

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Missoula – Volume 18 Issue 6

Chairperson: Bonna Graham-Hall
Secretary: Mary Nordhagen

Vice-Chairperson: Margery Fels Palmer
Treasurer: Barbara Berens

Email and Hardcopy Edition

www.uuf-msla.org

February 2008

News From the Prez

Hi Everyone:

It is such an uplifting experience to spend time with Wanda Daniel, our consulting minister. She has renewed the joy and beauty of Unitarian Universalism for me, reminding me about the excitement of this faith that encourages and empowers us to seek a better understanding of the essence of life and of our being... not to have THE one answer, but to be able to question, without guilt, and with wonder in learning.

The beautiful lyrics from the Dan Fogelberg song that Wanda introduced are still going through my mind. They distill the reason for the search that our UU philosophy directs us to be engaged in:

"The higher you climb, the more that you see;
the more that you see, the less that you know;
the less that you know, the more that you yearn;
the more that you yearn, the higher you climb.
The farther you reach, the more that you touch;
the more that you touch; the fuller you fill;
the fuller you fill, the less that you need;
the less that you need, the farther you reach."

For those who don't believe in predetermined doctrine or creed, for those who want open exploration of this great mystery of which we are a part, welcome home.

Stay warm, keep climbing,
Bonna Graham-Hall

Unitarian Universalism History Corner

February 1939, the American Unitarian Association sent Martha and Waitsill Sharp to Czechoslovakia to work with refugees escaping the Nazis. This marked the beginning of the Unitarian Service Committee which was organized "to investigate opportunities for humanitarian service both in America and abroad. The USC became independent of the AUA in 1948, and merged with the Universalist Service Committee in 1963 to form the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee which continues to focus on humanitarian aid, development, and human rights in America and throughout the world.

Wanda's Schedule, February 2008

Office hours: Friday afternoon/evening, February 15, 4-8 PM.

Please call (406-697-8369) or email (wkayd@earthlink.net) for an appointment! If Friday is not a good time for you, contact Wanda for alternative possibilities.

On Saturday, February 16, 11 AM - 1:30 PM, we will discuss the book, *Living Buddha, Living Christ*, and the possibilities for creating small group discussions for all ages at the Fellowship! Please invite friends from the community! If possible, read the book ahead of time — it's an easy read, especially for Unitarian Universalist readers . . .

Seeking & Engaging Wisdom

One of the attributes of the Unitarian Universalist tradition that I enjoy most is the diversity of sources from which we gather wisdom. So much more fun and challenging than using only one primary text such as the Bible! Fun to explore the diversity, and challenging to discuss the perceived wisdom discovered.

An amazing source of contemporary wisdom is Thich Nhat Hanh, a Vietnamese Buddhist monk who combines the gifts of mystic, scholar, and activist. His presence radiates peace, and his teachings invite and challenge us to see beyond conventional wisdom. He explores many traditions, and offers us pictures of the common threads.

A particularly poignant piece, *Living Buddha, Living Christ*, takes a profound look at two key figures in human history – Buddha & Christ. Thich Nhat Hanh “explores the crossroads of compassion and holiness at which the two traditions meet, and reawakens our understanding of both.” He offers an outsider’s view of Christianity as he weaves a tapestry of beauty and illuminates the common ground . . . a particularly useful approach in our world torn by religious differences and violence.

In *Living Buddha, Living Christ*, Thich Nhat Hanh writes: “To me, religious life is life. I do not see any reason to spend one’s whole life tasting just one kind of fruit. We human beings can be nourished by the best values of many traditions.” Sounds like a Unitarian Universalist statement to me! What can we do with all these fruits available to us?

Exploring many sources of wisdom challenges the Unitarian Universalist community to create and nurture space where these sources can be sought and engaged without fear of judgment and violence. A rare space in our world today! A task we are uniquely qualified to fulfill.

Please join me in a discussion of this book, and the possibilities for creating small group discussions for all ages at the Fellowship! We’ll use our regular Saturday time, 11-1:30 PM. Please invite friends from the community! If possible, read the book ahead of time — it’s an easy read, especially for Unitarian Universalist readers . . .

The Song of Truth

Adapted from *Ageless Body, Timeless Mind*, by Deepak Chopra, (Harmony Books, 2007).

No one knows why people make sudden breakthroughs into self-awareness, but when they do, the effect is often short-lived. The moment of liberation may be earthshaking, but it passes quickly, leaving no deep or lasting transformation in its wake. There is no great mystery to this. The forces that uphold our familiar world have returned with renewed tenacity. Inertia, fear, the pull of old habits—they all warn us to remain where we are. Who knows what the unknown might bring.

