



GLACIER UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

We celebrate our GUUF community, our sharing of work and play together, our delight in watching the children participate in our programs and services, our stretching out to learn, our caring and support for one another, and our coming together for the following services and programs:

Schedule of Services and Events

All services (unless otherwise noted) begin at 10 a.m. Sunday at the fellowship building. Religious education will be provided for children and youth the second, third and fourth Sunday of every month. Fifth Sundays are intergenerational services.

Meditation Service

Sunday, January 3 – Join us for a short sharing of meditation styles, followed by a silent group 20-or 30-minute meditation. Then the leader will provide a short discussion topic followed by a closing and tea. Shaun Simmons will facilitate. Childcare will not be provided, but the nursery is available.

Guest Speaker: Monte Yellow Bird

Sunday, January 10 – Monte Yellow Bird Sr., better known in the art world as Black Pinto Horse, is a nationally known Native American artist, cultural/educational consultant, presenter and storyteller. A member of the Arikara and Hidatsa Nation in North Dakota, he currently resides in Great Falls as the Artist in Residence with the Paris Gibson Square Museum and Great Falls Public Schools. His motto, “If you’re going to shine, shine brightly,” describes his approach to life and his art work.

Discussion Sunday

Sunday, January 17 – This is our monthly Discussion Sunday, in which we gather as a whole fellowship for opening words and joys and concerns and music, followed by small group discussions on a variety of topics. New topics are welcome. This Sunday’s topics include:

- Affirming Your Faith: Discussion with Betsy Kohnstamm about how we describe our UU faith to ourselves and to others, including developing that “elevator speech.” We’ll look at UU history this Sunday as a part of how we describe our UU denomination to others.
- Green Sanctuary Dreams: This discussion group will explore the connection between our environment and ourselves as we start with shared readings and thoughts and proceed to plans and

actions. We will look into the possibility of GUUF becoming a Green Sanctuary congregation, and what projects might work for this spring and summer. Led by Kathy Neff, for more detail, see her article in this newsletter.

Rev. Armida Alexander, “Apples and Acorns”

Sunday, January 24 – Armida, our popular former minister, says this sermon “deals with the soul’s code, what the Romantic poets and James Hillman call the ‘daimon.’ It’s a gift of some sort, and this so-called sermon encourages us to discover our gifts and use them in service to the world.” The GUUF choir will sing at this service. (Choir rehearsal at 9 a.m., hymn #1052, “The Oneness of Everything.”)



Toni Wells and Sam Neff address the congregation

Intergenerational Art Service

Sunday, January 31 – Whether you wish to express yourself in watercolor, sculpture or writing poetry, there will be something for everyone as all ages come together to create art and verse to beautify our space. The theme will be our vision for a Green Sanctuary for our GUUF congregation. Our intergenerational services are a unique opportunity to meet and mix with other UU members of other ages you may not have previously met. Families and folks of all ages are encouraged to attend!

“Three Cups of Tea Party”

Saturday, February 6, at 7 p.m. at GUUF
See page 3 for details.

Meditation Service

Sunday, February 7 – We will begin with an opening statement, followed by a 20- to 30-minute silent meditation, succeeded by a discussion of a related topic. Tami Randall will lead. Childcare will not be provided, but the nursery is available.

Community Day

Sunday, February 14 – The book *The In-Between Church* by Alice Mann will be the topic of discussion on this Community Day. Copies of this book are available from Sandy Alessi (sandy@montanastarr.com or 730-2425). This important

book lays some groundwork for planning for GUUF's future and outlines some proven solutions to common challenges experienced by many churches. You don't have to read the book to participate and contribute to the discussion, however – if you're interested in GUUF's future, you'll want to attend.

Rev. Robert Latham, “A Paradigm for Transition”

Sunday, February 21 – Rev. Robert Latham, from our own Mountain Desert District, is an author and presenter who assists fellowships facing transitions. This service will build on the workshop Rev. Latham will lead at GUUF the preceding day (Saturday, Feb. 20, see Sandy Alessi's VP column on page ___ for details).

