

---

## Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Missoula – Volume 20 Issue 4

---

**Chairperson: Mary Nordhagen**  
**Secretary: Carol Marsh**

**Vice-Chairperson: Marlene Ochs**  
**Treasurer: Melissa Steinike**

---

**Email and Hardcopy Edition**

[www.uuf-msla.org](http://www.uuf-msla.org)

**Dec. 2009**

---

### News From the Chair:

Hello all!

This “dark” season of the year seems to be a good one to spend some time reflecting. Reflecting on where we’ve been, where we are, and where we want to be. As I recently shared with the Board, I was always a bit surprised when Wanda – who was part-time minister for UUFM a couple of years back - would talk about how she liked beginnings. I have always preferred to take my time, and felt much more comfortable after settling in to a group, into a job, into a situation. However, I feel like I might have a different perspective on her remarks. I feel like if I could just start as chair, knowing all I’ve learned over the past year and more, I would have done things quite a bit differently. I guess that’s called a learning curve.

As I see it, I can choose to regret lost opportunities, or I can figure better late than never, and go ahead. What would really help me, and the Board, do the best job we can is to hear from you, members and friends of UUFM. Josh made a good start with his conversations, and I would like to follow up on that start. One of the many important things I am looking to build as a member of this community is a real connection to the other members, so this can really be a win/win situation.

In my experience, people find it easier to open up and share what their real feelings are in small groups. I know we’re all busy people, but I’m hoping that most, if not all, members and friends will find the time to meet with me. December is already a crazy, busy time of year, so I would like to start in January. I would like to meet for lunch with anywhere from 2-4 members of this community each Friday at Bernice’s. I wish I was in the position where I could pick up the tab, and it would be even nicer if the Fellowship was in the financial shape to do so, but alas, that is not the case, so I have to invite everybody to go Dutch. However, I can certainly remember many times when I didn’t have the price of lunch, so please don’t be embarrassed to let me know if that is the case. I don’t want to miss meeting with somebody. Also, if that just doesn’t work as a time or place for you, we can figure something out.

My email and phone number are on the last page of this newsletter. Please let me know which Friday in January or February would work best for you. I want to hear how you feel about this Fellowship, what brings you here and what, if anything, makes you stay away. Anybody reading this has some connection to the Fellowship, so even if you are not a regular, even if I may never have met you, you still have valuable insights that I would like to hear.

I also want to get your ideas and plant some seeds about the future leadership of this Fellowship. Be thinking about whether you would be willing to serve on the nominating committee this spring. Better yet, are you interested in being an officer and/or serving on the board? Speak up, even if the position is currently filled. There is always next year, or a different position.

I asked Nancy Bowen, the MDD District Executive, what the recommended term is for board chair. Her answer was 2-3 years. Our current vice chair, Marleen Ochs, has been serving on the board for many years, and is looking for a well-deserved break. Is there someone who would be interested in serving as vice chair next year, with the intent of becoming chair the year after that? I will most likely be willing to serve another year, if that appears to be in the best interests of the Fellowship.

I've probably given everyone enough to think about for now.

Take care,  
Mary



## *Sunday Programs for December*

December 6th- *Covenantal not Creedal*. Mary Nordhagen expostulates on the difference between UUs and most mainstream churches. This week's service will include a New Member Ceremony. If you would like to become a member of UUFM, let Mary know at [mnordhagen@alpsnet.com](mailto:mnordhagen@alpsnet.com). And don't forget to stick around for the Chili Feed to Help Those in Need after the service.

December 13th- Our final introductory service to Chalice Circles. Chalice circles are compassionate-listening groups that ask us to attend to one another without judgement, criticism or advice. They seek to provide a safe space for sharing and to deepen bonds among members of the community. Many UU congregations have chalice circle groups and participants have overwhelmingly found the experience a rewarding one. We'll have a brief opening all together and then break into small groups. The topic for this month's circle is *Forgiveness*.

December 20th- Christmas Carols with Beth Youngblood. We may question the veracity of the virgin birth, but that doesn't mean we can't croon "Away in a Manger" with the best of 'em (well, maybe not the best). Of course, they won't all be Christian songs; you can bet we'll do a rendition of that old Pagan favorite, "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer" too.

December 27th- We're planning a guided meditation service. We haven't got our "guide" lined up yet, but maybe if we all concentrate on it really hard one will manifest. Seriously though, special guest to be announced.

## UUFM Events for December

*Tuesdays, 6:45 pm-* Game night upstairs at the Fellowship. Scrabble is the stand-by, but other games are welcome. Bring one along!

*December 6<sup>th</sup>, after service-* The Beck girls bring us the final chili feed fundraiser for the Helping Hands Tree. Stick around to fill your belly and support a worthy cause.

