

The LOG

January 2017

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2824 E. 18th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99508-3303



From Gary

The December just past was a busy month for AUUF! RE kids decorated our Mitten Tree and it was beautiful. Our Thursday evening sessions called "Creating Your Own Theology," scheduled for four meetings was engaging enough that participants decided to extend it to 10 sessions, so beginning January 5 we will continue that series, Thursday nights from 5:30 – 7:00 in my office unless we need to move to a larger space. Stephanie Koontz has been leading those sessions with me and our Unitarian Universalist Association's materials for this series have offered great discussion guides.

AUUF showed its presence, standing on the Park Strip among approximately 200 folks to support an Anchorage Vigil for Human Rights. Neither cold nor snow diminished the fervor of participants who heard various speakers, including some from the Fellowship, challenging a world system that oppresses so many.

On New Member Recognition Sunday we welcomed 12 new members to the Fellowship and pledged to mutually support and care for one another.

And Christmas Eve was once again a full house with carols, readings, songs and children's voices lifting our spirits. Christmas morning fell on Sunday and though we expected few to attend (I joked that I hoped there would be enough that we could at least say, "Both the folks who came..."), but over sixty came and stayed for a continental breakfast (that included some wonderful baked eggs because Elayne Hunter thought, "We should have something warm," in

addition to myriad muffins and pastries). Those Christmas celebrations also brought glorious music thanks to Tamara and the choir.

And now we are off and running on a New Year that includes Hogwarts starting in the RE program, dinners organized by the Stewardship Committee, another Newcomers' Luncheon, New Adult RE offerings in the form of a Compassionate Listening Study Group, and Financial Literacy course, a two evening program on UU belief and practice for anyone interested in learning more about UU, and some remodelling to provide easier access to our still new space, thanks to your generous support of our building campaign.

Cheers and gratitude to all of you! You make this a great place to worship and work for a better world.

See you around the Fellowship! -- Gary

Calendar Highlights

Jan 8 Full RE program Resumes
Hogwarts!

Jan 10 Tuesday Evening Services
Resume 7 pm

Jan 13 Principled Dinners start

Jan 15 Plastics Recycle

Jan 22 Newcomer's Luncheon and
Soup Sunday

Jan 25 Considering Membership
Class: UU History

Jan 25 Project Homeless Connect

Jan 27 Final Friday Childcare, art
and dance party!

Feb 2 Compassionate Listening

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Board president letter for December 2016

The Board addressed a range of issues this month. As always, if you want more detail, the minutes from the meeting are posted in the Social Room.

On the practical end, we reviewed the financial statements for the first five months of the fiscal year. We are within our budget overall, but there is work to do on managing some specific expenditures to align with line item allocations in the budget adopted by the congregation. We also had a report from the hard-working HR committee on the UUA salary standards for our region, a key piece of information as we start to build our proposed budget for next year.

The Capital Campaign Committee is wrapping up the last bits of the fund-raising drive. They have done an outstanding job. The Board was pleased to endorse the new Capital Project Management Team, consisting of Doug Eby, Don Antrobus, and Jason Walsh. We are fortunate to have their leadership on this project – all bring extensive experience to the task. The Board also authorized the team to proceed, subject to due diligence, with the work of developing a contract for the design, structural evaluation, and permitting work that will enable us to start construction in June. This project bridges the practical and philosophical parts of the Fellowship's work – it provides us physical space to help us build the just, safe, and caring community that is our mission. I saw an example of the importance of space in building community when I stopped by the building on Monday night when the Buddhist Sangha was meeting downstairs and an action session in support of Planned Parenthood was convening upstairs.

On the philosophical end of our work, Rod McCoy introduced a resolution, based on the UU principles, that says,

"The Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship will take action to defend the civil and human rights of women and minorities in Anchorage, and on issues that violate the principles of mutual respect that we expect in our civil society."

The Board passed the resolution unanimously.

Jeanna Duryee brought us a chance to put that resolution into action. She is leading organization of an Anchorage Women's March to correspond with the national Women's March scheduled for January 21, 2017. She asked for help from AUUF in administering donations for the March between now and January. The Board endorsed that action.

All this is part of building community – at various times the building blocks are dollars, bricks and glass, words, and helping hands. Thank you for all you bring to this work.

In fellowship, Marty Freeman

Welcome Visitors and Friends to AUUF!

By Judy Engh, Membership Chair

We are so glad to have so many visitors and friends joining the AUUF community! Our community is renewed every week as new people come to experience being nurtured and "...to grow ethically, spiritually and intellectually, and to help create a just, safe and caring community." (AUUF Mission)



We have several opportunities coming up for folks to learn more about AUUF and to become more involved. Mark your calendars for some of these events:

January 8 - Preview of the new Adult RE programs between services

Jan 22 - Newcomer's Luncheon (Soup Sunday 12:30 with special seating for new folks to meet and learn about AUUF)

Jan 25 and Feb 1 - "Considering Membership" classes to learn about UU history, and thought.

If you have any questions about AUUF or are thinking about joining, please contact Amy, Gary, Rosene, or Becky at AUUF. We are happy you are here!

Eating with Principles

Choose your date and mark your calendar now! The Stewardship Committee is hosting a series of “Eating with Principles” dinners, starting January 13. These dinners are a wonderful way to get to know others within the Fellowship, discuss our UU principles, and enjoy good food. Dates and themes are developing. Contact a member of the Stewardship committee (Mindy Willis, Carma Reed, Kalen Saxton, Deena Mitchell, Marilyn Lee or John Blaine) if you are interested in hosting!

Eating with Principles

1st Principle: The inherent worth and dignity of every person

Fair Share Dinner hosted by Deena and Frank Mitchell. *Our fair share gives please watch your mail for an invitation.*

2nd Principle: Justice, equity and compassion in human relations; balanced dining.

3rd Principle: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.

2/11/2017 Spiritual growth = tending our gardens. Hosted by Marilyn Lee

4th Principle: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning. Mindfulness dinner

5th Principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

6th Principle: The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

2/4/2017, 5:30 World Food! – Amanda Cash and Amanda Mack

7th Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

NEW Adult Programs - Winter/Spring 2017

Find out more about our new and continuing Winter Adult Program Offerings at the Adult Programs Preview being held between and after services on January 8th.



Compassionate Listening In this study group, we'll learn about how compassionate listening and speaking can deepen and sweeten our connections with ourselves and with others. Marshall Rosenberg developed Nonviolent Communication (also called Compassionate Communication) as an approach to speaking and listening “that leads us to give from the heart, connecting us with ourselves and with each other in a way that allows our natural compassion to flourish.” This AUUF study group will introduce beginners to Nonviolent Communication and allow those familiar with it to deepen their understanding and practice of Nonviolent Communication. We'll work through the 13 chapters of Rosenberg's book, Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life. Our meetings will involve a mixture of discussion and games or exercises. Group will meet six Thursdays 6:30 - 8:30, February 2 until March 9. Led by Becca Bernard. Childcare available.



Financial Literacy Series Money is frequently cited as one of the top stressors for both individuals and couples and at the same time ranks with sexuality as a taboo topic of discussion. To that end, the Adult RE committee will be offering a Financial Education series that will be modeled on the OWL program and designed specifically for UU's. The goal of the series is “building healthy relationships with money through conversation, goal setting and information sharing”. The program will be 8 weeks with 90 minute sessions. The goal is for participants to take the entire 8 weeks series. Sessions include: Money Personalities, Creating a Spending Plan, Smart Debt, Investing your Principles, taxes (led by a CPA), Wills & Estate planning (led by an attorney) and Planned Giving on any income. Led by Wendy Romberg; meeting for 8 weeks beginning Thursdays March 23 to May 11. 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Childcare will be available.

Continuing Adult Programs - Winter/Spring 2017

Limited Time Offerings

Considering Membership (2 sessions) An introduction to UU History, UU Thought and UU Engagement led by Gary Holthaus. Wednesday January 25 & Wednesday Feb. 1st. 6:30 – 8:00. Additional offering March 22 & 29.

Building Your Own Theology – A continuing discussion (from Fall) led by Gary Holthaus & Stephanie Koontz - Based on the assumption that everyone is their own theologian, this classic UU adult education program invites participants to develop their own personal credos. Thursdays, 5:30 – 7:00 pm. January 5th – Feb. 23rd

Ongoing Interest Groups

Freethinkers at AUUF – Gathers Fridays at noon in the downstairs in the Jr. High Room at the fellowship. Meets from 12– 1:30. Contact George Bryson for More information

Buddhist Group – 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 7-9 pm at the home of Gwen Perry Crawford. A study group about Buddhism using some but not all the small groups techniques. Call Gwen for directions.

Hungry Book Club – meets monthly, Shirley Dickens, *convener*. Second Tuesdays 2pm. Everyone is welcome. See page 6 for details.

Small Group Ministry – organized by Susan Orlansky. Call Susan, 248-1141 if you would like to participate in a group.

AUUF Facility Improvement Project Progress

By Doug Eby

Design work is now underway for the facility improvement project funded by the capital campaign. It is exciting to see things move forward! There are a lot layers of work to be completed if construction is going to occur in the summer, as we all hope for. The design work includes many different pieces from detailed architectural design, structural engineering, electrical engineering, and all of the other technical components needed for a safe and well-designed project. There are submissions to the municipality that have to be staged appropriately – and allow for the expected review timelines. In order to get all of this completed, we are moving ahead with signing contracts with all the technical components, and beginning the process of finding the appropriate construction firm to participate through the entire design and construction process.



The other discussion underway is whether to recommend to the congregation taking on some debt to get to the level of total funding needed to do all of the major construction/remodel components. During the many meals and gatherings that occurred as part of the Capital Campaign, this question came up frequently and there was considerable support for a conservative sized loan in order to get to the more total project that is desired. Our UUA financial advisors have also recommended that it is actually a good thing to have some of the facility be funded by carrying some debt that is part of the annual operating budget, so that everyone, including new members, are contributing to the physical facility, along with the programming, utilities, and staff. So, this topic is being explored and updates, facts, figures and possibilities will be shared in future LOG articles, and, congregational discussions as budget creating and the annual Pledge Drive move ahead.

It is exciting to see this all taking shape and the project continuing to move forward!

Final Fridays!

As FUNraiser the **Youth are offering childcare** on the Final Fridays of the month. Dec 30 was a success, so mark your family's calendar for January 27th! If there is enough interest the youth will offer this through May! **December featured art projects and a dance party.** Bring your kids and get the night off. The cost is \$40, \$15 for each additional child. 5 till 9 p.m.



Half Portion for Social Action: Alaska Literacy Program

By Dennis Arashiro

"Frederick Douglass taught that literacy is the path from slavery to freedom. There are many kinds of slavery and many kinds of freedom, but reading is still the path." - Carl Sagan

Although the Alaska Literacy Program has been the recipient of the Half Portion for Social Action many times, this is the first time it was chosen by a vote of the entire Fellowship. Its mission is so clear and urgent and our support so strong and widespread that it would seem that little needs to be said on its behalf. Yet, there is so much beyond the obvious. Consider the program's partnerships that are critical in serving the community. Teaching the reading and language skills that our refugee neighbors need to prosper is a necessary adjunct to what Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services at Catholic Social Services provides its clients.

The Alaska Literacy Program partners with Alaska Children's Trust to assist in preventing child abuse and neglect and with Success by 6 to insure school readiness of all Alaska's children. It works with The Anchorage Health Literacy Collaborative to improve health literacy in underserved populations. It serves as a crucial resource for United States Citizenship and Immigration Services by providing citizenship classes. It connects with the national network of literacy support provided by ProLiteracy. Consider all of this when you give your Half Portion dollars this January.

Hands on Social Justice @ Project Homeless Connect!

By Dennis Arashiro

Wednesday, January 25, 2017, at the Egan Center, an opportunity to stand by the side of those seeking to save themselves. Yes, they will find tangible benefits there. Goods to make it through the days ahead. Services from agencies providing direction toward better lives. But, another reason to be there is to find what may be scarce elsewhere--a warm welcome filled with love and respect.

Please join us this year and make everyone's day--including your own. Call or email me to volunteer. Dennis Arashiro at 444-4324 or elvischannel@yahoo.com. (Editor's note: Project Homeless Connect was our half portion recipient for December. Thanks to your generosity \$ 855 has been donated to The Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness to assist with this day of connection.)



Social Justice Committee

By Dennis Arashiro

"We must recognize that we can't solve our problem now until there is a radical redistribution of economic and political power...We must see now that the evils of racism, economic exploitation, and militarism are all tied together...you can't get rid of one without getting rid of the others... the whole structure of American life must be changed." - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

It's about time we see him for who he was and what he stood for. Conservatives certainly did when they opposed recognizing him for a day in January. He was a radical who went beyond the calls for racial justice. He spoke out against the Vietnam War, when many at his side said it would hurt the Civil Right Movement. He began the Poor People's March on Washington, when many at his side said there were other priorities. He saw it all as one and the same mission: turning a war machine of racial and economic oppression into a vehicle for peace and social justice. Let's remember him this month for this ultimate dream. Let's honor him by fighting for this ultimate dream, a dream that lies in our own Principles.

The Social Justice Committee is our Fellowship's vehicle for realizing that ultimate dream. The committee is whoever shows up with rolled sleeves. Join us this month as we work once again on engaging the entire Fellowship in voting for the Half Portion for Social Action. Join us at **12:30 PM on Sunday, January 22, 2017, in Gary's office at the Fellowship**, as we discuss how to choose Half Portion recipients for the most effective impact and through the most effective democratic process. If you cannot attend, call or email me with your thoughts and proposals. Dennis Arashiro at 444-4324 or elvischannel@yahoo.com.

Volunteer Spotlight

Shirley Dickens



What can we say about a woman as wonderful as Shirley Dickens?? Shirley, a retired nurse, has been involved with AUUF for many years. She volunteers in areas all across the fellowship. Shirley has served with the Board of Directors, service planning, worship associates, hospitality, Whale Coast, RE, and more! She currently serves as the Chair of the Alliance—contributing to the fellowship through the annual rummage sale and holiday sale. Additionally, The Alliance contributes to events like the fellowship's annual picnic, newcomer's ceremonies, and Thanksgiving dinner. Shirley can also be found helping to fold the monthly LOG in preparation for mailing, and helping lead the monthly Hungry Book Club on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Thank you, Shirley, for all you have done!

Hungry Book Club

By Shirley Dickens



December's meeting was a "social event", eight meeting for lunch and conversation and to exchange books that needed a new home in a Chinese auction style. Everyone brought a wrapped gift and went home with a lovely different book. We will meet January 10th (second Tuesday) 2 PM at the condos at 9th and M St. to be hosted by Mary K and Wanda M to discuss our Jan. read, The Finest Hours, by Michael J. Tongias and Casey Sherman, a true story about US Coast Guard rescuing a boat off of Cape Cod in the 1950's. Two had read it some time ago and thought it would be an excellent read or re-read. The book should be easy to find. This is an open book club and all our congregation is welcome. Call 563-4499 for more information.



Next Plastics Recycle is Jan 15th. 5's only please. Unwanted catalogs in the mail?

Recycling Tip: Request to have your name removed from mailing lists. Use services at catalogchoice.org or dmachoice.org.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Join a Committee!

We are seeking volunteers for:

- Human Resources Committee
- Hospitality Committee
- Chalice Lighter Lead
- Event Planning Lead
- UUSC Coordinator

If you are interested in any of the opportunities above, or to add an opportunity to the list, please email Becky More at auufinvolve@gci.net.



January Birthdays, Best Wishes!

Birthdays are not published in our online version.

Choir Schedule

Thursday, January 5, 2017 7:00-8:30pm
 Thursday, January 12, 2017 7:00-8:30pm
 Sunday, Jan 15th MLK, 9:45-10:30am
 Thursday, January 19, 2017 7:00-8:30pm
 Thursday, January 26, 2017 7:00-8:30pm
 Sunday, Jan 29th, 9:45-10:30am

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

We are grateful for Kalen Saxton who took over (for Becky More who was recovering from surgery) the Thanksgiving dinner at AUUF and made it happen. Some 35 or so of a nice mix of regular members, including our minister and his wife, and several new people came together for a traditional Turkey dinner with all the trimmings. We had LOTS of help setting up and cleaning up. Everyone there, I think, enjoyed each other's company and the delicious food. We shared leftovers with one of our home bound and one of our frequent visitors who come needing things. Thank you to all who contributed and showed up for a lovely good time.

Grateful for a most lovely Sunday (and perhaps one of the busiest Sundays of the year) December 4th, which was Mitten Sunday, two excellent services, the 2nd Sunday of the Christmas sale and the Alternative Gift Fair, plus soup Sunday and ornament decoration for children and families. Also, our wonderful choir was at the second service. Many people and lots of children enjoying the beginning of the Holiday season. Oh yes, the Christmas tree also got decorated after the lovely mittens got packed up to send on to charities. Our beautiful children were everywhere spreading warmth and smiles. And we got to hear Rev. Beatrice Hitchcock for the 1st time in 5 years. Thank you to all who were a part of this special Sunday.

At the December 11th service we were so pleased to honor our newest members Brendan Coffin and Laura Syron, Jim and Carolyn Gove, Laura Greffenius, Angie Harris, Sarah Harris, Jan Mangus, Justin and Miriam Roberts, and Macon Roberts.

Very Grateful for the nice attendance for a lovely "Blue Christmas" service (our 13th one, thank you Fran Dearman) Dec. 13th. We had about 35 people who mostly stayed and had soup and bread with our congregation. Five separate homemade soups were generously donated and every single drop was consumed. It was a very cold night and soup hit the spot. Thank you Tamara McCoy and the choir for the beautiful music and thank you Gary and Rosene for planning such a lovely service.

So grateful for our thriving Children's Program here, as shown in a delightful Christmas Eve Pageant. Our Sanctuary was filled to the brim with music, children, adults, candles... as it should be.

So pleased that our congregation invests in our Youth program. We have a full roster with 25 enrolled!

Our 'Simple Christmas Service' on Christmas Sunday was very well attended with 61 who came out for the service followed by a light breakfast.

Please join me in remembering several of our members who are dealing with family members who are ill or in the hospital and keep them in our hearts and prayers (if we pray), aware that this season of hope and cheer for others, does not always work for ourselves or our families this year. We send compassion, healing energy, hope to all who need it in our congregation and out to the community and our hurting world.

I am very grateful for this congregation and its members and our wonderful minister, Gary. Be well my dear people. Wishing each of you a healthy, happy, busy New Year!

The Alliance

by Shirley Dickens, Chair of the Alliance

The Christmas sale was our best Christmas sale yet, thank you! We received lots of stuff to sell and you all were generous buyers. Thank you Congregation! At our last meeting we paid bills for monthly birthday cakes. We bought a cake for Welcoming New Members. We also are sending several of our congregation a Christmas card with our recent picture of 8 ladies present at the November meeting. We plan to not meet in January (unless we have a reason to do so). We purchased a nice poinsettia for all our staff. Next meeting will be Feb. 12 and we will pick the date for our Spring Rummage sale.

Alternative Gift Shop

The totals are in and, once again, our annual Alternative Gift Shop allowed us to marry our UU principals with this season of giving. Thanks to the efforts of so many — committee volunteers, representatives of the receiving organizations and you, the shoppers — AUUF was able to deliver more than \$4,150 to this year's seven chosen organizations. Not bad for a year in which you also weathered a recession and generously supported a capital campaign and our annual auction. On behalf of this year's organizers and recipients, a very merry *Thank You* for again supporting this annual effort.

R.E. Notes for December 2017

Happy New Year!

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

"We are pleased to inform you that you have been accepted at Hogwarts UU School of Wisdom and Wizardry. Our 2017 School of Wisdom and Wizardry will commence on January 8th and continue for 8 weeks until February 26th."



The Owls went out on Sunday delivering scrolls of acceptance into our UU School, to the children at AUUF. If you didn't get yours check the Info Spot downstairs at the Fellowship.

We will be learning our UU Principles Hogwarts style with classes in topics from Charms to Flying (and learning to play Quidditch) to Care of Magical Creatures and Defense Against the Dark Arts. Our Elementary age children will join their house groups in exploring interesting topics each week. Adult volunteer helpers are welcome to join us for a day and experience a bit of magic yourself!

Brighten up the dark winter days and join us each Sunday at the 11:00 service to find that spark of magic hidden within each of us!

The RE downstairs is a busy place each Sunday morning. Too often we scurry in and out, ignoring the folks around us whom we don't know. We have many new families both visiting and joining in our RE program this year. They learn about UU's from you! I'd like to ask each of us in this new year to remember to be a welcoming face in our AUUF community, both to our children and their parents. Take a few moments each week to chat with someone new. Discover something you have in common. Maybe you would like to meet someone for coffee, or a children's play date!

Or become a "Buddy" to one special family! But lets make this the friendliest church in Anchorage! This month also, we will be recruiting Mystery Pals for that wonderful connector between older and younger UU's. Jump In, gain a new friend. Starting in February.

In the words of Albus Dumbledore, "it matters not what someone is born, but what they grow to be."

Tootles,

Rosene Beachy, DLRE (aka Professor Dumbledora)

Our Program

January 8th – February 26th children will be in multi age groups to participate in *Hogwarts UU School of Wisdom and Wizardry* classes. The *Sorting Hat* will decide the groups at our Kick off on January 8th. 3/ 4 year olds and youth classes will continue as before



Our Whole Lives (Our Whole Lives Sexuality curriculum)

The K-1 - Begins this month with an 8-week session. These interactive classes will help parents educate their child about birth, babies, safe and healthy bodies and families through songs, stories and activities. Sign up early, space limited.

January 9th – 7 – 8:30 K-1 OWL (Our Whole Lives Sexuality curriculum) Parent information night. If you would like to know how to use the program on your own, come to the parent night to learn about the program.

January 21st 1 – 3:00, K-1 OWL class will Kick off.

January 22 – March 12 - OWL Workshop sessions 12:30 – 1:30

Re Social Justice

Guest at your Table We hope you are having fun with your Guest at Your Table activities. Remember to keep feeding **The Guest At Your Table (aka – Box)** during the holiday season and until January 19th when you will bring them back to the Fellowship for our Ingathering.

Service Projects - Congratulations to the **Fire Keepers** who earned \$395 at their Soup Sunday in December! Thanks to all the wonderful Soup Makers.

Next Soup Sunday is January 22.

Thank You

- ✓ to all who participated in the Mitten Tree event, 3 big bags full of warm hats, gloves, socks, neck gators and scarves were donated to AWAIC and were very warmly appreciated!
- ✓ to our wonderful teachers who enthusiastically provide interesting and inspiring classes each Sunday morning!
- ✓ to Deena Mitchell and all her elves who organized and led a wonderful Winterfest this year. Many beautiful ornaments were created!
- ✓ to our Elementary, Junior and Senior High OWL teachers, Bethany Buchanan, Abigail Kean, Ken Winterberger, Sarah Taygan, Kelley Hartlieb, Doug Eby, Teresa Zimmer, Katherine Huffman, Eric McCoy, Laura Greffenius and Shannon Bell for providing accurate, informative and fun sessions and fieldtrips relating to Human Sexuality issues.

Half-Portion for Social Action – October 2015 to December 2016

Because we live in abundance and know that a rising tide lifts all boats.... the following donations have been made by AUUF to these good causes:

Minister's Discretionary Fund	Christmas Services	\$1,279
Anchorage Coalition to End Home	Half of our Dec 2016 collectio	\$855
Hospice of Anchorage	November 2016	\$1,552
Brother Francis Shelter	October 2016	\$1,164
Alaska Rural Veterinary Outreach	1/2 Animal Blessing Sunday	\$110
Kitty and K-9 Connection	1/2 Animal Blessing Sunday	\$110
Food Bank of Alaska	September 2016	\$1,097
Minister's Discretionary Fund	August 2016	\$871
Minister's Discretionary Fund	July 2016 5th Sunday	\$258
The Children's Lunchbox	July 2016	\$882
Friends of Alaska Casa	June 2016	\$1025
Identity Inc	May 2016	\$596
The Wilderness Society	April 2016	\$1138
Stone Soup Group	March 2016	\$1,050
UUSC Refugee Crisis Fund	February 2016	\$944
LREDA	Half Portion 1-31-16	\$400
Brother Francis Shelter	January 2016	\$1,057
Anchorage Coalition to End Home	Dec 2015 collections	\$1,120
CSS: Refugee Assistance and Imm	November 2015	\$ 907
Services		
NAMI Anchorage	October 2015	\$1,052

Half of our non-pledge, non-restricted donations from each collection is designated to social action.



YRUU Dates of Significance

Jan 27, Bring the kids for Final Friday – Youth Provided childcare @ AUUF see page 4.

Feb. 12--Spring Youth Service

March 10-12 SPAGCON at University Unitarian Church, Seattle, WA

Mar. 12--Spring Break Improv Festival (YRUU and Moonspinners)

Mar. 19--Spring Break Improv Festival (YRUU and Moonspinners)

Apr. 7-9 SPRINGCON, Camp Collins, Gresham, OR

Apr. 23--Earth Day MG

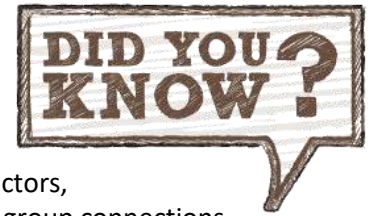
May 14--Bridging

May 21--Celebration Sunday MG

July 2-8 Quest (YRUU) / Spirit Quest (Moonspinners) Youth Camp at Black Forest, CO

July 23-29 Goldmine Youth Leadership School at Jefferson Unitarian Church, Golden, CO.

Did You Know? AUUF is a great congregation, but we are not alone. We help accomplish much in our region and around the world through our partnership in our District (Pacific Northwest), our region (Pacific Western Region), and our national association (Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations). All of these organizations represent our values in the halls of power, provide us ministers, RE Directors, and Music Directors, provide staff certification, offer us curriculum, hymnals, interest group connections, and so much more. All of this makes us a powerful global community and a better congregation. And it's possible because we all chip in to fund these organizations. Each year AUUF contributes about **\$16,500 a year** to the District, Region, and the UUA. This is money well invested, and it's possible only because of your generous pledges.



Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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www.anchorageuuf.org Music page: auufmusicpage.yolasite.com

Our Mission: We are a Fellowship of diverse people who come together to nurture each other, to grow ethically, spiritually and intellectually, and to help create a just, safe, and caring community

Staff Contacts

Gary Holthaus, minister of AUUF, (907) 433-9311

Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration, 441-6815, rbeachy@alaskalife.net

Eric McCoy, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Programing 230-6915 or AUUFYCYP@gmail.com

Tamara McCoy, Music Director, 982-9777, or tamarialice@yahoo.com

Amy Lundell, Congregational Administrator, 248-3737 x 3 or auuf@gci.net

Becky More, Involvement Coordinator, auufinvolve@gci.net, 248-3737 x 6

AUUF Board of Directors: Marty Freeman, President; Amanda Mack, Treasurer;

Helen Nienhueser, Vice President; Kelley Hartlieb, Secretary; Rod McCoy; Don Crandall; Peggy Robinson

Other Contacts

Adult Programs – Deena Mitchell

Annual Dinner / Auction – Stephenie Wheeler

AFACT – Marie Rozak, Ron Devon

Alliance – Shirley Dickens

Building and Grounds - Bruce Roberts

Capital Campaign – Doug Eby / Frank Mitchell

Children and Youth RE – Annie Belts

Childcare Coordinator – Kalen Saxton

Committee on Shared Ministry – Marty Herriott

Communications – Stephenie Wheeler

Endowment – John Blaine

Finance – Sam Cason

Green Sanctuary – Suzie Kobierowski / Cathy Steen

Grounds and Gardens – Stephanie Koonz /

James Dryden

Human Resources –Peggy Robinson

Interior Design – Irene O'Brien / Cindy Kinard

Membership / Member Services – Judy Engh

Nominating – Ron Devon

OWL – Katherine Huffman

Pastoral Care – Don Crandall / Robin Hill

Pastoral Pantry – Amanda Cash

Planned Giving – Wray Kinard

Safer Congregation – Amy Westfall /

Mary Ann Eininger

Share the Care – Robin Hill / Teresa Zimmer /

Amy Lundell

Shared Ministry – Marty Herriott

Social Justice Committee – Dennis Arashiro

Small Groups – Susan Orlansky

Speaker's Forum –George Bryson

Stewardship – Mindy Willis

UUSC Coordinator – Vacant

Welcoming / Hospitality – Vacant

Whalecoast – Denise Martin

Worship Associates – Marilyn Lee

Young Adults (the aurora) – Eric McCoy



Beyond your pledge and automated giving how can you help your Fellowship? **Link your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to the Fellowship!** Our last check from Fred Meyer was \$100, every little bit helps. Can these returns continue? grow? If you haven't yet please link your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. You can search for us by our full name or by our number (84435). Thank you!

About Our Services and Speakers (see back page)

Gary Holthaus has served as the called minister for our Fellowship since 2012.

Dr. Tamara McCoy and several other local artists participated in the Lullaby Project at Highland Mountain Correctional Center this Fall. They wrote songs together with several inmates and presented them at a gathering of parents children and guests at the Center. Tamara, with some of the artists, will meet with us, sing, and discuss their experience. The Lullaby Project was First conducted at Rykers Island in New York. Highland Mountain was the second in the nation.

Frank Soos is completing his tenure as Alaska's Writer Laureate. A popular and respected professor emeritus of English at University of Alaska Fairbanks, Soos has been awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Forum fellowship, and the Flannery O'Connor Award for his 1998 short story collection "Unified Field Theory." His latest publication is a book of essays, "Unpleasantries: Considerations of Difficult Questions." Soos grew up in Pocahontas, Virginia, and is married to artist Margo Klass.

Gregory and Maleika Jones have been married for 31 years, and have eight children and 10 grandchildren. They have opened their Wasilla home to neighbors and coworkers and it has become an unofficial community center where food, comfort, interfaith dialogue and after school functions are offered. Gregory, 50, was born in Washington, D.C. He is a Master Electrician and certified engineering technician. He has a long history of community activism and volunteering. He works with the NAACP, the Anchorage Police and Fire Chaplain Association, and the Alaska Democratic Party. Maleika is a social welfare and interfaith activist working for the betterment of the people of Alaska. She is passionate about counseling and community service and offers assistance to the homeless and runaway youth at *MY House Homeless Teenage Shelter*. She is also a representative of the United Muslim Christian Forum-Alaska chapter. Through this organization she organizes faith-based discussions bridging gaps and dispelling misconceptions about Islam. Gregory and Maleika Jones have recently been in the news as the result of remarks by MOA Assembly member Amy Demboski on her radio show.

Hayden Nevill was introduced to Unitarian Universalism in the 1980s, when he kept seeing the same UU faces showing up for pro-choice rallies and gay pride parades. Soon thereafter, as a young college student, he joined the UU Church of Baton Rouge. He is a former congregational board President of the UU Fellowship of Fairbanks, and he is the current President of the Pacific Northwest District of the UUA. Hayden is a veterinarian by profession and a transgender activist by avocation.

Prof. Steve Haycox has taught Alaska History at the University of Alaska Anchorage since 1970. He is an American cultural historian, focusing his work on how the notion of frontier has shaped American thinking. Dr. Haycox has published widely in professional journals and in popular publications. His subjects include Alaska Native history, Alaska environmental history and the nature of northern settlement. University of Washington Press published his new history of Alaska, *Alaska: An American Colony* in 2002, and Oregon State University Press published his analysis of the relationship between economy and environment in Alaska, called *Frigid Embrace: Politics, Economy and Environment in Alaska*, the same year. He has often worked with Anchorage School District teachers, and has traveled throughout the state.

Chris Tuck will be the 30th Alaska State Legislature House Majority Leader for the new coalition beginning January 20, 2017. Tuck has represented the 23rd District in Anchorage since he was elected to the House in 2008. From 2013 to 2016, he served as the Alaska House Minority Leader for the Independent Democratic coalition. Previously Tuck served on the Anchorage School Board. Originally hailing from California, Tuck moved to Alaska as a teen in 1972. He graduated from Dimond High School and completed an Electrical Apprenticeship. He worked as a Business Representative and Organizer for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 1547. He has also served on the Boards of the Alaska Joint Electrical Apprenticeship Training Trust; Alaska Process Industry Careers Consortium; and Putting Alaska Resources to Work.



Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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AUUF Services and Events –January 2017

Sunday January 8
9 am Chris Tuck, “Hopes and dreams of the new
House Majority Coalition”
11 am Steve Haycox,
"Russian Orthodox Influence in Alaska"

Sunday January 15
9 am Greg and Maleika Jones,
“We Are American Muslims”
11 am Gary Holthaus

Sunday January 22 Soup Sunday
9 am Hayden Nevill, “Enriching the Future”
11 am Hayden Nevill, “Enriching the Future”

Sunday January 29
9 am Frank Soo, “Surviving Unpleasantries”
11 am The Lullaby Project

<u>Tuesday Evening Services</u> Resume Jan. 10th, 7 p.m.

CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS- January 2016

Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare

Sunday 11 am ~ Childcare & Classes for toddlers through high school

The LOG

February 2017

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2824 E. 18th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99508-3303



From Gary

Our annual Stewardship Campaign, sometimes referred to as our Annual Pledge Drive, is well underway. Many of you have already joined friends over a stewardship dinner, or perhaps have hosted such a dinner yourself. If I said that this is a critical effort and an important season in our church year, I'd only be repeating what I say every year. And every year it is true.

But to think of stewardship as seasonal, or to assume that it is about pledging only does not fully celebrate stewardship's meaning or its role in our Fellowship. Stewardship is greater than a gift, even when we broaden it to include "time, talents, and treasure."

The season of stewardship is equal to the length of your life, and the card you fill out is a witness to your view of the world. Stewardship is a mind-set, a mind-set that cares not only about AUUF, but reveals an acknowledgement that we care about this world and express our concern for it in the responsible way we take care of this life we are given. Stewardship, then becomes built in, an everyday way of being in the world; it becomes who we are, rather than what we do, or think about doing sometimes.

Calendar Highlights

Tuesday Evening Services 7 pm

Principled Dinners Continue!

Feb 1 Considering Membership
Class: UU Thought

Feb 2 Compassionate Listening &
Basics of Buddhism

Feb 12 Youth Service
Stewardship Brunch

Feb 18 RE Family & Friends Winter
Game Night

Feb 18 Mystery Pal signup
deadline

Feb 26 Soup Sunday, Mystery Pals
begin

Feb 24 Final Friday Childcare, art
and dance party!

March 1 Peace Camp Priority
Registration Deadline

June 5-9 Peace Camp

AUUF not only serves this congregation, but seeks to create a caring community in our city, our state, and beyond. When we want to create community, AUUF becomes a vehicle for extending our vision beyond ourselves, and its many programs become our best means to nourish the growth of the caring community we want to be part of. Your mind of stewardship (and yes, that pledge card too) spreads our vision throughout this community. Even though our national leadership becomes mean spirited, we won't go there because that is not us; our mind of stewardship won't let our time, talents, and treasures go for such purposes because we have a better place for them.

Last Sunday we heard a stirring report of the marvelous AUUF Lullaby Project on behalf of incarcerated mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters... a group of women under the leadership of Shirley Staten and our Music Director, Tamara McCoy, who went into our prison and helped mothers create songs and lullabies to sing for their offspring they cannot see. All the songs used in the service were written by those incarcerated women. As the Project women sang those songs, they also gave us their names. The longing in that music, and the expressions of love, all of it made those composers more fully human and more real for us, less different and closer to us.

Your mind for stewardship made that project possible. We have no other funds, no foundation grants or corporate gifts, than those you give us through your pledges.

As last Sunday's presentation made clear, you do nudge the world toward a far better place.

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Cheers! -- Gary

President's Log Letter - January 2017

'Tis the season when the energy Stewardship Committee, Finance Committee, and Board are focused on funding and budgeting. By the time you read this, you should have received your packet about the annual stewardship drive that will fund our operations for fiscal year 2017. It includes a chart of the main ways our budget is spent: to build the community within AUUF, to engage in the greater community, to provide religious exploration opportunities for our youth and adults, and to keep AUUF on a sound footing in terms of finances, our building, and people.

And people. That's what makes AUUF tick. One of the great things about being president is that I get so many opportunities to thank people for all they do to make AUUF a vibrant, caring community. I often have the chance to thank our many volunteers – which is most of you. Today I want to thank our staff.

Like most small organizations, the biggest line items in our budget are for staff. We are blessed to have a staff of dedicated, creative, thoughtful people working daily to lead the delivery of many of our programs. You see many of their faces every Sunday – listening to Gary's wisdom at the 11:00 services, marveling at the RE programs Rosene creates, hearing the choir and worship music fill our sanctuary under Tamara's direction, and seeing the youth Eric mentors enthusiastically taking on roles in the fellowship, and having Becky help foster new connections among us.

If you are here mostly on weekends, you may not see our Administrator, Amy, as often, but her work permeates all we do, and she is an integral part of AUUF. Amy manages financial transactions, is the first contact for many seeking information about AUUF, works with renters who help provide financial support and organizations who help us reach into the broader community, provides support to the stewardship and capital campaign, does our reporting with UUA, and keeps us in touch with each other through the Log and other communications. Many people keep AUUF ticking, but Amy is often the one behind the scenes winding the clock.

It's always a good time for thanks. This month, take the time to thank the staff that mean so much to AUUF – in person, and in your pledge.

In fellowship, Marty Freeman.

Welcome Welcome Welcome!

By Judy Engh, Membership Chair

We are so happy to have so many new people joining us! Our community continues to expand as we welcome new people every week. People are looking for this community and are finding it. Thanks to everyone for your hospitality. Please continue to reach out and meet people who you don't know.

Because we are having so many new folks coming, we are combining our Newcomer's luncheons with the Soup Sunday each month. We will have a separate area to eat so people who want to learn more about AUUF can ask questions and meet more people.

Upcoming Events:

New Comer's Luncheon/Soup Sundays: Feb 26th March 26th

Considering Membership Classes: March 22nd and 29th 6:30-8

New Member Recognition Sunday: April 2

Please contact Becky More, our Congregational Involvement Coordinator (248-3737 or auufinvolve@gci.net) or Judy Engh (judyrae427@yahoo.com) if you are interested in becoming a member or have questions!



Sustaining the Present, Enriching the Future!

By Deana Mitchell, Stewardship

It is that wonderful time of year when stewardship (our annual pledge season) begins and we reflect on all that our religious community means to us. The theme for this year's drive speaks to supporting all of the good things currently happening, and our hopes for the future.

This year we will gather around food (please choose a dinner or brunch event that works for you; see below for details) and share what our Fellowship means to us. For some it is primarily a place to ground our children in our wonderful UU principles and traditions. For others it is a place for Sunday sustenance and renewal. For still others it is the core of our spiritual, intellectual and social lives. Whatever role this beloved community plays in our lives, we have the chance to show our support in a concrete, financial way. It is important to remember that we are entirely self-funded, so the funds to maintain our facility, staff, outreach, etc. all come from what we pledge.



The first dinner this year involved some of last year's fair share pledgers (those for whom the Fellowship represents a significant financial commitment as outlined in "fair share giving guide" in the pledge materials) and we are starting out our drive with a **great base of 29 pledges and almost \$100,000 committed already!** NEW this year: Fair share pledgers have the opportunity to receive a "premium" of either a "Standing on the Side of Love" t-shirt or winter hat.

Our hope is to have 100% participation, to support all our community represents to its members and friends, as well as what it brings to the broader community. Particularly during this time of uneasiness, our hopeful vision for the future has the capacity to nurture many.

Don't Miss Out... Sign Up Today! ...Principled Dinners

The Stewardship Committee has arranged a series of dinners and brunches in January and February to facilitate discussion on the services and programs of the Fellowship and what else we could do in the future. Many dinners have already been hosted in homes across the city and great conversation and fun has been had by all. Hosts have been invited to select one of the Seven Principles as a theme for the dinner, and to kick off the discussion. **Please look at the listing below and sign up** to join in the discussion, fellowship, and food.

Fri. Jan 13	Fair Share Dinner	Hosts: Frank and Deana Mitchell
Sat. Jan 21	Justice and Equity Dinner	Hosts: James Dryden and Stephanie Koonz
Sat. Jan 21	Justice and Equity Dinner	Host: Susan Orlansky
Sat. Jan 28	Acceptance Dinner	Hosts: Judith Anderegg and David Pelto
Sat. Jan 28	World Community Dinner	Hosts: Erik and Robin Hill
Sat. Jan 29	Family Brunch	Host: Kalen Saxton
Fri. Feb 3	Web of Life Dinner	Hosts: Jim and Carolyn Gove
Sat. Feb 4	World Food Dinner	Hosts: Amanda Mack and Amanda Cash
Sat. Feb 5	RE First Sunday Breakfast	Hosts: RE Program (Bring the kids)
Fri. Feb 10	Mindfulness Dinner	Hosts: Gwen Perry Crawford (and others)
Sat. Feb 11	Tending Our Gardens Dinner	Host: Marilyn Lee
Sun. Feb 18	Compassionate Listening Brunch (at AUUF)	Hosts: Helen Peters and Shirley Dickens

(More dinners coming in the last half of February!)

See the signup sheets in the Social Room or Contact Kalen Saxton 907-244-8221 kalensaxon@gmail.com for hours, addresses, and other information. Want to host? Kalen is recruiting hosts for the last 2 weekends in February. Contact her to open your home and dinner table.

NEW Adult Programs - Winter/Spring 2017

NEW **Compassionate Listening** In this study group, we'll learn about how compassionate listening and speaking can deepen and sweeten our connections with ourselves and with others. Marshall Rosenberg developed Nonviolent Communication (also called Compassionate Communication) as an approach to speaking and listening "that leads us to give from the heart, connecting us with ourselves and with each other in a way that allows our natural compassion to flourish." This AUUF study group will introduce beginners to Nonviolent Communication and allow those familiar with it to deepen their understanding and practice of Nonviolent Communication. We'll work through the 13 chapters of Rosenberg's book, Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life. Our meetings will involve a mixture of discussion and games or exercises. Group will meet six Thursdays 6:30 - 8:30, February 2 until March 9. Led by Becca Bernard. Childcare available.

NEW **Financial Literacy Series** Money is frequently cited as one of the top stressors for both individuals and couples and at the same time ranks with sexuality as a taboo topic of discussion. To that end, the Adult RE committee will be offering a Financial Education series that will be modeled on the OWL program and designed specifically for UU's. The goal of the series is "building healthy relationships with money through conversation, goal setting and information sharing". The program will be 8 weeks with 90 minute sessions. The goal is for participants to take the entire 8 weeks series. Sessions include: Money Personalities, Creating a Spending Plan, Smart Debt, Investing your Principles, taxes (led by a CPA), Wills & Estate planning (led by an attorney) and Planned Giving on any income. Led by Wendy Romberg; meeting for 8 weeks beginning Thursdays March 23 to May 18. 6:30 – 8:00 pm. (Due to Maundy Thursday Service April 13th will be skipped.) Childcare will be available.

NEW If you are interested in food culture and gardening, join this **one time group** to read and discuss the book by Patricia Klindienst, "The Earth Knows My Name". Klindienst has gathered stories about gardens by ethnic peoples and immigrants to the US. She writes about the power of gardening in maintaining connections to our homelands and to the natural world, offering a model of restorative ecology. Gary Holthaus will lead the discussion during/after Soup Sunday on **March 26th. 12:30 - 2:00**. Grab some soup and join in! Get hold of a copy of the book to read during February/March. Or, we have 8 books available for \$20 available at the Fellowship.

Continuing Adult Programs - Winter/Spring 2017

Limited Time Offerings

Considering Membership (2 sessions) An introduction to UU History, UU Thought and UU Engagement led by Gary Holthaus. Wednesday Feb. 1st. 6:30 – 8:00. Additional offering March 22 & 29.

Building Your Own Theology – A continuing discussion (from Fall) led by Gary Holthaus & Stephanie Koontz - Thursdays, 5:30 – 7:00 pm. January 5th – Feb. 23rd

Ongoing Interest Groups

Freethinkers at AUUF – Gathers Fridays from 12– 1:30. Contact George Bryson for More information

Buddhist Group – 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 7-9 pm at the home of Marty Herriott. A study group about Buddhism using some but not all the small groups techniques. Call Marty for directions.

Hungry Book Club – Second Tuesdays 2pm. Everyone is welcome. *See page 6 for details.*

Small Group Ministry – Call Susan Orlansky, 248-1141 if you would like to participate in a group.

Yoga – Thursdays, Feb. 9 & 16, from 5-6 at AUUF. Led by Peggy Cobey, this class is for adults and teens. Bring a mat if you have one!

NEW **Basics of Buddhism Class**, Thursdays, February 2, 9, 16, and 23 from 7 to 8:30pm @AUUF in the high school room. All are invited to join Zen Teacher Dana Lederhos as we explore and discuss fundamental aspects of the Buddhism. The class will cover the story of the Buddha, the Four Noble Truths, the Eightfold Path, the three seals, karma, ethics, the main sects, and more! Feel free to join for all four evenings, or for just the ones you are able to make it to. \$10 suggested donation per class.

Final Fridays!

As FUNraiser the **Youth are offering childcare** on the Final Fridays of the month. Mark your family's calendar for February 24th! If there is enough interest the youth will offer this through May! **December featured art projects and a dance party.** Bring your kids and get the night off. The cost is \$40, \$15 for each additional child. 5 till 9 p.m.



Half Portion for Social Action:

Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and the Hawaiian Islands

By Dennis Arashiro

And what of the rest of the world? In supporting Planned Parenthood in our own neighborhood, are we ignoring the urgent need to support reproductive health, rights, and education elsewhere? Not so. Many are not aware that Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and the Hawaiian Islands goes beyond the borders of its name. Consider its support of the Youth Development Foundation in Cameroon in training peer educators for youth and establishing a clinic to provide low cost birth control and STD testing. Consider its support of family planning in Nepal since 2006, leading to the creation of a women's shelter for maternity patients of a regional hospital. Consider its role in training medical and health professionals for work in rural Laos.

In both the Dominican Republic and Vietnam PPGNHI partners with local nonprofits to establish peer education programs for youth modeled after its own. In the selection of this month's Half Portion for Social Action, the entire Fellowship voted for meeting local needs, but we also voted for an organization reaching out to meet global needs as well. Be mindful of this when the collection baskets come your way.

Social Justice Committee

By Dennis Arashiro

"With exclusion and inequality on the rise, we must step up efforts to ensure that all people, without discrimination, are able to access opportunities to improve their lives and those of others." - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon



In 2007 the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed February 20 as World Day of Social Justice, inviting member states to support efforts to eradicate poverty, promote full employment and decent work, achieve gender equity, and bring social well-being and justice to all. The theme this year: A Just Transition - Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies. From the United Nations itself:

"The world has changed dramatically. We no longer live in a world relatively empty of humans and their artifacts. We now live in the 'Anthropocene Era' in a full world where humans are dramatically altering their ecological life-support systems. Our traditional economic concepts and models were developed in an empty world. If we are to create sustainable prosperity, if we seek 'improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risk and ecological scarcities,' we are going to need a new vision of the economy and its relationship to the rest of the world that's better adapted to the conditions we face."

Let us commemorate February 20 individually and collectively. Plan for your own individual actions for that Monday to bring us a step closer to social justice. Help us plan for collective actions that day. Act now so that we have time to implement plans for World Day of Social Justice. Send me your thoughts and proposals. Dennis Arashiro at 444-4324 or elvischannel@yahoo.com.

