



UUFB

fellowship of Bozeman
February 2010

Calendar of Services & Events

February 7th, 2010: "Truth, Twitter, and Technology", Rev. Lois Van Leer

February 14th: "Love Letters", Sunday Service Committee

February 21st: "All That Jazz", Rev. Lois Van Leer and Laurel Yost

February 28th: Women's Group, TBA

From the Minister

I saw two flickers today.
And images of orphaned children on the streets of Haiti.
Yesterday the snow fell in slow motion all day.
And a presumably homeless man begged for any tidbit.

Starbucks is giving a million to the Red Cross for Haiti relief
Music stars sang in 37 million in a televised concert
During the football playoffs you could Twitter in a contribution
A celebrity is joining forces with some agency to provide shoes
Every religious group in the country seems to be in on the collection action.

Part of me is cynical.
Another part moved.
I am wondering how long generosity will last.
And what if the outpouring kept right on going until
no being anywhere on the planet was hungry or thirsty or homeless or a
victim of any sort of violence.

A book I am listening to talks about the fact that this is the first century we
humans
can live in abundance
instead of scarcity.
"If you live in the right place," I mutter aloud.

"To each according to their need."
Marx or the Bible?
Both.
Really.
Check it out.

At the Interfaith gathering, two beautiful prayers are offered for Haiti, petitioning God to now work miracles.

Services held August to June at
Bozeman Senior Center
807 N. Tracy,
Sundays 10:00am to 11:00am

I remember the title of a reading from the back of our hymnal: "Impassioned Clay."

Scribble it on my agenda.

And wonder what it means to be impassioned clay.

Are we faithful enough to let ourselves be affected?

Are we humble enough to let ourselves be shaped to act?

Are these the right questions?

The evening winter light is lovely tonight.

Have the children whose images appeared in the paper
been fed, clothed or housed yet?

What dreams will they dream tonight?

Will tomorrow bring, if not comfort, then relief?

Please, won't someone tell me what it means to be

"Impassioned clay"?

Thoughts From the Chair.....

Two of the responsibilities of the Board of Directors are making policy and planning for the future. Thanks to Lori Ragona and our administrator, Trace Klein, you can now view the policies adopted by the Board in the past year and a half on our website, www.uufbozeman.org. Policies help guide us in our efforts to communicate with each other and take action.

Five years ago, the fellowship undertook a year-long effort to chart our future for the next five years. Many of you may remember our initial planning session during the Fall retreat at Rockhaven. That was followed by surveys and village meetings. All of this work produced a document which laid out what things needed to be accomplished, by whom and by when. By the end of the 2007, almost everything had been accomplished, much to everyone's delight. The one thing remaining was the purchase or rental long-term of our own building.

Now it is time to make a new plan for the next five years. We have many new members and friends, many more children and additional staff. Without planning and goals, it is easy for organizations to coast along, not accomplishing what they are capable of. The new president of UUA, Peter Morales, has called us to be transformative, for individuals, the nation, and the world. It is time for UUFB to see how we can move in that direction.

Amanda Cater, Chair

Teacher of the Month

This month I am pleased to introduce Bar Turner. Bar found UU while in college, and earned her teaching degree in 1977. After college she taught preschool and then environmental education. She and Scott were married in 1983 in Yosemite, California. They moved to Big Sky in 1991 where they started a bookstore. Bar taught preschool again after they sold the bookstore. By this time their daughters were in elementary school, but UUFB did not have a children's program until Lily and Emma were a bit older.

Bar remembers attending services with her girls while the Fellowship met at Pilgrim Congregational. She began teaching the younger elementary group when her daughters were in high school. Since they still lived in Big Sky their attendance was somewhat sporadic. Her first more continuous teaching of RE was a few years ago when she co-taught with Susan Bianchini. Gradually Scott and Bar moved to Bozeman in 2008.

When asked how she got involved with teaching at the Fellowship Bar commented, "Teaching was something I could offer; that was the way it spoke to me." She deeply appreciated having a children's program after the time when there was none.