SIMPLE SOLUTION: Could a completely new self even survive in this rough world? As children we all learned not to be too sensitive, too open, too vulnerable. We saw the obvious advantages of being as tough as possible, of getting what you want from other people. In this way there arose a very troubling conflict—the clash between love and power—that found lodgings deep inside each of us.

Compassion is not the easiest feeling for the ego to adjust to. On the other hand, compassion is true, and that is its great attraction.

By "true," I mean that compassion is found at the core of human nature, underneath the covering layers of selfishness. In our time, psychology has dwelt on selfishness as a fundamental drive in the human character, but in the yogi's eyes, this is a profound misjudgment. To him, compassion and its root feeling, love, are primary in humankind. Whenever they appear, even in a flash, it is our true self appearing, like the sun breaking through the clouds. To the yogi, love and non-love are not striving for dominance. Love is eternal; non-love is temporary, a twist of the psyche that the small, limited, fearful self falls prey to.

The Veg Corner

Here's to open, loving, healthy hearts! This month I encourage you to take a look at www.Veria.com. *Dish* satellite TV also carries this on channel 9575, if you can access the channel. Two of their *professionally* done shows are notable: Naturally Delicious, a *vegetarian cooking show* and a non-wheat, non-sugar dessert show: The Sweet Truth, merit a look. Recipes on-line.
Susan Eakins

If we cannot now end our differences,
at least we can help make the world
safe for diversity.

~~John F. Kennedy

Treading Lightly

Ideas you can use to reduce energy consumption and slow global warming
Compiled by Carol Gordon

The Smartly Furnished Home

The following information is from Greentips, a newsletter of the Union of Concerned Scientists, citizens and scientists for environmental solutions. . .

What should you do when you need to replace worn-out furniture? Consider the following options:

- Buy antique or secondhand furniture, or reupholster your existing furniture using environmentally friendly materials to preserve natural resources while reducing emissions. And keep in mind that the durability of higher-quality furniture will translate into fewer resources used in the long run.
- A growing number of companies offer furniture made from recycled metal, rubber, glass, or plastic. Composite materials used in less-expensive furniture, such as medium-density fiberboard (MDF) and particleboard, are generally not recycled, but some manufacturers are starting to make MDF from 100 percent recycled wood fiber.
- Avoid synthetic materials such as polyester, simulated leather, and polyurethane foam (which are all derived from fossil fuels); instead, look for latex foam and cotton, wool, linen, or hemp fabrics that have been minimally treated with chemical dyes or coatings.
- When buying solid wood furniture, look for the Forest Stewardship Council seal, which certifies that the wood came from forests or tree farms that are being managed in a sustainable way. More than 200 million acres of forestland worldwide have been FSC-certified to date. Another alternative is the Rainforest Alliance's "SmartWood Rediscovered" label, which certifies that the wood was recovered from landfills, manufacturing facilities, or other sources in an environmentally sound manner.
- Bamboo is both sustainable (it grows quickly and requires little water, fertilizer, or pesticide) and versatile (it can be molded into a variety of shapes).

Read the Greentips newsletter online at <http://www.ucsusa.org/publications/greentips/>

Youth RE Update

The youngest members of our congregation have been reading various accounts of creation of the world, and the most recent version was from a Native American culture. This traditional story has been written down by John Bierhorst in a book called "The People with Five Fingers". The concept of a five-finger hand led me to think about how the young people of this congregation, with help from the adult members, could begin to address Rev Wanda Daniel's message in last week's program about ways we can have "helping hands" within the Fellowship and within the larger community. (If you missed Rev Daniel's message there is a copy on website: uufm-msla.org). The kids came up with lots of ideas, like saving the Polar Bears, stopping poverty, and making peace in the world. We will need to break those ideas down into some manageable pieces! Please add your ideas to the "Helping Hands Tree" in the Fellowship House. Just write them down and hang them back on the tree. Thank you for showing the young people of this community that we are all in this together. Marleen Ochs

April Retreat and Meeting at Boulder Hot Springs

The annual meeting of the Montana Area Unitarian Universalist Association will be held at Boulder Hot Springs (BHS) on April 5-6. This is the retreat and chance to meet with other Montana UU's that was mentioned this fall.

Registration starts Saturday at noon, workshops will be held Saturday afternoon, dinner and singing Saturday evening, meeting Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning, and we finish Sunday after the service, about noon.

You can view BHS's web site at: <http://www.boulderhotsprings.com/> BHS's director requests that you call the inn directly at 406-225-4339 to make a room reservation. If you would like to share a room, please RSVP to bgrahamhall@gmail.com as soon as possible. Sorry, BHS doesn't allow pets.

Most of the guest rooms have twin beds, at \$80 a room, or \$40 each if two individuals share a room. Some of them have their own bathroom and others rely on a shared bathroom. There are also B&B rooms in which three people can stay - one person sleeps in the daybed that converts to a regular bed. Split three ways, a \$100 B&B room would cost about \$34 per person. The state bed tax would be a bit extra.