“War and Peace”

Sunday, February 28 – Three performers, well known to GUUF and the valley, team up to present a service designed to stir the mind, heart and blood. Rabbi Allen Secher, MTPR radio host and leader of Congregation Bet Harim, will lend his mellifluous voice as narrator and commentator. Janet Haavrig, with the soulful sound of her cello, and Kevin Allen-Schmid, with his commanding baritone, will sing and play songs of battle and reconciliation. This program is a preview of a choir concert to be staged at Flathead High School on March 9.

Meditation Service

Sunday, March 7 – Join us for a short sharing of meditation styles, followed by a silent group 20-or 30-minute meditation. Then the leader will provide a short discussion topic followed by a closing and tea. Childcare will not be provided, but the nursery is available.

Search Committee News

by Laura Behenna, co-chair

The Search Committee has updated our Congregational Record, which searching ministers will see on the UUA's web site of open positions. We're doing some direct-mail outreach to all the UUA's District Executives around the country to publicize our opening and to educate them about the many, many reasons the Flathead Valley is a great place to live and work. Our District Executive, Nancy Bowen, recommended this idea as a great way to spread the word to the UUA field staff who know which ministers are looking for new opportunities. We anticipate meeting with some interested ministers this winter.

For more information, contact any committee member. The committee consists of Cathy Cooney and Laura Behenna (co-chairs), and Kevin Allen-Schmid, Sandy Alessi, Melissa Fahrney, Paige Newell, Shaun Simmons, and Walter Weisenburger.

President's Corner

by Sandy Gray



What a great time of year it's been to join in the various activities and services at GUUF! It's always heartwarming to see the wide range of ages from preschoolers onwards participating in the music and theater woven into our programs. Thank you to all those who worked so hard to plan, orchestrate and lead the various services from Thanksgiving through the Solstice and Christmas events.

As we go through this year of transition while searching for a minister to start with us this coming fall, I want to give particular thanks to the Program Committee (led by Betsy Kohnstamm) who have stepped up once again to put in all the hard work necessary for organizing a terrific collection of Sunday programs, including a return visit from our former minister, Armida Alexander, on Jan. 24.

Partly due to not having ministerial expenses this fiscal year, GUUF's board has decided to allocate some of our budget toward developmental programs to benefit the long-term health and growth of our fellowship. Over the weekend of February 20-21, Rev. Robert Latham, a consulting minister, will work with us in a workshop (all are invited) on congregational spiritual growth and membership empowerment during periods of transition. (See Sandy Alessi's column for more details.) I encourage all of you to attend the Saturday workshop and/or the Sunday morning service that weekend.

During the first week of August, the Russell Lockwood Leadership School will be held in Loveland, Colo., sponsored by the Mountain Desert District of UUA. A few years ago, GUUF sponsored a couple of our leaders to attend, and this year we offering to do so again. If you are a current or future leader at GUUF and are interested in attending, please contact one of the GUUF board members. For further information about the school, go to: <http://rlls.mdduua.org/>.

I wish you all a Happy New Year filled with joy and spiritual growth!

Sandy Gray
Sandygray66@yahoo.com

Want to reserve the GUUF building? Please contact Betty Hawley, a building committee member, to reserve the fellowship building for meetings, social gatherings, and special events. She can be reached at eqhawley@yahoo.com or (406) 270-1725. Make sure the building is available when your plans call for a space to meet!

From the V.P.

by Sandy Alessi

Where is GUUF now and where is it going? The Board of Trustees is excited to invite you to discuss our fellowship's future directions with a very talented UU facilitator, Rev. Robert Latham, from our own Mountain Desert District.

Rev. Latham will present a workshop on Saturday, February 20 for the entire congregation, and will speak to us at our Sunday service, February 21. Please reserve these dates on your calendar, as they are very important dates with our future.

Rev. Latham was a presenter at the 2009 General Assembly in Salt Lake City and at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Mountain Desert District in Fort Collins. He has written two books, *A Tale of Two Boxes* and *Moving on From Church Folly Lane*. You can learn more about Rev. Latham on his website, www.mythinglink.com.

In preparation for this workshop, *The In-Between Church* by Alice Mann will be the topic of discussion on Community Day on Sunday, February 14. Copies of this book are available from Sandy Alessi (sandy@montanastarr.com or 730-2425). This important book lays the groundwork for planning for GUUF's future. Additionally, it frames some common challenges experienced by many, many churches and outlines some proven solutions. The book is a foundation for much of Rev. Robert Latham's work.