Her biggest challenge has been not knowing how many and which children will show up, combined with a lack of continuity due to setting up and tearing down the kids' classrooms every week. The most fulfilling times teaching according to Bar are those precious "aha" moments. She has tried to encourage these while providing a global perspective, knowing the children will choose their own spiritual path later in life.

When Bar was teaching this Fall, the children were learning about Islam. As she described how some of her Muslim friends in Africa pray and the ritual they follow, she was surprised and pleased when one of the kids spoke up. This child added her own experience of living in a Muslim country and showed everyone the prayer ritual she had observed. After having taught the kids and then seeing them at different times, Bar feels a special connection with each of them, and that has been rewarding.

Sunday Service

The Sunday Service Committee is responsible for setting up a Story For All Ages for each service. This story is a special part of the service directed to our children, but meant to be enjoyed by the entire congregation. Elizabeth Rose has generously arranged a sound system set-up which makes it easy for the storyteller to be heard without having to wrestle with a mike or having someone hold it for you. This has made a great difference to the presenters and the audience, as well. We have had wonderful and thoughtful stories this year.

Although the time allotted for the story is only about five minutes, it does present some challenges. It is preferred that the stories be told, not read directly from a book, although the great children's literature available certainly means it can be used. It is important that the story or talk be prepared ahead of time, and often is related to the speaker's presentation. This is not always necessary, but often helps the storyteller to choose material. Another issue is the age of the children attending services at this point—they are for the most part, very young. So stories must be used that are understandable for these little ones, yet good for the rest of us to hear. Tam Miller's "Thankful Dogs" story is a great example, and Kristi Crawford's "White Envelope" story at Christmas. Both of these had great meaning for the kids, and were thought provoking for adults as well.

Stories are available from www.UUA.org/spiritualife/worshipweb/stories, as well as the public library. We have also had stories in the past that involved activity, like Nan Gregerson's on Community, or Elizabeth Rose's singing story. It is really fun to do, so if Sherrill Dolezilek approaches you with that look on her face that means she is going to ask you to do something, please think about trying this activity. It is an important part of our services.

UUFB Member Phil Knight Embarks on Fundraising Climb to Benefit At-risk Youth

This summer, UUFB member Phil Knight will attempt to climb Gannett Peak, Wyoming's highest mountain at 13,804'. The trip will entail five days of wilderness travel and will require climbing glaciers at over 13,000 feet.

Phil's goal for this climb is to raise \$4500 for Summit for Someone, a great program that gives at-risk kids the opportunity to go on a life-changing wilderness trip. Kids benefited by Summit for Someone get to go on a week-long wilderness journey with Denver-based Big City Mountaineers, who offer one-on-one adult mentoring on the trips. These are inner city kids who would otherwise have little chance of going on an adventure like this.

Last year, BCM provided 37 wilderness trips for urban teens, with five kids on each trip.

Big City Mountaineers needs your help. Please make a donation to this worthy cause.

Just go to summitforsomeone.org, and click on the "donate" button. Look down the list of climbers for Phil Knight and donate on his page.

You can also donate by check. All donation checks should be made payable to Big City Mountaineers.

In the memo line of the check write "SFS-Phil Knight".

Mail donation checks to:
Big City Mountaineers
Attn: Summit for Someone
1667 Vine Street
Denver, CO 80206

Phil is asking for \$45.00 donations, but any amount will help. All donations are tax-deductible.



Upcoming Social Activities

The new year will provide UUFB members and friends some great opportunities to share time together and to get to know others in the community. Listed below are activities that are currently being planned. There are more activities in the initial planning stages that will be announced at a later time.

Valentine Chocolate Party – February 13, 2010 at Pilgrim Congregational Church

Get ready for a chocolate feast! On Saturday, February 13th UUFB will hold the annual Valentine Chocolate Party at the Pilgrim Congregational Church. Bring your favorite chocolate treat to share. This is an evening party with the exact time still to be determined. This is an adult activity. Contact Janet at moose05@imt.net with questions.