Mystery Pals Month will run from February 26 to April 8



Have you had the opportunity to be a Mystery Pal yet? Now is your chance! Mystery Pals is the program where the “big people” get to know the “little people”. It is an opportunity for our younger members and our more “seasoned” members to get acquainted and to learn a bit about each other- and is a fun event that both Pals enjoy and look forward to each week. Through notes, clues, stories, drawings, etc. once or twice a week, both big and little pals share interesting things about themselves.

CYRE will start circulating the sign-up sheets for the adults/teens in February and you can join any time before February 19. We usually need about 40-50 (or more!) wonderful adults to pair up with our many excited children.

Parents of participating children will be matched with children other than their own, and “Grandparents” are especially urged to participate! We’ll match the adults to the children, then on February 26th, each participating adult will find out who their Pal is and be given the brief information sheet the child has completed. There will be a set of mailboxes under the downstairs bulletin board set up so notes can be secretly passed between Pals Each Week. You might choose to pass poems, cool pictures, cards, stickers, drawings, coloring pages, or—use your imagination and be creative! (Just please limit items to less than a couple of dollars.)

It will conclude at the **big Revealing party** on April 8th when the Pals are revealed and introduced to one another.

Children: Sign up during the month of Feb. and fill out a Pals information sheet.

Adults: Sign up during the month of Feb. and pick up ‘A How To Be A Mystery Pal’ Information sheet

Need more info?? Contact Alison Hansen – alisonhansen1@hotmail.com.

Choir Schedule

Thursday, February 2, 2017 7:00-8:30pm

Thursday, February 9, 2017 7:00-8:30pm

Sunday, Feb 12th (include youth in choir),
9:45-10:30am

Thursday, February 16, 2017 7:00-8:30pm

Thursday, February 23, 2017 7:00-8:30pm

Sunday, Feb 26th, 9:45-10:30am

Thursday, March 2, 2017 7:00-8:30pm

Sunday, Mar 5th, 9:45-10:30am

February Birthdays, Best Wishes!

Birthdays are not published in our online version

Beyond your pledge and automated giving, one way to help the fellowship is to enroll your **Fred Meyer Rewards Card**: If you haven’t yet please link your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. You can search for us by our full name or by our number (84435).

Hungry Book Club

By Shirley Dickens



Seven met Jan 10th to discuss "The Finest Hours", an account of the U.S. Coast Guard's daring rescue of two ships who were sinking in a terrible storm off Cape Cod in 1952. 38 members of the Guard were saved from certain death. All Alaskans appreciate the Coast Guard. It's quite the story. February's book will be "Thomas Jefferson and the Tripoli Pirates, The Forgotten War" by Brian Kilmeade and Don Yaeger. We will meet February 14th at 2 PM, again at the condos at 9th and M St. (in their meeting room). March's book will be "WILD SWANS" by Jung Chang, a book about 3 generations of women from one family in China.

Join us! We are an open book club and meet monthly (second Tuesday of the month). Call Shirley Dickens for directions 563-4499.

The Alliance

by Shirley Dickens, Chair of the Alliance

Next meeting will be Feb. 12 and we will pick the date for our Spring Rummage sale

Volunteer Spotlight

Judy Engh



Judy, a registered nurse, has been involved with AUUF for many years. Until recently, Judy was heavily involved with the Stewardship Committee, working hard to secure pledges and donations for the fellowship. Recently, Judy has taken on the role as head (and the only member of) the Membership Committee. Her dedication encouraged 12 new members to join the fellowship at the last New Member Ceremony. Judy has also been involved with RE, the Social Justice Committee, Event Coordination, and more! Judy can often be found greeting fellowship goers on Sunday mornings as she hands out bulletins and gets to know people. Thank you Judy!

Do you want to recognize someone at the fellowship for their volunteer efforts? Please contact Becky More at auufinvolve@gci.net.



Say cheese!

The time has come to revamp our fellowship's member directory! We will be putting the member photo board back up in social room, and reissuing our hardcopy paper directory. Your photo could be a professional shot, or one of your family doing something you love such as traveling, hiking, camping, etc. Additionally, there will be a photo booth set-up in the social room every few Sundays to capture an image if you'd prefer.

Please email a photo of your family to Becky More at auufinvolve@gci.net, or mail or drop off your photo to the fellowship.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Join a Committee!

We are seeking volunteers for:

- ◇ Human Resources Committee
- ◇ Hospitality Committee
- ◇ Chalice Lighter Lead
- ◇ Event Planning Lead
- ◇ UUSC Coordinator



If you are interested in any of the opportunities above, or to add an opportunity to the list, please email Becky More at auufinvolve@gci.net

April holidays are quickly approaching! Save the date and plan to volunteer for the following events:

Maundy Thursday: April 13th

Good Friday: April 14th

Family Seder: April 15th

Easter Sunday: April 16th

Details forthcoming!

For more information, please contact Becky auufinvolve@gci.net.

save
the
date®

Spring is Coming – Getting Organized!

The Grounds Committee will be chaired by Stephanie Koonz and James Dryden this year. There will be an organizational meeting on February 5 at 12:45 pm in the sanctuary. This meeting is intended to be adjourned by 1:30 pm in honor of the Super Bowl.

The Grounds Committee is responsible for the outside plants and vegetable gardens that surround our fellowship building. The February 5th meeting will be an opportunity for those who wish to claim a garden or an area - taking responsibility for collecting helpers and performing maintenance and improvement through the summer season.

The Grounds Committee is a sub-committee of Buildings & Grounds which is chaired by Bruce Roberts. In the past, we have been responsible for flowers, planters, vegetable gardens, potato patch, children's garden, hanging baskets around the playground, and a memorial garden.

If you cannot attend but wish to participate or head up a task group, please email dryden@alaska.net or stephaniekoonz@icloud.com.

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Becky Roberts, (Bruce and Liz's oldest daughter) who grew up in this congregation, just finished 4 years in Mexico with the Peace Corp. In February she is planning a visit to Uganda to visit friends and help for a while in the Good Hope Nursery and Primary school there. Glad to say that the Alliance donated some funds for her to take with her for school supplies or some other needed item. That is partly because of this congregation's generous contributions to our Christmas sale, so all the congregation had a part in this donation. Thank you for all your support.

Sorry to hear about Rev. Art Curtis's falling at his home and cracking ribs and crushing a vertebra and breaking a part of his cochlear implant. He spent a few days in the hospital before Christmas, but is home now, just can't hear a thing as his wife, Susan deals with getting his hearing device repaired. His address is Art Curtis, 143 Oswego Summit, Lake Oswego, OR 97035 if any of us want to send him a card or a little note. He was our minister from about 1988 until 2001.

Very sorry to hear about the passing on December 27th of Mary Spaulding's son-in-law, Aaron Selinger. He was married to Mary's daughter, Meghan. Aaron had dealt bravely with his cancer for several years. He leaves his wife and two young boys. Mary has spent the last few months in California with them, helping care for the children. We send our love and support to Meghan, her children and to Mary.

Recent Christmas greetings from former friend and volunteer to AUUF, Joyce Palmer. She relocated to Florida a couple of years ago along with her husband. Joyce hopes to come to Anchorage this coming summer for an Alaskan visit. She promised to connect with AUUF while they are in Anchorage. They are well and love Florida.

Grateful for the Stewardship committee and all its efforts to have us gather together for pledge dinners. This year the campaign is focused on principled dinners offered in UU homes across Anchorage. Not only is it effective for canvassing us individually but it has the added benefit for us to get to know each other in a small social setting. Be sure and make the effort to attend. It's a wonderful way to connect with each other. And, blessings and many thanks for our hosts who open their homes and offer us hospitality.

Thrilled and grateful that AUUF figured so publicly in the planning, sign making and a "gathering point to share rides" to the wonderful WOMEN'S MARCH Saturday, January 21st here in Anchorage. I understand many of our members and friends, women, men and some children braved a very snowy day and cold temperatures to march in solidarity with the thousands of others all around the world in support of women's issues and health concerns. Many pink hats with cat ears and yellow caps with Standing on the Side of Love signs and buttons were among them. Well done!

Grateful for having President Hayden Nevill, PNWD current President and a member of the Fairbanks UU congregation, and past President of Fairbanks congregational board, here to talk about Stewardship and tell us some of his history. Marilyn Lee was able to host him and Hayden was part of both the Forum and chief speaker for the 11 AM Worship service Jan. 22nd. He gave a wonderful service. If you missed it, you can find recordings of both services on our website. They are worth a listen.

So proud of us, that we can do the right and appropriate thing, sending our DLRE on sabbatical for rest and rejuvenation. The UUA recommends sabbaticals as a standard for those in full time ministry over five years. This, among other things, is made possible by your pledges and is a sign of our Fellowship's growing maturity. *(See page 9 for more details).*

We are grateful for snow plows, heaters, warmth and each other. Stay warm and drive carefully and be well.

R.E. Notes for February 2017

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Our Program - February 5, 12, 19, 26

9:00 Services – Childcare available Toddler through 5th grade

11:00 Service – Preschool and Youth classes will remain the same, K – 5th will be attending Hogwarts School of Wisdom and Wizardry!



Beginning in March we will once again be exploring different themes in K-5th through our Workshop Rotational style curriculum. We are recruiting some volunteers to be Workshop leaders. If you are interested, please email Rosene Beachy, DLRE. Workshop leaders will present their same workshop to different age grouped classes, each of the 4 Sundays of the Theme Rotation. Our Spring Planning meeting will be Saturday Feb. 4th, 9-11 am.

Coming Activities

Family & Friends Winter Game Night Saturday, February 18, 5:30 P.M.-8:00 P.M.

Spuds and Suds & Karaoke Party

*Stuffed Baked Potatoes, Sudsy Root Beer, Sparkling Conversation and !!
Awesome Singing.*

Warm Up Your Voice, Prepare To Sing Along With Your Favorite Tune Of The 60's– 90's Plus Some Kid Favorites Like Wheels On The Bus! Fun for all Ages!

CYRE - will provide potatoes and drinks! YOU - Please bring toppings, salads, munchies or desserts to round out the meal.



This will be a festive evening for anyone - Friends and Family are welcome!! And, you don't need to have a child to attend. If you want to have fun - this is the place to be! We'll see you there.

RE Family Breakfast – Meet, Eat, And Greet! (The first Sunday of the month from 10 – 10:45) Each month will have a brief focus presenter and a variety of breakfast snacks.

Info speaker starts at 10:15, so come early.

Feb. 5 – Kalen Saxton – the latest on the annual stewardship drive (youth room)

March – Judy Engh – Membership at AUUF (Gathering room)

Re Social Justice

Guest at your Table If you forgot to return your Guest at Your Table box, you can still drop them in the RE office downstairs through Feb. 14 before the money is collated and sent to UUSC. Thanks everyone for your participation in this valuable and beneficial program.

Next Soup Sunday February 26, organized by the Middle school/Jr youth – Hogwarts theme

Mystery Pals is coming! Sign Up in February for both children and Adult/Teen Pals, Begins February 26, runs through Spring Break. Mystery Reveal party – April 8. *See Page Xxx*



YRUU Dates of Significance

Feb. 12--Spring Youth Service

Feb 24, *Bring the kids for Final Fridays – Youth Provided childcare @ AUUF see page 5.*

March 10-12 SPAGCON at University Unitarian Church, Seattle, WA

Mar. 12 & 19--Spring Break Improv Festival (YRUU and Moonspinners)

Apr. 7-9 SPRINGCON, Camp Collins, Gresham, OR

Apr. 23--Earth Day MG

May 14--Bridging

May 21--Celebration Sunday MG

July 2-8 Ququest (YRUU) / Spirit Quest (Moonspinners) Youth Camp at Black Forest, CO

July 23-29 Goldmine Youth Leadership School at Jefferson Unitarian Church, Golden, CO.

Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration, to go on sabbatical!

The UUA recommends that a paid sabbatical be part of the contract for full time ministers and Religious Educators, to allow them time to recharge after being involved with ministry on a daily basis. And we are fortunate that AUUF supports staff and has made Sabbatical leaves possible.

In 2014, the CYRE committee proposed to the board that they consider a sabbatical for any full time DLRE who is employed long term. The Board approved the proposal for DLRE's, at AUUF for a 6 month sabbatical to be taken after working full time for 6 years. Rosene used half of the sabbatical time with a 3 month sabbatical during June - August 2015. She will take the 2nd half this spring, 2017 March – May.

During the sabbatical we need a part-time paid, interim DRE who will fill some of the functions needed to continue the program. The interim DLRE will provide; general program maintenance for the RE program, helping organize and implement the Spring Sunday programming. They will monitor attendance, snacks, childcare and payment, and supplies, welcome and assist new visitors, and attend necessary planning meetings such as CYRE. Please contact Rosene Beachy, DLRE for more details about the position.

Register Now – Second Annual Peace Camp!!!

As you start making summer plans for your K – 6th grader, mark your calendar for AUUF summer camp. During the week of **June 5-9** this year's "Peace Camp" will be full of UU summer fun with friends! Sign up list and registration forms are at the Parent Info Spot downstairs. Feel free to contact Rosene (rbeachy@alaskalife.net) for details. June, 9 am – 4:30.

Extra childcare available 8-9 am & 4:30 – 5:30 pm.

Cost will be \$150 for 1st child, \$125 for 2nd, and \$100 for 3rd

Group leaders needed. Stipend or child's scholarship available. If you have some time to spend with us this week, please contact Rosene Beachy, DLRE for details. Teens and adults welcome to apply.

Member Priority Registration ends March 1.

From the Fellowship office:

Your Credit Card for Routine Donations

If your credit card number or expiration date has changed please maintain your recurring financial support of your Fellowship by updating your numbers with the office. (Call or leave a note in the secure pledge box.) Thank you.

~~ 248-3737 x 3 auuf@alaska.com.



From the Wider UU

The 2017 PNWD District Assembly will be held at The UU Church in Eugene, Oregon, on February 25. Join your fellow Pacific Northwest Unitarian Universalists in worship, workshops, fellowship, and the important business of the district. The highlight of the day will be the UUA Presidential Candidates' Forum. UUA Moderator Jim Key will facilitate the forum and all three candidates will be present: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, Rev.

Alison Miller, and Rev. Jeanne Pupke. This is your opportunity to meet and hear the candidates before the June election at UUA General Assembly in New Orleans. For full details of the day's activities, go to: pnwduua.org/district-assembly. Hope to see you in Eugene!



Our FaceBook Pages!

Stay connected - know what's happening at your fellowship! We have two FaceBook pages and both are filled with lots of news and content!

Besides the AUUF FaceBook page, there is a closed FaceBook group for families in the RE program to keep up with pertinent RE news and fellowship events, and share pictures of your children at RE events.

To find the RE page, - search groups - AUUF RE, and if you are a registered family you will be added to the group.

About Our Services and Speakers (see back page)

Gary Holthaus has served as the called minister for our Fellowship since 2012.

Ivan Moore is one of Alaska's senior pollsters. Born in Singapore in 1964 where his family lived for 30 years, he spent his school years in England receiving a Mathematics degree from Nottingham University. He confesses he spent more time goofing off in Sherwood Forest than doing his homework. In 1988 he made his way to Alaska, where he's spent the last 29 years trying to get rid of his accent and forging a career in public opinion research. His business, formerly known as Ivan Moore Research, now operates under the name Alaska Survey Research.

Andy Baker is a registered professional engineer in Alaska and owner of YourCleanEnergy consulting in Anchorage. A graduate in civil engineering from Penn State University, he regularly teaches workshops on the theory, design and installation of renewable energy technologies suitable for northern climates. Andy's interest in environmental justice and the Lewis & Clark expedition, including its passage through territory long-inhabited by the Lakota and other indigenous peoples, led him to camp with more than 6,000 others at Standing Rock in November 2016. There he was able to witness the Lakota world of Prayer Ceremonies, Water Protectors, Sacred Fires and front-line action to stop the proposed Dakota Access Pipeline.

Rosene Beachy has been the AUUF Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration for 17 years, providing leadership for the Children and Youth Religious Exploration Committee and the Adult Programs Committee. After earning a master's degree in education, Rosene worked as a public school teacher before accepting her AUUF position. She's a board member on the Pacific Northwest Liberal Religious Educators Association and recently served as Chapter Chair. Rosene enjoys the privilege of working with AUUF children and families, providing joyful opportunities for all ages to learn, explore their values and work for peace and social justice both in their community and the larger world.

Ann McKay Bryson began her career as an educator in the Anchorage School District in 1979. After decades as a classroom teacher, she moved to the district office and began providing professional development skills to ASD teachers and principals with a primary focus on Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). For the past five years, Ann has served as a professional learning consultant for CASEL (the Collaborative for Social and Emotional Learning) in Oakland, Reno and Anchorage. She has three daughters (together with husband and AUUF volunteer George Bryson) and for a brief period in the 1990s had the privilege of serving as AUUF's Religious Education Director.

Those Wooden Name Tags

Is your name tag sitting at home, in the car, or in a coat pocket? Please bring it back and put it to use!

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2824 E. 18th Ave, Anchorage AK 99508 Office phone: 907-248-3737 Email: auuf@gci.net

www.anchorageuuf.org Music page: auufmusicpage.yolasite.com

Our Mission: We are a Fellowship of diverse people who come together to nurture each other, to grow ethically, spiritually and intellectually, and to help create a just, safe, and caring community

Staff Contacts

Gary Holthaus, minister of AUUF, (907) 433-9311

Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration, 441-6815, rbeachy@alaskalife.net

Eric McCoy, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Programing 230-6915 or AUUFCYP@gmail.com

Tamara McCoy, Music Director, 982-9777, or tamarialice@yahoo.com

Amy Lundell, Congregational Administrator, 248-3737 x 3 or auuf@gci.net

Becky More, Involvement Coordinator, auufinvolve@gci.net, 248-3737 x 6

AUUF Board of Directors: Marty Freeman, President; Amanda Mack, Treasurer;

Helen Nienhueser, Vice President; Kelley Hartlieb, Secretary; Rod McCoy; Don Crandall; Peggy Robinson

Other Contacts are Available on our Website.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
2824 E. 18th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99508-3303

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AUUF Services and Events –February 2017

Sunday February 5

9 am Ivan Moore,
"Confessions of a Recovering Politico"
11 am Gary Holthaus, "On Reverence"

Sunday February 12

9 am Andy Baker,
"Journey to (and from) Standing Rock"
11 am Youth Service

Sunday February 19

9 am Rosene Beachy,
"Wisdom, Wizardry & Religious Exploration"
11 am Ingrid Larson, "Black Lives Matter"

Sunday February 26 Soup Sunday

9 am Ann McKay Bryson,
"Building More Equitable & Effective Schools"
11 am Gary Holthaus

<u>Tuesday Evening Services</u> 7 p.m.
--

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- February 2017

Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare

Sunday 11 am ~ Childcare & Classes for toddlers through high school

The LOG

March 2017

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2824 E. 18th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99508-3303



From Gary

A few months ago I spoke with Board Chair Marty Freeman, and the Chair of the Committee on Shared Ministry, Marty Herriott. We talked about our Unitarian Universalist process called “transition,” and about my stepping down. This will not create an immediate change.

Thinking of my time with AUUF, I am filled with gratitude to you. You have been very open and supportive during my time here, and have taken good care of me, and of Lauren too. We are both very grateful for that. But I am nowhere near ready to say goodbye; we will have plenty of time for that, and I will find time to try to express more fully how important this time together has been to me. For now, I just want to let you know what the transition process entails and provide a bit of timeline, so you will know what to expect.

We took our conversation to the full Board of Directors. They discussed it fully and approved the process. The process will go like this: In August this year, 2017, I will submit a formal resignation to the Board and the Congregation. The practice of the Unitarian Universalist Association is to help us recruit an interim minister. That person will be selected by our Board of Directors in March of 2018 from a pool of applicants especially trained to be interim clergy. The

interim minister will come in August of 2018, and will be here for some 18 months to two years. That will be a person from outside Alaska who will know how to assist in the necessary steps to take us through the transition. That also means I will be here approximately a year and half yet, and can stay through the initial building renovations, the completion of Rosene’s sabbatical leave, and for whatever other events occur during that time.

The search for a new called minister may take up to two years, but you are in a good position, for this congregation is seen in the western region and especially throughout the Pacific Northwest District as a desirable congregation to serve. Outstanding clergy from all across the U.S. will be submitting applications to AUUF.

I believe the future of AUUF is bright indeed. Our social justice program continues to take shape and our efforts to create a caring community are still unfolding. Our growing choir and our flourishing Religious Exploration Program will continue under the leadership we have enjoyed from Tamara and Rosene, our new renovations will make this building more accessible, and our growing numbers will enable AUUF to grow in it’s service to our community and our state.

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Calendar Highlights

Tuesday Evening Services 7 pm

March 1 Peace Camp Priority
Registration Deadline

March 1 Considering Membership

March 3 Gentle Outing for All Ages

March 19 Eleanor Roosevelt
Documentary, Plastics Recycle

March 22 Considering
Membership

March 23 Financial Literacy and
Earth Institute classes start

March 26 One time Book Group,
‘The Earth Knows My Name’

April 13th Maundy Thursday

April 14th Good Friday

April 15th Family Seder

April 16th Easter Sunday and
Spring Fling

April 29 Women’s Retreat

May 13th Alliance Rummage Sale

June 5-9 Peace Camp

See you on Sunday! -- Gary

President's Log Letter - March 2017

Just in case you think that the Board only gets to address financial matters, I want to share the mix of issues reviewed at the February Board meeting. Yes, we continue to work on the FY18 budget in preparation for the May 7 annual meeting, but we are also involved in discerning how to expand our social justice work.

The first piece was to unanimously agree to sign on to the Declaration of Conscience prepared by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the UU Service Committee (UUSC). These national UU bodies report that they have undertaken "an unprecedented degree of coordination" to encourage UUs to "unite to protect the values of our democracy and those vulnerable populations among us." We are proud to endorse this declaration. You can read it below, and if you would like to sign on as an individual as well, you can do so at <http://connect.uusc.org/l/103112/2017-01-17/gpgn2>

We are also starting to brainstorm about how to hold an AUUF social justice workshop this spring. The goals would be to share the UUA/UUSC material on options for congregational actions for social justice, review what AUUF does now in the social justice arena, and figure out how we can develop a robust social justice program that makes significant local contributions to complement and coordinate with UU efforts nationally.

Because ensuring congregational sustainability is part of the Board's charge, we are also educating ourselves on the rules for tax-exempt organizations -- including our Fellowship -- regarding political engagement. The short version is that we can do unlimited issue advocacy through activities such as educating and mobilizing congregants and the general public. We can do a limited amount of lobbying -- advocating for or against specific pieces of legislation. We cannot engage in partisan activity, political campaigning, or advocating for or against candidates for public office or political parties. There will be myriad opportunities for social justice work in the coming months. When we engage on behalf of AUUF, please keep these rules in mind, and if you have questions, please ask.

Lastly, we happily took the opportunity to honor one of our past members whose contributions to the Fellowship surround us every day. Here is our resolution in honor of Louise Gallop:

Louise Gallop enriched our Fellowship through her active membership, and her generous bequest greatly helped us acquire and improve our current building. In turn, our new home has helped us to grow and better serve our Fellowship and the wider community. In recognition of her contributions to AUUF, we officially name the social room the "Louise Gallop Room."

In fellowship, Marty Freeman.

UUA/UUSC Declaration of Conscience

The UU Association and UU Service Committee developed the following declaration and encourage individuals and congregations to endorse it. On Feb. 8, the Board agreed to sign the declaration on behalf of AUUF

At this extraordinary time in our nation's history, we are called to affirm our profound commitment to the fundamental principles of justice, equity and compassion, to truth and core values of American society.

In the face of looming threats to immigrants, Muslims, people of color, and the LGBTQ community and the rise of hate speech, harassment and hate crimes, we affirm our belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

In opposition to any steps to undermine the right of every citizen to vote or to turn back advances in access to health care and reproductive rights, we affirm our commitment to justice and compassion in human relations.

And against actions to weaken or eliminate initiatives to address the threat of climate change -- actions that would threaten not only our country but the entire planet -- we affirm our unyielding commitment to protect the interdependent web of all existence.

We will oppose any and all unjust government actions to deport, register, discriminate, or despoil.

As people of conscience, we declare our commitment to translate our values into action as we stand on the side of love with the most vulnerable among us.

We welcome and invite all to join in this commitment for justice. The time is now.

Welcome Welcome Welcome!

By Judy Engh, Membership Chair



We are so happy to have so many new people joining us! Our community continues to expand as we welcome new people every week. People are looking for this community and are finding it.

Thanks to everyone for your hospitality. Please continue to reach out and meet people who you don't know.

Upcoming Events:

Considering Membership Classes: March 22nd and 29th 6:30-8

New Comer's Luncheon/Soup Sundays: March 26th and April 23rd

New Member Recognition Sunday: April 2

If any members need a new wooden nametag please contact us.

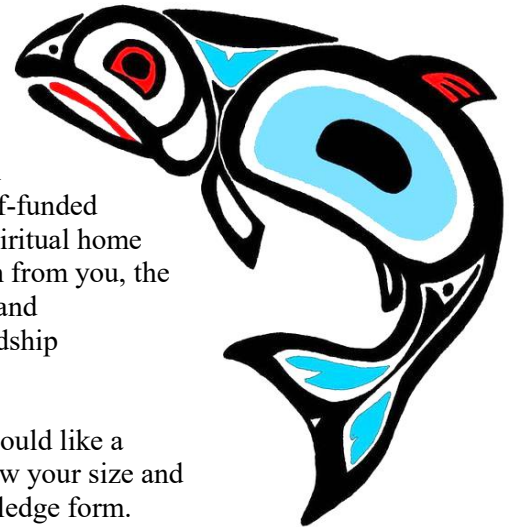
Please contact Becky More, our Congregational Involvement Coordinator (248-3737 or auufinvolve@gci.net) or Judy Engh (judyrae427@yahoo.com) if you are interested in becoming a member or have questions!

Sustaining the Present, Enriching the Future!

By Deana Mitchell, Stewardship

This year's Stewardship Drive started off strong, but we still need renewed commitments from many of our members and friends! Our goal is 100% participation, so please think about all that our rich Fellowship means to you personally, and *complete a pledge form*. Remember, we are a completely self-funded congregation, so we depend on all of us in order to provide the wonderful spiritual home and active community that we cherish! Unless we have a signed pledge form from you, the board cannot count on those funds as they prepare the coming year's vision and accompanying budget. Please keep an eye out for an email from the Stewardship Committee, and help us get final pledge numbers to the board.

And NEW THIS YEAR: if you are a fair share pledger, let us know if you would like a "Standing on the Side of Love" hat, t-shirt or pin as a thank you. Let us know your size and preference by emailing auuf@gci.net, or jotting a note on your completed pledge form.



Congregational Survey

This year's **Congregational Survey** focuses on our programs, services, and activities throughout AUUF. Find the hotlink on the right side of the home page, under Services, Programs, and Events. We want to know what you think! The survey should take about 10 minutes and is available on our website, www.anchorageuuf.org. Paper copies of the survey are available upon request. The survey closes on Sunday, March 12.

Eleanor Roosevelt Documentary

Join Us Sunday March 19th 12:45 (after the service) to view the PBS American Experience documentary Eleanor Roosevelt. Bring finger food to share. Becky More at auufinvolve@gci.net to RSVP.

NEW Adult Programs - Winter/Spring 2017



AUUF Gentle Outing for all Ages Friday March 3rd. Join us for an outing to Eagle River Nature Center. Depart from the Fellowship at 12:30 p.m. return by 4:30 p.m. We plan to car pool and will need several vehicles. Hot Drinks and snack provided. Naturalist Ute Olsson is happy to meet with our group to answer questions and share information. This is a fun winter outing with a warm building, indoor restrooms, and comfortable furniture. Contact: Andee Cordano andeecordano@gmail.com

Suggested activities:

1. Walk all or part of the ¾ mile Rodak nature Trail. This trail is six feet wide with packed snow and leads to a viewing deck over a beaver pond and a larger deck over a fast moving creek.
2. Rent snowshoes for a longer walk.
3. Enjoy the Eagle River Valley by relaxing indoors with lovely outdoor views.
4. Excellent bird watching from indoor and outside.
5. Hike the 3 mile Albert Loop Trail.



Financial Literacy Series Money is frequently cited as one of the top stressors for both individuals and couples and at the same time ranks with sexuality as a taboo topic of discussion. To that end, the Adult RE committee will be offering a Financial Education series that will be modeled on the OWL program and designed specifically for UU's. The goal of the series is "building healthy relationships with money through conversation, goal setting and information sharing". The program will be 8 weeks with 90 minute sessions. The goal is for participants to take the entire 8 weeks series. Sessions include: Money Personalities, Creating a Spending Plan, Smart Debt, Investing your Principles, taxes (led by a CPA), Wills & Estate planning (led by an attorney) and Planned Giving on any income. Led by Wendy Romberg; meeting for 8 weeks beginning Thursdays March 23 to May 18. 6:30 – 8:00 pm. (Due to Maundy Thursday Service April 13th will be skipped.) Childcare will be available.



If you are interested in food culture and gardening, join this **one time group** to read and discuss the book by Patricia Klindienst, "The Earth Knows My Name". Klindienst has gathered stories about gardens by ethnic peoples and immigrants to the US. She writes about the power of gardening in maintaining connections to our homelands and to the natural world, offering a model of restorative ecology. Gary Holthaus will lead the discussion during/after Soup Sunday on **March 26th. 12:30 - 2:00**. Grab some soup and join in! Get hold of a copy of the book to read during February/March. Or, we have 8 books available for \$20 available at the Fellowship.

Continuing Adult Programs - Winter/Spring 2017

Limited Time Offerings

Considering Membership (2 sessions) An introduction to UU History, UU Thought and UU Engagement led by Gary Holthaus. Wednesday March 1 Bonus class for January / February group. 6:30 – 8:00. New group forming and additional offering March 22 & 29.

Ongoing Interest Groups

Freethinkers at AUUF – Gathers Fridays from 12– 1:30.

Buddhist Group – 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 7-9 pm at the home of Marty Herriott. A study group about Buddhism using some but not all the small groups techniques. Call Marty for directions.

Hungry Book Club –. Second Tuesdays 2pm. Everyone is welcome. *See page 6 for details.*

Small Group Ministry –Call Susan Orlansky, 248-1141 if you would like to participate in a group.



Yoga – Fridays, March 10, 24, 31 **10:30-11:30am**. Led by Peggy Cobey. Bring a mat if you have one. Questions? Contact Peggy Cobey peggyc@gci.net.

Plastics Recycle: March 19th is our next plastics recycle. 5's only please.

Green Tip: Are you getting ready to replace your old car or are you buying your first car? Not all cars are equal. Make mileage per gallon high on your priority when listing things your new car must have.

Earth Institute Courses Starting in March

Green Sanctuary Committee is organizing groups to take some of the Northwest Earth Institute's discussion courses. The Green Sanctuary bulletin board in the social room has signup sheets posted with short descriptions of the courses being considered. Eventually, we hope to cycle through all of the courses, so committing to one will not exclude you from the rest.



Here's how the courses work:

The two most requested courses will start first, on **Thursday March 23rd** at AUUF. This will be an organizational meeting, readings and discussion will begin the following week. Thursday is chosen because AUUF provides child care on Thursdays. Once the group forms, the group members can choose a different day, time and/or location to meet. Rooms will be made available on Thursdays, though, if the group chooses to stay. The discussion books can be downloaded, or students can order hard copies which are mailed up from Seattle. The books are \$28 each, but we get a \$5 discount with a code we'll receive when the course is scheduled. If it's a short deadline for the first course, the Earth Institute will email us a copy of the first night's reading material.

The Earth Institute courses are designed to encourage systems thinking and inspire participants to make positive changes in their own lives. All of the NW Earth Institute's programs are centered around three important elements of transformative learning: collaborative discovery, personal reflection, and opportunity for action. The readings for each week include different views from various perspectives, and are designed to help the reader work through issues themselves, rather than trying to sway the reader to a particular way of thinking. The article excerpts that comprise the reading are generally 10 – 15 pages long, so the amount of reading is not overly burdensome.

The choice of courses to start in March are:

- Change Is Our Choice: Creating Climate Solutions
- Choices for Sustainable Living
- Hungry for Change,
- Menu for the Future
- A World of Health
- Reconnecting with Earth
- Seeing Systems: Peace, Justice & Sustainability.

Please sign up by March 9th so the class selections can be made by the 23rd. Contact Cathy Steen at 440-6540 or csteen@gci.net for more information.



Share The Care

Share the Care!

One of our systems for helping each other is called Share the Care. Some members of the fellowship have signed up to provide rides or meals, or possibly some other form of help that is desired by others at the fellowship in times of need i.e. illness, loss of a loved one, a new birth etc. The system works if someone identifies a need and shares it with Amy in the office, Robin Hill (she can be emailed from our web site - listed next to "short term care"), or myself at tzimmer@gci.net. Only

by notifying one of us, can you be sure that the need may be addressed. We then post it to members of the fellowship who have agreed to help as they are willing and able. When you sign up to be a helper, it is great if you can plan on chipping in one or two times a year, as needs arise. In a perfect world, someone from our group responds with lovingkindness and carries out the desired task. This system works only if we are aware of the need and only if there is someone able to chip in and help in a timely way. So, while the system is imperfect, at times it is perfect! So, if you would like to be added to our list of helpers, please let me know!!! I can discuss the details with you further if you would like. And if you, or someone you know is in need, please give us their name, and ideally some contact information and we can touch base with them to see what might be helpful. Know that we are all doing our best!! Thanks, Teresa

Social Justice Committee

By Dennis Arashiro

"The story of women's struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist nor to any one organization but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights." - Gloria Steinem



March 8. International Women's Day. What began with the Socialist Party of America declaring the first National Women's Day in 1909 as a result of dire working conditions for women in the garment industry, has grown into a United Nations recognized platform for gender equity. The Women's March organizers are declaring it the day for a general strike, "A Day Without a Woman." An official holiday in countries ranging from Afghanistan to Zambia, the theme this year is #BeBoldForChange. Bold for this perilous time. Bold for times to come. The World Economic Forum predicts that the gender gap will not close until 2186. Bold in the face of too intolerable a wait.

How to be bold? By thinking beyond the present box. By doing what you haven't done before. By doing what no one has done before. By doing what we will always remember and cherish. Share your boldness for those of us who struggle to marry boldness with effectiveness. Join us when the Social Justice Committee meets at **12:30 PM on Sunday, March 19, 2017 in Gary's office at the Fellowship**. If you cannot attend, share your thoughts and proposals by calling or emailing me. Dennis Arashiro at 444-4324 or elvischannel@yahoo.com.

Half Portion for Social Action: Standing Together Against Rape

By Dennis Arashiro

We, the Fellowship as a whole, chose Standing Together Against Rape to receive the Half Portion for Social Action for March. We, the Fellowship as a whole, can help fund the work to end rape culture, but we as individuals can go far beyond that. Because April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, we can individually volunteer to help with events next month that bring attention to the issue. Because crisis line coverage goes beyond next month, we can be there for those seeking help. Although the Half Portion is a one time contribution, we can volunteer for STAR fundraisers, such as April's Walk a Mile in Her Shoes and December's Holiday Teas. Because of the need to enlighten our community, we can help with STAR educational booths. Because the work never ends, we can provide office assistance. Go to www.staralaska.com for a volunteer application form. **Be bold** for change

AUUF Local Organizing Ministry/AFACT

By Marie Rozak

AFACT'S Monthly City-Wide meeting was held at St. Mary's February 4. There was discussion of taking up an action in the coming months. More information will be available as next steps are decided.

The organization will be hosting an **Assembly Candidate Forum Sunday, March 12, 2:00 – 4:00 PM** at Central Lutheran Church, 1420 Cordova St. Candidates from all six Assembly districts will answer questions on issues raised by AFACT member congregations. The forum will be followed by a half-hour reception with the candidates—all are welcome!

Put it on your calendar, AUUF will be hosting the City-Wide May meeting 6, 9:45 am.

Choir Schedule

Thursday, March 2, 2017 7:00-8:30pm
Sunday, Mar 5th, 9:45-10:30am
Thursday, March 9, 2017 7:00-8:30pm
Thursday, March 23, 2017 7:00-8:30pm
Sunday, Mar 26th, 9:45-10:30am
Thursday, March 30, 2017 7:00-8:30pm

AUUF Women's Retreat

Saturday April 29, 8am-8pm at AUUF.
Join women of all ages for a day-long adventure in sisterhood. There will be conversation, contemplation, food, and song. Leave your cellphone and your worries behind.

\$20 registration fee requested to cover breakfast, lunch and dinner. Details to follow.



Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Grateful for our enthusiastic youth who put together a thoughtful program for the 11 Am Worship Service Feb. 12th. It is thrilling to see our youth step forward planning the service, and at least 6 of them participating. Way to go, RE and our Young people!

Grateful for Kalen Saxton who as part of the Stewardship Committee this year has organized several dinners and brunches for our congregation to meet other members in homes or here at the Fellowship. There is a major effort this year to help us get better connected to each other as well as have the opportunity to seriously discuss our yearly contribution to the church budget. It takes us all to be involved to do what we need to do to grow and offer so many wonderful things.

Appreciation for all the great classes that have been offered this winter. Thank you Stephanie Koontz for your "Building Your Own Theology" class (10 sessions). Compassionate Listening continues. Financial Literacy Series will be starting March 23. And the Green Sanctuary is offering Earth Institute classes. (*See pages 4-5*). Not to mention Free Thinkers, Yoga and Buddhist classes as well as Ole' classes. And Gary's Considering Membership classes have been full. It seems we have never been so rich in being able to offer extra classes to ourselves and our community. This requires a lot of planning and volunteerism on the part of many people. Thank you.

Please keep these church members in your minds and hearts as they deal with the passing of someone very "near and dear" to them. We keep in our hearts Ann Larabee who's dearly beloved Godmother recently died, also TK Kleiner and Marty Freeman. TK Kleiner's father just recently passed away and TK was out of state. And we understand our Board President, Marty Freeman's father is very near death. Harry Crawford lost his Brother in Law. Please keep these folks in your thoughts. We send our deepest sympathy to them and their families.

It was so good to hear about our RE program at the Speaker's Forum February 19th. Eric McCoy, Grace Denney and McKenna Hansen joined Rosene Beachy, our DLRE. We are the envy of many a UU congregation with our full enrollment and blooming program for our youth and families. Rosene has been our DLRE for 17 years and recently received her first AUUF cobalt blue cup of conversation.

We are grateful for our minister, and ALL of our staff and all of our volunteers. We are thankful for more daylight and keep in mind, one day all this snow will melt and spring will come again. No falling and breaking any bones, OK? Be well, dear people.

Hungry Book Club

By Shirley Dickens

Six of us met Tuesday, Feb. 14th to discuss "Thomas Jefferson and the Pirates of Tripoli, The Forgotten War". It was a surprisingly easy read and history that most of us did not know.



We have chosen to read for March, "Wild Swans, Three Daughters of China", by Jung Chang, written in 1991. We will meet again at the condos at 9th and M street (thank you Mary K and Wanda M) March 14th, second Tuesday of the month at 2 PM. We are an open book club and all book lovers are welcome. We each bring a little something to share in the way of semi-healthy foods. Call 563-4499 for more information.

March Birthdays, Best Wishes!

(Birthdays are not published in our online version.)

From the Fellowship office:

Wish List: The office can always use forever stamps and 20 pound white copier paper.

Your Credit Card for Routine Donations

If your credit card number or expiration date has changed please be sure to notify the office. (Call or leave a note in the secure pledge box.)

~~ Amy, Church Administrator 248-3737
auuf@alaska.com.

Volunteer Spotlight

Amy Westfall



Amy has been a member of AUUF since September 2014. She currently serves as the chair of the Safer Congregation Committee, member of the Social Justice Committee, Co-Chair of the half portion subcommittee, the Safer Congregation Liaison to the Program Council, member of the Hospitality Committee, and member of the recently reinvigorated Membership Committee. Additionally, Amy volunteers in RE where she is especially partial to the Hogwarts curriculum, provides and coordinates food for fellowship events and potlucks, participates in the Newcomer's Luncheons, and helps coordinate food for the Annual Dinner and Auction. Amy is grateful the community and support she finds at AUUF. We are so lucky to have her!

Do you want to recognize someone at the fellowship for their volunteer efforts? Please contact Becky More at auufinvolve@gci.net.

Say Cheese!

The time has come to revamp our fellowship's member directory! We will be putting the member photo board back up in social room, and reissuing our hardcopy paper directory. Your photo could be a professional shot, or one of your family doing something you love such as traveling, hiking, camping, etc. Additionally, there will be a photo booth set-up in the social room every few Sundays to capture an image if you'd prefer.

Please email a photo of your family to Becky More at auufinvolve@gci.net, or mail or drop off your photo to the fellowship.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Join a Committee!

We are seeking volunteers for:

- Human Resources Committee
- Hospitality Committee
- Chalice Lighter Lead
- Event Planning Lead
- UUSC Coordinator



Help with an Event

- Maundy Thursday: April 13th
- Good Friday: April 14th
- Family Seder: April 15th
- Easter Sunday: April 16th

If you are interested in any of the opportunities above, or to add an opportunity to the list, please email Becky More at auufinvolve@gci.net

The Alliance

by Shirley Dickens, Chair of the Alliance

At the Feb. 12th the Alliance voted unanimously to fund childcare for the Thursday evening Adult RE classes for this spring. We are proud to help this growing and unexpected offering. (See page 4-5 for class details).

We also set the date for our annual rummage sale, which will be May 13th from 8 AM to 3PM. We will set up Friday afternoon from about 3 PM until we are done.

We will need good stuff to sell, so please remember us when you start your spring cleaning. Remember, if you wouldn't buy it, probably no one else would either. No tires, broken appliances, dirty clothes. The things that sell well are unbroken toys, children's clothes, household articles, hand tools, working bikes, jewelry, adult clothing in good shape. If you have questions, please ask a member of Alliance. Drop offs accepted starting May 7th.

We ordered more "Coveted Cobalt Cups of Conversation" which we give to our Forum Speakers who have not already received one. The Alliance has purchased these cups for many years now. We are re-doing our brochure and updating the pictures. We each took one home to bring it back next month with changes we think would "update" it to this current year. Next meeting will be March 12th at 12:30 PM. If you are curious about the Alliance, come join us then.

R.E. Notes for March 2017

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

March is, as always, busy with new RE activities and Spring Break. This year we also have Mystery Pals! Don't forget to make weekly contact with your pal with little notes back and forth. Little pals and adult pals can "mail" their notes on the bulletin board or in the "mailbox" at the bottom of the stairs. And don't forget the revealing party on April 8th. Any questions about Mystery Pals contact Alison Hansen.

Register your kiddos for Peace Camp! Any questions about Peace Camp contact Bev Grogan

Any questions about other RE events, contact Katherine Huffman, the Sabbatical RE Coordinator, (342-9890) and Annie Belts, CYRE chair. Katherine will be familiar to many of you for her work in the Our Whole Lives Sexuality Program here at the Fellowship and Hogwarts artist extraordinaire! She will be overseeing the RE program on Sundays, and several hours each week while I am gone on Sabbatical through May. It will be a learning curve for everyone, but I know she will bring enthusiasm and heart to the task of keeping the program on track. So give her a smile and a hand on Sunday mornings!

I will miss you all. Thank you for this opportunity for rest and renewal. I will see you again in June!

In love and peace, Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Our Program - March 5, 12, 19, 26

9:00 Services – Childcare available Toddler through 5th grade

11:00 Service – March, 5, 12, 19, 26 Yes, there will be RE during Spring Break! Chalice Circle at 11:00 and Workshop Rotational for Elementary ages. Preschool and youth classes are self contained.

April 16 Spring Fling - Easter activities and basket making for local shelters.

Coming Activities

Workshop Rotational

Workshop Rotational is a way of offering Sunday morning Religious exploration that focuses on different learning styles to deepen the students' experience. Stories and creative workshops focus on a theme and allows children the space to explore religious topics. During our Spring months, the RE program will be using this style of classes for the Elementary age groups. Our next monthly theme for the Rotation beginning March 5 is "Equality".

Each week there will be a story about the theme, and then children will rotate in their age group classes to 1 of 4 workshops. The groups will rotate to a different workshop week by week, until each group has done all 4 workshops.

Workshops include Contemplation Station, Make It Center, Helping Hands center and a unique Themed workshop based on the stories used each week.

March Theme - Equality

April Theme– Gratitude

RE Family Breakfast – Meet, Eat, And Greet! (The first Sunday of the month from 10 – 10:45) Each month will have a brief focus presenter and a variety of breakfast snacks happening in room 1 downstairs.

Info speaker starts at 10:15, so come early.

March 5 – Katherine Huffman – Our Whole Lives (OWL) UU sexuality programs for all ages

April 2 – Marty Freeman, Board Chair updating you on AUUF plans and budget before the annual meeting.

April 30 – CYRE chairs talking about next years and the joys and possibilities of volunteering in RE!



Re Social Justice

Next Soup Sunday March 26 will be coordinated by the Youth group.

Our Whole Lives

Would you love being part of the fabulous team that brings Sexuality education to our young people? Consider being an "Our Whole Lives" class facilitator!

In order to offer the Elementary OWL program next fall, we need several male/female Elementary OWL leaders willing to be trained to lead the Elementary curriculum. If you think this might be the niche for you, please speak to Katherine Huffman, Sabbatical RE Coordinator, to get an application form. Training is required to teach this program. We are planning to offer an Elementary training here in Anchorage in August and meals are covered in the registration fee. Trainings funds provided from our prior OWL registrations.



YRUU Dates of Significance

March 10-12 SPAGCON at University Unitarian Church, Seattle, WA

Mar. 12 & 19--Spring Break Improv Festival (YRUU and Moonspinners)

Apr. 7-9 SPRINGCON, Camp Collins, Gresham, OR

Apr. 23--Earth Day MG

May 14--Bridging

May 21--Celebration Sunday MG

July 2-8 Ququest (YRUU) / Spirit Quest (Moonspinners) Youth Camp at Black Forest, CO

July 23-29 Goldmine Youth Leadership School at Jefferson Unitarian Church, Golden, CO.

Calling All Seniors Who Are Graduating:

Bridging Discussion and planning lunch – March 5, 12:30 – 3:30 in Youth room

Let Eric or Rosene know you would like to participate in our Bridging ceremony on May 14!

Register Now – Second Annual Peace Camp!!!

As you start making summer plans for your K – 6th grader, mark your calendar for AUUF summer camp. During the week of **June 5-9** this year's "Peace Camp" will be full of UU summer fun with friends!

Sign up list and registration forms are at the Parent Info Spot downstairs. Feel free to contact Rosene (rbeachy@alaskalife.net) for details. June, 9 am – 4:30.

Extra childcare available 8-9 am & 4:30 – 5:30 pm.

Cost will be \$150 for 1st child, \$125 for 2nd, and \$100 for 3rd

Group leaders needed. Stipend or child's scholarship available. If you have some time to spend with us this week, please contact Rosene Beachy, DLRE for details. Teens and adults welcome to apply.

Member Priority Registration ends March 1.



Spring Fling April 16th Easter Celebration

Spring Fling will be fun for all as well as a social action project! Some fun crafts, Easter Egg decorating and egg hunts for all ages. We will also be making our traditional baskets for local shelters. We need lots of wrapped candy, tiny toys, crafts, bubbles or trinkets for young ages. We usually fill 50-100 bags! We would love a chocolate bunny for each bag. And lots of plastic eggs!