*December 6<sup>th</sup>, after chili feed-* Meeting of the Options Committee to discuss future directions for the Fellowship.

*December 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm-* The long-awaited return of Movie Night. We start out with a showing of Up, a Pixar animation. Described as, "...an exciting, hilarious and heartfelt adventure, crafted and told with wit and depth." Don't miss it.

*December 12<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 pm-* It's the Second Sunday V-Potluck, hosted by Susan Eakins of the New Dawn MT Farm Animal Sanctuary. Bring a dish to share or a small donation. Need not be vegetarian to attend!

*December 13<sup>th</sup>, after services-* Program Committee meeting. Stay late and help plan our new year of services.

*December 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm-* The UU Book Club meets at Mary Nordhagen's house, 630 Dearborn, to discuss Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Stout. Call Mary at 529-0857 for more info.

*December 20<sup>th</sup>, after services-* Christmas/Solstice Potluck and Holiday Bazaar. Time to bring out all those holiday goodies to eat and crafty items to sell.

*December 29<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 pm GMT-* It's the deadline for the Jan. Newsletter. Get them submissions in!

## UU History Corner

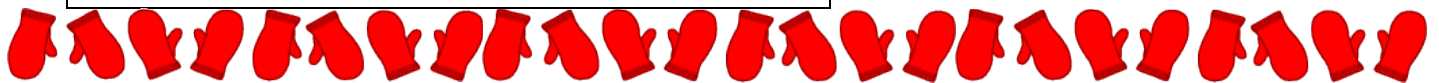
December 4th, 1822- Frances Power Cobbe was born in Dublin, Ireland. She became a Unitarian as a result of reading *A Discourse of Religion* by Theodore Parker. She wrote major works of philosophy, including *Theory of Intuitive Morals* (1855), *Religious Duty* (1864), and *Cities of the Past* (1864), based on her travels as far east as Damascus. Cobbe advocated the importance of listening to one's own soul. She worked with poor children and pleaded for universities to admit them, for which she was ridiculed. She toiled in workhouses and worked against vivisection, a cause that became increasingly important to her. She died on April 5, 1904.

From *This Day in Unitarian-Universalist History* by Frank Schulman

## Movie Nights

The premiere of Movie Night will feature the Pixar animation Up (see Events above for more info).

The next movie (date and time to be announced) will be Please Vote for Me. The film is one of ten selected as part of the Why Democracy? project, which saw interpretations of democracy by 10 film makers from around the world broadcast on 42 television networks in October, 2007, to audiences of more than 300 million people in nearly every country in the world. It based on an experiment in democracy in which children in Wuhan, China, hold an election to select a class monitor.



"May you have the gladness of Christmas which is hope;  
The spirit of Christmas which is peace;  
The heart of Christmas which is love."

-Ada V. Hendricks



## MAKE IT A HABIT

Get thee to a nunnery! Oops, wrong religion, but hopefully it caught your eye. It seems that it takes a lot longer to make a habit than to break one. If you attend religiously, thank you. If you attend somewhat regularly, or just now and then, please think about making it a habit to increase your attendance slightly. While no one should feel obligated to attend, a few more attending each week would improve services tremendously. Hopefully, it might even prove a welcome addition to your week!

### **Board News**

There was quite a bit of feedback last summer concerning the fact that it can be difficult for newcomers to get to know how we “do things” at UUFM. The Board is trying to address that in a couple of different ways. First, we will get a to-do list posted, with all of those things that need to get done periodically to keep the Fellowship House reasonably clean and running smoothly, as well as a list of what needs to be done each Sunday. While none of it is **too** taxing, the more hands that help, the less it will feel like an obligation and the more like a gift from the heart. Second, we are looking at adopting and/or revamping policies and updating the by-laws, and at making those policies easily accessible to members.

The process we have decided on is for the Board to be provided the policy or section of the by-laws currently being worked on prior to the meeting where it will be initially discussed. Following that discussion, any necessary revisions will be made and then the board will approve those revisions by email. After that, a copy will be included in the weekly announcements, both the email version and the Sunday morning hard copy. Comments will be welcome at the following board meeting before final adoption. Policies will be effective upon adoption, and will be submitted for ratification at the Annual Meeting. Obviously, by-laws will not be effective until adopted at the Annual Meeting.

The first policy we have worked on is a policy for dealing with disruptive behavior. It will soon be included with the announcements. If you have suggestions for needed policies, please contact a Board member. What we are hoping to accomplish is to build a flexible framework to support this community. We are not contemplating any substantive changes to the by-laws, but are mainly working to get recent amendments included and making some cosmetic changes to the wording. We realize that what we may feel is a cosmetic change may be looked at by someone else as a major re-write!



(406) 549-9697

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Missoula  
102 McLeod Ave  
Missoula, MT 59801