In anticipation of these events, I will be available for focus group discussions to begin the "Where are we and where are we going?" conversation. I encourage you to read Alice Mann's book, *The In-Between Church*, but everyone is welcome regardless of your reading preference. The focus groups will meet at the following dates and times (all Wednesdays):

- The City Brew Coffee House on Hwy. 93 in Kalispell (near Kalispell Regional Medical Center) on Wednesday, Jan. 13 at 7 p.m.
- The Colter Coffee House on Main Street in Kalispell on Wednesday, Jan. 20 at 1:00 p.m.
- The Green Tea House on Second Street (next to Wasabi) in Whitefish on Wednesday, Jan. 27 at 1:00 p.m.
- The Montana Coffee Traders on Central Ave. in Whitefish on Wednesday, Feb. 3 at 1:00 p.m.
- The home of Toni Wells, 340 4th Ave. East, Apt A4, in Kalispell on Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Again, if you need a copy of the book, please let me know. I do have copies available.

Please join me in this discussion about our future.

From the Treasurer's Desk

By Don Egner, GUUF Treasurer

The Fellowship's finances are doing okay. That's a small okay, not a big OK. Our attendance is up, plate collections of loose money are up, and our accounts are in the black (but that's partly because we are not yet paying a minister).

Pledges are down. It is disheartening that about one fourth of the congregation reduced their pledges for this year - a shocker, as in normal times people may not raise their pledge every year, but they will at least maintain their pledge at last year's level. But these are not normal times. Many people in the valley are out of work, or have reduced hours or compensation. We must note that it's not just those people who have lost income, some are our people. Hunker down, take care of yourself, take care of your neighbors, and, as best you can, take care of the Fellowship.

If you remit your pledges by mail, please continue to send them to GUUF at PO Box 2778, Kalispell, MT 59903. I pick up the mail from our PO Box at least twice a week.

Announcements & Events

"Three Cups of Tea Party"

Saturday, February 6, at 7 p.m. at GUUF

Please join us for a fun and informative evening. The GUUF Social Action Committee is holding this fundraiser for the Central Asia Institute (CAI), which is headed by Greg Mortenson, author of "Three Cups of Tea." We will have tea and desserts while being entertained by Tra le Gael, our local Celtic group. We will also watch an informative film about the schools that CAI is building in Pakistan and Afghanistan. CAI has built 131 schools, educating about 58,000 students, including over 40,000 girls. Please look for more information on this important event in service bulletins and weekly email updates from GUUF. Contact Julie Stone, 257-7586, if you are interested in helping with this project.

Visit Iran This Spring

Sam and Ruth Neff, of Neighbors East and West, are announcing plans for a third trip to Iran, April 28 – May 10, with visits to Tehran, Esfahan, Shiraz and other cities in between. Cost is approximately \$1350 for a ten-day program in Iran, with a possible three-day extension to Shiraz and Persepolis for an additional \$350. Travelers also need to obtain return airfare to Tehran from the United States and a visa to Iran. Contact Samuel Neff or visit <http://neighborseastandwest.org>.

"Toni's Tuesday Tea": Come for tea and talk from 2-5 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, 340 4th Avenue East, Apartment A4, Kalispell.

Wednesdays — **Meditation Group: A Life-Expanding Opportunity.** The weekly meditation study group welcomes both experienced meditators and those interested in learning about the practice. Join us at GUUF Wednesday afternoons at 4:15 p.m. Our sessions last until 6:00. These times can be changed to accommodate the needs of the group. For more information, call 756-7635.

Becoming a Green Sanctuary Congregation

by Kathy Neff and Social Action Committee

Do you find much of your spiritual inspiration in nature? Would you like to join a group of all ages that might plant and tend a pumpkin patch near the church this Spring? Should we be drinking organic/shade-grown coffee? Do we really recycle and watch our energy usage as well as we can in our building?

If some of these questions intrigue you, you might wish to learn more about the Green Sanctuary Program available to UU congregations.

This June I had the opportunity to attend our Unitarian Universalist General Assembly, the yearly gathering for business, inspiration and fellowship held in Salt Lake City in June 2009. Each of us who attended had the opportunity to choose a course of focus for a day of the event. As this year's social action chairperson, I decided to attend the "Justice" curriculum. My goal was to bring back to GUUF two or three ideas that might be invigorating and successful for our social action activities. There were many wonderful ideas, but one in particular I thought might interest our whole congregation.