So when you are buying treats for Easter baskets for your favorite people, please think about buying few extra bags for RE! Please bring items to the fellowship by April 9. We will also need non dyed, hard boiled eggs brought on April 16.

Family Friendly Passover Seder

Mark your calendar for **Saturday**

April 15, 6-8pm for a family friendly Passover Seder. More details will follow.

Children of all ages are welcome.

Please bring a dish to share. Questions? Debbie Bock bockdebbie@gmail.com. RSVP Katherine Huffman katherinelynnhuffman@gmail.com.



About Our Services and Speakers (see back page)

Gary Holthaus has served as the called minister for our Fellowship since 2012.

Father Fred Bugarin is one of very few priests ever ordained in Alaska. He immigrated from the Philippines with his father in 1963 and attended Anchorage's first Catholic junior high school before graduating from West High School in 1967. Ordained to the priesthood in 1975, he served four decades in parishes from Wasilla to Kodiak to Anchorage. Father Fred retired as pastor at St. Anthony's in Anchorage in 2015. For the past year he's been working in his native Philippines with an environmental project called "Eco Genesis" -- partly inspired by Pope Francis' environmental encyclical, "On Care for Our Common Home."

Ann McKay Bryson began her career as an educator in the Anchorage School District in 1979. After decades as a classroom teacher, she moved to the district office and began providing professional development skills to ASD teachers and principals with a primary focus on Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). For the past five years, Ann has served as a professional learning consultant for CASEL (the nationwide Collaborative for Social and Emotional Learning) for school districts in Oakland, Reno and Anchorage. She has three daughters (together with husband and AUUF volunteer George Bryson) and for a brief period in the 1990s had the privilege of serving as AUUF's Religious Education Director.

Jessica Cler grew up in Wasilla and has spent nearly her entire life here in Alaska. She graduated with BA in Political Science from the University of Alaska Anchorage in 2006. She spent 7 years working in the conservation community before joining the team at Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest & Hawaii in 2013 as the Alaska Public Affairs Manager. When she is not busy fighting for reproductive health, rights, and justice with her team at Planned Parenthood and their amazing volunteers and activists, she can be found spending time with her family, exploring Alaska's outdoors, traveling, or escaping with a good book.

Kristin Bogue, M.S.ED. is the Alaska Education Manager for Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and Hawaiian Islands. Kristin has over 10 years' experience in Community Health Education, Higher Education Administration, Program Management, and Career Counselling. In addition, she has had the pleasure serving as an academic coach through the Foster Care-2-Success mentorship program and as an adjunct faculty member with the University of Alaska Anchorage. Outside of work, Kristin enjoys hiking in the snow with her partner and 9 month old Australian Shepard, Loki.

Mike Dunham has lived in Alaska since 1955. He moved in 1967 from western Alaska to Anchorage, where he continues to reside. For the last five decades, Mike covered the Anchorage creative arts scene as a journalist for a number of broadcast and print media, including the Anchorage Times, Anchorage Daily News, KTVA and Alaska Dispatch News. He received several national and regional awards in broadcasting and print journalism before retiring this year. He has written two books connected to the 150th anniversary of the purchase of Alaska, *The Man Who Bought Alaska: a short biography of William H. Seward* and *The Man Who Sold Alaska: a short biography of Tsar Alexander II of Russia*, both released in February 2017.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2824 E. 18th Ave, Anchorage AK 99508 Office phone: 907-248-3737 Email: auuf@gci.net

www.anchorageuuf.org Music page: auufmusicpage.yolasite.com

Our Mission: We are a Fellowship of diverse people who come together to nurture each other, to grow ethically, spiritually and intellectually, and to help create a just, safe, and caring community

Staff Contacts

Gary Holthaus, minister of AUUF, (907) 433-9311

Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration, 441-6815, rbeachy@alaskalife.net

Eric McCoy, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Programing 230-6915 or AUUFCYP@gmail.com

Tamara McCoy, Music Director, 982-9777, or tamarialice@yahoo.com

Amy Lundell, Congregational Administrator, 248-3737 x 3 or auuf@gci.net

Becky More, Involvement Coordinator, auufinvolve@gci.net, 248-3737 x 6

AUUF Board of Directors: Marty Freeman, President; Amanda Mack, Treasurer;

Helen Nienhueser, Vice President; Kelley Hartlieb, Secretary; Rod McCoy; Don Crandall; Peggy Robinson

Other Contacts are Available on our Website.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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Anchorage, AK 99508-3303

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AUUF Services and Events –March 2017

Sunday March 5

9 am : Fr. Fred Bugarin,
“Caring for the Heartland Worldwide”
11 am Fr. Fred Bugarin, “Caring for the Heartland
Worldwide”

Sunday March 12

9 am Jessica Cler and Kristin Bogue,
“2017 and the Road Ahead: Planned Parenthood”
11 am Jessica Cler and Kristin Bogue,
“Planned Parenthood 101”

Sunday March 19

9 am Ann McKay Bryson,
“Building More Equitable & Effective Schools”
11 am Gary Holthaus, “Eleanor Roosevelt, Part 1”

Sunday March 26 Soup Sunday

9 am "Mike Dunham: Seward and the Tsar:
Emancipation and Alaska”
11 am Gary Holthaus, “Eleanor Roosevelt, Part 2”

<u>Tuesday Evening Services</u> 7 p.m.

CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS- March 2017

Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare

Sunday 11 am ~ Childcare & Classes for toddlers through high school

The LOG

April 2017

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2824 E. 18th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99508-3303



From Gary

Sometimes more than once, we humans ask ourselves where we fit. In our youth, entering our full maturity, we seek a place where we fit in this wide, multi-hued, sprawling society, a place where my life can make a difference, and where I can find companions who are also looking to make a difference. Sometimes that can take a while, and we try this group or that, sort of like tasting, or like fly fishing a fast western river where the bottom is slick rock, and everything is tentative: is there a rainbow under that cut bank? Or at the tail of that smooth stretch? A place where you have to mind your footing, casting upstream and across, keeping your eye on the fly, dressing the line so the current does not drag that NO.18 black nat and scare the fish away. All those multiple uncertainties can be exciting. But fish that stream a few times and you come to know where the fish are and where your footing is safer. You go back because you know that stream, you know where the dangers are, and the rewards that make them worthwhile: a great evening on the water, the way those cottonwoods filter the light, and the bobcat you saw, briefly. You saw those things because you were in a place you really had come to know, a place where you fit. You go back to that place because you know it, and you remember things when you are there. That's where one spring you were there too early and the snow melt brought in enough water that you lost your footing and were swept banging from big rock to big rock, determined not to lose your rod and reel and you finally dragged yourself up on that sand bar, wet and bruised and so happy. You still rejoiced in it even though

it had banged you up a bit. You tell other fishermen about that adventure and they nod knowingly and tell you about, "Once when I..." and what you feel, then, is not just that you fit, but

that you belong, you belong to an eco-system you know and where you are known. You become a part of something bigger than you are and you feel the increased power when you are linked with others who love and appreciate the same world you do. When that river is threatened, you and your fishermen friends will work together to save it. Whether you are able to do that or not, you feel a kind of pride because you made a commitment to that place and you did the right thing for it.

I don't think it is too far-fetched to say that little allegory is how some of us find our way to AUUF, find a fit for ourselves, and come to feel that we belong, which is one way of saying that we have memories, or will have, that add richness to our lives. To remember is "to put together."

Membership in AUUF lets us create a story we will want to remember, a memory of service and fellowship, not just for and with our friends but for our larger community and beyond.

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Calendar Highlights

Tuesday Evening Services 7 pm

April 13th Maundy Thursday

April 14th Good Friday

April 15th Family Seder

April 16th Easter Sunday and Spring Fling

April 23 Earth Day Service and Soup Sunday

April 29 Women's Retreat

April 30 Plastics Recycle & Documentary 'Sacred Journey'

May 13th Alliance Rummage Sale

May 14th Choir Concert

June 5-9 Peace Camp

June 10-14 WhaleCoast

July 12-13 WhaleCoast

See you on Sunday! -- Gary

President's Log Letter - April 2017

Beacon: *a fire or light set up in prominent position as a warning, signal, or celebration.*

The Board, with leadership from Amanda Mack, is discussing a draft 1-page strategic plan for AUUF. When asked about what one word symbolizes our vision for the Fellowship, “beacon” was the word that rose to the top. Becoming a beacon of light in Anchorage includes goals to

- Increase AUUF’s engagement within our Fellowship and in the broader community,
- Sustainably staffing our organization, and
- Completing AUUF’s renovation to establish us as a vital gathering center in Anchorage.

Our board work this month, and the decisions we will make as a congregation at our annual meeting on May 7, tie in to these goals. At the March Board meeting, we endorsed a letter drafted by the Interfaith Council of Anchorage to the legislature on the value of diversity in our community, and expressing our support for immigrants and refugees in Alaska. This aligns well with the UUA/UUSC initiatives in this arena.

We also approved a budget to submit to the congregation for approval at the May 7 meeting. The budget moves us another step on the way to strong compensation packages for the staff that are so key to our operations and growth, and endorses a loan package to ensure that our renovation achieves all our major goals for the building. We are also asking for congregational approval to sell a piece of property at Mama Bear Lake that we were given several years ago that could help support the capital renovation project.

AUUF members will also vote for next year’s Board and Endowment Committee members. Helen Nienhueser, Rod McCoy, and I will rotate off the Board at the end of June, so we have three vacancies to fill. Amanda Mack, Kelley Hartlieb, Peggy Robinson, and Don Crandall will continue on the Board. This has been a great board to work with, and thanks to help from the Nominating Committee, there is a strong slate of candidates for next year.

In short, there are important decisions for our Fellowship’s future on the May 7 agenda. Make sure it is on your calendar. We will hold several meetings in advance of the annual meeting to provide opportunities to look at the budget in detail and get all your questions addressed – stay tuned for the schedule, and take time to attend one of the sessions.

Help make our beacon glow brightly! In fellowship, Marty Freeman.

Sustaining the Present, Enriching the Future!

By Deana Mitchell, Stewardship

Thank you to all our members and friends who have pledged your support for our Fellowship and the work we do within our walls and beyond.

This year, based on new members, a strong building project underway, and renewed commitment to our community, the proposed budget projects pledges of \$330,000 - or 10 percent more than last year. We can do it! Thank you for doing your part, and if you have been waiting to get your pledge in, now is a great time.

We hope you will attend the Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 7, to approve the budget and celebrate the vision for FY18!



AUUF Facility Transformation Project Moves Forward Rapidly

By Doug Eby

Excitement is mounting as the proposed facility transformation project is poised to quickly become reality. Immediately upon completion of the Capital Campaign we contracted with an Architectural firm – NVision – who have brought in Civil Engineers, Structural Engineers, Mechanical and Electrical Engineers, and all of the other support experts needed for a very complicated transformation of an older building that was itself built and rebuilt/expanded three times already. This has been quite a feat that deserves widespread admiration!! Some of this work was also volunteered hours.



The design work has encountered many challenges from where the big electrical feeds connect to the facility and neighborhood, to a mixture of wood and concrete foundations, to water/run-off drainage issues, to significant structural challenges. These have all been overcome or worked around and a 35% design is in hand. We also have a 'soft commitment' to a construction firm, Kuchar Construction, who have done very well with other sizeable church renovations in town and are already deeply into the project. The final contract will become activated as soon as the AUUF Annual Meeting is completed – assuming approval.

In order to do a full project and not be left with the feeling of a 'half done project', the Board, Finance Committee, Project Oversight Team, and many individuals involved all propose a total project cost of \$758,000. This includes \$480K in donation commitments, \$58K from existing AUUF funds, and a \$220K long term low interest loan from a generous AUUF member (see details in companion article). We also have six additional AUUF households who will finance the bridge loan(s) totaling another \$220K to cover commitments that won't be paid until after we have to fully pay for the project. This money is loaned at 2% annual interest, and 20% of the total will be paid back every 6 months, completing all repayment within 2.5 years (remember the Capital Campaign allowed for commitments to be paid over 3 years).

The construction crews will be mobilized on – or about - May 8 if the AUUF congregation approves the plan at the Annual Meeting on May 7 – literally that fast!! Limited internal work will begin May 15. More extensive work will begin June 15 (after Peace Camp). Phase 1 internal work will be completed by the end of August and the full project will be completed by the end of November. Accommodation for ongoing use of the facility and personal safety will be created throughout the project.

The final product will include almost all of the major hopes and dreams that came out of the work done by the Capital Campaign Committee. It will resolve the significant issues of mobility, safety, access, welcoming - and inspirational beauty. It will include glass French doors connecting to the social room, relocating the child/parent room, relocating all offices, the sound room, and new offices for the music director and other staff currently without offices. It will put full walls in the RE classrooms and create a new RE 'Gathering In' space flooded with natural light from the south. It will create a fabulous, inspirational, light-flooding new South Entry making mobility easy. It will create a large, more capable kitchen supporting the Social Room upstairs – and resolve dozens of other small problems. It will be a truly transformational rebirth of this facility we call home for our wonderful loving community. It is SOOOO exciting...and moving FAST!!



AUUF Women's Retreat!

Saturday **April 29**, 8am-8pm at AUUF. Join women of all ages for a day-long adventure in sisterhood. There will be conversation, contemplation, food, and song. Leave your cellphone and your worries behind. \$20 registration fee requested to cover breakfast, lunch and dinner. **Register by April 15.** Register online at Anchorageuuf.org, Giving page. Or drop a registration form with check or cash in the black secure box in the office. Questions? Want to help? Need a reduced fee? Contact Debbie Bock (907) 345-6611 bockdebbie@gmail.com.

Four Events to Celebrate Easter

By Gary Holthaus

Thursday April 13th 5:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday, “Creating the Sustainable Community”

A unique Last Supper gives new meaning to a simple celebration of bread and wine as one of the great roots of our AUUF Unitarian Universalist Association Community. Tonight we focus on inclusiveness, what brings us together and binds us together in a caring community that includes the entire natural world. Readings, music, food and fellowship around a family table. Please bring soup or bread.

Friday, April 14th, 5:30 p.m. Good Friday, “Were You There?”

Once again we take our stance in tradition that finds contemporary meaning in an ancient story. Music by Anchorage’s Shirley Mae Springer Staten, AUUF Music Director Tamara McCoy, Katherine Huffman, and other guests; and of course, pot luck supper and a sense of community.

Saturday, April 15th, 6 p.m. Family Seder Please join us for an evening of ritual and fun for the whole family. We will eat matzo, parsley dipped in salt water, horseradish, boiled eggs, and apples mixed with walnuts and honey. We will sing and drink wine (or grape juice) as we tell the story of the Exodus from Egypt and reflect on the meaning of slavery and freedom in the world today and in our own lives. Children of all ages are welcome. Please bring a dish to share. Questions? Debbie Bock bockdebbie@gmail.com, RSVP to Katherine Huffman katherinelynnhuffman@gmail.com.

Sunday, 9 and 11:00 a.m. Easter Celebrate a joyous spring, renewal and regeneration with crocus and music, readings, family and friends.

Why Should AUUF Take On Debt to Complete the Facility Transformation Project?

1. The total campus plan was for just over \$1 million, but a good, solid, fairly complete project can be done for a total project cost of \$758,000. Anything less, and the compromises begin to be pretty significant and the project will feel only ‘partly completed’. (With \$220K less, we will likely not get the nice upstairs kitchen, probably would lose the choir/music space, no office improvements, and lose most of the RE space changes.)
2. We have an AUUF member who is willing to loan the full \$220K long term loan quite inexpensively. They are willing to accept 3.5% interest (the bank is 5.75% and that is good for 3 years after which the rate is changed/updated (increased?). There also about \$10,000 in appraisals, fees, and closing costs with the bank - which are totally avoided with this plan. Additionally, the loaner is willing to have a 30 year payment schedule –which allows the monthly payments to be only \$988. This is an amazing deal for AUUF – it is the least expensive and least painful church debt ever...smile...
3. The national UU advisors we use recommend that a sizeable part of the project be debt – so that new members joining AUUF help with facility costs through their pledges, rather than the full cost being borne by only the current/past members of the congregation.
4. The amount of debt is about 2/3 of the Annual Budget, and less than 20% of the value of the facility - particularly once completed. Both ratio’s support this being a ‘small-ish’, easily manageable debt for the size of AUUF.
5. There is a good chance we can retire this small-ish debt much sooner than the planned 15 years through ‘Planned Estate Giving’ and/or a ‘Retire the Debt’ campaign at 7-10 years from now.
6. The Board and Finance Committee have done a review of all of the facts and figures presented by the Project Oversight Team and those doing the financing work, and recommend this plan to the congregation. The costs have been built into the proposed budget.

Please feel free to ask any questions by email or in person to any of the AUUF Board, the AUUF Finance Committee, or others helping move this along (Doug Eby – Project Chair, Carma Reed – Project Finance Manager, Amanda Mack – Board Finance Director, Marty Freeman – Board Chair). We want the AUUF community to feel comfortable with taking this step. The taking on of debt needs approval by the congregation, not just Board Approval, so will be voted on at our May Annual Business Meeting.



WhaleCoast Alaska 2017 Hosts Needed! June 10-14 and July 12-13

Host UUs from across the Lower 48 and Canada. You can do it! It's fun and we make a Whale load of Funds for the Fellowship! Once again, Dave Frey, from UU Fairbanks, will lead two groups on separate itineraries. They will be in Anchorage for at least 2 nights for each tour. Our Fellowship earns \$80 per person per night, plus stipend for the banquets, so it is well worth our collective efforts to provide accommodations. Besides, it is FUN! (Ask anyone who has been a host!)

Denise Martin is coordinating housing. We need several volunteers to house all these visitors for the specified nights. Kalen Saxton is banquet coordinator for 2 dinners at AUUF on June 11 and July 13. We also need a **transportation coordinator**. Please mark the dates on your calendar and consider helping one way or another. Drivers are needed to assist hosts who can provide beds but are not able to drive folks around. Please contact Denise 317-6134 and tell her you want in on the fun. Look for sign-up and information sheets on the social room bulletin board. To learn more, visit www.whalecoastak.org

Adult Programs Update



"Sacred Journey of the Nez Perce" Join us Sunday April 30th 12:45 (after the service) to view the documentary. Bring finger foods to share. Contact Becky More, auufinvolve@gci.net, to RSVP.



Financial Literacy Series, Money is frequently cited as one of the top stressors for both individuals and couples and at the same time ranks with sexuality as a taboo topic of discussion. We are offering a Financial Education series with the goal of "building healthy relationships with money through conversation, goal setting and information sharing". Led by Wendy Romberg; meeting for 8 weeks beginning Thursdays March 23 to May 18. 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Childcare is available. **It's not too late to join in.** Contact Wendy Romberg for more info 529-7748.



Yoga – Fridays, April 21 and 28, **10:30-11:30am**. Led by Peggy Cobey. Bring a mat if you have one. Questions? Contact Peggy Cobey, peggyc@gci.net.



Hungry Book Club For March we read Wild Swans, Three Daughters of China. We were all fascinated with the very carefully researched book by Jung Chang, who grew up in Mao's Communist China, amazing times for the Chinese people. For April we are reading Bellevue, by David Oshinsky. The book is a Pulitzer Prize winner, and best seller. We will meet again, April 11th, second Tuesday in the month at 2 PM, at the condos at 9th and M street (thanks to Mary K and Wanda M.) Bring a little snack to share. We invite any lovers of good books to join us, second Tuesdays. Need more information? Call Shirley, 563-4499.

Considering Membership (1 remaining session) An introduction to UU History, UU Thought and UU Engagement led by Gary Holthaus. Join in Wednesday April 5th 6:30 – 8:00.

Freethinkers at AUUF – Gathers Fridays from 12– 1:30.

Buddhist Group for Women– 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 7-9 pm at the home of Marty Herriott. A study group about Buddhism using some but not all the small groups techniques. Call Marty for directions.

Small Group Ministry –Call Susan Orlansky, 248-1141 if you would like to participate in a group.

Plastics Recycle: April 30 is our next plastics recycle. 5's only please.

Green Tip: The following containers are often No 5s - Yogurt, cottage cheese, prepared meal containers and lids from Fred's, and kitty litter. Check them carefully.

Social Justice Committee

By Dennis Arashiro

"Understanding the links between social justice and environmental sustainability must be at the heart of a new social settlement." - Anna Coote



What do social injustice and environmental degradation have in common? Everything! Greater social and economic inequality is the biggest obstacle in meeting the challenge of climate change. As the rich get richer and separate themselves from the poor, the more they feel they can buy their way out of their problems and insulate themselves from the worst effects. As the poor get poorer, the more they feel they have no stake in a society rigged against them and no stake in a world they are powerless to affect. When the marginalized have to meet the immediate crisis of racial, ethnic, gender, and LGBT discrimination, the longer term global environmental needs take a back seat.

Without greater equality to bridge social division, there can be no solidarity among us all. Without solidarity, there can be no collective action. Without collective action, there can be no success in achieving environmental sustainability. Ending poverty IS ending ecological disaster. Fighting discrimination IS fighting climate change. Supporting social justice IS supporting environmental sustainability. We need to both clear the path and walk the path to get to our destination. We can only get there together.

Half Portion for Social Action: Citizens' Climate Education

By Dennis Arashiro

Within moments of the inauguration of President Trump, the official White House website deleted nearly all mentions of climate change--with this one exception: Trump's vow to eliminate the Obama administration's climate change policies. The response to this can only be to provide the public with the sobering facts of a global natural disaster to circumvent the denial propaganda that will be employed to support federal government policy over the next four years. This will be the mission of Citizens' Climate Education, the information arm and sister organization of the Citizens' Climate Lobby.

Citizens' Climate Education was not one of the ten causes the Fellowship voted to support as Half Portion recipients for the year; the selection of two recipients was set aside to meet urgent needs that arise after the voting. The results of the Presidential election made clear the present threat to efforts to combat climate change. For this reason the Social Justice Committee named Citizens' Climate Education as the April recipient of the Half Portion for Social Action. The earth deserves more than just one day this month.

Democracy works!

By Amy Westfall

The Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (AUUF) **supports the greater community through giving — of time, money and skills.** One way members can give is by sharing a Half Portion of each week's plate collected during congregational services. The AUUF Social Justice Committee oversees the Half Portion program. The Committee wants to hear from you to help complete a roster of Half Portion recipients for the upcoming calendar year! **Half-portion recipients chosen are aligned with UU principles, are proven effective, and recognized as trusted stewards.**

Last year 81 AUUF members chose 10 half -portion recipients. Voting will happen once again, culminating at the Annual Meeting May 7th. Please visit <http://www.anchorageuuf.org/half-portion> to find the nomination form and past agency recipients. **Nominate a worthy group today and don't forget to vote!**

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

We've heard from Justin Birchell, former choir director (2011-2013). He has been offered a partial scholarship to do an intensive opera study in Italy this summer, the Lingua e Canto Intensive Italian Immersion Course for Young Opera Singers. To learn more, or assist Justin in this amazing opportunity go to [gofundme.com/JBirchell](https://www.gofundme.com/JBirchell) or email justinbirchell@yahoo.com). "Thank you all!"

We have a new flag in our Sanctuary hanging on our north wall and it's the flag of the Suffragettes, the National Woman's Party banner. TK Kleiner and Marty Herriott used it in their recent wedding and gifted it to us. It's purple, gold and white and meant a lot to the women who worked so hard to get the vote for America's women (it only took them 75 years of work). Thank You TK and Marty. We are proud of it.

Thank Don Crandall the next time you see him. Fair trade coffee on Sunday is all his doing. He takes the time to search for the most reliable and affordable source of fair trade coffee available to us and purchases it when we have the money for it. Unfortunately, the money set aside in our annual budget for coffee does not cover the cost of fair trade coffee. That's why there is a jar at the coffee maker for us to put our principles into practice. If you want fair trade coffee, please contribute to the Fair Trade Coffee Fund when you pour yourself a cup.

Another thanks goes to Wendy Romberg who is teaching a fun and engaging financial literacy class Thursday nights. There is still time to join in and childcare is available. (See page xx for more details.)

We hold in our hearts the Huffman family who lost Tim's mother, Phyllis Holloway. Peace.

Choir Schedule

Thursday, April 6, 2017 7-9 pm
Thursday, April 13, 2017 7-9 pm
Sunday, April 16th Easter, 9:45-10:30am
Thursday, April 20, 2017 7-9 pm
Sunday, April 23rd Earth Day, 9:45-10:30am
Thursday, April 27, 2017 7-9 pm
Thursday, May 4, 2017 7-9 pm
Thursday, May 11, 2017 7-9 pm 30pm
Sunday, May 14th Mother's Day, 9:45-10:30am
Sunday May 14th Choir Concert
Thursday, May 18, 2017 7-9 pm
May 21st Celebration Sunday, 9:45-10:30am

Couple Enrichment Workshop in Fairbanks @ the UU! April 28-30.

Couple Enrichment focuses on strengthening relationships through effective communication. All couples are welcome. The facilitators, Scott Bell and Kathy Walling, have been involved with Couple Enrichment for over 20 years. Advance registration is required. See fliers on bulletin board or contact the office for more info. Fairbanks UU homestays can be arranged.



April Birthdays, Best Wishes!

(Birthdays are not published in our online version.)

From the Fellowship office:

Fred Meyer Rewards Card: *Our last check from Fred Meyer was \$100, every little bit helps. Can these returns continue? grow?* If you haven't please link your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. You can search for us by our full name or by our number (84435).

Wish List: The office can always use forever stamps and 20 pound white copier paper.

Your Routine Giving If your credit card number or expiration date has changed please notify the office. (Call or leave a note in the secure locked box.) Frustrated by frequent account number changes? We also setup donations from checking and savings. Bank fees are lower too! Regardless how you support the Fellowship, your routine and consistent support is greatly appreciated.

"Follow Us" on FaceBook! We've been upping our game in FaceBook. "Follow us" to help get our messages out to the larger community.

~~ Amy, Church Administrator 248-3737 x 3
auuf@alaska.com.

Volunteer Spotlight *Carma Reed*



Carma joined the fellowship shortly after moving to Anchorage in 1995 with her husband Jiri Biciste. She began her volunteerism by teaching RE. In 2009 she was elected to the Board of Directors and remained on the board until 2016. Currently, Carma serves on the Finance Committee, Stewardship Committee, teaches Junior High RE, volunteers with the Annual Dinner, and is the Treasurer for the Capital Campaign. Her love of teaching and spreadsheets has been a huge asset to the fellowship. Thank you Carma!

Do you want to recognize someone at the fellowship for their volunteer efforts? Please contact Becky More at auufinvolve@gci.net.

Say Cheese!

The time has come to revamp our fellowship's member directory! We will be putting the member photo board back up in the social room, and reissuing our hardcopy paper directory. Your photo could be a professional shot, or one of your family doing something you love such as traveling, hiking, camping, etc. Additionally, there will be a photo booth set-up in the social room every few Sundays to capture an image if you'd prefer.

Please email a photo of your family to Becky More at auufinvolve@gci.net, or mail or drop off your photo to the fellowship.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Lend a Hand!

We are seeking volunteers for:

- Human Resources Committee
- Hospitality Committee
- Chalice Lighter Lead
- Event Planning Lead
- UUSC Coordinator
- Elementary OWL teachers



Help with an Event

Maundy Thursday: April 13th
 Good Friday: April 14th
 Family Seder: April 15th
 Easter Sunday: April 16th
 Whalecoast hosts, drivers, and help of all types

If you are interested in any of the opportunities above, or to add an opportunity to the list, please email Becky More at auufinvolve@gci.net

The Alliance

by Shirley Dickens, Chair of the Alliance

The Alliance met to discuss purchase of more mugs, which the Alliance donates to new speakers at the Forum and reimburse Gwen for the monthly cakes. We also briefly discussed changes in our brochure.

We decided not to pursue selling names for the back of our chairs as a project at this time but please know that we can do a "one to one" order very easily, if you need to honor someone.

We are considering doing another party in a few months to honor our elders, something along the lines of our party a few years ago honoring everyone over 90 years of age. It was a potluck affair with a Master of Ceremonies and some interviews and guessing games. Everyone had a wonderful time.

We are making a gift to the congregation of flowers for the Easter services, in honor of spring, the beauty of flowers, and our appreciation of the generosity of our congregation.

Please remember our Rummage Sale on May 13th. Please save your items for us until May 7th.

R.E. Notes for April 2017

Katherine L. Huffman, Sabbatical RE Coordinator

What a pleasure it is to unlock my (Rosene's!) office and get to work! Often people stop by to chat and check-in. When I make calls to the multitudes helping every Sunday, I get return messages quickly. And Sunday workshops proceed smoothly in the capable hands of our many volunteers. What a delight! Thank you for your patience as I hike up this learning curve. Here's what's going on:

Mystery Pals – What an awesome job everyone is doing! Notes and little gifts are going back and forth between 27 little pals and their adult pals. What a playful way to knit an intergenerational web in our community. **The Big Reveal Party for all Mystery Pal participants is Saturday evening, April 8th, 5:30 – 8pm here.** Expect food and fun from the capable leadership of Alison Hansen. Mark your calendar!



Peace Camp, June 5-9 - We have a new logo, t-shirts and a growing list of registrants... **do we have YOU?** We plan to hire 6 youth counselors and confirm at least that number in adult volunteers. Registrations/ applications at RE desk downstairs. \$150/child with discounts for siblings, and camperships available. Contact Bev Grogan!

Our Program - April

9:00 Services – Childcare available Toddler through 5th grade

11:00 Service –

Toddlers, 3-4 year olds, Junior and High School youth all have their own self-contained, continuing programs.

K-6 grades finished a 4-workshop cycle on "Equality" in March. In April we will do the same on the theme of "Gratitude." Meet in the Gathering Room for an opening Chalice Circle, story and songs before age groups are guided to the workshop designated for them that week: contemplation, make it, camera courage, mindful food preparation.

Dismissal is at 12:15pm from the Gathering Room after a snack, songs, and sending the flame.

Eat and Learn! (10 – 10:45) The RE Committee will feed you breakfast 10am-11am downstairs with a guest speaker for new and not-so-new families who want to learn more about RE and the Fellowship. April 2nd – Board and Budget with Chair, Marty Freeman. April 30th – RE and AUUF with Annie Belts and Alison Hansen. Speaker starts at 10:15, so come early.



Our Whole Lives

In order to offer the Elementary OWL program next fall, we need more trained Elementary OWL leaders (of all genders). Offering comprehensive sexuality education to AUUF and Anchorage young people is one of the important strengths of this fellowship. We are planning a 3-day training in August (training costs are covered). Seven people have already signed up so it will be a lively group! Contact Katherine Huffman, Sabbatical RE Coordinator, for more information or to get an application form. 907-342-9890, katherinelynnhuffman@gmail.com



RE Special Services in April/ May

2nd 10am RE Breakfast, Marty Freeman speaks on Board and Budget, all welcome. 11am New Members Reconciliation service. 1:4 Gratitude Workshops for K-6 11am – 12:15pm

9th 2:4 Gratitude Workshops for K-6, 11am-12:15pm

13th Maundy Thursday 5:30-8

14th Good Friday 5:30-8

15th Family Seder 6-8pm on Saturday Please bring a dish to share. Questions? Debbie Bock bockdebbie@gmail.com. RSVP Katherine Huffman katherinelynnhuffman@gmail.com.)

16th Easter Sunday with Spring Fling Activities for all RE Classes. Activities will include: egg dying, creating baskets and decorated bags, foam crafts, egg hunts supervised by youth. Egg Goody Baskets will be made and delivered to McKinnell house.

23rd **Earth Day** activities 11am-12:15pm include trash pick up in church neighborhood and parks. 12:15pm Soup Sunday a monthly social justice fundraiser. Give a donation, come eat soup and bread after the 11am service. All welcome. (sponsored by the Sun Catchers RE class – K-1st grade)

30th 10am RE Breakfast, Annie and Alison explain the RE tapestry of programs; 3:4 Gratitude Workshops K-6, 11am – 12:15pm

7th **Annual Meeting** 10am – Noon. Sweep the Streets for K-6

14th **Mother's Day**, Baby Dedication at 11am service. 4:4 Gratitude Workshops for K-6 11am – 12:15pm.

21st 11am Service – **Bridging** Ceremony for Graduating Seniors; **Celebration Sunday**, Teacher Recognition Day; last day of RE winter program.

28th **Memorial Weekend** – we do have services

Spring up to help Spring Fling! - We need lots of wrapped candy, tiny toys, crafts, bubbles or trinkets for young ages. We usually fill 50-100 bags! We would love a chocolate bunny for each bag. And lots of plastic eggs! Bring items to the fellowship by April 9. We will also need non-dyed, hard boiled eggs brought on April 16.

YRUU



How many of the vibrant, capable, interesting youth at AUUF do you know?

Find out the name of the young person nearest you. What can they tell you about the YouthCon last month? Are they planning on attending the youth conference April 7-9 in Oregon? What do they like about AUUF? What ideas for changes do they have?

YRUU Dates of Significance

Apr. 7-9 SPRINGCON, Camp Collins, Gresham, OR

Apr. 23--Earth Day MG

May 14--Bridging

May 21--Celebration Sunday MG

July 2-8 Ququest (YRUU) / Spirit Quest (Moonspinners) Youth Camp at Black Forest, CO

July 23-29 Goldmine Youth Leadership School at Jefferson Unitarian Church, Golden, CO.

About Our Services and Speakers (see back page)

Gary Holthaus has served as the called minister for our Fellowship since 2012.

Rich Curtner is the Federal Defender for the District of Alaska. His office is responsible for providing indigent defense services in federal court for all of Alaska. He supervises a staff of 18, including six attorneys. Curtner has been a public defender for 40 years. He started in the Franklin County Public Defender Office in Columbus, Ohio, while in law school. After ten years, he was an office supervisor and felony trial attorney, handling a number of death penalty cases through trial and appeals. In 1985, he joined the faculty at Ohio State College of Law as supervising attorney in the law school clinical programs. Curtner moved to Alaska in 1987. After spending five years at the state Public Defender Agency in Palmer, he joined the Federal Defender Office in 1992. After short stints in practice and as Training Director at the State Public Defender Office, in 1996 Curtner was appointed by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals as the Federal Defender for Alaska. He has served for many years as a member of the Board of Directors of Alaskans Against the Death Penalty, and is a strong supporter of the Alaska Innocence Project. A long time handball enthusiast, he is Chairman of the Alaska Chapter of the United States Handball Association. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Anchorage International Film Festival.

John McKay is a poet and playwright, with an M.F.A. in poetry from UAA. He graduated from University of Michigan Law School in 1975, after earning a master's degree in journalism, and working briefly for the Detroit Free Press. He clerked for a federal judge for two years, then came to Alaska in 1977. McKay has represented most Alaska news media, and many national news organizations, as well as journalists, photographers, artists and others. He has taught First Amendment and media law as an adjunct professor at University of Alaska Anchorage for over thirty years. In 2007, McKay was the first recipient of the Alaska Press Club's First Amendment Award, and in 2011, on its 40th anniversary, he was honored as one of "40 Heroes of Constitutional Rights" by the American Civil Liberties Union of Alaska. He is the father of two sons, and the sweetheart of one fine woman.

Vicki Clark has served as executive director of Trustees for Alaska for the past three years. She has practiced public interest environmental law for 22 years, the past 14 in Alaska. She's a graduate of Golden Gate University School of Law, and received certificates in both Environmental Law and Public Interest Law. Before joining Trustees for Alaska's staff in 2003, she worked in California as a staff attorney with the Environmental Defense Center in Santa Barbara and in private practice representing local environmental non-profit groups. Vicki received her undergraduate degree in Aquatic Biology from the University of California at Santa Barbara.

A life-long Alaskan, **Lisa Keller** has enjoyed a long career in Anchorage as an elite athlete, coach and civic leader. In 2003 she founded Multisport Training of Alaska and still serves as its head coach. As a student at East High in 1982, Lisa was the Alaska State Champion at 800 meters. Since then she's won several triathlons, both in Alaska and Outside, and has twice been named the Alaska Female Triathlete of the Year. She's also a breast cancer survivor and attributes her positive outcome to lessons she learned through sports. Currently Lisa serves as head coach for Running Free Alaska, a 5-year-old non-profit running program for female prison inmates at the Hiland Mountain Correctional Center in Eagle River.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2824 E. 18th Ave, Anchorage AK 99508 Office phone: 907-248-3737 Email: auuf@gci.net
www.anchorageuuf.org Music page: auufmusicpage.yolasite.com

Our Mission: We are a Fellowship of diverse people who come together to nurture each other, to grow ethically, spiritually and intellectually, and to help create a just, safe, and caring community

Staff Contacts

Gary Holthaus, minister of AUUF, (907) 433-9311

Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration, 441-6815, rbeachy@alaskalife.net

Eric McCoy, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Programing 230-6915 or AUUFYCYP@gmail.com

Tamara McCoy, Music Director, 982-9777, or tamarialice@yahoo.com

Amy Lundell, Congregational Administrator, 248-3737 x 3 or auuf@gci.net

Becky More, Involvement Coordinator, auufinvolve@gci.net, 248-3737 x 6

AUUF Board of Directors: Marty Freeman, President; Amanda Mack, Treasurer;

Helen Nienhueser, Vice President; Kelley Hartlieb, Secretary; Rod McCoy; Don Crandall; Peggy Robinson

Other Contacts are Available on our Website.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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Anchorage, AK 99508-3303

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AUUF Services and Events –April 2017

Sunday April 2 New Member Recognition
9 am Rich Curtner,
"Defending Non-Citizens, Fighting Deportation"
11 am Gary Holthaus,
"Some Considerations About the Purpose of
Education"

Sunday April 9
9 am Lisa Keller, " 'Running Free' from Prison"
11 am Gary Holthaus

Sunday April 23 Soup Sunday
9 am Vicki Clark, "Trump, Alaska, & Earth Day"
11 am Earth Day Service

Sunday April 30
9 am John McKay, "It's Poetry Month!"
11 am Gary Holthaus

Tuesday Evening Services 7 p.m.

Easter Week Special Services

Thursday **April 13 Maundy Thursday** 5:30-8 pm
Friday **April 14 Good Friday** 5:30-8 pm
Saturday **April 15 Family Seder** 6-8 pm

Sunday April 16 **Easter**
9 am Gary Holthaus, "A UU Look at Easter Events"
11 am Gary Holthaus, **Easter Service**

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- April 2017
Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare
Sunday 11 am ~ Childcare & Classes for toddlers
through high school

The LOG

May 2017

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2824 E. 18th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99508-3303



From Gary

What a fine series of programs we offered for Easter week this year. Our Maundy Thursday service featured special music by Tamara McCoy and a special service of readings by Katherine Huffman and Gary Holthaus commemorated the Seder that Jesus spent with his disciples called "The Last Supper." Our own pot luck and conversation completed the evening.

Shirley Mae Springer Staten and Mary Schallert, along with AUUF musicians Katherine Huffman, Tim Huffman, and Ingrid Larson sang and Gary and Katherine presented a remarkable program of music and spoken word built around the moving spiritual, "Were You There?" That program also included a pot luck supper and conversation.

Finally, thanks to arrangements by Debbie Bock and Susan Orlansky's leading of the ritual, we offered a delightful and moving Seder service complete with appropriate foods.

Easter Sunday also was filled with special music and a typical Easter crowd. All in all, it was a fulfilling season for all our disparate beliefs, and our desire for beauty in our music and rituals.

Calendar Highlights

Tuesday Evening Services 7 pm
(Through May 16th)

April 29 Women's Retreat

April 30 Plastics Recycle,
Information Meetings

May 7th Annual Meeting

May 13th Alliance Rummage Sale

May 13th Spring Cleanup Day

May 14th Choir Concert

May 21 Celebration Sunday &
Electronic Recycling

May 21 Beacon Event Concert and
Potluck

June 5-9 Peace Camp

June 10-14 WhaleCoast

July 12-13 WhaleCoast

Coming up are another two meetings of interest to those of you who may be thinking of becoming members of our Fellowship. The first is a conversation about Unitarian Universalist history to be April 27 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. The second meeting, on Unitarian Universalist beliefs, will be held on Thursday, May 4, 6:30 to 8:00. Both meetings will be in Gary's office.

Finally, a reminder that one of most important meetings of the year will be Sunday, May 7, when our Annual Meeting takes place. It will begin with breakfast, hosted by the Board of Directors, at 9:00 a.m. There will be news about our upcoming summer construction project, various reports, and a chance for us all to celebrate where we are (and who we are) as the buds leaf out and open, and our world turns green. As I write this on a late afternoon, the sun seems here to stay, the snow is disappearing rapidly, and life both in our Fellowship and outdoors looks bright, engaging, and lovely.

See you on Sunday! -- Gary

Welcome New Members!

In April we welcomed 18 new members! Julie Behm, Georgia and Ed Bennett, Morgan Grey, John McKay, Cristy Willer, Kyle Pace, Sheila Curran, Johanna Grasso,

Cathy and Randy Steen, Emily Madsen and Larry Moberly, Kathy and Jeff Dill, Sophia Tidler, Silver Hjellen, and Debby Burwen. Please greet them when you see them.

Also, please remember to wear your name tags so we can help all of us learn each other's names (or re-learn when we forget!) Please contact us if you need a new name tag. If you are interested in joining or becoming more active at AUUF, contact the office or Judy Eng or Julie Behm, Membership co-chairs.

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President's Log Letter – May 2017

Our annual meeting is almost here. Like the New Year, this event makes me reflective. Among other things, I realize what a slow learner I was when I started at AUUF. For a number of years I ducked the annual meeting – after all, *I came to church on Sunday for the service, not to sit through a business meeting.*

At some point I started realizing the limitations to that thought:

- I came on Sunday...
- For the service...
- Not for a business meeting.

Our mission says that we “come together to nurture each other, to grow ethically, spiritually, and intellectually, and to help create a just, safe, and caring community.”

Communities don't disappear on weekdays. The Fellowship needs service as well as services. Those dry business meetings set the foundation for what we can accomplish in the coming year.

Since I started attending over 20 years ago, AUUF has grown from a Sunday church to a church that bustles all week with people seeking ethical, spiritual, and intellectual growth. A typical week includes the Buddhist Sangha on Mondays; a Tuesday evening service; and Thursday OLE offerings, choir rehearsals, and the Financial Literacy class. On Friday you can take yoga or join the Freethinkers, and on Saturday we host an AA group. These opportunities are possible because we have an excellent staff, a small army of volunteers, a welcoming attitude, a good building, and a well-managed budget.

So about that May 7 annual meeting...a measly 21% of registered voters turned out last month to make decisions on Anchorage's assembly, school board, and important bond issues. We *require* 25% of our members to have a quorum to choose our board and endowment committee, to approve a budget, authorize sale of property, and take out a loan to make our building more accessible, functional, and beautiful. We can do better than 25%. Live the 5th principle and show Anchorage what a good election turnout should look like.

See you May 7th.

*(Be informed, last Budget informational meetings April 30, 10:15 and 12:30)
.In fellowship, Marty Freeman.*

New Information About Building Renovation Plans

By Helen Nienhueser, AUUF Vice Chair

Late last week the Project Oversight Team (POT) learned that the cost estimate for the base building project is more than \$200,000 over what we anticipated. Some unforeseen, expensive factors that have driven up costs include: 1) high subcontractor bids for excavation/site work due to tight space and need to work around existing utilities, 2) the revelation of a non-compliant sprinkler head issue throughout the building, along with a fire alarm panel that is old and no longer supported.

The higher costs sent the team (Don Antrobus, Ron Rozak, Doug Eby in absentia, and AUUF member and architect Jobe Bernier) back to work. The board held a work session with the POT to discuss a reduced scope of work and simplified approach. We emphasized that we must be guided by the original goals of the project as determined by the congregation: accessibility, functionality, and being a welcoming congregation.

Since then we have been in touch with board president Marty Freeman and POT lead Doug Eby, both of whom are traveling overseas. Based on these discussions we have an emerging plan. The POT is working on a revised building plan and working with the contractor to get the best information possible on costs for the components of a reduced scope and simplified approach. We have already received from two donors additional pledges/gifts of \$22,500 and have an unquantified promise from a third donor. We plan to reopen our capital campaign fundraising drive to raise additional funds. We likely will try to reduce construction costs by using as much volunteer labor as possible.

The board and POT have scheduled two information meetings for the congregation Sunday, April 30: 10:15 and 12:30 pm both in the Sanctuary. By then we will have a report on the reduced scope plan, costs, and fundraising plans. Don't hesitate to make a new or increased pledge now! Contact Carma Reed at carmaandjiri@gci.net or 727 5275. And please come to one of the information meetings next Sunday!



A Beacon Event:
An AUUF Social Justice Kick-off Concert & Potluck
featuring the music of

Cedar Roots
Rock steady, reggae rock and roll
Music for the whole family! New members are especially welcome! Bring a friend!
Sunday, May 21 from 1-3 p.m.
Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

In our efforts to **establish AUUF as a beacon for social justice in Anchorage** over the next three years, we will be selecting one or two social justice themes for which we will provide members and friends hands-on activities, educational opportunities, community activities and work for systemic change throughout the year. Issues being considered include immigration rights, GLBTQ rights, access to health care and reproductive rights, and climate change advocacy. **Come learn more as we kick-off this effort with a special concert event for the whole family.**

The front man for Cedar Roots is Dan Bigley, a talented musician performing songs to lift spirits, many he has written himself. Influenced by reggae and jam bands like the Grateful Dead, Dan and his band featuring **AUUF member David Mack on bass**, share a positive message of peace, love, and facing life's challenges with grace.

Dan will be speaking at the 9 a.m. Forum as well. **The 11 a.m. service is Celebration Sunday when youth are honored.** It will be an exciting day for our Fellowship! **Bring a dish to share!** We will share food and beverages between the time the 11 a.m. service ends and the concert begins.

If you have ideas as we plan for the coming year of social justice at AUUF, contact board member Amanda Mack at amdmack@gmail.com or 907-342-9008 or social justice point person Dennis Arashiro at elvischannel@gci.net or 907-444-4324.

AUUFers work to promote citizen democracy and limit corporate "rights"

We three AUUF members have been instrumental in the work of Anchorage Move to Amend, seeking to overturn the Supreme Court decision in Citizens United through a Constitutional amendment clarifying that corporations are not people and are not entitled to Constitutional rights; whatever rights they might be granted are subordinate to the powers of our democratically elected representatives. The AUUF congregation affirmed our collective commitment to this at our 2013 annual meeting. We believe our work especially supports UU Principles: 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

Our group is currently engaged in bringing resolutions of support to every community council in a build-up to bringing a resolution to the Anchorage Assembly. Thus far we have 18 CC resolutions of support. (Nationally, 18 states and over 400 cities have gone on record in support.) It is now time to pass the baton to other AUUF members: Robyn and Sharman are moving Outside, and Ruth is aging out gracefully. Please call or email us to see what you might like to do to help, or come to our next meeting at 6:30pm, May 18 (the third Thursday of every month), downstairs at AUUF.