Circle Suppers and Circle Brunches

A new round of Circle Suppers and Circle Brunches will be held throughout the winter and spring months. These activities are held in the homes of UUFB members and friends. Suppers are held in the evening and brunches are held after the Sunday service. The host determines the number of participants, the time and the menu for the event. If you would be willing to host one of these events or if you would like to attend one of these suppers or brunches, please sign up at the Activities table starting Sunday, January 3rd. Contact Beth at 209-3772 or at loveplants4@q.com if you have any questions.

Other Possible Activities for Winter and Spring

Some of the other activities being considered by the Activities committee are listed below. If you would be interested in hosting one of these events or if you would like to attend one of these events, please check the Activities table starting Sunday, January 3rd for sign up sheets.

- Game Nights
- Karaoke Night
- Video Nights
- Cross Country Skiing
- Hiking
- Ice Skating

Do you have other ideas? If so, contact a member of the Social Activities Committee which includes Marv Backer, Susie Cole, Janet Lewis, Bill Mallory or Beth D'Atri.

Caring Committee

The Caring Committee depends on each member of the Fellowship to inform us of joys and concerns. We exist to do our best to assure that where there is injury or need--there will be help, where there is sadness--consolation. We are not professionals, but we are a group that wishes to share your news, good and bad. Our committee is by definition a group that chooses to perform a function for a larger group. The UUFB can be counted on to share your joy or concern. If you know of a need, please contact Leona Poritz, 586-5111 or Jim Dolezilek, 556-9818 or any member of the Caring Committee.

Service List February 2010

Date: February 7
Title: Rev. Lois "Truth, Twitter and Technology"
Lay Leader: Karen Mitchell
Music: Barry Pyle
SFAA: Bill Mallory

Date: February 14
Title: Sunday Service Committee "Love Letters"
Lay Leader: Dean Littlepage
Music: Dee Mast
SFAA: Amanda Cater

Date: February 21
Title: Rev. Lois & Laurel Yost "All That Jazz"
Lay Leader: George Cole
Music: Laurel Yost
SFAA: Carol Stahl

Date: February 28
Title: Women's Group Team TBA
Lay Leader: Women's Group Team
Music: Edy & Glenn
SFAA: Linda Kirkconnell

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education

"To offer sexuality education in a congregation is to acknowledge that sexuality is simply too important, too beautiful and too potentially dangerous to be ignored in a religious community."

--Rev. Cynthia Breen

Pilgrim Congregational Church and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bozeman will offer the first level of Our Whole Lives this spring. Our two denominations collaborated to create this comprehensive sexuality education program for children and adults. Our Whole Lives trained facilitators provide accurate information for families and congregations to support learning about sexuality and healthy decision-making in affirming and positive settings.

Grades K-1

Facilitators: Paul Hansen and Laura Mentch

Parent Meeting: Sunday, February 28th 12-1:30 pm

All parents of potential participants are asked to attend this introduction to the K-1 Our Whole Lives program. Please bring your calendars.

Child care available; please let us know if needed.

Parent-Child Orientation: Sunday, March 7th 1-3:30 pm

8-Session Program starts on Sunday, March 28th, 1:30-2:30 pm

Suggested participation fee: \$24-\$56 (8 sessions)

Fees are used to provide supplies for this program and the continuing development of Our Whole Lives in our congregations.

Each participating family should have a copy of the book, What's The Big Secret? We will have them available for parents to purchase.

Please call Andrea Semerad (587-5073) or Laura Mentch (586-2132) with questions about Our Whole Lives. This is a wonderful opportunity to support parents in their role as sexuality educators for their children and to encourage youth to learn about sexuality in the supportive environment of our congregations with adults who have been specially trained to provide this education.