I was intrigued by the "Green Sanctuary Program," a concept initially developed in the early 1990s, that encourages UU congregations to integrate our environmental consciousness into our faith communities. A goal of this movement is to have our congregations imagine what it would look like if congregational life reflected the seventh Principle of Unitarian Universalism, "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."

The program has become quite popular among large and small UU congregations in the past 15 years. In the summer of 2009 there were 98 accredited Green Sanctuary congregations and 116 in candidacy, representing over 20 percent of UUA congregations. Could GUUF become one of these? I've been trying to learn a little more about the Green Sanctuary process and whether this is something our fellowship might like to pursue.

I'd like to spend some time this winter and spring introducing the Green Sanctuary process to the congregation and finding a "green team" of 8 to 12 members of all ages. I believe we live in an ideal part of the country and indeed have a responsibility with our three acres of tended and not-so-well tended property to find projects to become one of the next Green Sanctuary Congregations.

If you check on the Unitarian Universalist Association website, there is plenty of information to answer questions and explain the process. However, a much more fun way to find out and share your ideas is to attend the January 17 discussion group Sunday, and/or the intergenerational art service on January 31, both of which will have a Green Sanctuary theme.



Codger's Corner

There is no law about Codgerhood being the special domain of aged males, so a female, appropriately aged, is hereby claiming the right to occupy the lines of this publication. Along with these words comes this challenge to all brave enough to claim Codgerhood:

We have lived longer than most and have thus earned the right to speak and expect others to listen, therefore we will express our special observations on the particular practices of our UU fellowship, our take on what is going on; in short, our brand of "wisdom of the aged." I challenge all Codgers: Let your comments fill this, our Corner!

So, wise or not, here is the first Codger's comment. Remember as you read this that my hearing and eyesight are so bad that I read lips during coffee hour and pretend to see the words in the hymnal. I may not have the complete story but what I think I know is this: since June we have not been able to find anyone to be responsible for one of the most vital activities of our fellowship, "Cares and Concerns." For you newcomers, this is the person who learns when someone in our group has special problems and needs a helping hand, finds someone (or several someones) who can meet the need and keep the rest of us informed.

Those who have done the job tell us that while it is rewarding work, it is too much for one person to handle. Well, my ancient brain tells me that when one person cannot handle a task, usually a group can do it easily, especially if the job has a time limit. Aha! I see we have lots of groups available. I call them "families." I propose we "family groups" ranging from conventional Mom, Pop and Kids right down to couples and yes, singles too, take turns being "caring families" for a week or even a month. What an opportunity to put our words into action! What a way to involve everyone, including children, and not overburden anyone! Even newcomers can be a "Caring Family," since they have the whole congregation available for help. What a shortcut to getting to know us and learning what we stand for! And this plan will mesh seamlessly into pastoral care when we find a minister.

I can just hear people objecting that this won't work and I have a suggestion for them, too. (We Codgers do have all the answers, don't we?) I propose we all concentrate on ways to make the plan work rather than wasting time and energy on the negatives. Together we can handle anything and even have fun and learn something new while we do it. So, I expect to hear from at least six families wanting to be the first "caring family" of 2010.

And to all you other Codgers out there, who is going to share wisdom of the aged in the next issue?

Toni Wells

JANUARY						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
③	4	⑤	6	7	8	9
⑩	11	12	13	14	15	16
⑰	18	⑱	20	21	22	23
⑳	25	26	27	28	29	30
㉑	1	2	3	4	5	6

January Schedule of Events

- 3rd — Meditation Service
- 5th — Tuesday Tea with Toni, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- 10th — Guest Speaker: Monte Yellow Bird
- 17th — Discussion Sunday
- 19th — Tuesday Tea with Toni, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- 24th — “Apples and Acorns”; Rev. Armida Alexander
- 31st — Intergenerational Service

FEBRUARY						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	②	3	4	5	⑥
⑦	8	9	10	11	12	13
⑭	15	⑰	17	18	19	⑳
㉑	22	23	24	25	26	27
㉒	1	2	3	4	5	6