In Fellowship,
Sharman Haley, (907) 360-3646, haley.sharman@gmail.com
Robyn Lauster (907)280-9455, robynkcl@gmail.com
Ruth Sheridan (907) 333-1190, ruth.sheridan@hotmail.com

Social Justice Committee

By Dennis Arashiro

Prepare for the end of the Social Justice Committee. Get ready for the beginning of the Social Justice Fellowship. The single committee model does not work for social justice. We simply cannot assign social justice to a committee and say it is the committee's responsibility--especially if it gives the impression that it is no one else's responsibility. Social justice encompasses issues both global and local in nature. It involves inequality, discrimination and persecution in many guises and against many groups. It is economic, social, political, environmental, racial, and gender related, and personal. Because the social justice agenda is never ending, no single committee will do.



When I first joined the Social Justice Committee, its role was limited. It was primarily tasked with choosing Half Portion recipients. Now that we have democratized the Half Portion, we have made choosing the Half Portion recipients the responsibility of the Fellowship as a whole. We will be making those choices this month with our ballots on 4/30, 5/2, and 5/7.

Perhaps it is time we go further to democratize the social justice mission itself. Perhaps it is time each and every one of us takes responsibility for a piece of the social justice agenda. We are now in the planning stages to make it happen. The planning itself will involve us all. Call or email me with your thoughts, questions, and proposals. Dennis Arashiro at 444-4324 or elvischannel@yahoo.com.

Half Portion for Social Action: National Association on Mental Illness (NAMI)

By Dennis Arashiro

This month is National Mental Health Month, the time to reflect and act on the many issues to be addressed. Can we see the person instead of the condition? Can we go from stigmatizing to embracing? Can we stop seeing physical health and mental health differently? Can we assemble the building blocks of both individual and community health to make health care universal and all encompassing? Can we stop seeing mental health as an issue for the marginalized others and see it as challenge for every one of us?

Too often we get stuck in binary thinking, dividing us all into the categories of the mentally ill and the mentally well. Think of mental health as a continuum. Think of mental health as dynamic. All of us will at some point confront challenges to our mental health. There may be grief at the loss of a loved one, a compulsive buying episode, a substance or behavior dependency, post-traumatic stress, relationship issues and spiritual crises. This may be in addition to diagnosed lifetime conditions. In recognition of all this, the May recipient of the Half Portion for Social Action is the National Association on Mental Illness.

A Note of Gratitude

By Gary

Rebecca More has been our Congregational Coordinator for several months and has helped us on several fronts, especially in developing a communications plan to increase the connections between staff and members and between members and other members. As the FY18 budget was built, the board, with regrets, dropped her position, along with other changes from the budget. Becky graciously agreed to stick with us till the end of the fiscal year. (June 30th). We sure wish her well in all future endeavors.

Google Group Use and Notifications

The best way to get up to date information is through the Google group. To get on it, go to our www.anchorageuuf.org home page and find a link on the upper right corner. Once you get signed up, check your settings for how you would like to get the messages. It appears the default is "no email". You can change that to receive every message in your email or get them in batches, otherwise you have to go to the site to see them. Typically the office sends out a weekly update on Tuesday with events. And then anyone can post about events/issues relevant to AUUF. We do ask everyone to keep things relevant and appropriate.



Spring Clean Up Day!

The Gardening and the Grounds Committees are heading up a Spring Clean Up Day at AUUF on May 13 from 10 am to 2 pm. We have tasks for people of all abilities and interests so join in the fun!



As of now, our tasks include :

- 1) Rake the grass and pick up trash over the whole AUUF property.
- 2) Sweep the pavement to remove the traction sand and other winter debris.
- 3) Rake the playground gravel and grass areas
- 4) Clean the inside and outside of all the ground level windows.
- 5) Wash all the folding chairs and tables
- 6) Process the compost. Is someone already responsible for this?
- 7) Fix planting boxes. One was damaged by a snow plow. There may be other repairs needed.

If there are more Spring Clean Up tasks which you think need inclusion, please contact us.

Please RSVP - Please advise if you intend to join the work party so we can plan crews and supplies. If you have specific times or preferred tasks, please advise.

Thank you and hope we can see you there. James Dryden dryden@alaska.net 907-344-4995,
Stephanie Koonz stephaniekoonz@icloud.com 907-744-2428



WhaleCoast Alaska 2017 Hosts Needed! June 10-14 and July 12-13

Host UUs from across the Lower 48 and Canada. You can do it! It's fun and we make a Whale load of Funds for the Fellowship! Once again, Dave Frey, from UU Fairbanks, will lead two groups on separate itineraries. They will be in Anchorage for at least 2 nights for each tour. Our Fellowship earns \$80 per person per night, plus stipend for the banquets, so it is well worth our collective efforts to provide accommodations. Besides, it is FUN! (Ask anyone who has been a host!)

Denise Martin is coordinating housing. We need several volunteers to house all these visitors for the specified nights. Kalen Saxton is banquet coordinator for 2 dinners at AUUF on June 11 and July 13. We also need a **transportation coordinator**. Please mark the dates on your calendar and consider helping one way or another. Drivers are needed to assist hosts who can provide beds but are not able to drive folks around. Please contact Denise 317-6134 and tell her you want in on the fun. Look for sign-up and information sheets on the social room bulletin board. To learn more, visit www.whalecoastak.org

Plastics Recycle: July 2, August 13, and September 24 are our next plastics recycle dates. 5's only please.

Green Tip: Switch to clear plastic garbage can liners instead of black. They are cheaper at Costco than the black ones. Also they are more acceptable in the recycling market.

Annual AUUF electronic recycling May 21

This is a Green Sanctuary committee fund raiser, Spring Cleaning! The cost to AUUF members will be \$0.20 per pound for assorted items (anything with a cord or cables) and \$0.30 per pound for TVs and computer monitors. We will be collecting batteries and fluorescent light bulbs as well. If you are elder and need help getting your old TV to AUUF please call me, Yolanda Meza @ 764-9234. *No smoke detector or vacuums please.*



Adult Programs Update



Financial Literacy Series, Money is frequently cited as one of the top stressors for both individuals and couples and at the same time ranks with sexuality as a taboo topic of discussion. We are offering a Financial Education series with the goal of “building healthy relationships with money through conversation, goal setting and information sharing”. Led by Wendy Romberg; meeting for 8 weeks beginning Thursdays March 23 to May 18. 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Childcare is available. **It's not too late to join in.** Contact Wendy Romberg for more info 529-7748.



Hungry Book Club Seven of us met Tuesday, April 11th to discuss a very interesting book called *BELLEVIEW*, We had all read it and enjoyed it a lot. It was a fascinating historical look at the famous New York hospital and the many epidemics, diseases, earth shattering illnesses that passed through this hospital. *Belleview* had many "firsts", first nursing school, first ambulances to bring patients to its doors in a city, etc. For our next read, we have chosen a novel by the wonderful writer, Isabel Allende, a novel called *The Japanese Lover*, published in 2015. We also chose a book for June read. We chose *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly. Written in 2016 and made into a great movie. As usual we will meet the second Tuesday afternoon at 2 PM for a couple of hours at the condos at 9th and M Street. We are an open book club, all are welcome. Bring a semi-healthy snack to share. Questions, call Shirley 563-4499.

Considering Membership (1 remaining session) An introduction to UU History, UU Thought and UU Engagement led by Gary Holthaus. Join in Thursday May 4th 6:30 – 8:00.

Freethinkers at AUUF – Gathers Fridays from 12– 1:30.

Buddhist Group for Women– 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 7-9 pm at the home of Marty Herriott. A study group about Buddhism using some but not all the small groups techniques. Call Marty for directions.

Small Group Ministry –Call Susan Orlansky, 248-1141 if you would like to participate in a group.

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Grateful for Alison Hansen and the wonderful Mystery Pals experience and "Reveal party" for many of us adults and our secret pals April 8th was at the end of a great month of many messages, letters, and things going back and forth. We shared a yummy dinner, played games and got to know each other even better with fun activities. I LOVE being a secret mystery pal to a child. RE only takes this project on every other year but it is NOT to be missed. Do yourself a favor and volunteer next time around.

We are so grateful for a special pre-Easter week here at AUUF. I didn't make it Thursday night but did join about 35 plus for Friday night pot luck and a special "Good Friday - UU" musical telling of the crucifixion. Outstanding music and Shirley Maye Staten sang her heart out. I also loved our Seder Saturday night, commemorating the Jewish Passover (another shared pot luck dinner). We were about 45 men, women and several children of various ages. Susan Orlansky jumped in and led the Seder when Debbie Bock was not able to get back from her mother's sick bed. Susan used to do most all the Seders and still remember everything. And, of course, we had a lovely Easter Sunday. Thanks to the Alliance who insisted we have fresh flowers which were enjoyed by both the Seder guests and Sunday morning at both services. Our music was outstanding and Gary's message was meaningful to many. (You can listen to that from our website if you wish.) AUUF did acknowledge Easter week in a very special way. Thanks to Gary who practically lived here that week and everyone else who washed dishes, helped clean up, set up and take down tables or helped in any way. And thanks to our events coordinator, Becky More, who was the energy behind days of events.

Grateful for another great Earth Day Celebration and Sunday service, choir, children upstairs for “story for all ages”, proceeded by a wonderful "March for Science" event for our whole city on Saturday. Many of us were there with wonderful signs to support that event.

We are remembering our members who have lost someone near and dear to them in the past couple of months, mostly a parent. We send our thoughts and concern to several of you.

Be well, dear people, get the fishing stuff together; enjoy cleaning up our city, our Fellowship, and our yards.

Choir Schedule

Thursday, May 4, 2017 7-9 pm

Thursday, May 11, 2017 7-9 pm 30pm

Sunday, May 14th Mother's Day, 9:45-10:30am

Sunday May 14th Choir Concert 6 pm

Thursday, May 18, 2017 7-9 pm

May 21st Celebration Sunday, 9:45-10:30am

Buddy with a New Member

As we strive to be a more welcoming community, we are starting a buddy program so that new folks can get connected with AUUF people and programs more quickly. We are looking for people who are willing to get to know the new people by taking them out for coffee/tea etc., and find out how they might like to be involved. If you are willing to be a buddy... or if you feel like you want to have a buddy to get more connected, please contact AUUF 248-3737 or Judy Engh, judyrae427@yahoo.com and our membership team members will get you connected. Thank you all for your help in welcoming new folks to AUUF!!

From the Interior Design Committee

Thanks for thinking of your Fellowship, but due to this summer's renovations **we are not taking any donated items** for the building at this point. Everything in the building so far will have to be moved, cleaned, moved again as we adjust and grow. So, keep your items, donate them to another cause, or better yet, bring them to the Alliance Rummage sale after May 7th (see below).

Peace Camp, June 5-9



We have a new logo, t-shirts and a growing list of registrants... ***do we have YOU?***

Registrations/applications at RE desk downstairs. \$150/child with discounts for siblings, and camperships

available. Questions? Want to Volunteer! Contact Bev

AUUF Choir Concert

Swingin' Into Spring!

Sunday, May 14th at 6pm with guest musicians from The Anchorage Lutheran Choir. Admission is Free! Donations gratefully accepted. Donation will be given to Bean's Café. Thank you for your support!

May Birthdays, Best Wishes!

Birthdays are not published in our online version.

Your Routine Giving

If your credit card number or expiration date has changed please notify the office. (Call or leave a note in the secure locked box.) Frustrated by frequent account number changes? We also setup donations from checking and savings. Bank fees are lower too! Regardless how you support the Fellowship, your routine and consistent support is greatly appreciated. ~~ Amy, Church Administrator 248-3737 x 3 auuf@alaska.com.

Alliance Rummage Sale May 13th!

by Shirley Dickens, Chair of the Alliance

WE NEED GOOD STUFF TO SELL!

We will be holding our **annual Rummage Sale, Saturday, May 13th** from 8 AM to 3:30 PM

here in our social room. We

need lots of "good stuff" to sell and we need you to clean out your closets, toy boxes, kitchen drawers, book cases, tool chests and things you no longer need or want, Please bring them to us for this sale, but wait until after the May 7th service to bring them and leave them upstairs in boxes or bags for us to set them out Friday May 12th from 3PM until we get them all out and ready for Saturday morning. This is our main annual money maker for the good of AUUF. The general public will be buying most of our stuff. If it's too dirty/torn/broken/ please don't bring it to us. NO tires, mattresses. Small bikes are OK. Can't decide should you bring it or not? Call one of the Alliance ladies and ask us. What sells well, is gently worn clothes, toys in good shape, children's clothes, small hand tools, kitchen appliances that work, house plants, jewelry, good towels, sheets, gloves, scarfs, hats, wallets, that kind of thing. We will be doing some publicity Thursday and Friday. We want to be a major "recycling" effort for our community and money maker for the church. Please plan to drop in (to help or to buy) that day. Thank you in advance for your contributions.



Re NEWS – by Katherine Huffman from Rosene’s Desk

Gratitude

What a thoughtful, diverse, well-attended series of services/potlucks we shared together for Easter Week. It was a privilege to be present and learn how to think about the Easter story in ways that feel more relevant to me: the deep-rooted ceremony of sharing a meal, how the torture of crucifixion continues in modern day terms, the concept of freedom in the Passover story.

Children’s Easter

Oh my it was a busy morning: 20 adult & teen volunteers shepherding eighty children through egg-dying, egg hunting, decorating goody bags, making cards and assembling Easter baskets to give to McKinnell House! Thank you for all your generous help and donations!

Earth Day

Children will help upstairs calling the four elements as we celebrate spring renewal and our intimate connection to nature within and without. The Green Sanctuary Committee is helping RE be more connected with the Earth Day theme and will help the children pick up trash around the neighborhood during our normal class time.

Gratitude Workshops

...continue April 30th and May 14th. RE will have a pancake breakfast and the annual “sweep the streets” (more cleaning up!) during the Annual Meeting on May 7th. The last day of our school-year RE will be May 21st – It is also the day for **Teacher Recognition**, and for a **Bridging Ceremony** for 3 AUUF graduating seniors. The Celebration will continue after the service with a **concert and potluck** (contact Amanda Mack for more information).

Peace Camp

Did you know this amazing program is led by a committee of only 4 people? We get more registrations every week for this June 5-9 summer camp. We are confirming staff (teen counselors), volunteers (adult teachers and workshop leaders) and activities – this year’s theme is Water. Do you have a great idea or could you offer your expertise as a guest teacher? Contact Katherine Huffman at 907-342-9890 or katherinelynnhuffman@gmail.com for more information.

Rosene

...plans to be back the 3rd week of May. Thank you for your patience as I try to fill some very large (yet stylish) shoes!

Remember

...no RE programming on May 28th (Sunday of Memorial weekend). Our program will take a break and start the summer session on June 4 with cross age programming and PEACE CAMP!

- Katherine

YRUU

YRUU Dates of Significance

May 21—Bridging / Celebration Sunday

July 2-8 Ququest (YRUU) / Spirit Quest (Moonspinners) Youth Camp at Black Forest, CO

July 23-29 Goldmine Youth Leadership School at Jefferson Unitarian Church, Golden, CO.



Volunteer Spotlight

Debbie Bock



Debbie Bock, has been a part of our fellowship since 2000. Last year she helped to plan the Women's Retreat, and this year she took the role of lead organizer. Debbie organized planning meetings, recruited help from others, and brainstormed ideas to engage and connect women within the fellowship. Thank you for your hard work and dedication Debbie!

Do you want to recognize someone at the fellowship for their volunteer efforts? Please contact Becky More at auufinvolve@gci.net

About Our Services and Speakers (see back page)

Gary Holthaus has served as the called minister for our Fellowship since 2012.

Dennis Arashiro is the son of a Japanese American soldier and his Japanese war bride. After an early childhood in Hawaii, he came to Alaska in 1961 and made Alaska his lifelong home. A graduate of East High School and Alaska Methodist University, he has taught in the Anchorage School District for 45 years. He has been a member of the Fellowship for the past 9 years.

Dan Bigley was blinded by a grizzly bear attack and survived to co-write the bestselling book "Beyond the Bear" with Debra McKinney. Before the bear, he worked with severely emotionally disturbed children, taking them on recreational outings for Alaska Children's Services. After the bear, he earned a master's degree in social work from UAA. Now, Dan travels the country as an inspirational speaker, is the director of therapeutic foster care for Denali Family Services, and received a 2008 Alaskan of the Year Award by the Governor's Committee on Employment and Rehabilitation for People with Disabilities. He's also a talented musician and leader of the Dan Bigley Band, living with his wife, Amber, and two children in Anchorage.

Berta Gardner has represented Midtown Anchorage District I in the Alaska State Senate since 2012. Reflecting her Fellowship values, she has always been active in volunteering in schools, community councils, and neighborhood groups. This eventually led to her serving in the Alaska State House from 2004 until her election to the State Senate. She now serves as the leader of Senate Minority Caucus.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2824 E. 18th Ave, Anchorage AK 99508 Office phone: 907-248-3737 Email: auuf@gci.net
www.anchorageuuf.org

Our Mission: We are a Fellowship of diverse people who come together to nurture each other, to grow ethically, spiritually and intellectually, and to help create a just, safe, and caring community

Staff Contacts

Gary Holthaus, minister of AUUF, (907) 433-9311

Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration is on Sabbatical

Katherine Huffman is acting DLRE. 907-342-9890, or Katherinelynnhuffman@gmail.com

Eric McCoy, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Programing 230-6915 or AUUFYCYP@gmail.com

Tamara McCoy, Music Director, 982-9777, or tamarialice@yahoo.com

Amy Lundell, Congregational Administrator, 248-3737 x 3 or auuf@gci.net

Becky More, Involvement Coordinator, auufinvolve@gci.net, 248-3737 x 6

AUUF Board of Directors: Marty Freeman, President; Amanda Mack, Treasurer;

Helen Nienhueser, Vice President; Kelley Hartlieb, Secretary; Rod McCoy; Don Crandall; Peggy Robinson

Additional Ministry and Committee Contacts are Available on our Website

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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AUUF Services and Events –May 2017

Sunday May 7

9 am Breakfast with the Board
10 am Annual Meeting

Sunday May 14 Mother's Day and Baby Dedication

9 am Dennis Arashiro,
"My Mother's Immigrant Journey"
11 am Gary Holthaus

Sunday May 21 Celebration Sunday

9 am Dan Bigley, Beyond the Bear
11 am Celebration Sunday with Bridging

Sunday May 28

9 am Sen. Berta Gardner,
"What Just Happened in Juneau"
11 am Gary Holthaus

Tuesday Evening Services 7 p.m.
May 2, 9, 16 then resume in the fall

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- May 2017

Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare

*Sunday 11 am ~ Childcare & Classes for toddlers through high school
(No children's programs May 28)*

The LOG

June 2017

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2824 E. 18th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99508-3303



From Gary

A few days ago our legislature offered us a very sad commentary on the State of Alaska.

Our governor presented his list of candidates for various members and chairs of our many state committees. There was only one person not approved to serve. Drew Phoenix, was nominated by the governor to serve on the Alaska State Commission on Human Rights, but the legislature refused to confirm his appointment.

Drew is well-known to our congregation. He is an ordained Methodist clergyman, and has spoken here several times over the last few years. His story is a remarkable tale of courage, commitment, and candor. I admire him a lot. He was subjected to a hate campaign in opposition to his appointment, led by Alaska Family Council and Alaska Family Action (two names for the same group).

Several legislators reported being subjected to difficult conversations about Drew. AUUF member Bill Wielechowski, a Democratic Senator from our fair city, indicated that he believed the opposition to Drew "came specifically because Phoenix is transgender," according to the Juneau Empire. Representative Scott Kawasaki, Democrat from Fairbanks said, "I've had the most vile, the most reprehensible, the most intolerant conversations about this person, and it's not about his resume. It's simply because they hate him. I find that incredibly wrong..."

In my letter to the editor I wrote,

Drew Phoenix, like other transgender folks I know, is a wonderful example of both personal and social heroism, building an authentic life that requires more courage and integrity than many of us can match. It is that experience and integrity that can best inform decisions Drew would make as a member of the Alaska State Commission on Human Rights, decisions informed not only by integrity, intelligence, and experience, but compassion as well.

We live in a state of such beauty it is hard to reconcile this landscape with our occasional ugly rejection of others we could embrace with recognition of their own beauty but fail to do it.

Keep up your good spirit (and AUUF's) of inclusiveness.

See you on Sunday! -- Gary

Got Skills? Lend a Hand!

The Renovation Project Oversight Team is looking for volunteers with **electrical, framing/carpentry, sheet-rocking, light plumbing, or painting skills**. Work will begin in June and projects will continue through the fall. Contact Don Antrobus, cell 980-2077.

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Calendar Highlights

June 5-9 Peace Camp
June 10-14 WhaleCoast
June 11 WC Banquet
June 13 Pilot presentation
June 21 and 28 Considering Membership
June 29 Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change
July 12-13 WhaleCoast
July 13 WC Banquet



President's Log Letter – June 2017

I write this while I'm still enjoying the glow from the annual meeting and the Bridging ceremony for Luke, Sarah, and Charlotte – our high school graduates. As always, I sang the last hymn with tears in my eyes – I'm so proud of these young adults and so appreciative of all the people who helped support their religious *exploration* experience throughout their youth.

But wait, you say, the glow of the annual meeting? Absolutely. This year, 95 members showed up to address several challenging issues – the operating budget, the scope of the capital project, financing for the capital project, and authority for selling real property. And we did it with respect for each other. And we raised additional capital money to ensure that we can include RE classroom work in the capital project. =whew= It was a big vote of confidence by the Fellowship for the Fellowship.

Bridging and the annual meeting mean this RE year, fiscal year, and Board year are finishing, and the start of a new year is coming soon. The new year will bring the start of our renovation project, work to flesh out our strategic plan (see more elsewhere in the Log), and a renewed focus on social justice.

One of the social justice questions that is before the Board is whether we should have a “Black Lives Matter” banner on the church. What are your thoughts? I'd love to hear feedback before our next meeting on June 14.

.In fellowship, Marty Freeman.

Program Council Notes

This year we've started regular meetings of the Program Council. The Council includes chairs or designees from the standing committees and ministry teams of the Fellowship. This group meets bimonthly to:

- Strengthen communication, collaboration, and creativity among AUUF programs,
- Provide training to build leadership across the Fellowship,
- Collaborate on input to budget – fellowship initiatives and priorities, needs, opportunities, and
- Provide a forum for big issues that cross programs.

At the May meeting, the Council heard about plans for a year-long leadership training program for AUUF leaders and those interested in becoming leaders. The training is being organized and delivered by the Committee on Shared Ministry in collaboration with the UUA Pacific Region.

We also started thinking ahead about how the capital project will affect AUUF programs, equipment and supply storage, and logistics during the construction period. Lastly, Amanda Mack led the group through the newly-adopted AUUF Strategic Plan (see article page 3). Council members will review the plan with the committees and teams before the July meeting to identify what each committee or your team do in the next one or up to three years to support the plan's goals outlined in the strategic plan and measure progress.

Think About This: The next time you are at the Fellowship, look around you at lights above you in the sanctuary, and those in the nursery, in the office, and in the Social Room. Think about the telephone and internet that connects AUUF to the world, and about the electricity that runs everything. And don't forget heat, the cost of which is much lowered thanks to our wonderful new boiler. All these are not free. Altogether, AUUF invests about **\$15,000 a year** (or about \$1,256 a month, every month) in utilities, a good investment since most of us prefer not to sit in the dark or cold in the winter. It's a good and necessary part of sustaining our community, and it's possible only because of your generous pledges. Thank you!



AUUF Strategic Plan

At the May meeting, the Board officially adopted an AUUF Strategic, the “Beacon Plan.” Thanks go to Amanda Mack for leading this effort. The initial plan is a one-page document that sets out our big vision and goals. It will be followed by more detailed planning on how to reach those goals. We’re already using the plan because it captures the big themes in our current work and helps point the way to fulfilling our mission. If you’ve attended the annual meeting, information sessions, or Program Council you’ve already had an introduction to it. The plan is important enough – and concise enough – that it’s printed below. We invite you all to read it and join in the work to accomplish this work.

AUUF 20-17-2020 Strategic Plan

Beacon: *a fire or light set up in prominent position as a warning, signal or celebration.*



The time is right. In this era of challenges to justice, equity, and compassion in human relations, this is a time for AUUF to be bold and reach beyond our comfort zones. Our members and new visitors come to us looking for sanctuary, community and the opportunity to act. The time is right to find a unifying project and work to carry out our mission and represent our principles in the larger community. Let’s advance and illuminate the part of our mission that states, “we are a diverse people who come together...to create a just, safe and caring community” and become a beacon for social justice in Anchorage.

Becoming a beacon: AUUF has three goals to support this effort. They are: (1) increase active engagement and visibility of AUUF in the community, (2) sustainably staff the organization, and (3) complete AUUF’s renovation to establish us as a vital center for gathering in the Anchorage community.

We are well positioned to take on this challenge. AUUF ministers to an increasing number of adults and children each week through a wide range of ministry and program offerings. AUUF is an active social justice player through our actions as an organization, through community partnerships, and in our personal and professional lives. AUUF is in good financial health. We own our building; our budget is well managed and our bank accounts are in the black.

AUUF is focused on our mission more than ever and a valuable community partner. AUUF will work on communication within the fellowship so that we can effectively grow our mission. In the community, AUUF seeks to form intentional partnerships and provide meeting space for organizations engaged in social justice work. In so doing, our renovated building can provide an accessible, functional, welcoming center to the community for gathering around ideas and causes that elevate our mission.

Individual pledges can make it happen. In FY17, AUUF reached the level where staff compensation packages are at or above the mid-range level for a mid-size UU congregation in our region. To sustain this level of equitable pay, administer our programs, and to care well for our building, we must convey the value of AUUF to each member and friend in a way that results in new, sustained, and meaningful pledges. We must also be sensitive to economic constraints as we pursue our stewardship goals.

Sustaining our light: AUUF will measure its goals by comparing our full fair compensation goal against our congregationally approved budget and through staff wellbeing and retention. We will track growth in membership, stewardship and funding. The board and ministerial search committees will ensure ministerial hires over the next three years. Ministry and program offerings and participation levels will also be watched over and tended to. In support of our goals, work, operational, and community outreach and marketing plans will be created and implemented.

Social Justice Committee

By Dennis Arashiro

Robert Wilson and Kiyoko Tanaka. An American soldier and his Japanese fiancée. May 1947. Found dead wearing wedding bands. A double suicide as a result of American immigration policy. At a time when American servicemen and their European war brides were exempt from immigration quotas, no Japanese brides were permitted entry into the United States, leaving no choice but one in the minds of the tragic couple. Only the concerted lobbying and advocacy by the Japanese American Citizens' League and the American Civil Liberties Union changed the law to allow Japanese war brides to be on the same footing as European war brides in 1950.

Mamoru Arashiro and Mitsue Kawamura. An American soldier and his Japanese fiancée. July 1951. Married in Japan and ready to set off for a life together in America. The change in immigration policy made my parents' story dramatically different from that of Robert Wilson and Kiyoko Tanaka. I share this with an eye to immigration issues that we face today. We need to keep in mind that lives are at stake when we pursue social justice in challenging the powers that be. At one time the lives at stake were my parents'--and my own.

Half Portion for Social Action: Alaska Institute for Justice

By Dennis Arashiro

"If you have to deal with our friends at ICE, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, it's like a Kafka novel. Files just disappear." - Jeb Bush

A Kafka novel? That was Jeb Bush's assessment well before Trump. Now that we are all living a Kafka novel under our present administration, imagine how much worse it must be for those who are immigrants! This is why the Alaska Institute for Justice is this month's recipient of the Half Portion for Social Action. We need to support all of its efforts to fight for the legal rights of immigrants and refugees.

Consider this organization's Pro Bono Asylum Project, which trains and mentors attorneys to represent those facing persecution and worse in their countries of origin. Consider its Language Interpreter Center, which provides qualified interpreters for those with limited English seeking legal help. Consider its work with immigrant victims of human trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual assault. Consider all of this when the Sunday baskets come to you.

Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change

The AUUF Local Organizing Ministry of AFACT is again joining with our Quaker Meeting friends to host an event at AUUF. This is an interactive project lead by Paula Palmer, sociologist, writer, and activist for human rights, social justice, and environmental protection. The Toward Right Relationship project looks at the impacts of the 15th-century Doctrine of Discovery's roots of injustice to the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples where we find the seeds of change. Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change, presented **Thursday, June 29, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.** Please RSVP to marierozak@hotmail.com so that we'll know how many participants to expect.

Google Group Use and Notifications

The best way to get up to date information is through the Google group. To get on it, go to our www.anchorageuuf.org home page and find a link on the upper right corner. Once you get signed up, check your settings for how you would like to get the messages. It appears the default is "no email". You can change that to receive every message in your email or get them in batches, otherwise you have to go to the site to see them. Typically the office sends out a weekly update on Tuesday with events. And then anyone can post about events/issues relevant to AUUF. We do ask everyone to keep things relevant and appropriate.



AUUF Local Organizing Ministry (LOM)/AFACT

The Anchorage Faith and Action Together group has been busy during the past month.

Saturday, April 22, a full day of training was held at Birchwood Camp. The basics of the AFACT organizing method were covered including research methods, how to conduct an interview/research meeting and, of course, process and importance of the one-to-one relationship building.

The Valley now has its own "AFACT". They are referred to as VIA (Valley Interfaith Action) and have twelve congregations so far. Several members attended the training. It was great fun to meet so many new folks with the same focus.

May 6, AUUF hosted the AFACT monthly city-wide meeting. We had a good turnout. Much discussion involved the recent training, which was the first of its type, and the fundraising coming up a few days ahead.

May 9, at 7:30 a.m., the Breakfast of Hope, the fundraiser, was held at Central Lutheran. Our own AUUF member, Deena Mitchell, served as a table captain inviting several guests to attend. It was a pleasant event with good food as well as an opportunity for guests to learn about the Organization.

June 7, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal LOM will be hosting a public meeting on bike and pedestrian safety. Speakers will include the DMV Director, and the Project Manager for Vision Zero. Notices are on the bulletin boards at AUUF. We know many UU's have expressed trail safety concerns. This is a great opportunity to take part in seeking improvement.



WhaleCoast Alaska 2017!

AUUF is hosting guests for 2 Whalecoast tours this summer. Thanks so much for everyone who is hosting guests this month for the "National Parks Tour" from June 10th-14th. You can meet all these guests on Sunday June 11th at our 11:00 a.m. service after their orientation and gathering for the start of that tour. We still need hosts, drivers and banquet help for the July "All Alaska Tour" which only involves 2 nights in Anchorage (12th-13th). Please contact Denise Martin if you're interested: 317-6134. Find information in the social room on the bulletin board. Thanks to all!

Sunday, June 11 is the Banquet for the June Whalecoast guests and hosts. I am inviting some Fellowship friends and members to bring 100% plant-based VEGAN dishes. We also need salmon, halibut, chicken, salads, fruit and breads. Call me, or text, or use my NEW EMAIL if you can provide food in June or July. Kalen Saxton, 2017 Whalecoast Banquet Coordinator, 907 244-8221, saxtonkalen@gmail.com.

Spirited Discussion and Learning Brings Strangers Together

Two Thursday evenings in Gary's office provided the setting for a group of almost strangers to come together to learn a little about UU history and thought and to share a bit of their journeys to AUUF. By the end of the 2 weeks they were ready to become a small group so they could share even more with each other! It truly was representative of the importance of this community of AUUF.

These classes have become such a great opportunity for new members (and "old" members) to join together that we plan to host them much more often. The next classes will be offered **Wednesday June 21 and 28 6:30-8 p.m.**, because we think there is enough interest for a summer offering. Please contact Judy Engh at judyrae427@yahoo.com or Amy at the office (auuf@gci.net) if you are interested in attending.

Traffic alert

This is a reminder to please respect the posted traffic pattern on the alleys around our building. On the 18th Avenue side, the entrance and exit are one-way – enter on the west end, and exit on the east end. This is valuable for safety around the building, it is important to our neighbors, and it will help with the construction process this summer. Thank you!



The 5 W's of "Our Stuff"

by Irene O'Brien & Cindy Kinard, Aesthetics Team

With our renovation slated to start in July, we like to have everyone take a few minutes to think about what we need to do with all of **"Our Stuff."** We have a lot of **Stuff** all over the building. It's in boxes, stuffed in closets, tucked behind furniture, stacked on cabinets, and hidden under the stairs.

Our renovation will be a logistical challenge all summer. Some rooms, including the administrative and minister's offices, will need to be emptied for construction. Other rooms downstairs will need to be repurposed as temporary offices and storage for all of the **stuff** from elsewhere in the building. Special care will need to be taken with breakable or fragile items. Everything will need to be protected from dust and dirt.

As rooms are prepared for renovation, we'd like everyone to consider:

"5 W's of Our Stuff."

What is it? **What** is it used for? **What** condition is it in?

Who uses it? **Who** cares for and loves the item?

Where is used? **Where** is it stored?

When is it used? **When** was it last used? **When** will it ever be used again?

and finally,

Why? If we cannot answer the **What, Who, Where and When**, then **WHY do we have it?** Can we consider selling or donating the item?

Shouldn't we make haste to share with folks who may need this stuff NOW, if we can't answer the 5 W's?

If we don't use it, we should lose it.



Let's do it!

Thank you

Re NEWS – by Katherine Huffman from Rosene's Desk

Peace Camp

Did you know this amazing program is led by a committee of only 4 people? We get more registrations every week for this June 5-9 summer camp. We are confirming staff (teen counselors), volunteers (adult teachers and workshop leaders) and activities – this year's theme is Water. Do you have a great idea or could you offer your expertise as a guest teacher? Contact Rosene Beachy for more information.

Children's Program for Sundays in Summer!

We have many talented adults and teens in this fellowship. Could you spare 1 hour this summer to lead a small group of children in an activity? We have drafted a list that includes some of our favorite naturalists, bicyclers, gardeners and even lego aficionados! The commitment is for 2 adults to lead a session during the 11am (so 10:50am-12:15pm) during the summer months. Please let Rosene know if you'd like to share your curiosity, expertise and creativity!

Gratitude

Thank you to all for welcoming me as your sabbatical DLRE during these last few months while Rosene Beachy took a well-deserved break. You made it easy for me – what a great team of volunteers! Rosene will be moving back in to her office the last week of May. It was a privilege to get to know AUUF staff, committee members, children and families in new ways that just reaffirms for me what a nurturing and dedicated fellowship we have.

- Happy Summer! Katherine Huffman



Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Gratitude to Tamara McCoy, (our music director) our wonderful choir, and the amazing Spring Concert given Sunday evening, May 14th at AUUF, joined by Marsha (on piano and bells) as Tamara sang and lead our choir and the five guest singers from a Lutheran church. Our choir never sounded better. Donations went to Beans Cafe. What a gift to us and our community! Thank you Tamara and all the singers.

Gratitude to the gardeners who have "spruced up" our grounds and the flower beds and the garden areas. And I saw a couple of folks washing our windows (thanks you two). Looking good and soon, the flowers will be blooming and THE SNOW is GONE at last!

Grateful for the wonderful service on May 21st, actually BOTH wonderful services. The Forum featured a most remarkable man, Dan Bigley telling his story of being blinded by a large grizzly bear some years back. It was the most insightful, inspirational story one could imagine. He joined a few other musicians giving a "free concert" after the second service where our own David Mack was one of the four musicians. The second service featured our "Bridging into Adulthood for 3 of our youth who graduated from high school this past week and a recognition of our teachers in RE and even a special award to one of our boy scouts youths, Teddy Neruda, presented by our own scout master, David O'Brien. The three "bridging" were Charlotte Mitchell, Sara Harris, and Luke Gale. Lovely day! And congratulations to the 3 seniors.

So grateful that our member, Owl teacher, choir member, Katherine Huffman did such an outstanding job filling in for Rosene Beachy (no small act to follow) who was away 3 months on a sabbatical. It was great to get to know Katherine better. She is a natural with children and adults. Loved her reading stories for all ages to us all.

Summer is here, Fish on all you fishing people. Hope to see you at the Whalecoast activities. Have a lovely time in your yards, with visitors, trips planned, whatever. Be careful of the traffic, be well.

Buddy with a New Member

To help new members get acquainted with our program and people, we are asking members who have been around for a little bit to reach out and take a new member to coffee or lunch and help them learn a bit more about AUUF. You can do this formally by contacting Theresa Bartoldus tbartoldus@yahoo.com or informally by meeting someone on Sunday and inviting them out! Thank you all for your help in welcoming all to AUUF!

The Gift of Hospitality

Do you have space to host UUs from the lower 48 (beyond Whalecoast?) The office is increasingly contacted to provide homestays for UUs (for a fee benefiting AUUF). This is common in other congregations. Contact Amy in the office if you think you would enjoy hosting, auuf@gci.net.

June Birthdays, Best Wishes!

Birthdays are not published in our online version of the LOG.

Peace Camp, June 5-9

We have a new logo, t-shirts and a growing list of registrants... **do we have YOU?** Registrations/applications at RE desk downstairs. \$150/child with discounts for siblings,

and camperships available. We do have space in our enrollment for your child's friends. Spread the word. Questions? Want to Volunteer! Contact Bev Grogan. 317-6353 or Beverly.grogan@yahoo.com



Fred Meyer Rewards Card: *Our last check from Fred Meyer was \$79, every little bit helps. Can these returns continue? grow? Please link your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. You can search for us by our full name or by our number (84435).*

Wish List: The office can always use forever stamps and 20 pound white copier paper.

The Alliance Huge Thank You to Congregation!

You are all wonderful and so supportive to the Alliance. We had the best Rummage sale ever in all my years of helping with rummage sales. The most good stuff to sell, the most excellent workers, the most money (\$1500 plus), the easiest clean up. Thanks to Kate Lehn we had one of Arc of Anchorage huge trucks to come about 3:30 Saturday and swoop all our boxes and sacks and excesses and we were out of there by 4:30 PM. Paul Wheeler came with his huge truck and took all the stuff being stored at a garage of one of our members and brought it over Thursday evening. So when the team got there at 3 PM Friday to set up, we had lots of stuff to unpack. We could not have done this without everyone's participation and it starts with things to sell. So Thank You Everyone! We promise to use this money for the good of this congregation and we started right out with covering the cost of lumber to build two large planter boxes for Airport Heights Elementary (we are keeping those we hosted for them during their remodel). Thanks Gwen, who insisted we have a cake for Mother's Day to honor all mothers. I am so proud of this congregation.



Volunteer Spotlight *Frank Mitchell*



Frank Mitchell has been attending AUUF since the fall of 2011. He currently works in Project Development for BP. Frank has volunteered his time by teaching preschool in RE, and has recently served as co-chair for the fellowship's capital campaign. He is currently on the fellowship's Endowment Committee. His favorite thing about AUUF is the interesting stories of all the members and the friends of the fellowship. Frank, thank you for your dedication and leadership to the fellowship!

Do you want to recognize someone at the fellowship for their volunteer efforts? Please contact Becky More at auufinvolve@gci.net.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Join a Committee!

We are seeking volunteers for:

- ◇ Human Resources Committee
- ◇ Hospitality Committee
- ◇ Chalice Lighter Lead
- ◇ Event Planning Lead
- ◇ UUSC Coordinator

If you are interested in any of the opportunities above, or to add an opportunity to the list, please email Becky More at auufinvolve@gci.net

Plastics Recycle: August 13, and September 24 are our next plastics recycle dates. 5's only please.

Green Tip: Starbucks is now using 5s for smoothie and Frappuccino containers. Drink your drink and recycle your containers.

YRUU Dates of Significance

July 2-8 Ququest (YRUU) / Spirit Quest
(Moonspinners) Youth Camp at Black Forest, CO
July 23-29 Goldmine Youth Leadership School at Jefferson Unitarian Church, Golden, CO.

Hungry Book Club

The Book Club Picked a Winner for May. Nine of us met in May to discuss a wonderful novel by Isabelle Alende, The Japanese Lover. Everyone loved it. We had a very lively discussion about the whole complicated interwoven plot with many twists and turns and surprises. We have chosen a very different book for June, Hidden Figures by Margot Shetterly, the story of Black Women being part of the scientific search for flight design and evolving into our Space Program. These women were mathematicians of the first order. This is an open book club, all our members and friends are welcome. Next meeting will be June 13th. Call Shirley 563-4499 for more details.



About Our Services and Speakers (see back page)

Gary Holthaus has served as the called minister for our Fellowship since 2012.

Diddy R. M. Hitchins is a professor emerita at the University of Alaska Anchorage, where, during her distinguished 30-year career, she chaired the Political Science department and served as director of International Studies. Born in Glasgow, Scotland, Hitchins was raised in southern England. There she earned a bachelor's degree in social sciences at the University of Southampton, and an MA in political behavior and a PhD in government at the University of Essex. Her academic research has included time spent in Canada, China, Japan, the Koreas, Russia and West Africa. Hitchins is founding director of UAA's Canadian and North Pacific Studies Programs. Since 1985 she's served as British Honorary Consul for Alaska, and in 2005 Queen Elizabeth II honored her with the Member of British Empire (MBE) award.

Eowyn Ivey: Eowyn (pronounced A-o-win) LeMay Ivey was raised in Alaska and continues to live there with her husband and two daughters. She worked for nearly a decade as a bookseller at the independent Fireside Books in Palmer, and prior to that as a reporter for the local newspaper, The Frontiersman. Her new novel, *To the Bright Edge of the World*, was released in August and was selected by Amazon as one of the Best Books of 2016. Her debut novel, *The Snow Child*, was a New York Times bestseller published in more than 25 languages. *Snow Child* was also a UK National Book Award winner, a PNBA Book Award winner and a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.

Margaret Stock: Anchorage attorney Margaret Stock is a nationally recognized authority on immigration issues. In 2013 she won the MacArthur genius grant for her work on three important immigration programs for the U.S. military. She is a graduate of Boston University, the Harvard Law School and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Margaret is also a retired Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army Reserve, and has taught immigration law at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. In 2016 she ran as an independent candidate for the U.S. Senate seat for Alaska.

Dr. Thad Woodard is a graduate of the University of Tennessee College of Medicine and completed his pediatric residency, including a year as chief resident, at LeBonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis. In 1980, after a two-year assignment by the Center for Disease Control as an epidemiologist to the State of Alaska Division of Public Health, he entered private practice in Anchorage. He continues to practice at the Alaska Center for Pediatrics. For the last 18 years he has produced and hosted Line One, Your Health Connection, an award-winning weekly program on Anchorage National Public Radio affiliate KSKA-FM (Alaska Public Media). He and his wife, Linda, have four daughters, all working in Alaska.

Patrick Ryan has been the Education Specialist at the Alaska Botanical Garden for 15 years. He has taught first grade for 21 years. As a speaker, he has presented at the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conferences, and the Garden Writers Symposium. He sits on the Board for Alaska Agriculture in the Classroom. He gardens daily with kids in ABG's 21st Century Schools program.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2824 E. 18th Ave, Anchorage AK 99508 Office phone: 907-248-3737 Email: auuf@gci.net

www.anchorageuuf.org

Our Mission: We are a Fellowship of diverse people who come together to nurture each other, to grow ethically, spiritually and intellectually, and to help create a just, safe, and caring community

Staff Contacts

Gary Holthaus, minister of AUUF, (907) 433-9311

Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration 441-6815

Eric McCoy, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Programing 230-6915 or AUUFYCYP@gmail.com

Tamara McCoy, Music Director, 982-9777, or tamaralice@yahoo.com

Amy Lundell, Congregational Administrator, 248-3737 x 3 or auuf@gci.net

Becky More, Involvement Coordinator, auufinvolve@gci.net, 248-3737 x 6

AUUF Board of Directors: Marty Freeman, President; Amanda Mack, Treasurer;

Helen Nienhueser, Vice President; Kelley Hartlieb, Secretary; Rod McCoy; Don Crandall; Peggy Robinson

Additional Ministry and Committee Contacts are Available on our Website

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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AUUF Services and Events –June 2017

Sunday June 4

9 am Diddy Hitchens, “England, Brexit and Us”
11 am Gary Holthaus

Sunday June 11 Pride Sunday

9 am Eowyn Ivey, “My Fictional Alaska”
11 am Panel

Sunday June 18 Father’s Day

9 am Dr. Thad Woodard,
“Infant Brains – the All-important First 1,000 Days”
11 am Father’s Day Panel

Sunday June 25

9 am Margaret Stock,
“Welcoming Immigrants, Fighting Deportation”
11 am Patrick Ryan, “On Gardens”

CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS- June 2017

Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare

Sunday 11 am ~ Childcare & Classes for toddlers through high school

The LOG

July 2017



AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2824 E. 18th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99508-3303

From Gary

As I write this on June 17 spring has not yet ended. Trees are still in their full blossom of white or red, and the lilacs have exploded. But by the time you read this it will be full summer. I haven't been on vacation, but it feels a bit like it. May and June brought us several special Sundays that brought us events we needed to address or called others to speak. One was our Annual Meeting Sunday, when our members assessed our past year and approved plans for FY 2018. For "Black Lives Matter Sunday Eric McCoy gave a stirring presentation that moved us all, and Celebration Sunday closed out another remarkable year of Religious Exploration. This year Rosene was still on her Sabbatical, so Katherine Huffman, who was filling in for Rosene, steered us unerringly through our seniors' Bridging Ceremony. A panel of mothers (Sara Lovell, Emily Madsen Joyce Laine, and Nadine Reichert) spoke knowledgeably about their personal experiences of motherhood; and a couple of weeks later Kate Lehn and Yolanda Meza brought us an account of their experiences as a lesbian couple before and after such marriages were legally recognized. We were laughing one moment, touched at others by their courage and persistence. A Fathers' Day panel (Bill Hall, Bill Jamison, Larry Moberly, and Eric McCoy offered a variety of experiences and generated a good discussion. No wonder May and June seemed like time off!

But July 2 I get to go back to work. On that day, I want to talk about climate change. My title is "Wild Horses, Glaciers, and Climate Change." On July 9, I want to reconsider the concept of community. July 23, I want to address an environmental issue that is looming: August 2 is "Earth Overshoot Day," and I'll be exploring the implications of that and describe the ways that we might ameliorate its impact.

We do live in exciting times. Often that may mean scary times. But there are ways to deal with difficult issues, and knowing that is one way to replace fear with hope. So be of good cheer, and join us in thinking hard about complex issues in light of our Seven Principles in a setting of great music, quiet thoughtfulness, and personal renewal, surrounded by a rich community of fellow seekers. All this, every Sunday at AUUF.

See You Sunday - Gary

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Got Skills? Lend a Hand!

The Renovation Project Oversight Team is looking for volunteers with **electrical, framing/carpentry, and sheet-rocking skills**. Work will begin in July and project will continue through the fall. Contact Dr. Antrobus, cell 980-2077.



Calendar Highlights

June 29 Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change
July 12-13 WhaleCoast
July 13 WC Banquet
Aug 26 Youth Lock in
Aug 27 Picnic
Sept 10 Homecoming Sunday
Sept 15-17 Fall Frolic
Sept 24 Regular RE starts

President's Log Letter – July 2017

After college, I worked for a man named Robert Theobald in the late 1990s. He was an English socioeconomist and futurist who authored several books and was an engaging speaker. I loved to hear him talk about how things got to be the way they were and, as a result, how he thought things would shake out. Robert's wisdom was always so grounding for me as there were many uncertainties in my life at that time. He provided a glimpse of the future and I could see my role in it.

I have been thinking about Robert a lot lately as I get ready to take the reins from Marty Freeman as president of the board. She has served as a mentor to me during my last two years on the board as she simplified complex issues time and again leading the board gracefully toward decision after decision. Those decisions have set a clear course for AUUF over the next few years. I am thankful for Marty's leadership and for the significant contributions of Helen Nienhueser and Rod McCoy as well as they step off the board.