Family Promise Update

UUFB partnered with St James Episcopal Church January 10-16 hosting three homeless families (8 guests) in the Family Promise program. During the week, the families stayed at the St. James rectory and volunteer hosts provided evening meals and evening and overnight hosting duties. UUFB had these responsibilities for 3 days and nights. As many of you know, Family Promise of Gallatin Valley is a network of local faith organizations working together to help homeless families with children.

Many thanks to the following UUFB folks for serving as volunteers in January: Bar Turner, Bunny & Jim Gaffney, Susie Cole, Mark Miller, Marie Lynn, Rev. Lois VanLeer, Barry Pyle, Linda Clark, Bill Mallory, Leona Poritz, Louise & Dick Corbin, Mary Bardone & Bill Platte.

The next time UUFB and St. James will be volunteer hosts for Family Promise is the week of April 4th. If you are interested in serving as a Family Promise volunteer, please contact someone on the UUFB Family Promise Coordinating Committee.

Susan Backer, Bill Platte, Sara Williams

Moon Auction 2010

It is time to once again begin thinking about what you will contribute to the annual Moon Auction. The auction will take place in April, with the specific date, time and place to follow in the weeks to come. We hope to have friends from Temple Beth Shalom and Pilgrim join us this year, which will increase the liveliness, allow us to make or strengthen connections with our "sister" congregations, and maybe even increase our revenue. Sign-up sheets will soon be surfacing at fellowship, so please be thinking of ways in which you would like to contribute. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact either Cathy Cooper at rastahorse@q.com or 586-9628; or Elizabeth Rose at erose@montanadsl.net or 582-9518.

UUFB 2nd Annual Valentine Chocolate Feast

A Decadent Potluck of Sweets to Warm Our Hearts

Saturday February 13th, 2010 @ 7:30 pm

Pilgrim Congregational Church

Bring your sweetheart (s), your favorite chocolate desserts and we will join them together for a potluck feast (and a feat) of chocolate! You also may bring your favorite beverage for pairing. And this evening is just for the grown-ups.

We need volunteers to grace the table with chocolate treats. We also need a couple folks to help with set up and clean up.

Please sign up your sweet by e-mail to Janet Lewis at moose05@imt.net, by phone 582-4905 or 406-599-8015, or at the UU social table at Sunday service.

2009/2010 Board Members:

The UUFB Board generally meets on the third Monday of each month.

Amanda Cater, Chair
Rose Toth, Vice Chair
Rachel Rockafellow, Ex Officio Chair
David Andes, Treasurer
Sarah Weis, Secretary
Dean Littlepage, Member-at-large
Stuart Challendar, Member-at-large
Jim Gaffney, Member-at-large

Committees:

Sunday Service: Rose Toth and Edy Harrington, Chairs
Membership: Dave Crawford and Deanna Dean, Chairs
Lifespan Education: Lori Ragona, Chair
Hospitality: Linda and Mike Clark, Chairs
Caring: Jim Dolezilek / Leona Poritz, Chairs
Leadership: Jack Fisher
Family Promise: Susan Backer, Sara Williams, Bill Platte, Coordinators
Ministry: Dick Corbin, Chair
Historian: Bunny Gaffney

The UUFB newsletter is published monthly from September to June. Send articles to cfaehl@mac.com

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uuFB
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UUFB Online

The UUFB maintains several online resources. An email list has been established in order to communicate announcements and events of interest to the UUFB. To make an announcement to the group, please send email to "uufb@yahoogroups.com" (you must be subscribed to the list in order to send mail to the list). Mail sent to this address will be delivered to all members of the list, and will also be archived. This is not an appropriate forum for political commentary or jokes (see uufb-discuss below), so please use discretion when sending email to this address.

To Subscribe: uufb-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

To Unsubscribe: uufb-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

Email address: uufb@yahoogroups.com

Web page: <http://www.uufbozeman.org/>

In addition to the announcement list, we also run a discussion list in which all manner of concerns can be discussed:

To Subscribe: uufb-discuss-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

To Unsubscribe: uufb-discuss-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

Questions or problems? Email cfaehl@cs.unm.edu