February Schedule of Events

- 2nd — Tuesday Tea with Toni, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- 6th — “Three Cups of Tea Party”; 7:00 p.m. at the Fellowship
- 7th — Meditation Service
- 14th — Community Day; “*The In-Between Church*” will be discussed
- 16th — Tuesday Tea with Toni, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- 20th — Workshop with Rev. Robert Latham
- 21st — “A Paradigm for Transition”; Rev. Robert Latham
- 28th — “War and Peace”; Rabbi Allen Secher (narrator), Janet Haarvig (cello), Kevin Allen-Schmid (vocals)

A Message from Your Editor

Dear GUUF friends,

It’s been fun editing the Fellowship newsletter these last couple of years. It’s filled a lot of my free time, but now that I’m about to start a new full-time job, I’ll need to streamline the editing process a bit. Toward that end, I have a couple of announcements.

The first is that from now on, the deadline for newsletter submissions will be the second Sunday of each even-numbered month, that is, the month before the next newsletter is due to come out. For example, the deadline for our March-April newsletter will be Sunday, February 14. I respectfully request your cooperation in observing these deadlines because I won’t have as much time to pester you if I don’t receive your submissions in time!

Second, I’d like a volunteer to help me with one piece of the newsletter: gathering the information about upcoming services and programs. Logically, this would probably be someone on the Program Committee, although that wouldn’t be strictly necessary. Anyone who can gather bits of information from several different sources into one place could do this. It would really help me a lot.

As always, I’m deeply grateful to Steve Moore for his wizardry in laying out the newsletter text and photos in his desktop publishing program, and for his graciousness and good humor in doing so. Next time you see Steve, please thank him.

Laura Behenna



Kids touring the sanctuary with the ‘green wagon’ collecting donations for the Food Bank and the Samaritan House

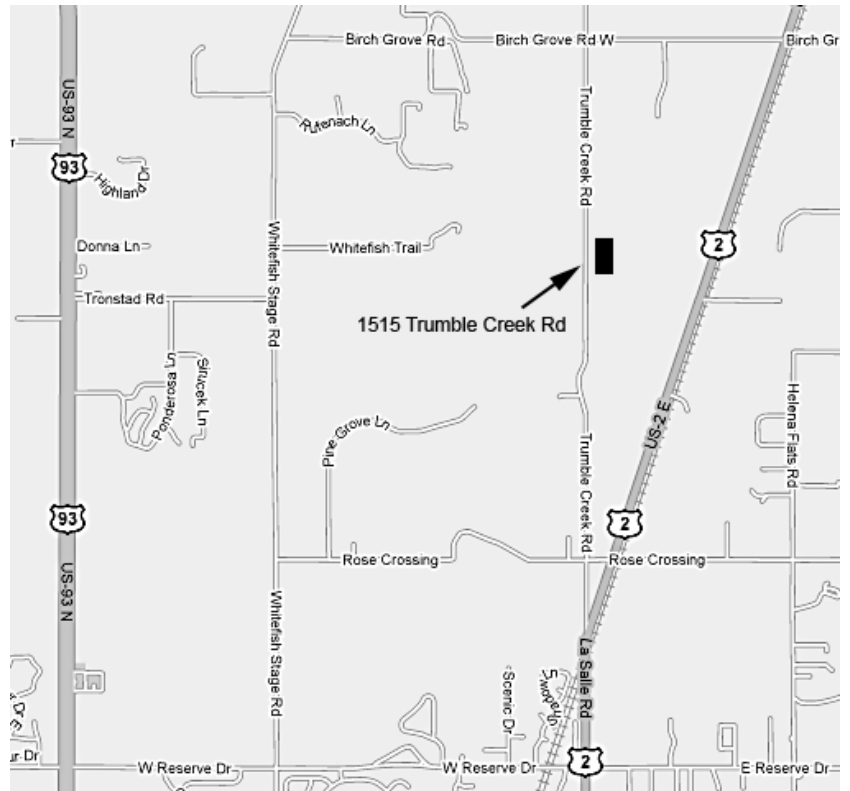
Glacier Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Visitors Welcome!

We meet at 1515 Trumble Creek Road — see the map for details on how to find us. We are south of the main airport and north of Evergreen. We meet at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday. (Meditation for adults is on the first Sunday of each month.) For the most up-to-date information please call our information line at (406) 755-9255.

Information Line (406) 755-9255

Visit our website at www.glacieruu.org



Glacier Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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