The way things will shake out for AUUF over the coming year is largely known. In the next month, construction will begin on the building renovation and we will begin the search for a new music director. We will begin work on the strategic plan with input from the Program Council and develop a process to identify a new vision for social justice this summer. Leadership training is in the works to launch in the fall. We will savor and celebrate this final year with Gary and the board will engage in the UUA process for selecting an interim minister for placement in August 2018.

In response to Eric McCoy's powerful talk and call to action, "White SUUpremacy," the board approved displaying a Black Live Matter banner on our building and committed to providing learning opportunities about the meaning and intent of the Black Lives movement. Listen to the podcast on our website if you missed it.

Along with the things we know are the things we cannot know, especially in these turbulent times.

After two years of working with Robert, he became gravely ill. In a moment of clarity with a group of us sitting around his bed on one of his last days, he offered up a final gift for each of us, a piece of his wisdom. To me he said, "Amanda, you know just as much as anyone else in the room. Don't let yourself think otherwise. Take your place at the table." It may have taken me twenty years to take his advice, but I am honored to serve AUUF as president of the board during this year of opportunity. And, I encourage you to take your place at the table too. Engage in the process, let your voice be heard, and help determine how things will shake out for AUUF.

In Fellowship, Amanda Mack

WhaleCoast – June Success! More Hosts Needed July 12-13

WhaleCoast is one of AUUF's biggest fundraisers. Thanks so much for those who hosted UUs from all over the U.S. and Canada on their mid-June tour of Alaska: Bev Grogan, Gwen Perry-Crawford, Jane Gray, Marie Lundstrum, Kalen Saxton, Koala Vandruff, William Salazar, Shirley Dickens, Irene O'Brien, James Dryden, Judy Eng, Doreen Ransom, Yolanda Meza/Kate Lehn, Carol Harris, Stacy Mansfield, Rosene Beachy and Kathy Dill. Thanks also to the numerous volunteer drivers, banquet helpers and to Kalen for organizing the banquet. Thanks one and all!



Are we ready for round 2? Some of the hosts mentioned above are also hosting for the July 12-13 WhaleCoast tour, a whole new group of guests. A few more hosts are needed to accommodate our record 42-guest roster, and another **banquet is Thursday evening July 13**. Housing organizer Denise Martin has starting matching guests with those hosts who have signed up, and we only need a few more. If you can host one or two people for two nights contact Denise 345-8787. Contact Kalen to help with the banquet: saxtonkalen@gmail.com or phone 907-244-8221.

Social Justice Committee

By Dennis Arashiro

"The love of one's country is a splendid thing. But why should love stop at the border?" - Pablo Casals

This Fourth of July, let's express our love of country without denying our love of all humanity. Nowhere will you find "America First" in our Seven Principles. We recognize the inherent worth and dignity of every person, not just every countryman; we call for justice, equity, and compassion in all human relations, not just in our nation; we pursue the goal of world community, not just American community. That is why in selecting the Half Portion recipients for the upcoming year, the Social Justice Committee is insuring that we do not forget those organizations that do vital work beyond our community and beyond our borders.

Because there are only twelve Half Portion recipients in a year, many deserving organizations don't benefit from our Sunday collections. It's unfortunate that we have to make the decisions to recognize some worthy causes over others. The answer, of course, is simple: give your dollars above and beyond the Half Portion to those others. The Half Portion should be the start, not the limit, of our giving. There is never a point where we can say we have done enough for social justice and need not do any more.

Half Portion for Social Action: South Sudan Medical Relief

By Dennis Arashiro

South Sudan. Some history. Tragic history. Colonized by Arabs; colonized by Europeans. Incorporated as part of the independent Muslim Arab nation of Sudan, this racially and religiously distinct country fought for its independence in two wars that stretched from 1955 to 2011 and killed two and a half million people. The legacy of decades of devastation is what South Sudan began with upon independence. From 2013 to the present day, a civil war between rival armies has killed 300,000 and displaced another three million. The Fragile States Index places South Sudan in the worst position in the entire world--worse than even Syria and Afghanistan.

Jill Seaman founded South Sudan Medical Relief in 2000 to address the health needs of people in a land without infrastructure, stability or peace. For her perseverance in meeting this challenge, she was named a MacArthur Fellow in 2009. For her perseverance in the worst of conditions, South Sudan Medical Relief is named the July recipient of the Half Portion for Social Action. We will be saving lives with our Sunday collections this month.

Share the Care!



Share The Care

One of our systems for helping each other is called Share the Care. Some members of the fellowship have signed up to provide rides or meals, or possibly some other form of help that is desired by others at the fellowship in times of need i.e. illness, loss of a loved one, a new birth etc. The system works if someone identifies a need and shares it with Amy in the office, Robin Hill (she can be emailed from our web site - listed next to "short term care"), or myself at tzimmer@gci.net. Only

by notifying one of us, can you be sure that the need may be addressed. We then post it to members of the fellowship who have agreed to help as they are willing and able. When you sign up to be a helper, it is great if you can plan on chipping in one or two times a year, as needs arise. In a perfect world, someone from our group responds with lovingkindness and carries out the desired task. This system works only if we are aware of the need and only if there is someone able to chip in and help in a timely way. So, while the system is imperfect, at times it is perfect! So, if you would like to be added to our list of helpers, please let me know!!! I can discuss the details with you further if you would like. And if you, or someone you know is in need, please give us their name, and ideally some contact information and we can touch base with them to see what might be helpful. Know that we are all doing our best!! Thanks, Teresa

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Grateful for Denise Martin and David Frey (Fairbanks organizer of Whale Coast) for the outstanding collaboration of a very successful Whale Coast Tour who had 35 guests plus Dave and Cynthia stay in AUUF homes for 3 or 4 nights and paid BIG money for the privilege.

We are so pleased that our second Peace camp went off without a hitch under the great leadership of Rosene Beachy, DLRE, and Bev Grogan. Thirty five kiddos learned about peace around the theme of water. How the possibly of peace and creating peace flows through all of us. We had four teen counselors from our congregation and a number of volunteers. Good work all.

Denise did an outstanding job juggling all the details and making it all work out smoothly. I have been involved in hosting some of these guests every year I think, but this year my guests flew in a day early. I had so much fun with them most of the extra day. It is a wonderful thing to host them and our whole congregation jumps in and somehow it all works and we are definitely the richer (both in money earned and in getting to know other UUs from around the USA). Thank you Denise!

And while I am talking about Whale Coast (one more group coming in July), let me do a public "Thank You" for the many helping hands who put together a lovely "Pot Luck" dinner for the Whale Coast people and our congregation during each tour. Special thanks to Kalen Saxton, Jane Gray, Amy Westfall, Silver Hjellen and Don Crandall, Stephanie Koontz. The tables are always so pretty, table cloths, fresh flowers on each table, a drinks station, appetizer table, dessert table and bless the fishermen who bring fresh salmon and halibut grilled in our yard.

We are grateful for our Large Presence at the Gay Pride Parade and our booth at the Park Strip after the parade. We were one of four congregations to have a table at the Park Strip, manned by our volunteers. It was the largest Gay Pride Parade in Anchorage's history. So pleased that 41 of our UU's marched, let's have sixty next year! I'm very proud of this congregation. Special thanks to the organizers, Jeanne Duryee and Julie Behm. Well done!

We are grateful for the lovely chance to "say goodbye" to Dr. Tamara McCoy as part of the service at the 11 AM service. She was there to be our music director, we heard her beautiful voice singing, we had a chance to show our appreciation with a gift or two and say a personal "goodbye". She will be missed a lot, and a "hard act to follow". Sigh! Changes; We all wish you well, Tamara.

Be well dear people, "Fish On!" Enjoy our summer.

July Birthdays, Best Wishes!

Birthdays are not published in our online version.

Your Credit Card for Routine Donations

If your credit card number or expiration date has changed please be sure to notify the office. (Call or leave a note in the secure pledge box.)

~~ Amy, Church Administrator 248-3737

auuf@alaska.com.

Those Wooden Name Tags

Is your name tag sitting at home, in the car, or in a coat pocket? Please bring it back and put it to use!

The Alliance will not meet in July.



Source: Mark Ewert, the Stewardship For Us team. from *The Bible* (Deuteronomy 6:10-12), adapted and flipped.

Hungry Book Club

We met in June to discuss Hidden Figures by Margot Shetterly and we were all glad to read it. The book covers much more of the women's lives before and after the plot of the movie. They were exceptional women who were not only brilliant but led *full* lives volunteering, being wives and mothers, mentoring others. The book really "rounded them out" as women. We have chosen for July a book called "All the Winters After" by Sere Prince Halverson, highly recommended. For August we have chosen "In the Kingdom of Ice and the Grand and Terrible Voyage of the UUS Jennette" by Herman Sides. We meet again Tuesday, July 11th and August 8th at 2 PM at Mary Kulawik's condo (9th and M St). Call Shirley at 563-4499 for directions. We are an open book club and all are welcome who love to read good books.



The next **Gardening Committee** meeting will be held July 16, 2017 in the sanctuary (if possible) at

12:30pm. - Stephanie and James

Buddy with a New Member

To help new members get acquainted with our program and people, we are asking members who have been around for a little bit to reach out and take a new member to coffee or lunch and help them learn a bit more about AUUF. You can do this formally by contacting Theresa Bartoldus tbartoldus@yahoo.com or informally by meeting someone on Sunday and inviting them out! Thank you all for your help in welcoming all to AUUF!

Traffic alert

This is a reminder to please respect the posted traffic pattern on the alleys around our building. On the 18th Avenue side, the entrance and exit are one-way – enter on the west end, and exit on the east end. This is valuable for safety around the building, it is important to our neighbors, and it will help with the construction process this summer. Thank you!



Volunteer Spotlight

Wray Kinard



Wray and his wife Cindy were married in the Dallas Unitarian church in 1970. While they moved to Alaska in 1977, they did not visit or join AUUF until December 2000. In his early years as a member, Wray helped with services on Sunday and forming a Canvassing Committee. He continued his service as Treasurer on the board for several years, and started the credit card service for pledges to ensure steady monthly revenue for the fellowship. He was recently on the Capital Campaign Committee, and currently serves on the Legacy Committee, the Worship Associate Committee, and the Welcoming Committee. He also regularly attends the weekly Freethinkers group. His favorite thing about the fellowship is meeting like-minded and open-minded people. He describes it as a "delightful, ongoing experience!" Thank you for your dedication throughout the years Wray. You are a gem!

Do you want to recognize someone at the fellowship for their volunteer efforts? Please contact Julie Behm at juliebehm@gmail.com.

Plastics Recycle: July 2, August 13, and September 24 are our next plastics recycle dates. 5's only please.

Green Tip: Time to spread the word. Can you talk one friend or family member into recycling by helping them to understand the basics of what Anchorage recycles? and even telling them that 5s can be recycled if brought in on our recycling Sundays..

RE Notes July 2017

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

How wonderful to come back from Sabbatical and hear the stories of spring and accolades for Acting DLRE – Katherine Huffman. What a joy to hear about all the volunteers who came together to make programs happen for all the children and youth and to know there are so many folks willing to pitch in to make this program happen!

I had a very wonderful and relaxing three months. Much of it on the road, filled with the sights and sounds of Italy. Strenuous hiking, wonderful food, ancient ruins and interesting people we met filled our days. It was very cool to experience Catholic traditions surrounding the Easter weeks and participate in packed services in huge, ancient cathedrals. I am grateful to AUUF for this wonderful opportunity.

Coming back to the excitement of Peace Camp was a great way to re-enter the RE world. Ask any kid who was at camp what they liked best, and they are likely to say “EVERYTHING!!”

We had creative workshop leaders, Enthusiastic counsellors and activities ranging from learning water science, to sewing projects, conflict resolution to meditation and massage, floating homemade rafts on the stream, to making rainsticks and building a buddy bench. Our theme of peace revolved this year around water, and how the possibilities of peace and creating peace flow through all of us.

I hope you all are having a wonderful and joyous summer. We'll see you in the fall if not before!

Love and Peace, Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Our Summer Program

9:00 Service No childcare during the summer

11:00 Service –Cross age program –“Sunday Fundays!” for ages 4-12. Occasional Sundays will have Childcare for 1-3 yr olds. Families with toddlers are welcome in the Wiggle room.

Sunday Fundays 11 – 12:15 AM (Preschool – 5th grade)

Join our volunteer workshop leaders for some fun filled activities:

- July 2 – Legos and Games with Stacey Mansfield
- July 9 – TBD
- July 16 - Water Explorations with Rosene Beachy
- July 23 – An Awesome Project with Russ Baker
- July 30 - Music and Dance with Cady Lynn O'Brien
- August 6 –Animals of the World with Carolyn & Jim Gove
- August 13 – Earth Explorations with Mary Gregory
- August 20 – Mobility Carts with Walt Hays
- August 27 - Celebrate with Rosene Beachy

2017-18 RE Registration: Parents, please register your children for the fall RE program. Pick up a Registration form at the Fellowship if you are here this summer. Forms are also available on line at the AUUF web site. Don't forget to fill out the volunteer information on the back. We need your help to make this program happen!

Also, **last call** for our unique **Coming of Age program** for 8th and 9th graders. If you are new and did not get this info in the spring, please contact Rosene to get your Jr High youth registered.

AUUF FALL FROLIC annual event is coming soon! September 15 - 17, 2017

Get out of the construction dust! Join AUUF for our annual **Fall Frolic Weekend Retreat**. For all ages at King's Lake Camp in Wasilla. Spend time with your family, Make new friends, enjoy a last Fall Hurrah, Learn something new, walk the candlelit AUUF labyrinth, Celebrate in community. Registration and information available at the Parent Info Spot Downstairs, and will also be on the LOG cover in August.

There will be 2 Fall Frolic Planning meetings this summer: Wednesday, August 9 and August 30. Please let me know if you will be at the planning meeting and can help out at camp this year. Bring or email me your ideas for new workshops for all ages or specific ages or fun large group activities.

RECRUITING - Teachers for 2017-18! Next year will be a very interesting year! Our focus will be on our Unitarian Universalist beliefs and heritage in the fall session, and, Jewish & Christian stories in the Winter/Spring session. We will need teachers with enthusiasm, creativity and flexibility as we live part of the year through the remodel! Teachers are needed at all age groups Toddler through Jr. High! If you have children in the program, please volunteer, as this is a cooperative group effort. Team teaching is how we give our teachers an opportunity to participate in the upstairs services, about half the Sundays, and still be involved in the downstairs fun.

Great, easy to use curriculums that were created by the UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association), with teams of 3 that rotate through the Sundays so you lead one and help with one Sunday each month. There is usually 1 Cross Age or Multigenerational service each month also which Kindergarten and up participate in.

Learn to know children and their families gain some new insights and new friends. Call Rosene today or sign up downstairs by the kitchen!

Sign up list and applications for new teachers available at the Parent Info Spot. If you are not able to commit to teaching, but would like to be involved, there are many other options on the RE Registration forms.

Have a Wonderful Summer, and don't forget to collect a bit of water from wherever your adventures take you that reminds you of a special place and special people you were with! Bring it with you for our "Gathering of the Waters" Ceremony during the Homecoming Service on September 10 when we return for our fall program.

The YRUU Coordinator's Corner

By Eric McCoy

2016-17 was a wonderful year. High-school and Middle-school OWL continue to be very strong popular programs. YRUU had two very fruitful youth workshops (four if you count Saturday evening at Fall Frolic, and Bridging). We took fourteen youth to Con, including six who went to both Fall and Spring Con, and eight who had never been.

We had tremendous youth involvement at the district level. Charlotte Mitchell was the leader of the YES (youth empowerment services) team, PNWD's top youth leader. Sarah Harris helped plan Fall Con as the Con-Artist, designing the logo and taking photographs. At Spring Con, Charlotte, Sarah and Reese Lockhard all participated as Con Staff. Following their example, we have three youth on Con Staff for Fall Con this October.



The slight negative externality to the tremendous positive of youth leadership is the need for funds. We raised over \$2000, and hope to do even more next year. The first item on my wish list is that the Fellowship will consider dedicating annual funds to youth leadership programming and travel. The best investment in our future is educating and empowering our next generation.

I'd like to close with a special thank you to Mara Hill. Mara spent years with the Moonspinners (middle-school) before joining the YRUU team. She has been an awesome advisor, traveling with the youth to two Cons and supervising other activities in and out of the Fellowship, helping me in so many ways, and being a noticeably positive influence on the youth. She is traveling to Northeastern to study. She is a credit to our Fellowship (she was a member of our YRUU program as a youth). I feel very privileged to have worked with her for the last two years. Thank you, Mara.

Eric McCoy, auufcyp@gmail.com, (907) 230-6915

YRUU Calendar:

July 26th: Pizza n' Plan at AUUF, 5p--a goal-setting, purpose-planning, structure-tweaking meeting.

August 18th: Kick-off Cook-out at AUUF, 6p--a welcoming event for YRUU youth, and their families.

August 26th: Lock-in at AUUF, 6p--an overnight at the Fellowship, in particular to welcome our incoming 9th graders. There will be team building, games, a movie and junk food. There's always junk food.

About Our Speakers (see back page)

Gary Holthaus has served as the called minister for our Fellowship since 2012.

Angela Libal, as the long-time manager of Title Wave Books in Spenard, I now have a new role at the 27-year-old bookstore--owner. A lifelong Alaskan, I graduated from Steller Secondary, attended UAA and APU, where I met my husband John. With our two children and dogs (and often a gaggle of extra kids and friends), we enjoy camping, fishing, berry picking, and trips to Homer to visit John's family. I joined Title Wave as a bookseller nearly 20 years ago and have managed the store since 2008. I'm thrilled to begin this next adventure in my life, not only because it felt like the next natural step in my bookselling career, but because I am so passionate about books and reading. Title Wave Books has been a part of the Anchorage and Alaskan community; where we are seeing 2nd and 3rd generations of customers and employees, too.

Wesleyan Foraker has worked at Title Wave Books for nearly 6 years. She has spent four of those years as a Title Wave Manager and has recently been promoted to the assistant store manager. She loves to go on outdoor adventures with her husband and one year old son, Orion. In between reading graphic novels, watching new science fiction / fantasy shows, and walking on the Coastal Trail, Title Wave is her favorite place to be.

Brian Brettschneider is an Anchorage-based research climatologist affiliated with the University of Alaska Fairbanks' International Arctic Research Center (IARC). Some of his recent work has centered on the effects of a changing climate on Alaska. Brian hosts a weekly program on the Alaska Public Radio Network called "Ask a Climatologist." Several of his social media posts on his Facebook and Twitter pages have received national attention from the New York Times, Washington Post and CNN.

Sen. Tom Begich represents downtown Anchorage in the Alaska State Senate, where he serves on the Education and Health and Social Services committees and helped found the Innovation Caucus. Through his company CW Communications, Begich specializes in juvenile justice, education, and government relations, and provides training in Alaska and throughout the country in juvenile justice, restorative and community justice, community development, strategic planning, and media relations. Begich has been a staff assistant to two Majority Leaders in the Alaska State House and Chief of Staff to the Caucus Chair in the Alaska State Senate, and has served on numerous Boards and Commissions in Anchorage and Alaska since 1983. He is also a professional musician and writer with seven CD's of professional music and a book of poetry to his credit.

Polly Smith's interest and passion for adult literacy began many years ago as a volunteer tutor for Alaska Literacy Program. She has worked with learners of all ages and many different countries, from preschool to adults in college and the workforce. Polly is a teacher, trainer and Executive Director for the Alaska Literacy Program. She has a Master's degree in Education which she earned as a Teacher Corps member on the Hopi Reservation in Arizona. She serves on the board of the Coalition of Adult Basic Education, a national organization representing over 55,000 educators, administrators and adult students across the country. Polly was raised a Unitarian in Flagstaff, Arizona. She realized her childhood dream of becoming an Alaskan in 1977 where she met her husband and raised three sons.

Beverly Churchill is co-founder of the Anchorage affiliate of Move to Amend, a national coalition of hundreds of organizations committed to social and economic justice, ending corporate rule and building a vibrant democracy accountable to the people, not corporate interests. A graduate of the University of Washington School of Social Work, she has worked for social service agencies and the State of Alaska for 43 years.

Sharman Haley is a retired social science and public policy analyst for the University of Alaska Anchorage's Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER). Her work there has frequently centered on human development and well-being in Arctic communities. She received her B.A. degree in Social Studies and Computer Science at Radcliffe College, and her Ph.D. in Economics at the University of California at Berkeley.

Jill Seaman is a family medicine physician and graduate of Middlebury College (BA, 1974) and University of Washington School of Medicine (MD, 1979). For part of the year she provides health care in Bethel through the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation. Much of her remaining time is devoted to her clinic in Old Fangak, South Sudan. The founder of South Sudan Medical Relief, she was named a MacArthur Fellow in 2009 for her efforts in advancing medical care in the most challenging of conditions.

About Our Speakers Continued (see back page)

Teresa Pond, the Producing Artistic Director of Cyrano's Theatre Company, was born and raised in the Anchorage theater scene (her first show was at Grant Hall Theatre when she was 10 weeks old!). Teresa received her BFA in Communications at Chapman University, then served as Executive Director of Anchorage Community Theatre in the 1990's for several years. After receiving her MFA in Directing from UC-Irvine, she moved to New York City and has directed professionally across the country and internationally with companies such as Women's Project Theatre (Off-Broadway), New York Classical Theatre, Vital Theatre Company, New show theatre development, NY Fringe Festival, and numerous theaters regionally over the past 15 years. She has served on arts councils and various non-profits, and has collaborated on and off the stage with organizations such as Perseverance Theatre, ACT, ATY, Alaska Native Heritage Center, Alaska Dance Theatre, UAA Department of Theatre, Out North Theatre.

Dennis Arashiro is the son of a Japanese American soldier and his Japanese war bride. After an early childhood in Hawaii, he came to Alaska in 1961 and made Alaska his lifelong home. A graduate of East High School and Alaska Methodist University, he has taught in the Anchorage School District for 45 years. He has been a member of the Fellowship for the past 9 years.

Heather Flynn is a longtime Anchorage civic leader and local philanthropist. A former school teacher, she arrived in Alaska in 1968, helped write the city charter in the early '70s, worked on the city's first comprehensive plan, served two terms on the Anchorage School Board, 10 years on the Anchorage Assembly and ran for mayor in 1994. She is the former director of the AWAIC shelter for abused women, and in 2010 received the lifetime Achievement Award presented by the ATHENA Society of Anchorage.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 2824 E. 18th Ave, Anchorage AK 99508

Office phone: 907-248-3737 Email: auuf@gci.net www.anchorageuuf.org

Our Mission: We are a Fellowship of diverse people who come together to nurture each other, to grow ethically, spiritually and intellectually, and to help create a just, safe, and caring community

Staff Contacts

Gary Holthaus, minister of AUUF, (907) 433-9311

Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration 441-6815

Eric McCoy, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Programing 230-6915 or AUUFCYP@gmail.com

Amy Lundell, Congregational Administrator, 248-3737 x 3 or auuf@gci.net

AUUF Board of Directors: Amanda Mack - President; Peggy Robinson-Treasurer;
Don Crandall - Vice President; Kelley Hartlieb -Secretary; Wendy Romberg; David O'Brien; James Dryden;
Marty Freeman-Immediate Past President,

Additional Ministry and Committee Contacts

Adult Programs – Deena Mitchell

Annual Dinner / Auction – Stephenie Wheeler

AFACT – Marie Rozak, Ron Devon

Alliance – Shirley Dickens

Building and Grounds - Bruce Roberts

Capital Campaign – Doug Eby / Frank Mitchell

Children and Youth RE – Alison Hansen

Childcare Coordinator – Kalen Saxton

Committee on Shared Ministry – Marty Herriott

Communications – Stephenie Wheeler

Endowment – John Blaine

Finance – Sam Cason

Green Sanctuary –Suzie Kobierowski / Cathy Steen

Grounds and Gardens – Stephanie Koonz /

James Dryden

Human Resources –Peggy Robinson

Interior Design – Irene O'Brien / Cindy Kinard

Membership / Member Services – Judy Engh / Julie Behm

Nominating – Ron Devon

OWL – Katherine Huffman

Pastoral Care – Don Crandall / Robin Hill

Pastoral Pantry – Amanda Cash

Planned Giving – Wray Kinard

Safer Congregation – Amy Westfall /

Mary Ann Eininger

Share the Care – Robin Hill / Teresa Zimmer / Amy Lundell

Shared Ministry – Marty Herriott

Social Justice Committee – Dennis Arashiro

Small Groups – Susan Orlansky

Speaker's Forum –George Bryson

Stewardship – Mindy Willis

UUSC Coordinator – Vacant

WhaleCoast – Denise Martin

Worship Associates – Marilyn Lee

Young Adults (the aurora) – Eric McCoy

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AUUF Services and Events –July / August 2017

Sunday July 2

9 am Angela Libal with Wesleyan Foraker,
“The Second Life of Title Wave”
11 am Gary Holthaus,
“Wild Horses, Glaciers, and Climate Change”

Sunday July 9

9 am Brian Brettschneider, “Ask a Climatologist”
11 am Gary Holthaus,
“What I Learned About Community I Learned From a
Rodeo Cowboy and a Metropolitan Community
Church”

Sunday July 16

9 am Sen. Tom Begich,
“Reflections of a Freshman Legislator”
11 am Polly Smith, “Anchorage Literacy Program”

Sunday July 23

9 am Sharman Haley and Beverly Churchill,
“Fighting ‘Citizen’s United”
11 am Gary Holthaus,
“Overshoot Day, Stealing From Our Grandchildren”

Sunday July 30

9 am Teresa Pond, “The Changing Face of
Anchorage Theatre”
11 am TBD

Sunday August 6

9 am Jill Seaman, “The Struggles in South Sudan”
11 am Dennis Arashiro

Sunday August 13

9 am Heather Flynn,
“Estate of Giving”
11 am Gary Holthaus, TBD

CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS- July / August 2017

Sunday 11 am ~ Childcare & Classes for toddlers through high school

The LOG

August 2017



AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2824 E. 18th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99508-3303

From Gary

I've had a connection to trees I've never quite understood. It's not mystical for I know its source, or sources. One was my father who first took me into the woods of northeast Iowa when I was in fourth grade or so. Just the two of us to "pussyfoot" around, as he put it. That meant walking softly as we could, putting each foot down securely before we took the next step. Sometimes we would sit down with our backs against the thick trunk of an oak or maple and just listen to whatever was to be heard, looking too at whatever was to be seen.

Once he drove us some distance and then we walked across farm fields until we came to the grove of trees he wanted me to see. It was one of the few stands of old growth maples or hickories left in Iowa. I was too young to understand how significant that was, but for years I've remembered a certain sense of reverence, a different kind of quiet about that place now long gone. I've had to question my memory too... was it really that quiet or did I invent that? Did it really remind me of the sanctuary of our church, so still, lights dim, ready for an evening service? Did those trees feel still and holy as communion? Surely, I have romanticized my memory of trees. It had to have come from Pop's attitude rather than the trees, I tell myself now. But...

But there was also the beauty of the great elms growing from either side of Romberg Avenue, their tall limbs joining, forming the perfect arches of stained glass windows on either side of that childhood sanctuary. Those elms are all gone now, except for the memory of great trees carrying a sense of the sacred.

Not all trees conveyed that sense. In our back yard, there was a huge catalpa tree. Long skinny seed pods hung from it. They littered the back yard, and in my childhood view served no good purpose at all, except for a certain majesty to the trunk, so heavy at the base, so tall and straight till the broad leaves created the shade we liked hot, humid, Iowa days. Whatever the reality of this connection to trees, this much is clear: I am grateful still for the beauty of trees and I cherish my connection to them.

See You Sunday - Gary

"New Front Door 2017"

By Carma Reed

In a Nutshell, as of August 1 (the day this article is being written):

For those of you disappointed not to see a shovel in the ground as of today, Yippee! That day is coming shortly!

And, for those of you concerned about the day construction chaos is upon us, #\$\$%#@! That day is coming shortly, too! (but it won't last forever, and it is very exciting)

Some Q&As

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Calendar Highlights

Aug 11 2 pm Eugene Kulawik COL
Aug 24th and 31st Intro UU
Thought and History
Aug 26 Youth Lock in
Aug 27 Picnic
Sept 10 Homecoming Sunday
Sept 15-17 Fall Frolic
Sept 24 Regular RE starts

(Continued page 2)

"New Front Door 2017," (continued)

Before construction can start, three critical pieces must be in place: Municipal building permits, our construction contract, and preparing our building and grounds (including temporarily relocating staff and stuff). We are very close on all three, and this has been the primary "behind the scenes" hard work our design and construction and Project Oversight Teams have been working on. In fact, by the time you get this log, building permits and contracts could be complete, and volunteer parties have begun on building and grounds preparations. A recent check-in with the contractor confirmed we are still on schedule to get the structure completed this fall. We expect there may be some elements, like pavement patches and striping for example, that could be pushed to the spring due to cold, but these items won't impact occupancy and our usage of the facility.

How can I help?

Volunteer work parties have begun – thank you to everyone who is already involved. We are looking for new members for the labor pool, especially those with construction experience, but other abilities and helpful hands are also needed. Please contact James Dryden: 344-4995 to let him know how and when you can help. Please keep your eyes and ears open for volunteer work parties and sign up if you are able.

What is the Current Volunteer Activity? (this evolves frequently!)

The first tasks to be done before the contractor arrives, some of which have begun by the time the Log is published are:

- Clear out of storage under the south stairways
- Repurpose four bathrooms downstairs (remove toilets & sinks, flip doors, and install shelving in three)
- Remove the cabinets in the minister's ante-room

I offered a bridge loan. Is that still needed? Bridge loans are still needed. You will be contacted by the end of August with details. The payment schedule will be known shortly, and that will drive the loans. Contact Carma Reed if you have questions before you are contacted: 907-727-5275

What will be the temporary Downstairs Impacts?

The western half of downstairs will be most impacted by the project. The northern end of this area will be used for most of the winter for AUUF storage. The southern end will be used for 4-5 months by the contractor. The middle areas will be used for transient storage until RE begins in September.

Items being moved out of the existing storage this month will be collected in the middle areas of the western downstairs. People responsible for these items will need to claim them and decide if they should be kept or discarded, and move them well before RE begins.

Other Impacts?

This is certainly not an exhaustive list, but intended to give a broad overview....As construction starts (soon) we will all be impacted. Traffic flow has already changed (planters blocking the area where the "New Front Door" will go). We will enter the Sanctuary from the North East entry (the one facing 18th). Our Upstairs will not be accessible by wheelchair from the time the ramp to the upstairs is demolished to the time the elevator is installed and usable. Alternate access for those who can't climb stairs is being researched and will be resolved by the time construction begins. Staff will work amidst construction noise and temporary work space which will be a challenge. The Program Council brought up other member access issues as well, not all of which have immediate answers, but the Project Oversight Team is identifying someone to work on those specifically, so that forethought is very much appreciated.

Anything Else?

Thank you! Thanks to people at the Program Council who shared space/access concerns. That kind of communication is very helpful to try to minimize negative impacts. Thanks to our long term loan source (loan closed without a hitch), and thanks to our bridge loan sources, and thanks to all our many, many capital campaign donors. Thanks to staff who are facing temporary disruption and the need to carry on and make do. Thanks for everyone on the Project Oversight Team and our contractors for hard work completed and more to come. Thanks to you for reading and committing to this project, and your patience and well wishes as we all see it grow!

President's Log Letter – August 2017

General Assembly (GA) is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists from around the country and Canada. This year's GA was convened in New Orleans and the theme was Black Lives Matter. Although GAs are planned for years in advance, the theme was very timely because the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is under fire for not living its values of diversity and inclusion in its hiring practices. Former president Peter Morales resigned as a result and a group of three ministers of color became co-leaders of UUA until a new president was elected at GA.

Susan Frederick-Gray, a UU minister in Phoenix, AZ, is our new president. Other than one of the three co-leaders who served in the interim, she is the first female UUA minister. She effectively led and continues to lead UUs across her region to stand in solidarity with immigrants placing social justice at the heart of her ministry and her congregation. She is the kind of national leader we need right now to help congregations throughout North America get out of their comfort zones as they step up their efforts to both resist and to rejoice.

The idea of "resist and rejoice" is that we can't just talk about what is wrong with our planet, our culture, and our politics. We also have to celebrate what is right. We do that by getting out beyond our four walls to work in solidarity with those most afflicted by the injustices inflicted by the dominant culture and by celebrating our faith, our life passages, and our successes together within our four walls.

Black Lives Matter, "resist and rejoice," and challenging UUs to get out of our comfort zones were all themes at GA. They are themes that have run through history from the struggle to end slavery to the civil rights movement and to the Black Lives Matter movement of today. According to GA Ware Lecture speaker Bryan Stevenson, until we do the healing work of reconciliation where we acknowledge the injustices of white supremacy and our role in upholding these systems, we can't truly live our UU principles.

Back in Anchorage, AUUF has convened a social justice steering committee to help us develop a course of action for revitalizing our social justice work. At its July meeting, the working group identified the importance of beginning with and supporting people's passions. A proposed next step is to establish "working groups" or "task forces" that take leadership on specific social justice issues to be supported and supervised by a social justice "Council." Once these task forces are working well, the Council would or could decide – with input from the congregation – to initiate a campaign to "spotlight" a specific issue for a six-month, one-year or longer time period with special emphasis and programs involving that issue. Come discuss this structure and more at the next meeting on Monday, August 21 at 1:30 p.m.

In closing, if you are ready for AUUF to step fully into the resistance of oppression, take your place at the table. If this discussion has you feeling uneasy, take your place at the table. Show up, let your voice be heard, and help us navigate how to become a beacon for social justice in Anchorage.

In fellowship, Amanda Mack

PrideFest 2017

By Julie Behm

On Saturday, June 24th, over forty people from Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship gathered downtown to participate in the 40th Annual PrideFest Parade. With handmade signs, ribbon wands, and rainbow flags waving, we marched in support of the LGBTQ community while holding our Standing on the Side of Love banner high. T.K. Kleiner graciously volunteered to drive her truck in the parade again, which we decorated with a banner and balloons. We even had bicyclists join in the fun!

In addition to the parade, AUUF also had a booth at the festival for the first time in years. It was a wonderful opportunity to reach out and talk to people about AUUF and who we are. For some, it was the first time they had heard of us, while others were aware and wanted to learn more.

Jeanna Duryee and I, co-chairs of the PrideFest subcommittee, would like to say thanks to Amy Westfall, her stepson Zack, Yolanda Meza and Kate Lehn who took turns helping us run the booth and assisted with take down at the end of the day. Thanks to T.K. Kleiner for volunteering her truck again this year. And to all of you who took the time to join us that day, thank you very much! We hope to see you all again next year and hopefully some new faces, too!

About AFACT July, 2017

By Helen Nienhueser

Several weeks ago concerns about AFACT (Anchorage Faith & Action Congregations Together) were raised on AUUF's google group. In response, Gary organized an evening meeting with AFACT staff and AUUF's AFACT representatives (Don Crandall and Marie Rozak) to explain AFACT and answer questions and concerns. Unfortunately, the meeting was poorly attended, so Amy asked me to write something for the Log regarding what I learned about AFACT at that meeting.

AFACT was formed in 2003 by a group of pastors who recognized that though they had some major differences, their congregations had a great deal in common and that by working together on the social justice issues they agreed on they could be more effective. To make this work they recognized that they had to agree to set aside those issues on which they had strong disagreement. Those issues are abortion and LGBTQ rights (and, of course, theological issues). This arrangement is unique; AFACT's founder and staff said they knew of no other model where divergent groups agreed to disagree and to work together on their areas of agreement.

Under Gary's leadership, AUUF joined AFACT in 2015. Today AFACT is a coalition of 16 Anchorage congregations including some we probably know about (e.g. St. Mary's Episcopal Church) and some (that are much more multicultural than we are) that we probably don't know (e.g. First Covenant and Bethel Chapel). Google AFACT for a complete list. Several of our members went through the AFACT training (Don and Marie and Ron Devon and Gary). We pay dues of 1% of our operating budget or about \$2500 a year. Originally the Alliance helped find the funds and subsequently the board and congregation agreed to include AFACT dues in our annual budget. These funds go to pay AFACT's staff, who work as organizers/trainers on the social justice projects AFACT congregations take on.

AFACT congregations' projects come under the general headings of education, health care, youth issues, and safe neighborhoods. Usually AFACT's projects are led by a particular congregation with support from others. The issue most of us are probably aware of is the successful campaign to expand Medicaid. Many of the AFACT projects are much lower key such as a recent successful one to expand the number of detox beds in Anchorage; after studying the issue AFACT members realized the problem was the interpretation of a regulation; individual members went in front of the nursing board, told their stories, and saw the regulation reinterpreted with the result that that 6-8 new detox beds will be added in Anchorage, an increase of about 50%. Examples of other projects are education of Native children, getting a safe bus stop location, and closing a neighborhood crack house. For a more complete list see the leaflet in our foyer or talk to Don or Marie.

No one at the informational meeting knew of any of the member congregations working to oppose LGBTQ rights; it is possible, but Don Crandall thinks unlikely. Some members of some congregations may not agree with AUUF's position on these issues. That's why that set of issues was set aside at the beginning. Don says what he likes is "how liberating it is to work with people who have different cultural backgrounds and different beliefs and yet we can work together to make positive change. It's a spiritual practice." The challenge for the rest of us is can we work on issues of mutual agreement with those who disagree with us on other issues? It seems like a good model in a world that is increasingly divisive. Maybe we could learn something from each other. And, of course, nothing prevents us from also working with other coalitions.

Half Portion for Social Action: Minister's Discretionary Fund

By Dennis Arashiro

A man just got hired but needs work boots he can't yet afford. A woman needs food and diapers for her kids to make it until the end of the month. A family has no money for utility bills after paying for rent. The social safety net has nothing left to give. Our minister is their last hope. In the past, our minister had to call and email the Fellowship for funds to help those coming to our door for help. That's because no money was readily available.

To ensure that our minister never turns someone away for lack of funds, the Social Justice Committee now keeps track of the Minister's Discretionary Fund and designates it for the Half Portion for Social Action when necessary. This is one of those times. When you give on Sunday this month, you are changing the course of one life after another in a significant way. And a very personal way.

Welcoming Congregation Renewal

By Julie Behm

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is officially recognized as a Welcoming Congregation. This means that AUUF has taken steps to become more inclusive of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people. Due to the many changes happening with the LGBTQ community, the Unitarian Universalist Association recommends that congregations undergo the renewal process every 5 years. I was happily surprised to find out that AUUF earned our recognition of Welcoming Congregation all the way back in 1994! However, because it has been over 20 years, the board recently approved the formation of a Welcoming Congregation Renewal Team.

I am looking for volunteers who are interested in taking on the task of identifying where AUUF is on the welcoming journey and where we hope to be in the future. This includes highlighting and celebrating our strengths, while identifying any unaddressed needs and potential areas of growth. I am hoping to gather a diverse group of people in terms of age, sexual orientation, gender identity, race and ethnicity, longevity of membership, etc. If you are interested and would like to hear more, please contact me at juliebehm@gmail.com for more details. Thank you!

Social Justice Committee

By Dennis Arashiro

Social justice. Doing it all. Not possible if each one of us tries to do it all. Only possible if each one of us focuses on a single piece of it. That's why I no longer ask if you are interested in doing social justice. I ask what piece of it are you interested in pursuing. Do women's rights matter profoundly to you? Worker's rights? Homelessness? What are you willing to give up time and energy for? I ask what event are willing to help out with. Pride Fest? Project Homeless Connect? Food Bank Volunteer Saturdays?

I hope you give some thought to answering those questions. And once you have the answers for yourself, I hope can help provide answers for our Fellowship. We are in the process of finding the most effective ways for our Fellowship to address the issues of social justice. We need to know where we can make the greatest difference with the will, the talent, and the resources we can bring to bear. Please call or email me with your thoughts, questions, and proposals. Dennis Arashiro at 444-4324 or elvischannel@yahoo.com.

Plastics Recycle: August 13, and September 24 are our next plastics recycle dates. 5's only please.

Green Tip: Time to clean out your gardening shelves. The Botanical Garden and some greenhouses will take back containers for plantings for the following year.

Big Thanks to All Whalecoast Volunteers

By Denise Martin

We did it! Our second Whalecoast Alaska Tour came through Anchorage on July 12 and 13, and all our AUUF volunteers came through and made their stay a pleasant and memorable one! I feel so blessed to have all the supportive members of our congregation who recognize the importance of Whalecoast, not just in terms of the funds it generates for AUUF, but for the comradery and opportunity to meet and mingle with other UUs from around the U.S. Our two tours earned us \$19,821. I want to express my sincerest gratitude to Banquet organizer Kalen Saxton and her fabulous team of helpers, to Jim Kerr for the downtown walking tour, to drivers who helped shuttle (even at the last minute!), and especially to these hosts who opened their home to our guests for 2 nights: Shirley Dickens, Judith Anderegg, Heather Flynn, Susan Orlansky, Jeanne Fisher, Gwen Perry-Crawford, Helen Neinheuser, Kalen Saxton, Jane Gray, Irene O'Brien, William Salazar, Yolanda Meza, Deb Addie, Marie Lundstrom, Doreen Ransom, Kathy Dill, Sylvia Short, Stacy Mansfield, Carol Anne Wolfe, Rosene Beachy and James Dryden.

If you want to be a part of the fun next summer, fill out a form and I will contact you next Spring. Also, I am recruiting an apprentice for next year. I have found this once-a-year project to be interesting, fun, rewarding, and not really so hard. If you want to learn more about Whalecoast, visit www.whalecoastak.org

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Grateful for another major undertaking by this congregation, the second Whale Coast group of UU tourists getting a chance to see Alaska. Many thanks to Denise Martin who coordinated our involvement, the several of us who housed the guests, many other volunteers who gave rides, helped in the banquet we hosted (Kalen Saxton, Jane Gray, Bruce, George, many others who set up, cleaned up, served). Too many to mention. Our congregation is enriched not only with considerable monies, but a chance to meet and get to know other UU's from all over the USA. What a Deal! Thank you to Dave from Fairbanks who makes this happen.

A very grateful "Thank you" to all who help the 2 committees plan our exceptional services for both the Forum and the 11 AM service. We have had a wonderful offering week after week for several months now. The larger summer crowds showing up verify how much these programs are appreciated. Well done!

A bit of information about "Saving the Date" for upcoming party honoring our 85 and older seniors. October 6th, a Friday night, the Alliance is hosting a party/potluck supper at 7 PM, here at the fellowship to learn more about our seniors and enjoy games and fellowship and an excellent potluck supper. John Blaine will once again be our master of ceremonies. We had a similar party a few years ago for those of us 90 and over. Do not miss this party. We will use both the social room to get our food, then come to tables set up in the Sanctuary. Gwen Perry Crawford and Marie Rozak are busy planning our activities. Be sure to RSVP. You will be hearing more as the time gets closer. Not to be missed.

Grateful for the life of Eugene Kulawik, a longtime member of this congregation, who died at JBER on July 7th. We will have his "Celebration of Life", here at the Fellowship on August 11th (Friday afternoon) at 2 PM. His two children and also the grandchildren will be here. Our minister, Gary Holthaus will in charge of the service. Gene was a very fine man, a survivor of the Korean War and he had been in Fairbanks and Anchorage for many years. Mary and Gene's two children flew up to Anchorage right after his death to be with their mother. Gene had been in an assisted care facility for some time.

Remembering those of us facing possible surgeries, medical problems, difficult choices, problems of all kinds, may our "beloved community" be a source of comfort, help, companionship, and good will. You are not alone, you are valued. We wish all of you good health, connection, and peace of mind. Be well everyone.

Adult Programs Offerings

The next **Earth Institute Class** coordinated by Cathy Steen will be: "A Different Way: Living Simply in a Complex World." Length of Course: Six sessions **Beginning Monday Sept, 11th** with an intro session. Course Book: Paperback and ebook. Cost of book: \$23 (plus shipping if you order the paperback)

Chalice Circles are Coming to AUUF! To continue to build community in our Fellowship, the Adult Programs and Membership/Welcoming Committees are cultivating intentional small group ministry in the Chalice Circle format. These groups will be open to members, friends, and the broader Anchorage community.

If you are interested in learning more, and possibly becoming a co-facilitator of a Chalice Circle, please contact **Meghan Bundtzen** (BetterWithArt@gmail.com). A four-week training course will be offered Thursdays, September 7 – 28, from 6 – 8:30 pm.

"Intro to UU Thought and History": Our June classes once again brought newer visitors and members together to share their own spiritual journeys and questions about UU history and principles. Participants shared deeply their joys and worries about being in this type of community. Some things that were grappled with included: How do we practice the principle of "the inherent worth and dignity of every person" including the homeless person on the corner? And what exactly does "encouragement to spiritual growth" mean? Being UU the discussions bring about lots of thoughts and ideas!

Our next 2 session class is planned for **August 24th and 31st from 6:30-8pm**. If you can't make that, next offering is Sept 28th and Aug 5th. Everyone is welcome whether you are brand new or have been coming for decades. Please RSVP to Judy Engh at judyrae427@yahoo.com so we can notify you if there are any last-minute changes.

(More information on these classes can be found on the bulletin board in the social room.)

Welcoming at AUUF

Our membership team is working hard to help us create a culture of hospitality. It will take all of us to reach out to people in our midst whether they've been coming for a long time or are brand new.

We are inviting people to join hospitality teams to help specifically with Sunday morning hospitality including greeting folks, making coffee, snacks, doing dishes, passing the offering plates, etc. We will have several trainings this fall as we seek to provide radical hospitality to all! Please contact Judy Engh, judyrae427@yahoo.com, if you are willing to help with any of these things once a month. We seek to have 4 teams of 10 people so that it is only a once a month commitment for only an hour or two. Thanks in advance for your help in welcoming!

July News from The Alliance

We met Sunday, July 9th for a brief meeting for some business items. Eugene Kulawik passed away at JBER hospital July 7th and we were able to spend time with Mary. We will meet again in August, the 13th at 1:30 PM.

Our Steinway

Did you notice that our 1907 Steinway piano is no longer in the Sanctuary? It is at Anchorage Piano Services being completely rebuilt, including receiving a new sound board. Sylvia Short, who donated the piano a number of years ago, graciously donated the funds for the rebuilding. We are thrilled to be able to have this wonderful piano on our dais when it is ready and the building construction is done.

Update on the Music Director

Our Music Director position is now being advertised. If you know someone who might be interested and plays the piano, please encourage them to apply. The job description is posted on the website. The person will either direct the choir and hire an accompanist or accompany the choir and hire a choir director. Cover letters and resume are to be sent to Amy Lundell, Administrator. auufjob@gci.net

Birthdays

Are not published in this issue due to space. Please see the bulletin board in the social room. Happy Birthday to all August babies!

Volunteer Spotlight

Marty Freeman



Marty Freeman has been a member of AUUF for over twenty years. She first volunteered as an RE teacher. It was an experience that she greatly enjoyed and is something that she encourages others to do if they can. Marty has served in many different ways since joining the fellowship. She was on the Committee on Youth RE and Committee on Shared Ministry. She is currently the chair of the Program Council, a member of the choir, and one of the organizers of the Alternative Gift Shop. She recently finished her term as President of the Board. When asked her favorite thing about the fellowship, Marty mentioned the sense of community, being repeatedly pushed out of her comfort zone, having access to a collective conscience that is constantly challenging, and the chance to sing aloud with other people every week! Thank you for blessing AUUF with your gifts, Marty. We appreciate you!