Campers are welcome to bring RVs, campers and tents for \$10 a night, including use of pools and showers.

Dinner on Saturday night would be \$16 for an all-you-can-eat buffet. Sunday breakfast will be \$9. You're not obligated to buy the meals if you bring your own food, but we won't have access to the kitchen facilities as the food service staff will be working there. (Laura will look into bringing a small microwave oven.) If you would like to purchase a sack lunch to take on the road Sunday afternoon, the BHS kitchen staff will work with us on that.

We'll have free access to the hot springs pools -- one large outside pool and two inside, one for men, one for women. There are hiking trails if the weather allows, and the surrounding area is very scenic.

February Events

Thinking of Membership?

There will be a "Getting to Know UU/UUFM" session the last Sunday in February if you would like to know more about the Fellowship and what it means to become a member. Wanda Daniel, our consulting minister, will lead the New Member welcome when she is here March 16. Members need to have signed the membership book at least 30 days in advance of any official vote that is held to conduct business or elect officers. Our Annual Meeting will take place May 18.

Schedule of Services

February 3: Bonna Graham-Hall~ "Fuzzy Questions, Fuzzy Answers" a sermon by Rev. Bruce Clear

February 10: Bill Flanery~ Vision of the Future

February 17: Rev. Wanda Daniel


February 47: Dave Beck~ Native American Sacred Landscapes

March 2: Barbara Cragg~ The Meaning of What We Say

Book Club

The Eclectic Reader's Book Club will meet at the home of Barbara Cragg at 7:00 pm on Thursday, February 21, to discuss *The Janissary Tree* by Jason Goodwin. All are welcome. For more information call Mary Nordhagen at 529-0857 or Barbara Cragg at 251-5016.

February 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
Bonna Graham-Hall "Fuzzy Questions, Fuzzy Answers" a sermon by Rev. Bruce Clear	Women's Lunch @ Noon -- China Buffet	Scrabble Night @ 6:45 pm Fellowship	6	7	8	9
Bill Flanery "Vision of the Future"	11	Scrabble Night @ 6:45 pm Fellowship	13	14	Wanda's Office Hours from 4 pm – 6 pm -- call Wanda (406-697-8369) to schedule	Workshop: <i>Living Buddha, Living Christ</i> discussion 11 am - 1:30 pm
Wanda Daniel "Seeking and Engaging Wisdom"	18	Scrabble Night @ 6:45 pm Fellowship	20	Book Club @ 7 pm Barbara Cragg's House	22	23
Dave Beck "Native American Sacred Landscapes" Getting to know UU/UUFM	25	Scrabble Night @ 6:45 pm Fellowship	27	28	29	

Officers & Committee Chairs

Chairperson

Bonna Graham-Hall, 549-4808
bgrahamhall@gmail.com

Vice-Chairperson

Margery Fels Palmer, 251-5418
mfpalmer@montana.com

Secretary

Mary Nordhagen, 543-0993
mnordhagen@alpsnet.com

Treasurer

Barbara Berens, 542-2370
lovelyberens@msn.com

Children's & Youth

Religious Education

Marleen Ochs, 745-2548
mtochs@blackfoot.net

Lisa Thomas, 721-1485

Adult Religious Ed.

Dove Flanery, 721-6115
beflanery@yahoo.com
Joyce Clarke, 370-9769
jyclarke@bresnan.net

Worship & Programs

Bonna Graham-Hall
bgrahamhall@gmail.com,

Ethel MacDonald

ethelmacd@gmail.com,

Barbara Berens

lovelyberens@msn.com,

Bill Flanery

beflanery@yahoo.com,

Carol Gordon

slinkydudley22-uu@yahoo.com,

Dave Beck

david.beck@umontana.edu,

Marleen Ochs

mtochs@blackfoot.net

Social Justice /

Make a Difference

Ethel MacDonald, 549-9722

ethelmacd@gmail.com

Carol Marsh, 543-1038

carolnhero@msn.com

Newsletter

Melissa Steinike
msteinike@earthlink.net
Margery Fels Palmer

Membership

Greeter Coordinator,
Getting to Know UU –

Marleen Ochs, 745-2548
mtochs@blackfoot.net

Circle Dinners –

Ellen Strommen, 251-3441
strommenea@onlinemt.com

Stewardship

Margery Fels Palmer, 251-5418
mfpalmer@montana.com

House Scheduling

Ethel MacDonald
ethelmacd@gmail.com

Tenant Liaison

Bonna Graham-Hall
E. Macdougall Palmer, 251-5418
e.macpalmer@montana.com

Chalice Lighters

E. Macdougall Palmer,

**Denominational Affairs/
UU Service Committee**

Bonna Graham-Hall



(406) 549-9697

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