign in and ask them a couple of questions about their background, what brought them to the church, etc.
- Introduce guests during announcements
- Count all in attendance.
- Put materials away in library and cubby, including sandwich board

POTLUCK: Lower level of church

- 1st Sunday of each month – 2 people needed as helpers
- Check supplies and buy what is needed (treasurer will reimburse)
- Make coffee, hot water for tea/cocoa
- Set up tables and be there when people bring their dishes
- Clean up (take cups home to be washed)

Knitting for Peace

First and third Wednesdays, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Big Sky UUs are out to mind their knitting, and you're invited to join them on Wednesday evenings.

Be a part of a congenial group that is creating warm afghan blankets for those in need in Helena. That what Warm Up America, a national-wide effort, is all about – keeping people warm.

Here's how it works: We knit (or crochet) 7 x 9 inch rectangles. Once we have 48 rectangles we join them all together to complete a full size afghan. When it is finished, it will resemble a patchwork quilt of many textures and colors. Our first quilt will go to a young mother with the Friendship Center.

February 7 and 21 are Knitting Nights!

The group is open to all, regardless of knitting experience. Don't knit? We'll teach you. Just bring size 7 knitting needles (or a crochet hook of comparable size) and a ball of washable wool yarn. We meet the first and third Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. at Lynda Saul's home.

If you'd like to spend a few hours a month, all in the company of UU friends, contact Jennifer at 442-6698 or Lynda Saul at 461-2838.



Hmmm ... Hymn Singing Before Church!

Do you enjoy singing, even if you don't think you're very good at it? Would you like help the rest of us feel more confident when we sing hymns on Sundays? Then join us on Sundays a little after 11 a.m. to practice the songs planned for that day's service. Winston Swift will provide the guidance we need to sound good.

Big Sky UU Committees

Worship Service Committee: Chaired by Lynda Saul. Provides guidance and resources for lay leaders to design and lead services. A Worship Service Guide is available for the asking. We also maintain a library at the church with cassette tapes, UU music CDs, and an assortment of books and "stock" services with sermons. We belong to the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) which provides extensive resources on their website (www.uua.org/clf). If you want to lead a service, contact Lynda Saul.

Welcoming & Membership: Chaired by Jeanne Powell. Organizes materials for outreach to visitors and members, signs up greeters and potluck helpers, and leads the annual New Member Welcoming Service, this year on April 15.

Religious Education: Chaired by Becky Warren whose teen daughter, Ellie, provides interactive, fun and creative RE for school-aged children who attend the church with their parents. Becky and Ellie are designing new curricula for 2007. Next meeting will be at Becky's home on Tuesday, February 6 from 7:00-8:30 pm.

Community Service & Social Justice: Chaired by Jennifer Forker. Organizes numerous community outreach activities that also engender stronger fellowship among UUs. First meeting of the year is during the potluck on February 4.

Every Sunday: Helena Food Share Collection

We collect food every Sunday for Helena Food Share, but especially on Potluck Sunday. Helena Food Share is the local food bank serving Helena and the surrounding area. Hundreds of families are served every month through a walk-in lobby where food is available to anyone, and a food box program where a family or individual can receive a box of necessities a month. Food Share accepts canned and packaged goods, produce, and financial contributions.

Helena Food Share is located at 1616 Lewis in the Sixth Ward neighborhood.



Do you drink coffee, tea or enjoy chocolate? Participate in our UU Coffee Club!

Starting February 4, the coffee you drink at our potlucks will be from Equal Exchange, a fair-traded, organic coffee that benefits indigenous coffee growers/harvesters and is better for our health and well being. We're also saving money and passing that savings on to members and friends who want to purchase 12-ounce packages of coffee or five-pound packages of coffee at a discount. We'll only ask for a small markup to cover the cost of shipping and to raise funds for our Community Service and Social Justice Committee.

Patti Borneman is organizing our UU Coffee Club. See her at potlucks (or contact her anytime that is convenient for you - see contact info on page 2) to sign up, place an order for coffee, tea, or chocolate. You'll also be benefiting the fellowship, your community, and in a small way, the global coffee trade and sustainable coffee farming practices. Our UU principles at work!



BIG SKY
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

PO Box 816
Helena, MT 59624



The 7 Principles of Unitarian-Universalism

1. The inherent dignity and worth of every person.
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our conversations.
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part.

Corps of Discovery: Exploring Life Stories



Mountain Desert District Unitarian Universalist
2007 Annual Conference, Billings, Montana

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR MDD CONFERENCE

Billings, Montana - October 12-14, 2007

Mark your calendars now and make plans to join in the fun and fellowship as Billings, Montana welcomes Unitarian Universalists from eight states for the Annual Mountain Desert District Conference and Delegate Assembly to be held October 12-14, 2007.

You'll make new friends, share wonderful meals together, experience educational workshops, enjoy dynamic speakers such as our keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker. In addition you can participate in choir opportunities, and moving worship services, all while surrounded by Rimrocks that rise 400 feet above the Yellowstone River Valley. Perhaps you will even follow in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark and Calamity Jane as you explore this part of the "Wild West" for the very first time!

Register by May 31st to receive the special "Early Bird" rate.

This year's Conference will take place at the Holiday Inn Grand Montana, located near Riverfront Park and the Yellowstone River. This beautiful hotel offers a complimentary shuttle to/from the airport and to the historic downtown Billings area. Amenities include free in-room high-speed computer access, an indoor pool with waterfall, a fitness center, sauna and spa.

A block of rooms will be held until September 15 at a special conference rate.

For more information and registration forms, when available, please visit the MDD Conference 2007 website: <http://mddconf2007.googlepages.com>.