Do you want to recognize someone at the fellowship for their volunteer efforts? Please contact Julie Behm at juliebehm@gmail.com.

Interim Choir Rehearsals!!

Come Thursday evenings 7-8 pm starting August 31st. All youth and adult singers are welcome. Bring voices, pencils, and energy to begin the fall UU music season. For more information contact Joyce Laine.



The YRUU Coordinator's Corner

By Eric McCoy

All members of families with a youth in our program are welcome to come to our Kick-off Cook-out on August 18th at 6 pm at the Fellowship. There will be food and games and a little info about the coming year. Bring a dish, or don't. Just come have fun!

There will be a welcome back Lock in--an overnight at the Fellowship, in particular to welcome our incoming 9th graders. There will be team building, games, a movie, and junk food. There's always junk food.

We have three youth on Con Staff this October! Reese Lockard will be on staff for the second time, and Gretchen Mitchell and Izzy Hanks will be participating for the first time. Got miles? Extra companion fare? Contact me!

AlasCon--for the 6th year running, the World Makers (YRUU) will hold their own Con parallel to Fall Frolic. There will be workshops and worships, including a whole congregation Saturday night worship.

Eric McCoy, auufcyp@gmail.com, (907) 230-6915



Calendar:

August 18th: Kick-off Cook-out at AUUF, 6p

August 26th: Lock-in at AUUF, 6p

RE Notes August 2017

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Lots of fun has been happening during our Summer Fun Days program. And we still have 4 Sundays of fun to go! A big thanks to all our leaders who have brought very interesting activities.

Very soon we will be into our Fall program. Yes, even with the ongoing remodel we will be having an RE program. Our elementary classes 2nd – 5th will be starting with Cross Age activities, but we will still need volunteers to lead these and the early childhood and youth programs. We will have Coming of Age and OWL classes on Sunday afternoons, so are looking for mentors and interested leaders to be trained for Elementary OWL. Please talk to Rosene Beachy, DLRE, or Alison Hansen, CYRE chair, about volunteering for any of these positions. It will be an exciting Fall!

I hope you all have had wonderful summers. Don't forget to save some water from your favorite places or activities to bring to Homecoming on September 10th. And fill out your Fall Frolic registration forms to join in our Family & Friends Retreat on the 15th.

All registration forms are available on the AUUF Facebook RE group, and the AUUF website.

Peace, Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Our Summer Program

9:00 Service No childcare during the summer

11:00 Service – Cross age programs for 4-11. Childcare for 1-3 yr olds

Sunday Fundays 11 – 12:15 AM (Preschool – 5th grade)

SunDay FunDays (Preschool age 4 – 5th grade)

August 6 –Animals of the World with Carolyn & Jim Gove

August 13 – Earth Explorations with Mary Gregory

August 20 – Mobility Carts with Walt Hays

August 27 - Celebrate with Rosene Beachy

Coming in September

Homecoming Sunday and Mingling of the Waters is September 10.

Fall Frolic and Youth Kickoff Con are September 15-17.

RE program begins September 25th.

Re Sunday Morning Program 2017-18

Registration continues for the Fall RE 11:00 classes. The registration form is at AUUF and on line. **Please fill it out TODAY!** Remember to fill out the volunteer page as we need many hands to create this program. Jr High and HS youth have additional necessary permission forms available in the RE office.

Volunteers Needed For:

Fall Frolic - Volunteers to help plan activities for adults and children– Planning meetings Wed. August 9, and Tuesday the 29th, 7:00pm. We need your help and ideas to keep Fall Frolic alive and continuing to provide a wonderful weekend each year for our Fellowship!

Sunday Morning class Leaders - Join a team

Many teachers are still needed at all age groups Toddler through Jr. High! Our focus will be on our Unitarian Universalist beliefs and heritage. We will need teachers with enthusiasm, creativity and flexibility as we live part of the year through the remodel! Until Classrooms are accessible we will be doing some cross age projects and activities for 2nd – 5th graders this fall while our space is in the midst of remodel

If you have children in the program, please volunteer, as this is a cooperative group effort. Team teaching is how we give our teachers an opportunity to participate in the upstairs services, about half the Sundays, and still be involved in the excitement downstairs.

Great, easy to use curriculums, teams of 3-4 that rotate through the Sundays so you lead one and help one Sunday each month. There will generally be 1 Multigenerational service each month.

This is also a great opportunity for adults currently not raising children, who don't get much exposure to the youngest UU's to spend some time each month exchanging wisdom and friendship and learning to know these fascinating young people and their families! You too could experience the joy and exploration opportunities each week by participating in a fun and spirit filled hour, teaching in RE!

Teacher Volunteer sign up list and applications available at the Parent Info Spot.

Call Rosene Beachy, DLRE for information about any of these volunteer possibilities.

Teacher Orientation – Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 10th, 3 - 7 pm.

OUR WHOLE LIVES (OWL) Programs coming this Fall

Our Whole Lives is a series of sexuality education curricula for six age groups created by the UUA: grades K-1, grades 4-6, grades 7-9, grades 10-12, young adults (ages 18-35), and adults. *Our Whole Lives* helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, *Our Whole Lives* not only provides facts about anatomy and human development, but also helps participants clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality.

If you were registered in RE last year, you will be getting OWL registration packets in the mail for your age group. If you don't get a packet, please pick up the forms at the fellowship at the "Parent Info Spot" downstairs.

Meet the Workshop Leaders & opportunity for Curriculum Preview: Sun. August 27 after the 11:00 service

Elementary OWL – Intermediate level

4th – 5th Parent Information meeting, Monday, September 18th, 7:00–8:30 pm

4th – 5th Parent & Child Kick off Workshop, Saturday, September 23, 10:00 – 12:00 pm

Classes – October 1 – November 19th, 12:30 – 1:30 pm Sunday afternoon

Elementary K-1 will be offered in the winter if we have class leaders. (Please see Rosene if interested in being trained for this ministry)

Jr High School OWL grades 7-9

Parent Orientation – **Monday, August 28, (7-9 p.m.)**

OWL Kickoff – Sunday, Sept. 10th, 12:30 – 3:00 pm for Participants and parents

Classes – September 10th to November 19, 12:30 am - 3:00 pm

Will include 3 Saturday workshops & fieldtrips, TBA

Folks have been asking - When Is the Auuf Fall Frolic Weekend Retreat?

September 15 – 17, 2017

At Salvation Army - King's Lake Camp in Wasilla.

Fall Frolic Questions & Answers

When, where and how much? Our annual AUUF retreat will take place at King's Lake Camp in Wasilla from 6 pm Friday evening, September 15th to Sunday afternoon, September 17th. All members and friends of our AUUF family are welcome. Please don't hesitate to come because of cost - Scholarship funds available by request.

- The cost for 2 nights and 5 meals will be \$80 for adults and youth, children age 3-10 are \$50, and wee ones 0-2 are free. **Max for a family is \$275.**
- One night - A --\$60 / CH- \$40. Or come and enjoy the day Saturday w/meals – A -\$40/ CH -\$25.

(it is much appreciated by the office if you pay on our website!)

Where is King's Lake Camp? King's Lake Camp is located outside Wasilla at 3313 Lakeview Drive. It takes a little more than an hour to drive there from Anchorage. Take the Glenn north, follow the signs to Wasilla. Turn right at Sears onto Seward Meridian Rd. Go 2 miles. Turn right on Bogard Rd. Continue to the 4-way stop. Turn left on Seldon. Continue for 1/2 mile until you see the sign for Teeland Middle School. Turn right on Lakeview Rd. Camp sign is about 1/2 mile further.

Why would I want to come to Fall Frolic? Maybe you are new to AUUF community and would like to learn to know more people . . . or maybe you've been coming to the Fellowship for a long time and have met some folks you would like to know better . . . or maybe you know lots of people and would like to have some fun in a camp setting. . . or, maybe you remember how much fun you've had before and would like to come back again . . . or maybe you would like to get out of town for some time for quiet reflection. Then this is the camp for you. Young or old, family or single you will have a relaxing, enjoyable weekend with friends.

What are we going to do for two days? The focus of this weekend is to relax and have fun. Weather permitting there will be lots of time for lakefront fun, canoeing, hiking, crafting, lantern building, singing and stargazing. You might join in a hike, join an informative Adult discussion, watch the kids on the playground or square dance. There will be opportunities for meditation and movement as we create and walk a Labyrinth, or enjoy the Lakefront sunrise. If you prefer to spend most of your time enjoying the beautiful Alaskan Fall in your own way, you can do that also. There will be several Adult/Teen workshops other than crafts offered on Saturday.

What shall I bring? Bring comfortable shoes and casual clothes including wet weather gear and extra clothes for the children. Also bring your own bedding, (sheets and blankets or sleeping bags), pillows, towels, toiletries, insect repellent, snacks, games or puzzles for a rainy day. **NO alcohol, firearms, dogs or off-road vehicles!!**

What will we do if it rains? Bring your rain gear (we're Alaskans!) Also, musical instruments, games, books or anything else you'd like to share. We have a large heated lodge that can keep us all nice and dry. But of course, IT WON'T RAIN!

Do I need to bring a tent? YOU DON'T! But you can! You may either bring a tent or a trailer to camp, or, there are 15 heated and several rustic cabins (no heat). Each cabin contains 8 - 12 bunk beds and will be shared by 2 or 3 families. There are 2 large, heated, central bathhouses complete with hot showers and flush toilets. Cabins are chosen upon arrival, or groups can let me know ahead of time. There is a Dining Hall and a large multipurpose activities lodge.

What about food? Meals will be provided on Saturday and Sunday. We do request prep and clean up help from volunteers in the kitchen to assist our UU cooks! Vegetarian options will be available at each meal. **Bring hotdogs, buns, munchies, s'mores fixings or drinks to share for dinner** (6:30 or so) around the campfire on Friday night.

What if I have more questions? You can always call Rosene Beachy, DLRE 441-6815. Or call the church office, 248-3737. Camp Registration forms also available, online & downstairs. Payment can be made on the AUUF website.

Fall Frolic
Registration forms
are available on our
website, at the
building, and on the
RE Facebook page.
Register your family
and yourself today!

Hungry Book Club

Six readers met in July to discuss "All The Winters After", by Sere Prince Hadverson, a novel about Alaska. We were all glad we read it. It was about a town on Kachemak Bay, Homer in disguise. A love story and lots of family dynamics to work on, just like "real life". Lots of fun discussing it. We will be reading next for August "In Kingdom of Ice, The Grand and Terrible Voyage of the USS Jeanette", by Hampton Sides. This is a true story, very carefully researched. We will meet again August 8th at 2 PM. Call Shirley 563-4499 for exact location. We are an "open" book club and all are welcome who want to come. Please bring a semi healthy snack to share with everyone. Hope to see you there.

About Our Speakers (see back page)

Gary Holthaus has served as the called minister for our Fellowship since 2012.

Heather Flynn is a longtime Anchorage civic leader and local philanthropist. A former school teacher, she arrived in Alaska in 1968, helped write the city charter in the early '70s, worked on the city's first comprehensive plan, served two terms on the Anchorage School Board, 10 years on the Anchorage Assembly and ran for mayor in 1994. She is the former director of the AWAIC shelter for abused women, and in 2010 received the lifetime Achievement Award presented by the ATHENA Society of Anchorage.

Rev. Mary Koch, MDiv, RBCC is an ordained minister with the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches and a retired board-certified chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains. She has been a staff chaplain for oncology and palliative care at Providence Alaska Medical Center, a family support specialist with the Alaska National Guard, and a Coordinator of Volunteer Services & Chaplain for Hospice of Anchorage. Most recently she serves as a volunteer chaplain for Hospice of Anchorage and supports Strong Bonds family relationship building weekends for the Guard.

As First Lady of Anchorage, **Mara Kimmel** continues to be inspired by neighbors who come from all walks of life. She has practiced law in Alaska since 1996 and co-founded the Alaska Institute for Justice - Alaska's only non-profit agency providing low-cost immigration legal services, language access services and research and policy analysis on human rights in Alaska. She has served on the faculty of both Alaska Pacific University and the University of Alaska Anchorage. Just recently she completed her PhD with research on local governance and community well-being. Mara loves exploring Alaska and the world with her family and is excited to see what the future brings next for our community.

Andy Holleman is a longtime educator, part-time activist, outspoken advocate, and new school board member. During his tenure in classrooms, he taught science, technology, engineering, and math in classrooms at Dimond High School and Goldenview Middle School. Andy became involved with policy and funding issues for education at the local and state levels, and advocated for public education as a cornerstone of our democracy. He served as president of the Anchorage Education Association for four years. Holleman acknowledges the tough fiscal times for education. Edicts from the federal Department of Education could pursue voucher programs and reinvigorate calls to dump Alaska's constitutional provision mandating a wall between public funding and private education.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 2824 E. 18th Ave, Anchorage AK 99508

Office phone: 907-248-3737 mail: auuf@gci.net www.anchorageuuf.org

Our Mission: We are a Fellowship of diverse people who come together to nurture each other, to grow ethically, spiritually and intellectually, and to help create a just, safe, and caring community

Staff Contacts

Gary Holthaus, minister of AUUF, (907) 433-9311

Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration 441-6815

Eric McCoy, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Programing 230-6915 or AUUFYCYP@gmail.com

Amy Lundell, Congregational Administrator, 248-3737 x 3 or auuf@gci.net

AUUF Board of Directors: Amanda Mack - President; Peggy Robinson-Treasurer;

Don Crandall - Vice President; Kelley Hartlieb -Secretary; Wendy Romberg; David O'Brien; James Dryden;

Marty Freeman-Immediate Past President,

Additional Ministry and Committee Contacts Are Available on our Website

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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AUUF Services and Events –August 2017

Sunday August 13

9 am Heather Flynn,
"Estate of Giving"

11 am Gary Holthaus,
"Where'd America Go?... We Can Get It Back"

Sunday August 20

9 am First Lady Mara Kimmel,
"Activating Anchorage's Diversity"

11 am Rev. Mary Koch, "Hospice of Anchorage"

Sunday August 27

9 am Andy Holleman,
"Good News for Anchorage Schools"

11 am Gary Holthaus, TBD

12:30 Picnic

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- August 2017

Sunday 11 am ~ Childcare & Classes for toddlers through high school

The LOG

September 2017



AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2824 E. 18th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99508-3303

From Gary

At last! Construction has begun on our renovations. As I write this, big piles of dirt, sand, and rocks are piled near the rear entrance, and there are two almost matching holes that debris came from right out the back door. The noise is getting more frequent and soon will be constant. Thanks to everyone whose contributions have made this possible!

For those who have not heard, at our Sunday services August 27, I announced the dates for the first two steps in our transition to a new pastor: 1) I will be stepping down December 31, 2017. The Board of Directors approved the date at their August meeting; and 2) the Board is preparing the materials necessary for the Interim candidates' pool to get initially acquainted with AUUF. The Board will pick from the candidate pool and the Interim Minister will begin January 1, 2018.

Our new Music Director is Megan Webb, an experienced performer and teacher of music in Anchorage and Mat-Su. Her first Sunday with us will be September 10. You can read more about her on page 6. Our staff members and Music Committee are excited to have her with us, and we invite you join us in welcoming her the second Sunday in September.

Finally, Amanda Mack, our Board chair has proposed an "AUUF Common Read" of a new book by Rev. Dr. William Barber, founder of the "Moral Mondays" project which was prominent on the Media a few months ago. Titled *The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear*, It reviews the Moral Mondays and their impact. Rev. Barber is also a noted preacher and public speaker. He will be in Anchorage speaking at the NAACP fund raiser/ banquet at the Egan Center on September 29 at 7:00p.m.

And, for those that have been asking, Tuesday services resume September 12th. Lots going on!

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See You Sunday – Gary

Social Action Council

By *Dennis Arashiro*

Notice the new name? It foreshadows our move toward greater participation within our Fellowship in the struggle for social justice. It foreshadows our move toward greater participation with the larger movement for social justice beyond our Fellowship. The new Social Action Council will not "do social justice." That will be the task for us all. The Council will be forming and supporting action teams. Action teams may work on annual events such as Pride Fest and Project Homeless Connect or on such ongoing concerns as racism, gender inequality, food insecurity, refugee assistance, and homelessness.

In the next month we will all be given the opportunity to help shape and direct our new effort. We will all be given the opportunity to join a proposed action team or to form a new one. Be part of the new Social Justice Fellowship when we meet after the services on Sunday, October 1, 2017, when we begin activating the new Social Action Council and action teams. Send me your thoughts, questions, and proposals. Dennis Arashiro at 444-4324 or elvischannel@yahoo.com.

Calendar Highlights

Sept 6 Chalice Circle Training starts
Sept 10 Homecoming Sunday
Sept 12 Tuesday Services Resume
Sept 15-17 Fall Frolic
Sept 18 Simply Living Intro
Sept 23 Leadership Training
Sept 24 Regular RE starts
Sept 25 Program Council
Sept 26 Board of Directors
Sept 28 and Oct 5th Intro UU
Sept 30 First Friendship Dinner
Oct 1 Animal Blessing Sunday
Oct 30 Compassionate Communication starts

"New Front Door 2017"

By Carma Reed

Work has begun with our capital project, so thank you for your patience over the next few months! The work itself will remind you, but it bears mentioning again anyhow, we will be using the northeast entrance for the duration of this work.

A picture is worth a thousand words, so, for those of you who've not been around for a while, here's a picture as of August 23!



By the time you read this, it will likely look much different already.

President's Log Letter – September 2017

Six years ago, David accepted a three-month job in Alaska – August to October. Afterward we would be on to the next temporary assignment – somewhere warm and sunny for winter. We were on an adventure! However, Fall Frolic changed everything. After attending with the kids, David told me, "I am not trying to predict the future, but I can't wait to go to Fall Frolic again next year."

Change gets introduced after an event or a conversation or in a thought. Once it's been released into the universe, there is no stopping that train. It's happening. Slow momentum builds and before you know it you are making plans to go, to stay, to pursue that next thing.

The train is preparing to leave the station at AUUF. As you have likely read or heard, Gary has stated his intent to retire on December 31 of this year. With this information in hand, the board is keeping up with the interim minister timeline for placement on January 1, 2018. December 31 also happens to be the substantial completion date for our renovation. Furthermore, the Steinway piano will be fully rebuilt and refinished by the 1st of the year, a sweet enticement for a new music director, a position that we are in the midst of hiring.

Although this is more change than we'd like to see happen all at once, we hope you will come along for the ride. Together, we will honor Gary and celebrate the time we have left with him. If you have ideas about how to do that well, feel free to contact me. Regarding arranging for an interim minister, that is the responsibility of the board. We are closely following the UUA recommended guidelines for doing so. Two resources that have been particularly helpful are a book called *In the Interim* edited by Barbara Child and Keith Kron and *The Transition Ministry Handbook* that can be found on the UUA website. Both outline the process for placement and what to expect from an interim. I encourage you to look them up and learn more.

Tandi Rogers, Congregational Life Staff member at UUA's Pacific Northwest District and AUUF's primary contact, will be here to kick-off our Leadership Training on Saturday, September 23 and will be speaking at both services on Sunday, September 24. She is a wonderful resource to us and will have both words of comfort as we begin to adjust to Gary's departure and words of inspiration and encouragement as we continue to reimagine our future under the guidance of an interim minister.

In fellowship, Amanda Mack

Half Portion for Social Action: Girls on the Run

By Amy Westfall and Kalen Saxton

The Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (AUUF) supports the greater community through giving — of time, money and skills. One-way members can give is by sharing a Half Portion of each week's plate collected during congregational services. **Half-portion recipients chosen are aligned with UU principles, are proven effective, and recognized as trusted stewards.**

This year one of the highest votes we received was for a new (new to us) program **Girls on The Run**. *'We envision a world where every girl knows and activates her limitless potential and is free to boldly pursue her dreams.'* This goal aligns with our striving for justice and equity.

Using an experience and research-based curriculum, trained coaches creatively integrate running to inspire girls to be joyful, healthy and confident. The games and activities initially help 3rd through 8th grade girls get a better understanding of who they are and what's important to them. Each girl is able to complete a service project, learning early to give back as well as strengthen themselves to emotionally and physically complete a 5k. Join us in giving at each of the services in September to this program. **It costs \$150 for each girl to be a part of the program, how many sponsorships can AUUF cover through our giving together!?** Find out more about Girls on the Run here: <https://www.gotrsouthcentralak.org/Our-Programs>.

Black Lives Matter

By Amanda Mack and Annie Belts

Black Lives Matter is a national movement that Unitarian Universalists nationwide have embraced, and that continues to be a central theme at UUA General Assemblies. This movement is not revolutionary- it does not require us to be divisive, to display hatred of anyone or any group, or to place blame. It only requires that we raise our awareness and understanding of race in America and it requires that we act from a place of love in the pursuit of justice.

Black Lives Matter is a Civil Rights movement for our time and continues the struggle of past Civil Rights leaders to "bend that moral arc of the universe" toward justice (MLK). The movement asks us to stand up for black people's lives- to notice the injustice and prejudice and to take action. It asks us to use our privileged voices to speak out in solidarity. It does not ask us to take action because only black lives matter, but because, in our society, like it or not, black lives matter less.

In our efforts to become a beacon for social justice in Anchorage, AUUF will take a first symbolic step to stand in support of this movement. The board approved hanging a Black Lives Matter banner in June and it is on order. After Eric McCoy's anti-white supremacy teach-in in April, the events in Charlottesville, and after the powerful AFACT prayer vigil in August, we must seize this moment to stand in solidarity with the movement and to educate ourselves on the difficult topic of institutional racism. Let's begin with a common read: *The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear* by Rev. Dr. William Barber, III. Consider attending the Anchorage NAACP chapter's keynote address by Rev. Dr. Barber himself on September 23. Learn more about Moral Movement Anchorage and attend a planning meeting. We'll convene for a book discussion in October. Let's live our first principle as we stand together for the worth and dignity of every person.

Plastics Recycle: September 24 is our next plastics recycle dates. 5's only please.

Green Tip: More and more different types of containers are turning out to be 5s. Check containers carefully for their numbers. Lids can also be 5s. They must have the number on them.



News from The Alliance

The Alliance met briefly to discuss the wonderful Celebration of Life service for Gene Kulawik August 11th. With the family, we hosted the celebration. We also agreed to give the Picnic Planning Committee a check for \$150.00 to buy hamburgers and hot dogs for the Annual picnic. We will meet again in September to select new officers, September 10th.

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Grateful for a gorgeous, warm and sunny afternoon, Sunday August 27th for our annual picnic at the lovely neighborhood park near our AUUF building. We had a great crowd, lots of fun and games, a ton of good picnic food. Kalen and her helpers, all eighty of them, did a great job setting up our tables and chairs, organizing the food, getting plastic eating utensils and a napkin together (recycled when we were finished). A first-class picnic with even live music provided by some of our own. Well done everyone. The Alliance provided money for the veggie and meat burgers. And the weather was lovely! We all provided the rest.

Grateful for our gardeners at the Fellowship and the "eatables" they have planted on our premises, which include several they are sharing with us on Sunday mornings. All kinds of lettuce, radishes, wonderful pea pods among others. What a treat to everyone. I think the gardeners are hoping that we help ourselves if we want to, so don't be shy about taking some for your own use.

It is always a great treat to see our former members back visiting over the summers. So great to see to see Joyce Palmer, a committed helper to our youth and our congregation in many ways down thru the years. Joyce brought us greetings from her new Florida UU congregation.

Grateful for the huge turnout for Celebration of Like for Eugene Kulawik. It was a wonderful gathering, with a nice mix of lots of old friends and coworkers and this congregation.

Word was received from Dick Gay's daughter that her father, Rev. Richard R Gay died August 13th in Bend Oregon. He requested no service either here or in Oregon. His obituary was published in the Dispatch Aug. 27 to Aug. 29, 2017 and is available in our social room. He was our minister for many years and a frequent speaker before that in the Log Cabin Church. His family moved him to Oregon a few years ago to a retirement home, then recently to an assisted living home as most of his 5 children lived in Seattle and Oregon area. I remember him very fondly.

Grateful for each and every one of our congregation. Hope by the time you read this we have had a great annual picnic, our remodeling is on its way, blueberries have been pick and the whole wonderful RE Program for our children is being activated. Be well, dear people, watch out for school buses and children walking to school. Enjoy the last bits of summer as Autumn is definitely on its way.

Keep in touch!

There are many ways to connect with AUUF, and we want to make sure you know about all of them! For the most up-to-date information join the google group, check the website frequently, and read your monthly LOG as it has more information. But as the following list shows, there are many ways to stay informed about what is going on in our Fellowship!

Weekly Order of Service When you come to the Forum and/or the 11 am worship service, you will get the weekly OOS as well as hear announcements on current happenings.

AUUF Google Group – an easy way to keep up with weekly events, as well as late-breaking news/actions. To join this listserv, simply email auuf@googlegroups.com with “add me” in the subject line.

Facebook Page - Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



CLOSED GROUPS – ask to join

AUUF Village – a parent support group. What do you have? What do you need? What do you know!

AUUF High School Youth – for HS YOUTH

AUUF RE – This closed group is for families and teachers in the RE program. This is a place to get news, updates, announcements, find forms, share photos!

Monthly LOG: Our newsletter which we mail monthly. If you are not receiving it, contact the office: auuf@gci.net.

AUUF Website: AnchorageUUUF.org – should be updated with all of our latest news, as well as resources and links/more detailed information.

Bulletin Boards/Flyers There are bulletin boards in the church social room as well as in the Children and Youth Religious Exploration space downstairs; check these for information, activities, sign-up sheets, etc.

New Adult Programs Offerings!

A Different Way: Living Simply in a Complex World. If this is a topic you would like to pursue, please join this discussion group! An introductory session will be held on Monday September 18 from 6 – 8 pm, and the actual course will then follow September 25 – October 30. A signup sheet is available on the Green Sanctuary bulletin board in the social room.

The concept of “living simply so that others may simply live” has been around for hundreds of years. People choose to live simply for many reasons and as our world changes, the motivations for and benefits of living a simple life also evolve. Today, we choose simple living as a way to make our own paths in life, paths that allow for investing our time in the things that matter most to us, making choices that create less waste and more good, using (or not using) technology intentionally, and critically examining the messages that tell us what to believe, what to value, and who to be. Cost of book: \$23 (plus shipping if you order the paperback). Please contact Cathy Steen (csteen@gci.net) with any questions.

Chalice Circles are Coming to AUUF! Chalice Circles, a small group ministry program sponsored by the Adult Programs Committee, will begin in November. Chalice Circles will support our “striving to listen deeply and speak with one another and to our larger community with consideration and respect.” These groups are designed to bring members, friends, and community members closer to one another by cultivating deeper connections.

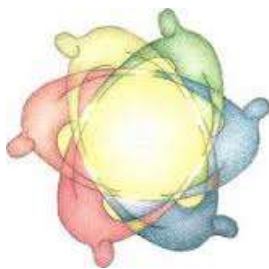
In September, there will be training for potential facilitators, which will involve a group of patient, open and organized leaders who come together to learn, share, and listen deeply to one another. Participating in the training provides a cohesive understanding of the Chalice Circle format and its benefits. Those who complete the training can choose to lead a group as a facilitator, support a group as a co-facilitator, join a group run by another, and of course opt out this round.

The four-week training course will be offered Wednesdays, September 6 – 27, from 6 – 8:30 pm, at the Fellowship. For more information, or to sign up for the course, contact Meghan Bundtzen at BetterWithArt@gmail.com.

“Intro to UU Thought and History” Join us for our next 2 session class **Sept 28th and Oct 5th from 6:30-8pm**. Everyone is welcome whether you are brand new or have been coming for decades. Please RSVP to Judy Engh at judyrae427@yahoo.com so we can notify you if there are any last-minute changes.

Compassionate Communication is Back! In this study group, we’ll learn about how compassionate listening and speaking can deepen and sweeten our connections with ourselves and with others. Marshall Rosenberg developed Nonviolent Communication (also called Compassionate Communication) as an approach to speaking and listening “that leads us to give from the heart, connecting us with ourselves and with each other in a way that allows our natural compassion to flourish.”

This AUUF study group will introduce beginners to Nonviolent Communication and allow those familiar with it to deepen their understanding and practice of Nonviolent Communication. We’ll work through Rosenberg’s book, Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life. Our meetings will involve a mixture of discussion and games or exercises. Group will meet six Monday evenings from 6:30-8:30 pm, **October 30 – December 4**. Led by Becca Bernard (RBernard.AK@gmail.com).



Friendship Dinners are Forming – Sign up NOW!!! Get to know more folks in our Fellowship by sharing meals together.

Whether you are brand new or have been coming for decades,

this is a fun, social way to connect, or reconnect! These dinners for eight, in private homes, will be on the following dates: Saturday 9/30, Saturday 1/13/18, and Sunday 3/4. We hope you will can participate in all three, but you choose the dates that work! Each time you will be with a new group of eight, and if you are able, you will host one of the evenings. Everyone helps with food/drink. Look for information in the social room, or contact Andee Cordano (acordano@gci.net; 907-277-7734) for more information or to join.

Introducing.... Our Music Director



Megan Webb

Megan Webb is a lifelong Alaskan. She grew up on the Kenai Peninsula, then left the state to attend college at the University of Nevada, Reno. As a college student, Megan studied clarinet, saxophone, and voice, playing and singing in a number of ensembles throughout her college career. She has been back in Alaska since she received her degree in Music Education in 2002. Megan began her career teaching music in the valley, and currently teaches 7th and 8th grade band, jazz band, and a music exploratory class for Life-Skills students at Wendler Middle School. Megan is also the former conductor of the Mat-Su Community Chorus and is a member of the Alaska Chamber Singers. Megan is the mother of a happy and energetic 4 year old, Elliot. She is thrilled to be sharing music with AUUF!

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Staff Contacts

- Gary Holthaus, minister of AUUF, (907) 433-9311
- Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration, 441-6815, rbeachy@alaskalife.net
- Eric McCoy, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Programing 230-6915 or AUUFYCYP@gmail.com
- Megan Webb, Music Director
- Amy Lundell, Congregational Administrator, 248-3737 x 3 or auuf@gci.net

Board of Directors, Committee Team leads and other contacts are available on our website.

September Birthdays

Birthdays are not published in our online version of this newsletter.

Fred Meyer Rewards Card: *Beyond your pledge and automated monthly giving, here is another way to help your Fellowship financially. Please link your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. You can search for us by our full name or by our number (84435).*

Tuesday Services Resume September 12th. Join Gary and a small group at 7 pm Tuesdays for an intimate informal service with special music. Refreshments and conversation follow. Special offerings on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

Volunteer Spotlight



Denise Martin

Denise Martin joined Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in 1992 and has attended regularly ever since. She was on the board, even serving as President in 2006. She has been involved in many different capacities at AUUF, including the Alliance, Hospitality, and the Membership Committee. However, her favorite volunteer job at AUUF has been Whalecoast. Her skill at organizing this event has been a critical part of making it an extremely successful fundraiser. She has also treated us to her beautiful dulcimer playing on occasion. Many thanks to Denise for all that she has done over the years. You are appreciated!

Do you want to recognize someone at the fellowship for their volunteer efforts? Please contact Julie Behm at juliebehm@gmail.com.

RE Notes September 2017

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

The Fall Program Year has begun!

Yesterday's wonderful picnic heralded the end of summer with a bluebird day and lots of wonderful food. The youth kicked it off with a Lock In on Saturday night at the church and a Kick off for youth families the previous weekend. Last night's Coming of age kick off began our year long program with 9 wonderful youth and their families. What a pleasure it is to work with these AUUF families during these very important transition years between childhood and adulthood!

As we look towards our very busy month of September, we are once again inspired by the turn of the wheel and the new possibilities it brings. Homecoming Sunday and the Gathering of the waters, Fall Frolic and the whispers of fall and promise of new relationships, the beginnings of the Religious Exploration programming and the return of children, families and friends who have been traveling and enjoying our Alaskan summer.

It is so good to be part of this community of people gathering to share their lives, ideas, passions and commitments in a search for peace and justice in the world.

We are a people of open minds, loving hearts and helping hands, together we can change the world!

In Peace, Rosene Beachy, DLRE



Our Program

September 10th - "Homecoming Sunday"

Bring the water you have collected over the summer to the 11:00 service, for our Gathering of the Waters Communion. Parents and friends are invited to mingle outside after that 11:00 service for "homecoming sundaes"!! There will be registration forms for our Fall Programs – RE, OWL, and Fall Frolic.

September – 15-17th is Fall Frolic, our annual, much loved, fall camp weekend at Kings Lake Camp in Wasilla. Please register for Fall Frolic by Sunday, September 9th. This is a favorite of all ages no matter what the weather, as we learn to know new friends, relax by (or in) the lake, hike, jam, discuss, play and eat good food. If you've never been, this might be the year to try it out! There are plans for many varied workshops for everyone from preschool to teens and adults. Crafts, outdoor activities and games, campfires, a labyrinth and great food are a few of the things you can expect! And back by popular demand – Hungry Hippo and the All Ages Talent show! Even if you can't stay overnight, try it out by registering for the day Saturday (special rate) and come out to enjoy the workshops and fall beauty on the lake!

September 24th -The RE Program resumes

Some Children's classes will begin on September 24th. Preschool, K-1, Jr High and Sr High.

Because of the construction project starting up and the occupation of several of the rooms, 2nd – 5th grade will be participating in Cross Age programming through October.

Teachers for those classes will participate as helpers for the month and resume regular curriculum in November as construction/ space allows.

September 10 Teacher Orientation and Workshop 3-7 pm at the fellowship. Teachers are still needed for several classes, particularly 2nd thru 5th.

Special Programs

OWL classes will be held this fall for 4-5th Elementary OWL

Parent Orientation – September 18, 7 pm – 8:30

Kick off- Saturday September 23, 10 am– 12 pm

Our 7-8th Jr High class will not be held this year. It will be offered again next Fall.

There will be a **Childcare Orientation** on **Sunday, September 24**, from 9:00 – 10:00 am in the, Jr High room. This is for youth or adults 13 and up interested in being on the childcare team for 9 am services and other RE and Fellowship events. Please fill out the application form available at the Parent Info Spot!



Special Parent & Teacher Presentation

September 10th at 3 pm – a collaboration between the CYRE (Children and Youth Religious Exploration) and SCC (Safer Congregations Committee) will team up to bring STAR – (Standing Together Against Rape), to do a special presentation at AUUF.

The presentation titled “Child Sexual Abuse Response and Warning Signs” is open to all parents and adults concerned about child safety. Discussed will be how to keep your children safe, warning signs to be aware of in the children they know and love, and what to do when you become aware of a problem. Everyone welcome.

The YRUU Coordinator's Corner

By Eric McCoy

This month is just thank you after thank you. I'm truly grateful for the AUUF community.

First I would like to thank **TK Kleiner** and **Marty Herriott** for opening their home for the first ever **Kick-off Cook-out**. Eighteen youth, and as many adults had a great time playing air-hockey, flag football and ukuleles. Thank you to all that gave it such a great community vibe. I know we will do it again next year, the Friday before school starts, to shake out the anxiety of the coming year.



Second, I would like to thank **Izzy Hanks**, **Reese Lockhard**, and especially **Hannah Romberg** for planning an exceptional **Lock-in**, and leading the worship which was themed on community. We welcomed our newcomers, and old members alike. They come from all stripes, some just had their first week of high school and some are already attending college classes. Fourteen youth attended, ten stayed the night, and nine made it to the start of the picnic. We are blessed with 5 sets of siblings. The pizza was bad, the company good, the tag speedy, and the night, never-ending.

What a great way to do it! The **Picnic** after the lock-in was a special treat. I know many people made it happen, but a special thanks goes to **Kalen Saxton** who helped to orchestrate an all-ages, whole-congregation event. The youth loved it, and I was completely impressed.

And after the picnic we started our **Coming of Age** program. One of our most cherished traditions, families prepare their youth (ages ~13-15) to change their perspectives, their roles, and their relationships in a program that spans decades. I owe a thank you to the families and the nine youth involved, and a special thank you to my collaborators, **TK Kleiner** and **Rosene Beachy**. It's a great program, it's a great group, and it's a great year.

Upcoming Event: **AlasCon**--for the 6th year running, the World Makers (YRUU) will hold their own Con parallel to Fall Frolic. There will be workshops and worships, including a whole congregation Saturday night worship.

Eric McCoy auufcyp@gmail.com (907) 230-6915

Calendar:

AlasCon Sept. 15-17th, Kings Lake Camp Wasilla

Fall Con Oct 27 – 29th, Camp Cispus. Randle, WA.

Youth Service Feb. 11, 11a, AUUF

Spring Con Mar 23-25th, 2018, Camp Cispus, Randle WA.

Bridging and Coming of Age Ceremony May 13th, 2018 AUUF

Hungry Book Club

10 readers met August 8th to discuss *Kingdom of Ice, the Voyage of the UUS Jennette* by Harold Sides. We all had read it and also enjoyed this very carefully researched journey of a real Navy ship who dared to explore the Arctic Circle. We will meet in September 12th, 9th and M at 2 pm. We will discuss *Pieces of Me*, written by a local author, Lizabeth Meridith, a "true story" of kidnapping back her children.

We have chosen the book for October, *The Lost City of the Monkey Gods* by Douglas Preston (2017). It comes out in paperback this month. This is also a true tale. We are an open book club and all lovers of good books can join us. Call 563-4499 for more information.

About Our Speakers (see back page)

Gary Holthaus has served as the called minister for our Fellowship since 2012.

Jake Metcalfe is Executive Director of the Public Safety Employee's Association Local 803. A fourth-generation Alaskan, Jake is an attorney, former chair of the Alaska Democratic Party, and a former Anchorage School Board President. A 1976 graduate of Juneau-Douglas High School, Jake worked as a cold storage worker, commercial fisherman, bartender and legislative employee. After earning a BA in History from Eastern Michigan University, and a law degree from Lewis & Clark, Jake was a state prosecutor in Bethel, and served on the Bethel City Council. Jake became General Counsel for IBEW Local 1547 in Anchorage in 2004. He and his wife, Moira Smith, have three sons and a daughter.

Alex Newhall has been a member of the Anchorage Independent Longshore Union, local #1 since 1982. In this capacity, he has worked as a laborer, truck driver, forklift operator and foreman. Deeply concerned about the decline in membership in organized labor, he has been giving motivational talks for some 25 years before many diverse groups.

David Ramseur reported on politics and government for the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner and Anchorage Times from 1979 through 1986. Then for nearly 30 years, he served as press secretary, communications director, chief of staff, and foreign policy advisor to Alaska Governors Steve Cowper and Tony Knowles and to Anchorage Mayor and U.S. Senator Mark Begich. His book, *Melting the Ice Curtain*, was published by University of Alaska Press in June 2017. Ramseur has visited the Soviet Union and Russia more than a dozen times. He holds a bachelor's in political science from University of North Carolina Asheville, a master's in journalism from University of Missouri, and is a visiting scholar in public policy at the UAA's ISER. He is married to Anchorage attorney Susan Wibker.

Dan Gibney is a staff organizer with AFACT, an organization that helps empower and mobilize local faith communities to address quality of life issues. Through his work with AFACT, Dan organizes with several congregations and faith communities in Anchorage, including the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Originally from the Bronx, NY, Dan spent time working in NYC schools before relocating to Anchorage in 2016.

Don Crandall, an Alaskan since 1979, has been an AUUF member since 1993 and is Vice President of the AUUF Board. Through many organizations, Don has advocated for healthy, self-sustaining neighborhoods, improved economic and educational opportunities, and quality affordable housing in underserved neighborhoods. This work has included close work with AFACT in recent years.

Angela Liston received training in Congregation-Based Community Organizing (CBCO) in 2002 through the PICO National Network. Energized by the CBCO model, Angela immediately began sharing the model with pastors in Anchorage. In 2004, Angela was the founding director of AFACT and subsequently assisted pastors in the Mat-Su Valley to create Valley Interfaith Action (VIA). Angela has organized congregations to address Alaska Native education, community policing, public safety, immigration reform, children's health care, homelessness and neighborhood improvements. She currently provides consultation to AFACT, VIA, and the ARISE parent engagement program at the Cook Inlet Tribal Council. She received her B.A. from UofA, Fairbanks and her J.D. from the University of Arizona.

The Rev. Tandi Rogers is a Congregational Life Staff member for the Pacific Western Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). She writes, preaches, teaches and speaks widely about growth and religious innovation. She is both ordained to the UU ministry and a Credentialed Religious Educator, master level. Tandi is married to Rev. Sue Phillips and has three children (ages 8, 20, and 22). She lives in Tacoma, WA and Boston, MA.

Amanda Mack is an AUUF board member with a background in communications. Prior to becoming a stay-at-home mom 10 years ago, she taught at the college level and worked as a program manager in state government. Elected to the AUUF Board in 2015, she served as treasurer in 2016 and was elected board president in 2017. She's taught religious exploration (RE) classes in both Anchorage and North Dakota. On any given day, Mack may be found teaching yoga or volunteering at her children's school.

Bill Sherwonit is a free-lance nature writer who lives in Anchorage. He's authored more than a dozen books on topics ranging from the Iditarod to Denali National Park. His most recent books include "Animal Stories: Encounters with Alaska's Wildlife" and "Living with Wildness: An Alaskan Odyssey." A former columnist for The Anchorage Times, Bill has contributed stories and photos to a wide variety of national publications, including Orion, National Wildlife and Backpacker. His essays have appeared in several anthologies, including Best American Science and Nature Writing, Best Travel Writing, and The Last New Land: Stories of Alaska Past and Present. Bill is a member of our Fellowship.



Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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Anchorage, AK 99508-3303

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AUUF Services and Events –September 2017

Sunday September 3

9 am Jake Metcalfe,
"Alaska Unions -- Powerful Past, Uncertain Future"
11 am Alex Newhall,
"Labor Heroines, God Bless Them"

Sunday September 10

9 am David Ramseur,
"Can Alaska and Russia Still Be Friends?"
11 am Gary Holthaus, Homecoming Sunday

September 15-17 Fall Frolic

Sunday September 17

9 am Dan Gibney, Don Crandall, and Angela Liston,
"A Conversation about AFACT"
11 am Bill Sherwonit,
"Celebrating the Autumn Equinox"

Sunday September 24

9 am Tandi Rogers and Amanda Mack,
"What is this Interim Business About Anyway?"
11 am Tandi Rogers, "Being UU in These Times"

<u>Tuesday Evening Services Resume Sept 12th.</u> Join Gary for an informal service at 7pm.
--

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- September 2017

Sunday 11 am ~ Classes for toddlers through high school Starting Sept 24th

Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare ages 1-3 Starting Sept 10

The LOG

October 2017



AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2824 E. 18th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99508-3303

From Gary

AUUF IS A GREAT FAMILY PLACE...

I got home from our annual Fall Frolic tired (to be expected) and also rejuvenated and happy (also to be expected). I was tired because the days were full and busy with so many things to do. I was renewed and happy because there was an opportunity for me to talk with folks in a pleasant and quiet place. As always, the food was wonderful, the setting so beautiful, that no matter where one's eyes settled the whole landscape seemed to offer respite and serenity. I stood for some time watching the mountains gradually grow darker.

And, as always, there were things to make for all ages, things to think about that were really worth pondering. Rosene Beachy, our Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration, put together a full schedule offering a carefully planned program that not only provided a full day, but somehow let us all feel that we were free to come and go at will. I'm not sure how she makes that work, but it does work. Lots of singing helped, and the special times of worship enhanced the good feeling that permeated the day and evening activities. A highlight of the worship experience was to walk the Labyrinth to wonderful music composed in the setting by David Mack. It was inspiring to see children, youth, and a full range of adults maintaining a deep quiet as they walked. There is no better description of everyone's demeanor than "reverent."

On a different subject, AUUF was privileged to participate in a workshop on leadership led by our Unitarian Universalist Western Region local coordinator, Tandi Rogers. Tandi has such a wealth of experience that she speaks not only with authority, but with ease, about leadership and how its complex interweaving works in our congregations. It was a rare mix of inspiring vision grounded in reality. There was a palpable enthusiasm and appreciation for her thoughts among our participants. Thanks to everyone who made the weekend notable.

See You Sunday – Gary

Together...

We seek to be an open and welcoming community.

*We strive to listen deeply and speak with one another
and to our larger community with consideration and respect.*

*We hold each of us and all of this amazing world
worthy of our attention, compassion and care.*

Together we are Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

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Calendar Highlights

Oct 1 Animal Blessing Sunday & Blood Drive
Oct 5th Intro UU
Oct 8th New Member Recognition
Oct 12th Building Your Own Theology Starts
Oct 15th Find Your Fit Fair
Oct 15th White Supremacy Teach In
Oct 21st Spaghetti & Game Night
October 22 Chow-and-Endow Luncheon
Oct 24 Board of Directors
Oct 29 Plastic Recycle
Oct 30 Compassionate Communication starts
Nov 2 AUUF Common Read

"New Front Door 2017"

By Carma Reed

Most important takeaway for October: Bring your coffee cup from home!

By the time you read this, there will be big changes happening, or just around the corner. Here's an update on what to expect.

SouthEast corner entrance: Count on this being closed by October 9!

Administrator Office/Work Room: Will be moved to the SouthWest corner next to Gary's office at the end of September until early December.

Kitchens: Both the downstairs and the upstairs kitchens will be dismantled beginning the week of September 25. Most importantly, we will lose access to a kitchen sink shortly thereafter. **Please do not plan on washing dishes or using any dishes that need to be washed at AUUF!** If you want to avoid using disposables, bring it from home, and bring it home to wash. We expect to get access to a dish washing sink back by mid-December. Water for coffee can be fetched from downstairs classroom sinks. Please, no dishwashing in the classroom sinks, they are not set up for that.

Upstairs Wiggle Room: The wall separating the Wiggle Room from the Social Room will be dismantled in early October. The Wiggle Room has been moved downstairs into the Toddler Room, but currently does not have audio-visual access to the service.

Upstairs Restrooms: There will be an impact on the Women's restroom beginning October, but the contractors expect to have it usable each Sunday, just maybe not so beautiful. It is possible that the women's upstairs restrooms will not be usable during the week, so if you are planning any special events that need access on a day other than a Sunday and cannot use the downstairs restrooms, be sure the Project Oversight Team (including Amy) knows! The Men's restrooms will not be impacted.

Nametags and coats: These have already moved to the Northeast entrance.

Downstairs Classrooms: The biggest impact will be a temporary emergency egress plan to accommodate the loss of the Southeast exit during construction. In addition to the regular egress in the Northeast corner, classrooms teachers and students will be aware of windows that will be unclipped and available for exit in case of an emergency. If you have questions or concerns about this, please don't hesitate to talk to your classroom teacher or Rosene Beachy.

Temporary Ramp: We anticipate the ramp to be bolted to the building by mid-October. We are disappointed to lose accessibility to our building for any length of time, and we are trying to get this in place as soon as possible. Once it is there, it will be there until the elevator is functional.

Gary's Office: A door will be installed to separate from the room to the north. The ramp will be bolted to a new egress door punched into this room.

Volunteer Projects: Lots of volunteer help needed in late September to finish dismantling the kitchens and moving folding chairs for out of the social room. Some of this will have been completed by the time you read this log, but there may still be work to do. Please try to help as you are able! So far volunteer projects have gone exceptionally well, let's continue to spread the work so we don't burn people out. James Dryden (or his designee) is coordinating volunteer efforts so please answer the call or ask if you get it!

Updates: There will be a bulletin board with construction updates and other announcements upstairs, by the NorthEast corner entryway. Check for more timely updates there.

The Project Oversight Team continues to meet every two weeks with our contractors, Kuchar, and architect, Jobe Bernier and nVision, for updates and problem solving. At the time of this writing, we have a partial demolition permit, and only two remaining final permit issues that we expect to get resolved very soon (snow storage and drainage). We are oh so close! We'll keep you updated as best we can and if you have any questions, please ask! Good people to ask: Don Antrobus, Peggy Robinson, Amanda Mack, James Dryden, or Bruce Roberts.

Thank you for your patience and excitement!



President's Log Letter – October 2017

Kings Lake Camp is an idyllic setting for Fall Frolic, a truly magical event where time honored traditions happen year after year. Rosene tells me this was the event's twentieth year! Watching the kids take the polar plunge, build fairy homes, and perform in the talent show is a way of marking time. Standing shoulder to shoulder with friends old and new while chopping vegetables for meal prep or putting the place back together on the last day creates and deepens connections. The lantern launch, walking the labyrinth, and the Sunday service make it sacred.

Religious Exploration (RE) is one of AUUF's primary programs that makes our congregation attractive to new people and keeps long time members coming back. Whether Fall Frolic, RE on Sundays, OWL, or Coming of Age, students and volunteers alike build community with each other as they learn and grow together under the umbrella of RE. To sustain this important program, we need a robust network of volunteers and this year, we aren't quite there yet. If you have yet to find your fit at the Fellowship, please talk to Rosene about getting involved with RE.

Coming back to town from camp, the activity of life makes itself quickly known. Construction is finally in full swing at the Fellowship. Fall adult RE offerings and the leadership training are kicking off, as well as a UU common read. Furthermore, the new incarnation of the social justice committee, now known as the Social Action Council is launching in October too. The Black Lives Matter banner is up. And the board is deep in our work to recruit an interim minister to our congregation as well. "Remember to breathe," I tell myself. "And take a look around." We have so much to be thankful for in these times of transition and change.

Many thanks for all you do! In Fellowship, Amanda

Tuesday Services have resumed for the fall season. Join Gary and a small group at 6:30 pm Tuesdays for an intimate informal service with special music. Refreshments and conversation follow. Special offerings on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

Friendship Dinners are underway! On September 30, 40 AUUFers gathered in groups of 8 at five different homes to share meals and conversation. These dinners are a fun, social way for us to get to know each other better. If you missed the first dinner, fear not! There are two more opportunities, on Saturday 1/13/17, and Sunday 3/4/17. Contact Andee Cordano (AndeeCordano@gmail.com; 350-6361) for more information, or to sign up for the upcoming dinners.

New UUA campaign offers matching cash NOW for legacy gift promise

It almost sounds too good to be true! But there really is a new way to generate money NOW for AUUF just by planning ahead to ensure your asset beneficiaries and distribution are in order. Here's the scoop:

Earlier this year, our national Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) launched a new *Wake Now our Vision (WNOV) Collaborative Campaign*. In a nutshell, if a person makes a legacy gift commitment to AUUF or other UU organization (in one's will, for example), the WNOV campaign will donate 10% of that amount NOW to the organization to which the legacy designation is made (up to \$10,000 per donor!). This opportunity is available now through June of 2020.

Through this campaign, the Endowment Committee suggests a goal to raise \$500,000 in legacy gift designations to AUUF/AUUF Endowment. If 50 members each designated an average of \$10,000 worth of assets to go to AUUF, the fellowship would realize a \$50,000 cash match in 2019-2020! This is a great way for people who don't currently have a lot of cash to spare to help generate funds simply by including AUUF in their will. Or, by designating AUUF as a beneficiary for a retirement fund account.

AUUF could certainly use this essentially free cash. Our capital project's downstairs renovation is not fully funded. And, we could save to help pay down our capital project debt.

The WNOV campaign will be discussed further during the upcoming Chow-and-Endow luncheon 12:45-2 p.m. on Sunday, October 22, at the fellowship. More information is available online at the UUA WNOV website: <http://wakenowourvision.org/>. A Frequently-Asked-Questions document and WNOV pledge form is available on AUUF's website at www.AnchorageUUF.org > GIVING > Planned/Legacy Giving.

We are all mortal, yet our legacies can live on to benefit generation after generation of UUs. Gain peace of mind and benefit AUUF. It's that simple. Act today!

2nd Annual Chow-and-Endow Luncheon October 22 Learn the latest about our Endowment Fund, wills, trusts and more!

The AUUF Endowment Committee invites members and friends to join the 2nd Annual AUUF Chow-and-Endow Luncheon 12:45 – 2 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 22, in the Sanctuary (Social Room is under construction). Enjoy a light lunch (sandwiches and salads) and presentation about wills, bequests, trusts and other matters that concern each of us as we plan ahead for the future – our own and our fellowship.

The luncheon event features a special guest speaker who knows about these things and who can remind us of how easy it is to put off “getting our house in order” today instead of tomorrow. We'll also provide an update on the status of our Endowment Fund. Plus, we'll hear about a national UU challenge that can add a 10% matching gift to every bequest/pledge/gift received by our AUUF Endowment in the next 18 months. Exciting stuff – Don't miss it! More information? Call John Blaine 907-229-8050.



Social Action Council

By Becca Bernard

The Anchorage Fellowship's 2017-2020 Strategic Plan deepens the Fellowship's commitment to working for justice in human and ecological relationships, with a goal of increasing the "active engagement and visibility of AUUF in the community."

To implement this aspect of the Strategic Plan, a Social Justice Working Group was formed in May to evaluate our social justice program and recommend ways to strengthen it. The Working Group decided to follow the lead of several other UU congregations that have highly successful social justice programs, by creating a new "Social Action Council" that will facilitate and support the work of "Action Teams" engaged on specific issues. In addition, the Social Action Council will help the congregation decide if it wants to pursue an overarching social justice goal on a yearly basis, and what that goal might be.

A number of Action Teams have already been formed on the basis of existing AUUF social justice work. For example, there is a "Half Portion for Social Action" team, and a "Community Food Needs" team. Members and friends can form new Action Teams by gathering at least three people who are committed to working on a particular issue, and contacting the chair(s) of the Social Action Council. The Council will also coordinate the work of several liaisons to other community social justice efforts. For example, there is a liaison to AFACT (Anchorage Faith & Action – Congregations Together) and a liaison to the newly formed Moral Movement Alaska.

Our hope is that AUUF will continue to grow its engagement in social justice efforts. We invite you to come to the first official meeting of the new Social Action Council on Sunday, October 1, after the 11:00 service, to learn more, to discuss the issues that matter to you, and to get involved! If you need more information before then, or have suggestions, please contact the Working Group co-chairs, Becca Bernard (rbernard.ak@gmail.com) and Emily Madsen (emily.j.madsen@gmail.com).

Half Portion for Social Action: Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services (RAIS)

By Kalen Saxton and Amy Westfall

RAIS provides a bridge for refugees from their former life experiences to the new skills required for success in the United States. Through a focus on economic self-sufficiency, community integration, and a respect for unique cultures, history and traditions, RAIS creates an environment of compassion and encouragement for refugees to flourish. Funds donated may go towards case management, clothing and housing goods, and transportation to appointments and immigration meetings.

During the summer of 2015, every Saturday I was able to observe refugees under the guidance and teaching of Julie Riley, with the Cooperative Extension Service, set up their tables, and set out their beautifully scrubbed vegetables. They spoke enough English to answer questions about their crops, give change, and thank people for buying. Some of them moved on to other markets on their own. New arrivals took their places. Half of all we collect for the first four weeks goes to RAIS. On the fifth Sunday, October 29, half the donations go to the Ministers Discretionary Fund.

Plastics Recycle: October 29 and December 17th are our next plastics recycle dates. 5's only please.

Green Tip: Are you going on a trip? Do you buy a bottle of water at airport to drink on the plane? If so, carry it off the plane and put it into a recycling bin if the airline you are flying on does not recycle. Write on comment cards that airlines provide how they should be participating in the recycling efforts happening all around them.



News from The Alliance

By Shirley Dickens

At the last meeting, we voted on new officers for the coming year. We are happy to announce Kate Lehn will be our President with Mary Kulawik remaining treasurer and hopefully Helen Peters remaining secretary. We voted to change our Alliance meeting to the 3rd Sunday of the month to avoid some meeting conflicts. Our next meeting will be October 15th. We will be changing our date for the party for our "Elders 85 and older" to early next year, probably mid-January. Then we can all enjoy our newly renovated entry, social room and sanctuary.

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Grateful for Homecoming Sunday and our yearly gathering to replenish our special water by sharing our journeys and adding our own special bits of water from this year. An excellent service and a chance to renew our commitments as RE teachers and as our grateful congregation. The choir sounded wonderful, and welcome again to our new musical director, Megan!

Grateful for a very fun, busy Fall Frolic, our 20th year! Such a wonderful experience for children, families and those who just love being at our spot in the Valley. Always a great start to the church year.

Grateful Tandi Rogers was here from our Pacific Northwest District of the UUA. She provided a workshop starting a year of leadership development coordinated by the Committee on Shared Ministry. 21 volunteers across the congregation attended training on Saturday and by all accounts the group was enthusiastic and happy. Tandi then spoke with us at both services on Sunday. At the speaker's forum she spoke on change and the lifecycle of a congregation, and making a good goodbye. Then at the 11 service she spoke on being UU in these times. If you missed her messages they will so be up on the podcasts.

And, you are invited, Rod McCoy and his family are gathering to reminisce and laugh and celebrate our time together. Come join us on Wednesday Oct. 4th 7-9pm at the fellowship. Feel free to bring a drink or a snack to share. Hope to see you there!

Be well, dear people. Enjoy our Beloved Community!

Family & Friends Spaghetti & Game Night Oct. 21st- 6:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M.

The CYRE committee is kicking off the new RE year with a fun party on Saturday, Oct. 21st, Spaghetti & Games. The fun starts in the upstairs social room at 6 p.m. Bring a salad, side, sauce or desserts and get to know some folks. There will be no water, or stove, so bring your sauce or sides ready to go!

We'll be setting up different table games, so bring a family favorite to share with a group! Remember this is not a child-supervised event; it is for families to do together! No matter how chilly it is outside, it's always warm and cozy wherever our voices are raised in laughter over good food in great company!

You don't have to have a child in RE to attend, all are welcome for fellowship and games. For further info, please call CYRE Committee member Elayne Hunter (223-6507).

October Birthdays

(birthdays are not published in our on-line version)

From the Fellowship office: The LOG deadline is the third Sunday of each month. Early entries are greatly appreciated. **Tuesday** is the deadline for announcements to be printed in the Order of Service.

Nominate an Outstanding UU!

Do you know an outstanding UU in our congregation? Here is your chance to recognize them

for all the work they have done on behalf of AUUF! The Board presents two awards during the annual dinner to AUUF members who have contributed substantially to our congregation. The awards are:

Volunteer of the Year: This award is meant to honor a person who has contributed a significant amount of volunteer time to the Fellowship during the last year. Previous awardees are Bruce Roberts (2015) and Denise Martin (2016).

Fred Hillman Distinguished Service Award: This award is named after long-time AUUF member and former Board president Dr. Fred Hillman, who passed away in 2014. Like its namesake, this award is meant to honor a person who lives the Seven Principles as part of their everyday life. Previous awardees are Shirley Dickens (2015) and Sylvia Short (2016).

To submit a nomination for an award, send a brief statement (no more than one paragraph) on why you feel this person should be recognized to Board member David O'Brien at akdrdata@gmail.com.



AUUF Dinner Auction: Building for a Brighter Future

Take part in annual gathering and fundraiser Saturday, November 4

Mark your calendar for our Annual Dinner - Auction gala gathering and fund-raiser on **Saturday, Nov. 4th 5– 8:30 p.m.** This year's theme – *Building for a Brighter Future* – celebrates our facility renovation. Due to construction, the event will be at St. Anthony Catholic Church, 825 S. Klevin Street, near Bragaw Street and East 9th Avenue.

Plan to take part in:

- delicious share-a-dish banquet featuring prized recipes
- fabulous raffle and guessing games for any budget
- great items to browse in our silent and limited live auctions
- great door prizes

Child care will be available for ages 1-12. Parents, please sign up with Rosene Beachy, 248-5318, rbeachy@alaskalife.net. Teenaged youth are welcome to join in the dinner.

Please consider participating and contributing in any of these ways:

- **Share a favorite dish!** Look for the Dinner Menu sign-up sheet. Questions? Contact Dinner Menu Co- Coordinators Amy Westfall (632-1630, amywremote@gmail.com) or Dennis Arashiro (277-7377, elvischannel@gci.net)
- **Make a Delectable Dessert!** The post-dinner Dessert Auction is great fun featuring scrumptious sweets. Sign-up with coordinator Deena Mitchell (997-8357, DeenaMitchell1978@gmail.com)
- **Donate an Auction Treasure!** Members and friends are invited to donate their wonderful adventures and dinner engagements, skilled services, themed baskets and to solicit some great items from businesses they patron. The auction is a very important component of generating AUUF operating revenues. To donate, contact Kalen Saxton, 244-8221, saxtonkalen@gmail.com or Cathy Steen, 440-6540, csteen@gmail.net.
- **Volunteer!** Success takes a village. Look for the Volunteer sign-up sheet between and after church services.

Everyone who contributes in any way will be included in the evening's raffle for a fine prize.

If you have any questions or suggestions, or would like to volunteer, contact event Co-Chairs Ron Devon at 301-1601 or Stephenie at 382-3327, msgmaker@gci.net.

Many thanks to St. Anthony for providing its facility to host our event. St. Anthony is a founding member of Anchorage Faith and Action Congregations Together (AFACT), to which AUUF also belongs.



Hungry Book Club

What a treat for the Hungry Book Club! Our book for September, "Pieces of Me", by Lezbeth Meredith, brought out 10 of us and the author and Heather Flynn joined us to discuss this important book. Ms. Meredith answered many questions and we were very impressed with her story. Our next meeting in October(10th) will be discussion about "The Lost City of the Monkey God," by Douglas Preston. I could hardly put it down. Our November book is, "Sapiens, A Brief History of Humankind" by Yuval Noal Harari. We are an open book club and meet the second Tuesday at 2 Pm at the condo's at 9th and M streets. Call Shirley for directions 563-4499.

Sound Techs Needed!

The folks who help provide amplification and projection support during Sunday and Tuesday services are looking for volunteers interested in helping out. Schedule is flexible and as it fits with your travel and family life. Pitching in with services you were already planning to attend is a great way to help out. We would love to have some youth and mature adults are welcome too! While you don't have to be a techno-wizard, it helps not to be a technophobe. If this is something you are interested in learning more about, please email alix@alaskan.com or just walk up and give your name and contact information to the tech at the next service. We would love to talk to you!

Adult Offerings!

AUUF Common Read

AUUF is invited to read together *The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear* by the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II with Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove. This model of organizing that brings people together across race, class and sexual orientation is important for us to consider as AUUF seeks to become a beacon for social justice in Anchorage. Books are available for purchase (\$16) in the office. Ingrid Larson will lead the discussion on Thursday, **November 2 at 6 p.m.** at the Fellowship. Ingrid is a 2nd year Masters of Divinity student at Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colo. and a member of the Black Lives Matter Working Group at AUUF.

Compassionate Communication is Back! In this study group, we'll learn about how compassionate listening and speaking can deepen and sweeten our connections with ourselves and with others. Marshall Rosenberg developed Nonviolent Communication (also called Compassionate Communication) as an approach to speaking and listening "that leads us to give from the heart, connecting us with ourselves and with each other in a way that allows our natural compassion to flourish."

This AUUF study group will introduce beginners to Nonviolent Communication and allow those familiar with it to deepen their understanding and practice of Nonviolent Communication. We'll work through Rosenberg's book, Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life. Our meetings will involve a mixture of discussion and games or exercises. Group will meet six Monday evenings from 6:30-8:30 pm, **October 30 – December 4**. Led by Becca Bernard (RBernard.AK@gmail.com).

Building Your Own Theology: Based on the assumption that everyone is their own theologian, this classic UU adult education program invites participants to develop their own personal credos. A 4 session class on will be offered by Gary Holthaus and Stephanie Koonz October 12, 19, 26, Nov 2, 6:30-8. (For more info or to register contact Stephanie Koonz 744-2428 stephaniekoonz@icloud.com.)

AUUF is sponsoring a series of **Nonviolent Communication workshops** offered by visiting certified trainer Karl Steyaert. NVC, also called Compassionate Communication, is a philosophy and a set of communication tools that enables people to move through conflict to connection and a deeper appreciation for our common humanity. For more information about these workshops, please visit the AUUF website or email Becca Bernard at rbernard.ak@gmail.com.

Nonviolent Communication for Advanced Practitioners, Wednesday, October 25, 5:30-9 pm

Introduction to Nonviolent Communication, Thursday, October 26, 6-8:30 pm

Nonviolent Communication Fundamentals, Saturday, Oct. 28, 10:00-5:30 pm

Creating Bridges Across Political Divides, Sunday, Oct. 29, 1:30-5:30 pm



Find Your Fit in October 15th!

Don't miss the Anchorage UU Fellowship's Find-Your-Fit Fair held between services (10:15 - 11 a.m.) and after the 11 a.m. service (12:15 – 1 p.m.) on Sunday, October 15, in the Sanctuary. Whether you are new to AUUF or an established member/friend, the fair can help you find (or expand) your fit into this vibrant and caring organization. Tables will be staffed with Team and Committee leads who can answer your questions and help you sign-up to volunteer. AUUF is fortunate to have a hard-working and capable staff, but they cannot possibly accomplish all that goes into serving each other and the greater community. How do we do it? Through volunteers like you! For more information on the fair, contact Stephenie Wheeler at 382-3327.

RE Notes October 2017

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Earth we thank you for this food,
For rest and home and all things good.
For wind and rain and sun above,
But most of all for those we love.

Join us Spaghetti and Games fun
night October 21, see page 6!

Another Fall Frolic means fall has come to Alaska! Thanks to those who participated in planning and implementing the food, activities and many delightful multigenerational moments at Fall Frolic this year.

Now we begin our Fall Religious Exploration opportunities. In case you haven't been to the Fellowship since spring, you may notice a lot is happening and changing in the building. The new building heralds new spaces, new opportunities for engagement both in Adult programs and youth programs. 4-5th OWL is underway, Coming of Age is off to a joyful start, and Sunday morning classes will begin a new pattern for the next few months.

The Toddler room, Preschool class and K-1 class will resume in their new individual classroom spaces. Jr and Sr High classes will remain unchanged.

The 2nd – 5th grade classes will begin a Cross age unit on UUism in Room 3, aka “The Gathering Room”. Each week will focus on a different aspect, from Social Justice projects to Chalice making, to walking the paths of history and our rich and varied heritage. We still need a few teachers for most teams of these age groups. Please see me to participate in the joy and enthusiasm of our UU children!

In faith, Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Our Services

October 1st will be a Multigenerational program during the 11:00 service, **Animal Blessing Sunday**. You are welcome to bring your well-controlled pets for a wonderful service that includes our animal and reptile and avian friends! There will be a memory table for photos of departed pets. Toddlers and Preschoolers – K-1st will go to their classes during the latter part of the service.

October 29 will be our next Multigenerational service for **All Souls Day**. Everyone is invited to bring photos or remembrances from family members and friends who have passed

Our Classes during the 11:00 Service

Our children will begin downstairs in the Gathering room for our Chalice Circle each Sunday except our monthly Multigenerational services. Jr & Sr youth and toddlers begin in their classrooms. Classes end at 12:15. Please try to refrain from picking up your children early. Enjoy some coffee and Fellowship if you have a few extra minutes!

Every week, children will enjoy a variety of activities, sometimes going outside. Please dress your child in footwear and jackets appropriate for the weather so they can enjoy the class activities!

Thanks to all of our Volunteer teachers this year!

Water Skippers – Kaely Payne, Michelle Wasson

Wind Walkers –3 & 4 year olds - Kalen Saxton, Marie Hildebrandt, Allison Payne, Emily Madsen & Larry Moberly

Sun Catchers –K & 1st grade - Stacey Mansfield, Mary Gregory,

Fire Keepers - 2nd grade - Jacqueline Adelman

Planet Keepers - 3rd grade - Carolyn & Jim Gove

Truth Seekers - 4th grade - Kristin Nygren,

Star Gazers - 5th grade - Laura Krip, Dianna Polese

JR. YOUTH - 6th, 7th, 8th - Jason Walsh, Kathy Dill, Ron Devon

YRUU - High School - Eric McCoy, CYP, TK Kleiner

Soup Sunday Due to kitchen reconstruction, we will resume Soup Sundays in December for Winterfest on the 3rd!

Chalice Circles, aka “Small Groups,” roll out in November!

Small group ministry supports our “striving to listen deeply and speak with one another and to our larger community with consideration and respect.” They will begin in November, and most will meet every two weeks until May (about 12 sessions total). Our AUUF Chalice Circles are open to members, friends, and the larger Anchorage community. Chalice Circle times and locations are below, and there will be more, so if these days/times don’t work for you, stay posted!

Sundays 4-6 pm, Ravens Roost (Abbott Loop)

Mondays 6:30-8:30 pm, east side of Anchorage (Muldoon area)

Wednesdays 10 am-noon, near West HS

Thursdays 6:15-7:30 pm at the Pioneer Home (downtown)

We hope to offer another CC in the Sand Lake area. If you would like to host or facilitate a group, or know of people who might be interested, or just generally have any questions, please contact Meghan Bundtzen (BetterWithArt@gmail.com; 223-8140). And on October 8, you will have the opportunity to experience a “mini Chalice Circle” during both the 9 am and 11 am services!

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2824 E. 18th Ave, Anchorage AK 99508 Office phone: 907-248-3737 Email: auuf@gci.net

www.anchorageuuf.org Music page: auufmusicpage.yolasite.com

Our Mission: We are a Fellowship of diverse people who come together to nurture each other, to grow ethically, spiritually and intellectually, and to help create a just, safe, and caring community

Staff Contacts

Gary Holthaus, minister of AUUF, (907) 433-9311

Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration, 441-6815, rbeachy@alaskalife.net

Eric McCoy, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Programing 230-6915 or AUUFYCYP@gmail.com

Amy Lundell, Congregational Administrator, 248-3737 x 3 or auuf@gci.net

Megan Webb, Music Director, auufmusic@gmail.com or 248-3737 x6

AUUF Board of Directors: Amanda Mack, President; Don Crandall, Vice President; Kelley Hartlieb, Secretary; Peggy Robinson, Treasurer; Wendy Romberg; David O’Brien; James Dryden

Other Contacts

Adult Programs – Deena Mitchell

Annual Dinner / Auction – Stephenie Wheeler, Ron Devon

Aesthetics – Irene O’Brien / Cindy Kinard

AFACT – Marie Rozak, Ron Devon

Alliance – Kate Lehn

Building and Grounds - Bruce Roberts

Chalice Circles – Megan Bundtzen

Children and Youth RE – Alison Hansen

Childcare Coordinator – Kalen Saxton

Committee on Shared Ministry – Marty Herriott

Communications – Stephenie Wheeler

Endowment – John Blaine

Finance – Peggy Robinson (temporary)

Forum Planning –George Bryson

Friendship Dinners – Andee Cordano

Green Sanctuary –Suzie Kobierowski / Cathy Steen

Gardening – Stephanie Koonz / James Dryden

Human Resources –Peggy Robinson (temporary)

Legacy Giving – Wray Kinard

Membership / Welcoming – Judy Engh/Julie

Behm

Nominating – Ron Devon

OWL – Katherine Huffman

Pastoral Care – Don Crandall / Robin Hill

Program Council – Marty Freeman

Renovation Project -Don Antrobus / James Dryden

Safer Congregation – Amy Westfall

Share the Care – Robin Hill / Teresa Zimmer / Amy Lundell

Shared Ministry – Marty Herriott

Social Action Council – Becca Barnard & Emily Madsen

Sound & Tech – Alix McKee

Forum Planning –George Bryson

Stewardship – Mindy Willis

UUSC Coordinator – Becca Bernard

Whalecoast – Denise Martin

Worship Associates – Marilyn Lee

Young Adults – Eric McCoy

The YRUU Coordinator's Corner

By Eric McCoy

Eric McCoy auufcyp@gmail.com (907) 230-6915



Calendar:

Fall Con Oct 27 – 29th, Camp Cispus. Randle, WA.

Youth Service Feb. 11, 11am, AUUF

Spring Con Mar 23-25th, 2018, Camp Cispus, Randle WA.

Bridging and Coming of Age Ceremony May 13th, 2018 AUUF

About Our Speakers and Services (see back page)

Gary Holthaus has served as the called minister for our Fellowship since 2012.

Mary Fisher has served as ALPAR's executive director since 2001. She has a degree in marketing and over 35 years of experience in program management, marketing and public relations. Prior to ALPAR, Mary was the director of member and public relations for Alaska Power Association and program director for BUY ALASKA at the UAA Small Business Development Center. Mary grew up in St. Clair, Missouri, near St. Louis and graduated from Missouri State University. She was drawn to Alaska and when she crossed the border at the Yukon in January 1981, she knew she had found her home. In her spare time, she hikes, camps and travels the world always searching out how communities do recycling and prevent litter.

Gwen Higgins is an archivist at the UAA/APU Consortium Library Archives and Special Collections. She earned a bachelor's degree from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio where she also held a job as a student worker in the University Archives. Inspired by the archival work she did as an undergraduate, she went on to pursue an MA in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She moved to Alaska in 2014 and, when not in the archives, enjoys traveling the state and exploring the outdoors through hiking, kayaking, skiing, and ice climbing.

Arlene Schmuland came to Alaska in 2002 to work as a reference archivist at Archives and Special Collections at the UAA/APU Consortium Library and became head of the Archives in 2007. Prior to arriving in Alaska, she worked as an archivist for the University of Washington Special Collections, the Bonneville County District Court system in Idaho, and the Utah State Archives and Records Service. She's done pro bono archival consulting work with the Tuzzy Library in Barrow, the Alutiiq Museum in Kodiak, the Seward Community Library, the Idaho State University library's Special Collections, and the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry in Atlanta, Georgia.

UU White Supremacy Teach In, October 15 Everyone has to start somewhere, and it takes a commitment to disrupt business as usual. Join AUUF's Dismantling White Supremacy Working Group for this panel discussion that will address: What is white supremacy? What is the UU White Supremacy Teach-In and how did it originate? Why is our congregation participating? How does white supremacy culture show up in our congregation? What is the 8th Principle project and how does it connect to white supremacy in UU spaces? Members of the Dismantling White Supremacy working group are: Eric McCoy, Mary Ann Eininger, Jeanna Duryee, Annie Belts, Becca Bernard, Amanda Mack, Ingrid Larson and Susie Kobierowski.

Heather Flynn is a longtime Anchorage civil leader and local philanthropist. A former school teacher, she arrived in Alaska in 1968, helped write the city charter in the early '70s, and worked on the city's first comprehensive plan. She served two terms on the Anchorage School Board, 10 years on the Anchorage Assembly, and ran for mayor in 1994. She is the former director of the AWAIC shelter for abused women, and in 2010 received the lifetime Achievement Award presented by the Athena Society of Anchorage.

Dr. Bill Cox came to Alaska in 1984 and worked as a radiologist at Alaska Native Medical Center for 13 years, followed by 16 years as Nome's radiologist. He made some 28 trips to Asia, including seven to Siberia, four to India and three to Mongolia. He carried donated medical supplies and gave x-ray presentations at teaching hospitals in nine Asian capitals, donating the x-ray copies to their teaching files. Among his smaller projects was helping start the first AA chapter in the Soviet Far East. His bigger projects included teaming up with Heather Flynn of AWAIC to help start a women's shelter in Mongolia.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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AUUF Services and Events –October 2017

Sunday October 1 Blood Drive

9 am Mary Fisher, 'Alaskans for Litter Prevention
and Recycling (ALPAR) Today'
11 am Gary Holthaus, Blessing of the Animals

Sunday October 8

9 am Chalice Circle Experience
11 am Chalice Circle Experience

Sunday October 15

9 am Gary Holthaus, 'Revisiting Racism'
11 am White Supremacy Teach-in

Sunday October 22

9 am Bill Cox and Heather Flynn 'Helping Start
Mongolia's First Women's Shelter'
11 am Gary Holthaus, 'This is My Country'

Sunday October 29

9 am Arlene Schmuland and Gwen Higgins,
'UAA Archives: Preserving Our Past and Your Past'
11 am All Souls

<u>Tuesday Evening Services 6:30</u>

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- October 2017

Sunday 11 am ~ Classes for toddlers through high school

Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare ages 1-3

The LOG

November 2017



AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2824 E. 18th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99508-3303

From Gary

Today the noise of construction, which has been present most all day, every day the past couple of weeks, had a special sound to it. Heavy booms and banging as if someone were breaking in through the south wall of my office. No wonder: when I looked out, there was our ramp moving into place against the wall that held the window I was peering through. One of the men manhandling the ramp into place grinned and waved. They have been a friendly and competent crew since the day the work began.

I've worked on factory crews: in a steel mill, moving forty-foot "I- beams" or "Channel beams." My task was to chain up three or four beams to a ceiling hoist. With a hand-held control box I could lift and guide the beams, dangling and swinging high overhead, from layout men with blueprints marking where the cuts would be made so one beam would fit precisely into a notch on another beam forty feet away as the building went up. The next move was to lay them on sawhorses so another workman with a cutting torch could light up his acetylene, adjusting it to a fine blue point to make the necessary cuts. It was like Christmas toys during World War II when all the toys were cardboard and had to be cut out and put together. The punch-outs and the instructions were all the same: "Fit tab A into notch A. Tab B goes..." Despite the war, it was nevertheless a predictable and orderly world. Even a child could know how one action would result in a particular outcome.

They are workmen, doing good work, all the pieces coming together so we can have a beautiful and useful space for AUUF activities, a space we can also let others use for other good purposes in our community, and I think of what they are doing and how their effort spreads out from AUUF to benefit others, and I am grateful to these workers for what they do, and to AUUF for its good work too.

See You Sunday – Gary

Together...

We seek to be an open and welcoming community.

*We strive to listen deeply and speak with one another
and to our larger community with consideration and respect.*

*We hold each of us and all of this amazing world
worthy of our attention, compassion and care.*

Together we are Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

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Calendar Highlights

Oct 29 Plastic Recycle
Oct 31 no Tuesday Service
Oct 30 Compassionate
Communication starts
Nov 2 AUUF Common Read
Nov 4 Annual Dinner and
Auction
Nov 26 Alliance Christmas Sale
Dec 2 Humanities Forum: Past,
Present, and Future
Dec 3 Winterfest
Dec 8 4 A's lunch
Dec 17 Plastics recycle

"New Front Door 2017"

If you haven't noticed...we are now at the stage where it could get worse before it gets a whole lot better – and things should start moving fast, so forgive me if this article is a bit out of sync with day to day progress. As I write, on October 15, here's what I know:

Each time you come, you will need to (please!) take a moment to notice changed egress patterns. This is primarily for your safety in case you need to get out in a hurry. But it's also fun.

The wall to the old wiggle room is down, you've probably seen, and that Northeast corner space is now available to use as part of the Social Room. Former admin walls are also down, and you can see the beginnings of the new Admin and Minister's office area as those new walls are going up. Flooring is not patched so take care not to trip! Please note that when the appliances move to the far north wall of the social room (temporarily), there will be many plugged in to the same circuit, which may mean it could trip and need to be reset to keep the refrigerator cold. If you notice it has tripped, please spread the word. Bruce, George, Don, Jobe, Peggy, Carma and many others can reset the circuit if needed.

For another major change you will notice inside – the Southeast stairs are expected to be removed the week of October 23. The temporary ramp egress accessible through Gary's old office is up, and the new (temporary) door to the ramp should be cut by then. Once installed, the ramp egress/access will need to be inspected by the Muni before it may be used, however, so please do not use until it is no longer roped off. Amy has moved to the "ante room" – adjacent to the sound booth. This will put them both in the line of foot traffic of the ramp, so thank you Amy and Gary for your patience!

The new entry to the sanctuary from the social room has been cut and a door installed... but note that the great new door that will eventually be there will have to wait until January to be installed, so please don't be alarmed that it is not as you had expected, yet! In the meantime, we are temporarily re-using other, smaller doors on hand. (Why? It has to do with the necessary and safe egress routes and direction of the door swings before our new entrance is usable.)

The downstairs is full to the brim with storage, kids, teachers, cordoned off construction areas and a chill in the air. A huge thank you to all the RE classes, volunteers, staff and students alike, for putting up with this. Rosene's office walls will come down at some point, carefully...Could offer some fun graffiti opportunities beforehand. And, again, it gets worse before it gets better, but please remember... it will get better!

The construction crew is instructed to button it up before they leave each week but if you see anything that looks unsafe, please speak up. And roped off construction areas are so tempting to little ones, but they really must stay out. Please help as you can with that.

Each meeting with the Project Oversight Team confirms a list of volunteer projects needed, big and small. So far, our volunteer pool has been amazing at getting it done so as not to hold up the contractors. A huge thank you to the volunteers! I won't try to name them all because I will miss someone critical...(especially James Dryden and Bruce Roberts!)

Do you have any secure, indoor, cool storage to spare? We're in need! There is no storage space left and there are more things to keep safe before we are done. Contact James Dryden and he'll let you know if he's still looking.

Be sure to come to St. Anthony's for our AUUF Annual Dinner and Auction on November 4th to get an update on the color scheme being worked on by our Interior Design committee. That is a brave bunch.

I've heard from one or two people with space concerns based on what they are seeing and learning through updates. Thank you! It is so helpful to know concerns with time to address them. (And, yes, there will be a way to set up enough tables for the Christmas sale in December! We can definitely make that happen).

And finally, if you come by on a Friday and see minimal workers on site – not to fear! In general, Kuchar has the crew working four ten-hour days, and leaves Friday for specialists, inspectors, etc...

Any questions, please let me know, or any of the others on the Project Oversight Team (Carma Reed, Peggy Robinson, Don Antrobus, Jobe Bernier, James Dryden, Bruce Roberts, Amanda Mack). If the contractors need to be involved in the answer, Don or Jobe will handle it. What an amazing project!

~Carma Reed (carmaandjiri@gci.net or 727-5275)

President's Log Letter – November 2017

One thing is constant in a church community – volunteers who make things happen. In this season of thanksgiving, AUUF's plate is full of delectable offerings for all to savor and delight in. The LOG is our menu. What an abundant table for all of us to gather 'round with newcomers and long-time members alike.

The secret ingredient is the behind-the-scenes preparation and effort that makes all the meaning- and memory-making possible. For this we show our gratitude as an organization by giving two awards at the annual dinner each year. Due to unique circumstances, Rod McCoy was already presented with the Fred Hillman Lifetime Service Award at his celebration of life on October 4. With his signature half smirk/smile and a glass of wine in hand, Rod seemed to be without words when presented with the award. It was a rare and precious moment. At the annual dinner, we will present the volunteer of the year award.

The board table has a neat stack of interview questions on it and a new Logitech camera that is ready for use. According to our contact at the UUA Transitions Office, a handful of interim minister candidates will be revealed to us in the online settlement system we are using in late October. The board will then initiate the interview and hiring process for an 18-month appointment. An interim minister serves a dual role of consultant and minister. His or her primary job is to help a congregation get their house in order and prepare them for calling a settled minister. When it comes time to do so, the congregation will be much more involved. A congregational vote of 85 percent of a quorum of members is needed to hire a settled minister.

All that being said, Gary is the current guest at our table and November and December will be a time for us to thank him and honor him for his significant contributions to our community. See the schedule of "Gary Chronicles at AUUF" events. Many thanks to Stephenie Wheeler for her creativity in pulling the concept of "the Chronicles" together. Let the feasting begin!

In faith, Amanda Mack

New UUA campaign offers matching cash NOW for legacy gift promise!

It almost sounds too good to be true! But there really is a new way to generate money NOW for AUUF just by planning ahead to ensure your asset beneficiaries and distribution are in order. Here's the scoop:

Earlier this year, our national Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) launched a new *Wake Now our Vision (WNOV) Collaborative Campaign*. In a nutshell, if a person makes a legacy gift commitment to AUUF or other UU organization (in one's will, for example), the WNOV campaign will donate 10% of that amount NOW to the organization to which the legacy designation is made (up to \$10,000 per donor!). This opportunity is available now through June of 2020.

Through this campaign, the Endowment Committee suggests a goal to raise \$500,000 in legacy gift designations to AUUF/AUUF Endowment. If 50 members each designated an average of \$10,000 worth of assets to go to AUUF, the fellowship would realize a \$50,000 cash match in 2019-2020! This is a great way for people who don't currently have a lot of cash to spare to help generate funds simply by including AUUF in their will. Or, by designating AUUF as a beneficiary for a retirement fund account.

AUUF could certainly use this essentially free cash. Our capital project's downstairs renovation is not fully funded. And, we could save to help pay down our capital project debt. We are all mortal, yet our legacies can live on to benefit generation after generation of UUs. Gain peace of mind and benefit AUUF. It's that simple.

More information is available online at the UUA WNOV website: <http://wakenowourvision.org/>. Or call John Blaine 907-229-8050.



Plan to attend our Annual Dinner and Auction Nov. 4

Don't miss our fellowship's gathering of the year from 5:00 – 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4. This year's theme – *Building for a Brighter Future* – celebrates our facility renovation now underway. Due to construction, the event will be at St. Anthony Catholic Church, 825 S. Klevin Street, near Bragaw Street and East 9th Avenue (see map). Here's what's in store:

- delicious share-a-dish banquet featuring prized recipes
- raffle and guessing games for any budget
- great items to browse in our silent and limited live auctions
- Brief year's recap by AUUF President Amanda Mack
- Annual volunteer awards presentation
- everyone who contributes in any way (food, donated items, volunteering), will be included in the raffle
- All attendees have a chance at several great door prizes

Child care will be available on-site for ages 1-12.

If you have questions or suggestions, or would like to volunteer, contact event Co-Chairs Ron Devon at 301-1601 or Stephenie at 382-3327, msgmaker@gci.net.



Gary's Departure and Farewell:

Commemorating the 'Gary Chronicles at AUUF' and a New Chapter in Minnesota

The fellowship offers a number of ways to commemorate our time with minister Gary Holthaus as he prepares to depart and return to Minnesota, where he and Lauren are planning their next chapter in life. The theme of this farewell salutes Gary's love of reading, writing and learning.

Bookmarks: *Tales of our Time Together* – During November and December.

- Reach out to Gary to share your favorite passages over a cup of coffee or host a meal with him and a couple of friends.

Love Letters: *Prose from Our Hearts* – Beginning Thanksgiving through end of the year.

- Express your appreciation through a letter or small gift and drop it in a marked basket.

Bookends: *Humanities Forum Past, Present and Future* – 6 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 2, at AUUF.

- Attend a public event held jointly with the Humanities Forum to celebrate Gary's contributions to the humanities and our communities.

Congregational Memoir: *Celebrating Our Time with Gary* – 11 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 10.

- Participate in an enrichment worship service involving all ages of the congregation.

Cliff Notes: *Loss, Leaving and Listening* – Directly after the service Sunday, Dec. 10.

- A listening circle for those dealing with the loss at Gary's departure.

Turn the Page: *Send the Flame* – 3-7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 30, Deena and Frank Mitchell's home.

- Organized by Gwen Perry-Crawford, a final fellowship gathering to honor and bid farewell.



Half Portion for Social Action: Project Homeless Connect

By Kalen Saxton and Amy Westfall

For over a decade, members of AUUF have belonged to the Coalition to End Homelessness and have participated in their Project Homeless Connect. Last year at least 25 UU's signed up through the Social Justice Committee to volunteer and others volunteered directly. PHC is a one-day event to provide housing, services and hospitality, directly to people experiencing homelessness in Anchorage.

In November half the non-pledge funds collected in the plate will be donated to the Coalition to End Homelessness for the lunch served at Project Homeless Connect and other costs. In January 2016, over 600 homeless or near homeless people had lunch there of the 795 clients who received services. Many had been lined up before 9am to get to services offered from 10am-3pm. People who go through intake and referral are given a ticket to Lunch A, B or C which is served in three shifts of 200.

Project Homeless Connect is on January 24th at the Egan Convention Center, 555 5th Ave. Mark your calendar for this important day of hands on Social Justice. More at: www.anchoragehomeless.org

Chalice Lighters

By Diane Smith

Chalice Lighters of the UUA's Pacific Northwest District provides grants to Pacific NW congregations for vital capabilities and infrastructure. The grants are funded exclusively through contributions from UUs who participate as Chalice Lighters. Chalice Lighters receive no more than three call letters each year, for the purpose of assisting a congregation with a \$20 donation. AUUF received a grant in 2015, and will be eligible again next year. To be eligible, we must have at least 30% of our members enrolled as Chalice Lighters. Please enroll at pnwduaa.org/programs-resources/chalice-lighters/



4 A's Lunches

By Marilyn Lee

We will once again be bringing lunch to 4A's on Fridays as we have done for many years in the past. This year, Marilyn Lee and Gwen Perry Crawford are co-chairing this effort. Marilyn met with 4 A's Director of Development, Perta Davis, to discuss supplying lunches and other volunteer opportunities. For those unfamiliar, 4 A's provides case management services, counseling, assistance with housing. They have 6 full time case managers and serve over 200 clients in Alaska.

AUUF will be providing lunch once per quarter through 2018. Our first Friday lunch will be December 8. After that, the first Friday of each quarter: March, June, September, and December. We will provide food for 25 people - two entrees (one vegetarian), salad and bread, and dessert. The food is to be delivered to 4 A's office on Fireweed between 11:00 and 11:30. They serve at 12:00. Signup sheets and email opportunities for sign up will be available soon.

Beyond lunches, several other volunteer opportunities are available to assist their program. Some include accompanying clients when they go for testing and also becoming certified to do testing, and being a "buddy" for clients.

Any questions, contact Marilyn Lee or Gwen Perry Crawford. Yippee - we are providing support and humanity to a compassionate organization!!!!



Did You Know? 9 youth attended the PNWD's Youth Conference on October 29th. Eric McCoy was asked to serve as one of the conference leads and flew through the night with our 9 youth!! The rest of our youth attended their own 'CoffeeCon' here in town with their own advisor, TK Kleiner.

Adult Offerings!

AUUF Common Read

AUUF is invited to read together *The Third*

Reconstruction: How a

Moral Movement is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear by the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II with Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove. This model of organizing that brings people together across race, class and sexual orientation is important for us to consider as AUUF seeks to become a beacon for social justice in Anchorage. Books are available for purchase (\$16) in the office. Ingrid Larson will lead the discussion on Thursday, **November 2 at 6 p.m.** at the Fellowship. Ingrid is a 2nd year Masters of Divinity student at Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colo. and a member of the Black Lives Matter Working Group at AUUF.



Compassionate Communication is Back!

In this study group, we'll learn about how compassionate listening and speaking can deepen and sweeten our connections with ourselves and with others. Marshall Rosenberg developed Nonviolent Communication (also called Compassionate Communication) as an approach to speaking and listening "that leads us to give from the heart, connecting us with ourselves and with each other in a way that allows our natural compassion to flourish."

This AUUF study group will introduce beginners to Nonviolent Communication and allow those familiar with it to deepen their understanding and practice of Nonviolent Communication. We'll work through the 13 chapters of Rosenberg's book, Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life. Our meetings will involve a mixture of discussion and games or exercises.

Group will meet six Monday evenings from 6:30-8:30 pm, October 30 – December 4. Led by Becca Bernard (RBernard.AK@gmail.com).

Friendship Dinners Continue in 2018

Join our next two friendship dinners, on Saturday 1/13/18, and/or Sunday 3/4/18. Contact Andee Cordano (AndeeCordano@gmail.com; 350-6361) or Deena Mitchell (DeenaMitchell1978@gmail.com; 847-997-8357) to register, or for more information.

Chalice Circles begin in November!

"Small groups are great places to get to know other people and to get to know yourself. Over time, participants build deep connections with one another, with the congregation and with the sacred."

Whether the day's topic is "good and evil," "mindful living" or "letting go," the conversation is respectful and caring and leads to greater understanding. In each session, facilitated by a member of the congregation, all participants have an opportunity to share their perspectives, tell their stories, and listen deeply. The time together is structured: Groups begin and end with centering readings and often include a time of silence before the sharing begins. Small groups also put their faith into action through service projects." (From the UUA)

Four unique groups will begin in November, meeting every two weeks through April (about 12 sessions total). Contact Meghan Bundtzen TODAY at BetterWithArt@gmail.com to register!

Sundays 4-6pm (Starting Nov. 5th)
Facilitators: Judy E & George B
Southside (Raven's Roost)



Mondays 6:30 – 8:30pm (starting Nov. 6th)
Facilitators: Susan K & Ingrid L
Muldoon (Gwen P-C home)

Wednesdays 10am- Noon (Starting Nov. 1st)
Facilitator: Deena M
Westchester (Deena M home)

Thursdays 6:15-7:30pm (Starting Nov. 15th)
Facilitators: Teresa Z & Andee C
Downtown (Pioneer Home)

If you are interested but cannot join one of these groups, please feel free to contact Meghan Bundtzen (223-8140; BetterWithArt@gmail.com) with an alternate time, day, and location, and whether you might consider being a facilitator. We have one or two others who might also be available to facilitate another group.

Mark your Calendar for Winterfest – Sunday, December 3. Join this fun holiday tradition for all ages! The Junior Youth (MoonSpinners) will be hosting our 1st Soup Sunday downstairs, while we transform the sanctuary after the 11 am service on Sunday, December 3. Plan to enjoy hot cocoa and holiday music, make ornaments (for all skill levels), decorate the tree, and maybe even sing some carols.



Tuesday Services: Join Gary and a small group at 6:30 pm Tuesdays for an intimate informal service with special music. Refreshments and conversation follow. Special offerings on the fourth Tuesday of each month. No Service Oct 31st.

The Hungry Book Club

Eleven of met to discuss “The Lost City of the Monkey Gods” by Douglas Preston, and most of us were fascinated with the story of the amazing “find” in Honduras of the ancient city deep in the wildest jungle in Honduras. It was certainly an incredible story and at a high cost of exposure to serious diseases. We have chosen another big “scientific” book, “Sapiens, A Brief History of Humankind” by Yuval Noah Harari for our November 14th meeting. Again at 2 PM at the condos at 9th and M Street. We are an “open” book club and welcome anyone who loves good books and would like to join us. Call Shirley 563-4499 for directions. Bring a light semi-healthy snack to share and your book.

News from The Alliance

By Shirley Dickens

At our October meeting we voted to give \$80 to the Annual Dinner to purchase wine and beer and \$100.00 to the Youth group to purchase the AUUF common read book. We also heard a local Mexican woman talk about her village which is rebuilding homes destroyed by the recent Earthquake using a model similar to Habitat for Humanity. The Alliance is sending \$300. Several of the members contributed their own funds and about \$500 plus will go to this village.

We also agreed to have the Christmas sale and work around the remodeling. We will manage somehow, but it will look different this year as the tables will be in the back of the Sanctuary. Of course, we will appreciate things that you may have to give us to sell. Please keep us in mind for contributions and then to buy gifts to give others. The sale starts November 26th and continues December 3rd.

Volunteer Spotlight *Deena Mitchell*



Deena joined AUUF in 2011, after moving here from the Chicago area. They had been long-time members of the Unitarian Church of Evanston, where they were married and their children were dedicated. She is the chair of the Adult Programs Committee, involved with stewardship, and a Welcoming Team leader. She also organizes the "Ornament Sunday" event on the first Sunday in December. Deena has been on the CYRE committee and served as its chair. One of her favorite things at AUUF is Fall Frolic. She loves how it is a relaxed, extended opportunity to spend time with all kinds of AUUFers -- those with younger, older and no children. She is excited about the changes that are happening and the many new faces. She loves Gary and will miss his wise, calm presence, but change brings new, exciting opportunities.



Plastics Recycle: October 29 and December 17th are our next plastics recycle dates. 5's only please.

November Birthdays

(Birthdays are not published in our online version)

From the Fellowship office:

Got Miles? We can use the donation of your excess miles to defray travel costs for travel required in January. If you think you can assist, contact Amy auuf@gci.net.

Wish List: The office can always use forever stamps and 20 pound white copier paper.

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Grateful for a spectacular “Celebration of Life” service for our own Rod McCoy (who decided he wanted to be there). Rod has been with Hospice care at his home for a while now, but was able to attend recent services and also participate in his wonderful celebration of his Life. AUUF hosted a huge crowd (I would guess 75 to 80 people). His family (4 children, 6 grandchildren, several relatives from Outside, including his older brother and his wife, a very large part of the Bartlett Club (Democrats), many of our congregation and a politician or two, were part of the crowd. Gwen Perry Crawford was able to get 6 different “bread puddings” as a “request” from Rod to top off the big amount of food at the reception after an amazing program. Several of his family participated in the very special program which was enjoyed by all. An unforgettable evening.

Grateful for all our “new members” who were formally welcomed into our congregation on a recent October Sunday morning. It was a lovely ceremony which included a 9 AM and a 11 AM creation of what the new “Chalice Circles” being formed this November will be like (replacing our small groups, but run on very similar principles of deep listening and deep sharing.) These are wonderful tools for building “community”. Do yourself a favor and get involved and commit to being part of a chalice circle. Our profound “Thanks” to Susan Orlansky who kept small groups going for many years by helping us find times and places to host the groups.

Grateful for our new musical/choir director, Megan Webb. She, too, has a beautiful voice and our choir is sounding wonderful. And Rosene tells me the children are starting a choir too. That will be a big hit with us all.

Seasons change and winter is coming. Take care of each other and be careful with yourselves. Get your flu shots and avoid chills and colds if you can. Be well, dear people.

The YRUU Coordinator’s Corner

By Eric McCoy

I get asked semi-annually, as I was recently, “what do you think about the teens being upstairs?”

In the blur of a Sunday morning I only have a few moments to respond to anything. I think my response was: “it’s the youth’s choice and it comes and it goes, we had a point where they wanted to come up every two weeks, and another where they never wanted to, and we’ve found some happy agreement in our Multigen Services.” I thought I might take a moment this month to finish that cup of coffee together. Here are some reasons why I guess the youth do things a bit different here:



The youth group already meets at other times: Coming of Age, and Our Whole Lives, and Lock-Ins and Youth Cons, and Fall Frolic, and outings, and fundraisers, and service, to the point that some youth and adults have mentioned that it is too much. It’s a negative externality of a very successful RE program that has been built. For each yin a yang, at the Kick-off Cook-out this fall, a parent mentioned to me that they love their Methodist community, but their youth program is just nowhere as strong as ours.

The youth group is varied in its make-up: in other churches, they often share a local community, and they are in the same classes, sports teams, scout troops, birthday parties, etc. Youth group is a simple extension of a pre-existing community, that in some cases, everybody does the same activities together. Our youth, like our adults, are far flung – some from as far as an hour away. They are wanderers and worshipers of entirely different star-crossed constellations. Neither culture is better than the other, but one presents time congruence that makes regular meetings easier.

YRUU downstairs is small group / forum/ free thinkers / sanga / choir / worship associates / alliance and uniquely YRUU. It’s a super smoothie of all your favorite fellowship elements, all at once. It’s their space. It’s their time. It’s their thing. I suppose the fact that I’m being asked the question, as opposed to the youth, does a lot to answer it.

RE Notes November 2017

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Yes, RE is still happening despite the remodel and cold spaces downstairs. Here's an update on what the classes are doing.

The **Water Skippers** – toddlers are learning about trusting new adults, and playing appropriately with each other. Their 2 lovely teachers Kaely and Michele really need 2 more folks on the team to help cover every Sunday!

The **Wind Walkers** – 3-4 yr olds, are learning about our UU church and doing fun activities about our church and its people.

The **Sun Catchers** – K-1st are Treasure Hunting! They made treasure boxes and are finding various treasures representative of a UU life to put in them! Mary and Stacey really look forward to having 2 more teachers join the team so they can go upstairs once in a while!

The 4 classes 2nd – 5th grade are doing Cross Age activities through at least November, which is good because all of these classes need more teachers! Their curriculums will start hopefully, in January. Meanwhile they are doing some UU identity activities like making chalices of various kinds, hearing stories of famous UU's (Thanks Bruce, Caroline, Kristin, Doug, Lucas, Ruth for being our storytellers!) Coming activities will be celebrating Day of the Dead, participating in several Multigen services, and addressing themes of Racism and equality in November.

The **Moon Spinners** - Jr High group is off to a great start with fun activities from their UU Identity curriculum – Traditions with a Wink! They are lucky to have a full team of teachers who can rotate the class prep and coverage.

The **YRUU** – High School, has also had a great start with activities and Lock In's, discussions and worship, and a current focus on bullying. They have also participated in several upstairs services, and some of these busy youth are also in the Coming of Age program with it's many meetings and activities! Yay youth!!!

We know everyone is super busy and on many, many committees, but when it comes to changing the world – the CYRE committee and I would like to remind everyone, that it starts at home, here at AUUF, with the teaching and engagement of our next generation in exploring values and beliefs as justice seeking people!

In peace, Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Our Services

October 30 – Multigenerational service for All Souls – A varied and interactive service. Preschool – 1st grade will head downstairs to their classes after the Story for all Ages. Multigenerational services are designed with all ages in mind and lots of action to keep folks interested.

There are several benefits to Multigenerational services:

They counteract the cultural trend to separate generations from each other, allowing a sharing of wisdom and perspective across generations;

They allow families to experience a worship service together and have a common focal point for further discussions;

They provide opportunity for children and youth to learn the structures and rituals of Unitarian Universalist worship services, becoming familiar and comfortable with the idea of "grown up church", with the rituals of our church community and what our faith holds as important when we get together in community on Sunday mornings.

Intergenerational relationships are one of the keys to building lasting faith in children and youth.

November 5, 12, 26, - Toddler, Preschool and K-1 classes will continue with children beginning downstairs each Sunday. Please check with your child's teachers as to needed class helpers. We need 4 teachers immediately – 2 in toddler and 2 in the K-1. We currently have only 2 teachers who are there every Sunday. They need a full team to continue coverage. Great curriculum, lots of ideas!

Currently the 2nd – 5th classes will continue to meet as a Cross Age group in room 3. Hoping to divide into classes in December if space is ready, and if we have teachers. Each class needs 1 or 2 more teachers. We will need full teams to offer each class.

Youth classes meet with their own planned curriculum. Speak with Eric McCoy to be part of the Sr. Youth Team. Advisors and support persons are needed for this busy group.

November 19, the children will be upstairs for a Multigenerational Thanksgiving service. Preschool through first grade will go downstairs later in the service with their teachers.

Our Activities

Annual Dinner November 4 (see details on page 4) – There will be childcare for Toddlers – 5th grade in 2 age groups. Please email Rosene Beachy, DLRE rbeachy@alaskalife.net to reserve your child(ren) so we have the appropriate number of caregivers.

November 19th – January 15th - Guest At Your Table (GaYT) - This annual collection by the National Unitarian Universalist Service Committee aids women and children's projects throughout the world. Boxes will be distributed at the Thanksgiving service and available for several weeks or until they run out!

You simply place your colorful Guest At Your Table box on your dining table, and at mealtimes, "feed" the box with coins or bills throughout the holiday season. You will also get some activity sheets and a calendar of ideas for how to feed your box .

On a day of your choosing after Christmas count the coins with your kids and convert your coin and cash total into a single check made out to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee ("UUSC") and put it back in your box. **Bring the box to church on Sunday, January 15th.** Youth/student donations that add up to \$10 or more, and adult donations that add up to \$40 or more automatically earn a membership with **UUSC**.



How about "Dine In" for Hunger, feeding the box the money saved by eating a simple at-home meal. Donation envelopes and information can be picked up at the Downstairs "Info Spot", along with activity sheets on how to feed your GaYT container!

Coming of Age "Lord of the Rings Retreat" at the Fellowship – November 10-11. For our 10 COA youth

Coming of Age - Meeting 3 - November 19 For COA youth and their Mentors

Mark Your Calendars for Sunday, December 3rd!

Mitten Tree Collection December 3rd Start your knitting (or shopping!) Children will start upstairs briefly for this annual ritual of dressing our tree during the 11:00 service! Remember to bring NEW mittens, scarves or socks to decorate our Mitten Tree during the 11:00 service! They will be donated to a local family Shelter, so all sizes are welcome. We will also collect gently used items.

Soup Sunday Yes, and there will be a Soup Sunday! It will be hosted by the Moon Spinners class – Jr Youth.

Winterfest -An Ornament Making party for All ages After the 11:00 service, 12:45-3:00 p.m. Our annual holiday party for all ages! Catch the holiday spirit and Make a day of it – Have some soup and then jingle your way back to the sanctuary to make ornaments, decorate the tree, peruse the Alliance holiday sale table, and maybe even sing some Christmas carols!



Did you know? We have 10 youth in our Coming of Age Youth program. They have been matched with some wise and wonderful mentors from the congregation: Frank Mitchell, Tim Huffman, Kalen Saxton, Jackie Cason, George Donart, Bill Jamison, Ruth Greenwood, Greg Hartlieb, Marion Vicary, and John Blaine. Who spend time exploring values and issues of faith and life, playing games, eating, laughing, and other activities.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2824 E. 18th Ave, Anchorage AK 99508 Office phone: 907-248-3737 Email: auuf@gci.net

www.anchorageuuf.org Music page: auufmusicpage.yolasite.com

Our Mission: We are a Fellowship of diverse people who come together to nurture each other, to grow ethically, spiritually and intellectually, and to help create a just, safe, and caring community

Staff Contacts

Gary Holthaus, minister of AUUF, (907) 433-9311

Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration, 441-6815, rbeachy@alaskalife.net

Eric McCoy, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Programing 230-6915 or AUUFYCYP@gmail.com

Amy Lundell, Congregational Administrator, 248-3737 x 3 or auuf@gci.net

Megan Webb, Music Director, auufmusic@gmail.com or 248-3737 x6

AUUF Board of Directors: Amanda Mack, President; Don Crandall, Vice President; Kelley Hartlieb, Secretary; Peggy Robinson, Treasurer; Wendy Romberg; David O'Brien; James Dryden

Other Contacts are Available on our Website.

About Our Speakers and Services (see back page)

Gary Holthaus has served as the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship called minister since 2012. Originally ordained as a Methodist minister, Gary has also made a living as a poet, author, educator and non-profit administrator, and has been involved in environmental and social issues for 60 years. He arrived in Alaska in 1964. He earned a Bachelor's Degree and a Master's Degree in Sacred Theology from Boston University. He has published numerous books of poetry and non-fiction, including "The Unauthorized Bible".

Erin Freel is a 2000 United States Air Force Academy graduate and served as an intelligence officer for five years. She currently serves as an Arthritis Foundation Legislative Advocate and Arthritis Ambassador. Erin has testified to the Alaska State House on the impact of various healthcare bills currently in review by the Alaska legislature, particularly those related to care of long term chronic conditions, as well as publishing in local Alaska newspapers about the impact of proposed repeals of the Affordable Care Act on Alaskans.

Ric Davidge is an author, international water broker and policy consultant, and residential land developer. He is combat veteran who served in the US Army in Vietnam from 1963 to 1969. He is president of the Anchorage chapter of Vietnam Veteran's of America, and board member and past state president of VVA, and has been active in numerous national, state, and local veterans' organizations. Davidge wrote most of the 2012 RNC Platform addressing veterans and service members. He earned a Masters in Public Administration from UAA in 1978, and is a former professional singer, composer, producer, dancer, director and choreographer. He is married to Connie Yoshimura.

Gene White joined the U.S. Coast Guard in 1969. Trained as a sonar operator, he primarily manned radar patrols in the North Atlantic. After discharge in 1973, White worked six years as a community school coordinator in both Oregon and Alaska -- then qualified as a journeyman electrician, ultimately serving as Lead Support Specialist for the Chugach Electric Association. Retiring in 2007, he served as campaign manager for the successful 2008 Chris Tuck for State House campaign -- then worked four more years as Tuck's legislative aide in Juneau. He's also a former percussionist with the Anchorage Symphony and past president of the Alaska Computer Society.

Francine Taylor has enjoyed a long and distinguished career as a documentary filmmaker in Alaska. Her productions have won two CINE Golden Eagles, a Golden Astrid and an American Film Festival blue ribbon. In 1991 she served as the driving force in establishing the Alaska Moving Image Preservation Association dedicated to the collection, preservation and public accessibility of film and video on Alaska. She's also heads her own video house, Taylor Productions, specializing in documentaries, promotional and informational video production.



Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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AUUF Services and Events –November 2017

Sunday October 29

9 am Arlene Schmuland and Gwen Higgins,
'UAA Archives: Preserving Our Past and Your Past'
11 am All Souls

No Tuesday October 31 service

Sunday November 5

9 am Erin Freel,
"How Losing Obamacare Threatens Our Children"
11 am Gary Holthaus

Tuesday Evening Services 6:30

Sunday November 12

9 am Ric Davidge, "One Veteran's Life-Changing
Tour in Vietnam"
11 am Veteran's Day Panel

Sunday November 19

9 am Gene White and Francine Taylor,
"U.S. Coast Guard -- 150 Years in Alaska's Frigid Seas"
11 am Thanksgiving Service

Sunday November 26

9 am Gary Holthaus,
"Leaving Alaska with Love -- and Gratitude"
11 am Gary Holthaus

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- November 2017

Sunday 11 am ~ Classes for toddlers through high school
Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare ages 1-10

The LOG

December 2017



AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2824 E. 18th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99508-3303

From Gary

Amy just told me that it is December, 2017. Though I know her to be utterly honest, accurate and trustworthy, it seems only about 20 minutes ago that I signed on with AUUF for a stint of five years, or perhaps longer. Where did the time go? How could it have gone so quickly? It doesn't seem possible!

Yet here I am facing the end of my time with you at the end of this month. Lauren and I had a wonderful Thanksgiving this year because we are both grateful for our time with AUUF, grateful for your support, and your patience with my work as your minister. It has been a special time for us, and we are indeed thankful for it.

AUUF has made a genuine contribution to Anchorage and Alaska over the years since the early Seventies, when I first became acquainted with this congregation. You have kept this community aware of social justice issues and opportunities, often leading the way in dealing with them. You have been what you've often said you wanted to become: a voice for social justice in this special place. You have been that in the best possible way – as collaborators with other congregations of other denominations, all of us linked together through the Interfaith Council and Anchorage Faith and Congregations Together (AFACT). And you have participated with Identity, Inc in holding the rights of LGBTQ persons before this community. Holding signs and marching may not seem like much, but you have added your voice to those other voices of justice and helped create a more caring and compassionate community, lifting your signs and your voices in such causes. It has been a privilege to be with you in such efforts. Thanks for giving us the chance to share in them.

Your new minister, Reverend Shelley Page, was gracious in sharing time with me over a pleasant lunch. I am confident that you have a productive future with her leadership. I have loved this time with you, and though I will be moving, I will leave no one behind, holding you in mind and heart as our paths diverge. My profound gratitude and best hopes remain with you always. Lauren joins me in this.

Gary and Lauren

Together...

We seek to be an open and welcoming community.

*We strive to listen deeply and speak with one another
and to our larger community with consideration and respect.*

*We hold each of us and all of this amazing world
worthy of our attention, compassion and care.*

Together we are Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

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Calendar Highlights

Dec 2 Humanities Forum: Past, Present, and Future

Dec 3 Winterfest

Dec 8 4 A's lunch

Dec 10 Enrichment Service

Dec 12 Blue Christmas 6 pm

Dec 17 Plastics recycle

Dec 19 Last Tuesday Service
with Gary

Dec. 30 Farewell Gathering

Jan 9 Common Read

Jan 13 Friendship Dinners

Jan 14 Rev. Shelley, Joint 10am
Service

Jan 24 Project Homeless
Connect

"New Front Door 2017"

by Carma Reed

Our architect has crafted a gorgeous 3-d model of the new building, as completed, which can be hung as an ornament or placed on a table with a tea light inside, resulting in a warm glow pouring from the windows. You can put in your order for one by placing a check with the word "ornament" in the memo line in the basket, in the black box, or by charging \$50 to the Capital Campaign and typing "ornament" in the text box from our website or using the GivePlus ap. I can't wait to get mine. Now, on to the actual building update!



There have been concerns about the darkness outside the building, especially on the East side. One reason for the darkness is that there were two street lights in the alley that were temporarily out of commission, but should be back on soon (maybe already). Another is that there is no outside light mounted on the building on the East side, there never has been. The Project Oversight Team is looking in our contingency budget and our architect is talking to the Municipality to see if we can add that, and we will also see how it feels with the returned street lights. Stay tuned, walk in pairs if you can, and be safe.

If you've been to the building lately, you may have seen the kitchen area being framed and drywall going up, as well as the new Admin/Workroom/Minister's office area. It's reassuring to walk through those upstairs spaces and feel how it will be. There are plenty of electrical outlets for Soup Sunday and a great serving counter. Lucky the class who gets to host that first! Painting will begin in the next two weeks, and kitchen cabinets will likely be installed week of December 12th. The interior design committee has completed choices for colors and materials, orders are being placed for finishing touches.

Note that as the drywall work is being finished, now until around December 6th, we may have only intermittent access to the Social Room. So, look to the Sanctuary for the Alliance Christmas sale, and perhaps downstairs for Soup Sunday on December 3rd. Just follow the amazing soup smells.

Another exciting development coming up, the week of 11/20, the southern wall is opening up to reveal our new southern wall. Very exciting, but! it may be a bit cold before that is all completed. Bring an extra sweater.

The contractor, architect, inspectors and other professionals are all working very hard to solve issues as they come up, from beams supporting our second floor, to windows not exactly where they were indicated on the original, decades old plans. We are very thankful for their patience, skill, attentiveness, creativity and perseverance.

Speaking of perseverance, thank you to everyone who has persevered through the less-than-ideal ramp entrance on the southwest corner. It is serving its purpose, but it will be really great to have our new access with a lift, and an entry that does not wind through two offices before arriving at the destination.

And finally, if you were thinking you'd like to contribute to the Capital Campaign but just haven't gotten around to it, we will soon tap into our "Bridge Loans". Which is fine, we are planning on it, but additional contributions now will save us in interest later, so it's a good time to either catch up on your commitment, or even make one for the first time!

Mark your Calendar for Winterfest – Sunday, December 3. Join this fun holiday tradition for all ages! The Junior Youth (MoonSpinners) will be hosting our 1st Soup Sunday downstairs, while we transform the sanctuary after the 11 am service on Sunday, December 3. Plan to enjoy hot cocoa and holiday music, make ornaments (for all skill levels), decorate the tree, and maybe even sing some carols.



Gary's Departure and Farewell:

Commemorating the 'Gary Chronicles at AUUF' and a New Chapter in Minnesota

The fellowship offers a number of ways to commemorate our time with minister Gary Holthaus as he prepares to depart and return to Minnesota, where he and Lauren are planning their next chapter in life. The theme of this farewell salutes Gary's love of reading, writing and learning.



Bookmarks: *Tales of our Time Together* – During November and December.

- Reach out to Gary to share your favorite passages over a cup of coffee or host a meal with him and a couple of friends.

Love Letters: *Prose from Our Hearts* – Beginning Thanksgiving through end of the year.

- Express your appreciation through a letter or small gift and drop it in a marked basket.

Bookends: *Humanities Forum Past, Present and Future* – 6 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 2, at AUUF.

- Attend a public event held jointly with the Humanities Forum to celebrate Gary's contributions to the humanities and our communities.

Congregational Memoir: *Celebrating Our Time with Gary* – 11 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 10.

- Participate in an enrichment worship service involving all ages of the congregation.

Cliff Notes: *Loss, Leaving and Listening* – Directly after the service Sunday, Dec. 10.

- A listening circle for those dealing with the loss at Gary's departure.

Turn the Page: *Send the Flame* – 3-7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 30, Deena and Frank Mitchell's home.

- Organized by Gwen Perry-Crawford, a final fellowship gathering to honor and bid farewell.

President's Log Letter – November 2017

December invites us to be introspective, to give in to the dark days of the season. But in Alaska, we also know that if we don't stoke our own flames, our light can go out. Dispositions can go dark fast without focused self care. So, we up our vitamin D intake, we get our heart rates up, and we socialize with friends and family through the holidays whether we like it or not! In our efforts to keep our own internal fires burning, let's also look for the light in each other. Let's lift each other up as we walk this time of transition together.

In December, we celebrate Gary with a series of events. Join us and invite your friends to the public event "What are the humanities and why do they matter?" event on Saturday, December 2 at 6 p.m. at AUUF. We have the 11 a.m. worship service on December 10 that will be an all ages celebration. We have the party organized by Gwen Perry-Crawford at the home of Frank and Deena Mitchell on Saturday, December 30 at 3 p.m. And if you would like to send a note or small gift with Gary, look for the basket that will emerge after Thanksgiving where you can place it.

In January, we welcome Rev. Shelley Page, our incoming interim minister who will be with us for eighteen months. Her first sermon will be on January 14. She is coming to us from Unitarian Universalist Church of Ogden, Utah. Visit UUCO's website to learn the ways she has led them on their journey. As much as she'd make a great settled minister, Rev. Shelley is passionate about and specially trained in the field of interim ministry. (To Learn more about interim ministry and why we do it, search for and peruse 'The Transitional Ministry Handbook' on the UUA webpage at uua.org.)

Above all this holiday season, take care of yourself so that we can best enjoy the time we have together. It's the most meaningful gift we can give!

In faith, Amanda Mack

End of Year Stewardship

"We'd all like a reputation for generosity, and we'd all like to buy it cheap." Mignon McLaughlin

I know, I know, stewardship is not about money, but, rather, about tending, caring, nurturing, and being part of a larger community... but sometimes there are practical matters about money that help make stewardship easier, or "cheaper". Here's one question I wish I'd asked earlier in my life:

Are there some gifts that have bigger tax benefits to me than others? That is, of course, a question for a tax professional, which I am not, but here are a few tips that I know:

1. If you have them, give Assets (like stocks) while they are high, rather than Cash:

If you have been the beneficiary of the rising stock market this year, or over time, consider the benefits of gifting these assets to AUUF. You will not pay capital gains taxes on gifted appreciated assets because you are not selling them, and yet you can count the contribution as a donation to charity. AUUF will sell the assets and will not pay capital gains because it is a not-for-profit organization. If you want to keep the investment, you can always buy it again with the cash you would have gifted. This may have a greater tax benefit for you than giving cash, and it's all the same to AUUF. A win-win! You can fulfill your pledge, your capital campaign commitment, or make a new gift, by giving stocks just as well as cash. If you have questions, contact your financial or tax advisor or for AUUF particulars, the AUUF Finance Committee (Carma Reed or Peggy Robinson, for example).

2. Make sure your gift can be counted the tax year you intend it to! If you want count a gift in your 2017 taxes, make sure to make these timeframes:

By check: You can mail a check up until December 31st, and be sure the check is dated December 31st or before, as well. If pushing the deadline, you may want to send the check certified mail and keep the documentation in your records. But, do note that this year December 31st falls on a Sunday, so if heading out to the airport post office on New Year's Eve is not your idea of fun, you will want to do it sooner.

By credit or debit card: You can charge your credit or debit card from your smart phone via the app "GivePlus Church" (available on the Apple App store or Google Play, and linkable to AUUF) or via our website "Donate Now" as long you do it before these deadlines (different for credit and debit/ACH):

Credit: December 31st by Noon Alaska time

Debit/ACH: December 29th by Noon Alaska Time

Stocks or other assets: Leave a lot of lead time for this. Depending on where the asset is held, it could take several weeks.

Do you have other tips? I'd love to hear them! Or if you have questions about any of this, contact me at carmaandjiri@gci.net. Carma Reed, member of the Stewardship Committee

UUA campaign offers matching cash NOW for legacy gift promise!

Earlier this year, our national Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) launched a new *Wake Now our Vision (WNOV) Collaborative Campaign*. In a nutshell, if a person makes a legacy gift commitment to AUUF or other UU organization (in one's will, for example), the WNOV campaign will donate 10% of that amount NOW to the organization to which the legacy designation is made (up to \$10,000 per donor!). This opportunity is available now through June of 2020.

We are all mortal, yet our legacies can live on to benefit generation after generation of UUs. Gain peace of mind and benefit AUUF. It's that simple.

More information is available online at the UUA WNOV website: <http://wakenowourvision.org/>. Or call John Blaine 907-229-8050.



Half Portion for Social Action: Children's Lunchbox

The Children's Lunchbox is a child nutrition program which offers meals and snacks to 17 community programs, including dinner from scratch at two after-school programs. Additionally, they provide bags of weekend meals to every child at seven Title I elementary schools in Anchorage.

They are also able to provide meals even when school is out for summer. Their Summer Food Site Program partners with many of the same community programs they partner with during the school year, as well as a few more summer programs for kids. These meals are FREE to those 18 years of age and younger.



At a recent Chamber of Commerce Meeting, Lisa Sauder, Executive Director of Beans and Children's Lunchbox reported, "half of ASD students battle with food insecurity at home".

In December, half the non-pledge funds collected in our baskets will be donated to Children's Lunchbox.

Alternative Gift Fair



Does dad really need another pair of socks, fun-guy tie or travel mug? And what about your sister back in Iowa? Or your socially-aware nephew who's always been hard to shop for? If you're tired of buying "stuff" just because that's the way you've done it in the past, simplify the holidays and reduce the seasonal clutter this year by buying a gift in their honor at this month's Alternative Gift Shop. As before, we've selected several

non-profit organizations for you to choose from while planning your holiday giving. And as before, we've chosen groups whose missions align nicely with our own UU principles. This year our recipient organizations include Planned Parenthood, Identity, Inc., and the Alaska Innocence Project. We've also chosen to support our own AUUF Peace Camp, the Alaska Literacy Program and the UUA-UUSC Disaster Relief Fund. Shop with us from 9:45–12:45 on Sunday, Dec. 10, or from 6:45–8:15 on Tuesday evening, Dec. 12. You also can look for a "shopping list" around the Fellowship or in the church office and leave your payment in the office.

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Grateful for multi-generational services with the adults and children getting to know each other much better. It is good for the RE program to be sharing our services once a month and also a treat for the adults to see the next generation of UU's. We have been keeping more youth involved since graduation and interested in being adult UU's.

Grateful for a fabulous "Annual Dinner and Auction" in rented space in St. Anthony's, with a turnout of 120 people. T.K. brought 14 youth who sold raffle tickets, and brought 40 donations of their own belongings to be bid on. There was excellent food and many volunteers from auction collection and set-up to selling AUUF logo wine glasses or gold and silver from Louise Gallop's estate. Rod McCoy was awarded the Fred Hillman Distinguished Service Award and was there to receive it. It was a night to remember.

Grateful for our hard-working AUUF Board and our President, Amanda Mack, for their efforts to get us the best possible Interim Minister. This is a long process which our national organization has carefully worked out over the years to help individual congregations. Amanda Mack shared with us at the Annual Dinner and the next Sunday that we have an excellent person, Rev. Shelley Page coming in January. (Note: many were able to meet Rev. Shelley on her visit to find housing Thanksgiving week.)

Grateful for Kalen Saxton who organized the communal Thanksgiving here at the Fellowship this year. The room was warm and full of food and forty-four folks of all ages. I was there and am so grateful for the chance to spend Thanksgiving with friends and family. Don't be alone, come and join us Thanksgiving Day next year.

Be well, dear people, take care of each other. We have much for which to be thankful.

2017 Dinner-Auction Raises Funds and Spirits

With the theme *Building for a Brighter Future*, the 2017 AUUF Dinner-Auction hosted at St. Anthony's Catholic Church was a successful event with an estimated 120 people attending. About \$12,000 was raised to help underwrite general operations.

Led by volunteer advisor TK Kleiner, nearly a dozen youth set up their own silent auction table and sold raffle tickets to raise nearly \$4,000 for a social justice mission in 2018. Attendees were likely inspired by the youth presentation. Yay youth!

Two additional fund-raising games netted about \$500 for the Endowment Fund and \$240 for facility aesthetics within the newly constructed addition.

The event was supported by numerous helping hands. In the role of emcee, Ron Devon kept the agenda rolling on time. Lisa Rieger (Matt Claman's wife) was a fun addition as our guest Live Auctioneer. Kalen Saxton and Cathy Steen returned to co-coordinate the Auction portion of the evening. The duo were helped by Melanie Baker, Amei Gove, Robin Hill and Sid McCausland and Kalen's son Kyle Saxton.

Amy Westfall and Dennis Arashiro coordinated the Share-a-Dish Buffet, ensuring a delicious on-time dinner service and speedy post-dinner clean-up. Their helpers included George Baker and Elayne Hunter. Marty Herriott helmed the popular Dessert Auction featuring delicious decadence that brought in nearly \$1,200. Carma Reed again spearheaded the event finances and check-in/out with help from Marty Freeman, Joyce Laine, Alix McKee and Peggy Robinson.

Several more volunteers added to the event festivities. Denise Martin and Jim Kerr played music during the reception. Don Crandall, James Dryden and Stephanie Koonz manned the adult beverage station. Thanks also to the Alliance and Jim Wanamaker for helping to pay for the wine and beer. John Blaine sold Bags-of-Gold to benefit the Endowment. Jobe Bernier manned the Capital Project station and display, which included ornaments 3-D printed in the likeness of our soon-renovated facility. Teen child care providers included Amei Gove and Ruth Taygan.

AUUF President Amanda Mack delivered a report on 2017 accomplishments, led a thank-you to Minister Gary Holthaus and announced a new interim minister who arrives in January. David O'Brien presented three volunteer awards (see separate story).

Dinner-Auction co-chairs Stephenie Wheeler and Ron Devon thank all volunteers, auction and dinner donors for their contributions.

December Birthdays!

Birthdays are not published in our on-line version.

Blue Christmas is a quiet church service especially for anyone who might not be feeling so jolly during the Christmas season, perhaps due to a recent loss of a loved one or other unfortunate circumstance. There are usually readings, meditation, music and candles. It is followed by a simple supper of soup and bread. Anyone is invited to attend. **December 12th 6pm.**



Fred Meyer Rewards Card: *Beyond our pledge and automated giving you can help your Fellowship by linking your rewards card to us for their community giving program.*

www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. You can search for us by our full name or by our number (84435).

Manage your on-line electronic giving on your phone! Download the GivePlus Church app from Google Play or the Apple App store. It's Free!



News from The Alliance

By Shirley Dickens

The Alliance met November 19th to approve funds for the Thanksgiving dinner, a gift for Gary, and poinsettias for AUUF's staff for Christmas. We voted to suspend for the time being the monthly "birthday cakes" as there have been so many contributions from the Welcoming committee of food before services. Thanks all who donated and purchased from our Christmas Bazaar. As of the first Sunday our proceeds are good. A smaller sale will continue the following Sunday, December 3rd. We meet again December 10th.



AUUF Honors Contributors and Champions with Annual Awards

During the Nov. 4 Annual Dinner-Auction, AUUF continued a fairly recent tradition of honoring some of the fellowship's most active volunteers and champions with annual awards.

Volunteer of the Year



Kalen Saxton was named *2017 AUUF Volunteer of the Year* for her prolific and varied contributions. In September, she formalized her role as Meal Function Coordinator. This year Kalen organized our late August community picnic, both summer Whalecoast banquets, and both the 2016 and 2017 Thanksgiving dinners. A part of the Stewardship Committee, she organized several dinners and brunches. For several years, she has co-coordinated AUUF's annual auction fund-raiser. A retired educator, she has supported RE programs, from teaching toddlers and preschoolers to mentoring youth. She's been a member of the Social Justice Committee, and now co-chairs the Half-Portion for Social

Action subcommittee. In recent years, she coordinated childcare, co-led playground equipment improvements, and has provided administrative assistance in the AUUF office. *Previous awardees: Bruce Roberts (2015) and Denise Martin (2016).*

Fred Hillman Distinguished Service Award

The service award honors those who live the seven principles in life and deed. **Rod McCoy** was named the 2017 recipient in a salute to his role as consistent champion of UU ideals, education and educators, community welfare, democratic principles, and his family. A man of conviction and passion, Rod has been an outspoken humanist, freethinker and problem-solver who uses wit and humor to provoke deeper discussion and understanding. Within AUUF, Rod has been a teacher, communicator and leader. He served on the AUUF Board multiple times, completing his most recent term mid-2017. The patriarch of a family of educators, Rod has long supported education through civic and community service. A proponent of the democratic process, Rod has provided leadership to a political party, community councils and issue-driven forums. Rod was presented the award during an Oct. 4 celebration and recognized again during the Nov. 4 dinner. *Previous awardees: Shirley Dickens (2015) and Sylvia Short (2016).*



Special Volunteer Acknowledgement

Amy Westfall was recognized for her remarkable contributions to the fellowship since joining in 2014. She is chair of the Safer Congregation Committee, co-chair of the Half Portion for Social Action subcommittee, and a member of the Social Justice, Hospitality and Membership committees. She regularly volunteers in RE, and she coordinates food service for numerous events, including Newcomer Luncheons, and the Annual Dinner. She also assisted with WhaleCoast dinners and AUUF's booth at the Pridefest festival. When Amy moves to the Lower 48 in January, her wit, warmth and contributions will be sorely missed.

Adult Offerings!

Chalice Circles, Still Time to Join!

Have you been hearing from friends how wonderful their Chalice Circle time is? There is still room for new participants, so if you want to take a couple of hours twice each month to build deep connections with one another and with the sacred, jump on in! Contact Meghan Bundtzen at BetterWithArt@gmail.com (223-8140) for more information.

Tired of the materialism of the holiday season?

Join our *Pop-Up Discussion* on how to Unplug the Christmas Machine, and create a more joyful, meaningful celebration. Teresa Zimmer will guide us through some ideas based on the book by Robinson & Staeheli, during this 2-class offering: Wednesday 11/29, and Thursday 12/7, 6:15-8 pm. Childcare will be available. Please rsvp or direct questions to TZimmer@gci.net (331-7034).

Adult Offerings (continued)

AUUF Common Read

Third Reconstruction,

second take! If you missed the church-wide discussion

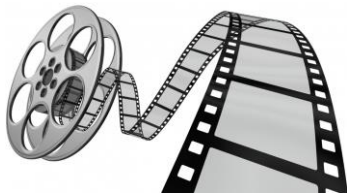
of *The Third Reconstruction*, our Fall "Common Read," fear not. Ingrid Larsen has agreed to lead a second discussion on Tuesday January 9, 7 pm, at the Fellowship.



Two more "common reads" are scheduled! If you like to read ahead, we'll discuss the following books in the Spring: *The New Jim Crow*, by Michelle Alexander (early March) and *Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity and Power in Ministry*, by Mitra Rahnema (late April).

Friendship Dinners continue on January 13

Our second Friendship Dinner is Saturday, January 13, 6-9 pm. This is a wonderful way to get to know other AUUF folks in a relaxed, intimate setting, and begin lasting friendships. The host provides the entrée, and the guests bring side dishes. If you did not sign up and would like to participate, please contact AndeeCordano@gmail.com (350-6361) or DeenaMitchell@hotmail.com (847-997-8357).



Sunday Afternoons at the Movies Looking for a fun way to spend a winter afternoon? Join

others for Soup Sunday and stay for a movie and discussion on the following Sunday afternoons: Jan 28; Feb 25; March 25, and April 22. The January movie will be "Reinhold Niebuhr: Conscience of America," and titles for the subsequent dates will be announced soon.

The Hungry Book Club

We met Nov. 14th to discuss "Sapiens, A Brief History of Humankind" which is a huge history lesson for us all. Well done and very interesting, and challenging. We will meet the 2nd Tuesday in January to discuss, "The Little Paris Book Shop" by Nina George, a fun, romantic read, much lighter in content. For our December 5th meeting we will meet at 1 pm at a restaurant for our annual holiday book exchange.



Volunteer Spotlight Stephenie Wheeler



My husband Paul and I began attending in 2008, along with my adult son. We joined in March 2009. My first volunteer experience was as a greeter. I have been involved in RE for about 6 years, first teaching the toddler class, and this year I am a 2nd grade teacher. In 2015, I formed the Communications Team and led a rebuild of our AUUF website. I remain Communications Team chair. I have been a member of the Endowment Committee since 2015, and was a Nominating Committee member for five years, co-chairing for three years. I co-chaired the Pacific Northwest UU convention that AUUF hosted in Anchorage in 2012. Since 2013, I've co-chaired the annual dinner-auction. The people who attend AUUF are intelligent and thoughtful and the fellowship feels like "home." I also appreciate the strong RE and youth programs. My 7-year-old grandson Kohen has attended with me since he was just a few months old. I am inspired about our future. Our capital project is awesome and overwhelmingly supported by the membership. And our Endowment Fund is growing bit-by-bit. This bodes well for our fellowship today and tomorrow.

Thank you for all that you've done over the years, Stephenie. We appreciate you so much!

Do you want to recognize someone at the fellowship for their volunteer efforts? Please contact Julie Behm at juliebehm@gmail.com



Plastics Recycle: December 17th is our next plastics recycle date. 5's only please.

RE Notes December 2017

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

This is the month of many holidays from various world traditions. Did you know we have our very own UU holiday celebration called Chalica?

Chalica is a week-long celebration of our UU Principles, begun in 2005 that begins the first Monday in December. It is an invitation to spend a day with each of the UU Principles. It is designed to increase family time, and provide a simple family ritual around the family chalice.

Many of our children have made chalices and this is a great time to use them. If you do not have one, anything that can hold a candle, will do as your chalice. Sing a song, read a poem, talk about how you lived the principle that day, do a special activity.

For more information, you can pick up the information sheets and kids chalice booklet downstairs. There are ideas in the handout for each day to live out these principles. The first week of December, Dec. 4 -10 we will post something on our Family Facebook page each day. Put a little UU love in your holiday traditions!

Wishing you a peaceful and joyful holiday season! Rosene

Our Program – 11:00 Service

December 3rd - Regular programming & Pageant practice

December 10 - Pageant practice

December 17 – Solstice Multigenerational Service

December 24th - RE Pageant practice during the 11:00 service

December 31st – HAPPY NEW YEAR! No RE classes. Children are welcome to participate in the 11:00 service! Childcare for ages 1-4.

Winterfest - Sunday, December 3rd An Ornament Making party for All ages After the 11:00 service, 12:45-3:00 p.m.

Mark your calendar for our annual holiday party for all ages! Catch the holiday spirit and Make a day of it – Have soup downstairs, and then jingle your way back upstairs to make ornaments, and decorate the tree.



Mitten Tree Collection December 3rd. Remember to bring new mittens, scarves or socks to decorate our Mitten Tree during the 11:00 service! They will be donated to a family Shelter, so all sizes are welcome. We will also collect gently used items. Just learned from someone that Dimond Value Village has TONS of NEW hats, scarves, gloves, etc. for extremely low prices, and cute styles as well. Good source for mittens! **Soup Sunday** Yes there will be a Soup Sunday! It will be hosted by the Moon Spinners class – Jr Youth.

Christmas Eve Pageant - “Spirit of the Christmas Tree”

We are excited about our pageant this year. We need several readers and singers for the few character parts, no other speaking parts required though there is lots of music. If you will be here on Christmas Eve and are interested in participating, please come to the following rehearsals. Speaking parts please come to the RE office at 12:30 after the service on Dec. 3rd to audition.

We will be practicing the songs every Sunday morning in December from 10:30 – 11:00. All children planning to be in the pageant should plan to be at as many of these as possible to learn the songs and the staging.

The only full pageant practice with staging directions and costuming will be:

Saturday, December 16th, 1:00 – 3:00 Needed – parent helpers for costuming!

The Final practice Will Be Sunday **Dec. 24th**, during the 11:00 service.

Contact Rosene Beachy, DLRE with any questions.

Christmas Eve Service, Sunday Dec. 24th 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Call time 5:30 pm for all participants



Guest at your Table is a yearly fund raising program for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. This program teaches people about human needs, human rights and sharing. Each year at this time, UU's across the United States place Guest at Your Table boxes on dining tables to invite the world into our kitchens and dining rooms. Participants then put a contribution equivalent to feeding a guest at your meal in the box each day.

Here's how to participate: When you sit down for dinner (or lunch or breakfast or a snack), take a moment for silent reflection and ask yourself: Who would appreciate sharing this meal with me? You might imagine someone who needs food, shelter or safety, or just needs to know that there's someone who cares. For visual effect, set a place for the box!! Read a story about someone and welcome him or her to your table.

When you've finished, put a contribution in the box as a means of thanking your guest for her or his company. Other fun daily activities for filling your box are in the Activity calendar available downstairs.

If you missed Sunday Nov. 19th, you can still pick up an envelope and story booklet at the RE table downstairs. Please bring the boxes or envelopes back on January 14th.

Share your Blessings with others! Remember the **Guest at Your Table** during the holiday season!

Soup Sundays

December 3rd - Soup Sunday – Our only Soup Sunday this fall! December Soup Sunday will be hosted by the Moon Spinners (Jr High class) before the Winterfest – ornament making party! Please come and support their class project! Have soup and then party at Winterfest!



Coming in January

K-1 OWL - Our Whole Lives

Our Whole Lives - A comprehensive sexuality curriculum developed by the Unitarian Universalist Organization. We will be registering children for our **K-1st** grade for our next class beginning in January. If you have a child/youth in these age groups and don't receive a registration form in the mail, pick one up at the Parent Info Spot.



January 8 Parent Info night 7-8:30 pm

January 20 – Parent & Child Kickoff 1:00 – 3:00 pm

January 21 – March 4 - OWL Workshop sessions 12:45 – 1:45

The YRUU Coordinator's Corner

By Eric McCoy

I am very grateful to the congregation for sending me to the 2017 Liberal Religious Educators of America Conference, "Building Brave Spaces". LREDA has been on the forward edge of UU movements. They had a lot of progressive ideas and ideals to share with our Fellowship. I am bubbling over with enthusiasm for all the possibilities in the UU youth realm and I'd be happy to discuss should we get a chance to share a few words.



The most impressive aspect of the convention was to see the ideals in practice. Four sessions of main programming halted halfway through the second to address and redress issues that arose. A new program was designed and delivered through restorative justice—brave.

May we be the church of come as you are, but not stay as you have been. ~Dr. Takiyah Amin

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2824 E. 18th Ave, Anchorage AK 99508 Office phone: 907-248-3737 Email: auuf@gci.net

www.anchorageuuf.org Music page: auufmusicpage.yolasite.com

Our Mission: We are a Fellowship of diverse people who come together to nurture each other, to grow ethically, spiritually and intellectually, and to help create a just, safe, and caring community

Staff Contacts

Gary Holthaus, minister of AUUF, (907) 433-9311

Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration, 441-6815, rbeachy@alaskalife.net

Eric McCoy, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Programing 230-6915 or AUUFYCYP@gmail.com

Amy Lundell, Congregational Administrator, 248-3737 x 3 or auuf@gci.net

Megan Webb, Music Director, auufmusic@gmail.com or 248-3737 x6

AUUF Board of Directors: Amanda Mack, President; Don Crandall, Vice President; Kelley Hartlieb, Secretary; Peggy Robinson, Treasurer; Wendy Romberg; David O'Brien; James Dryden

Other Contacts are Available on our Website.

About Our Speakers and Services (see back page)

Gary Holthaus has served as the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship called minister since 2012. Originally ordained as a Methodist minister, Gary has also made a living as a poet, author, educator and non-profit administrator, and has been involved in environmental and social issues for 60 years. He arrived in Alaska in 1964. He earned a Bachelor's Degree and a Master's Degree in Sacred Theology from Boston University. He has published numerous books of poetry and non-fiction, including "The Unauthorized Bible".

Matt Claman is the West Anchorage Representative in the current Alaska Legislature. He has served the Municipality of Anchorage as Acting Mayor, Assembly Chair and Assembly Member. Matt is an attorney in private practice in Anchorage. He is also a member and past-President of AUUF.

Erik Hill has worked as a photojournalist in Alaska for more than three decades, winning numerous regional and national awards. A graduate of both Stanford University, with a BA in International Relations, and Ohio University, with a Masters degree in Journalism, Hill began his 30-year career on the photo staff of the Anchorage Daily News in 1984. Four years later he contributed to "People in Peril," which received the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service. With the sale of the Daily News to Alice Rogoff in 2014, Hill remained on the staff of Alaska Dispatch News until its recent purchase by new owners. A longtime member of the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, he's served the fellowship as both a board member and officer.

Ann Fienup-Riordan, of Anchorage, is a cultural anthropologist known internationally for her work with Yup'ik Eskimo peoples of western Alaska. She received her Ph.D. in anthropology in 1980 from the University of Chicago with a dissertation based on fieldwork on Nelson Island. She's the author of more than a dozen books on Yup'ik culture, including, most recently, Qanemcit Amlertut/Many Stories to Tell, with co-author Alice Rearden, published this year by University of Alaska Press. In 1991 and again in 2001 Fienup-Riordan was named Historian of the Year by the Alaska Historical Society. In 2000 the Alaska Federation of Natives presented her with the Denali Award, honoring the greatest contribution to Native Alaskan culture by a non-Native.

Alice Aluskak Rearden, from Napakiak, graduated in 2000 with a BA in history from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Since then, Alice has worked in collaboration with Ann Fienup-Riordan, Marie Meade, and the Calista Elders Council, where she has served as primary translator and oral historian for more than ten years. She is a fluent Yup'ik speaker committed to working with regional tradition bearers to gather, translate, and share their knowledge. In 2008 she received both the Museums Alaska Award for Excellence and the Bridge Builders Community Service Award in recognition of her outstanding and important work.

John McKay came to Alaska in 1977, after graduating from University of Michigan Law School, and clerking for a federal judge. He's represented numerous Alaska and national news organizations, and individuals, on libel, privacy, copyright and other press-related and First Amendment issues. John was the first recipient of the Alaska Press Club's First Amendment Award, and one of forty Alaskans recognized with a Liberty Award on the 40th Anniversary of the ACLU of Alaska. He taught First Amendment and media law as an adjunct professor at UAA for over thirty years. He has master's degrees in journalism and poetry. He has two grown sons, Martin and Cameron, and his sweetheart, Cristy Willer, is also a UU member.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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AUUF Services and Events –December 2017

Sunday December 3

9 am Matt Claman,
“Understanding the New Criminal Justice Law”
11 am John McKay, “Free Speech”

Sunday December 10

9 am Erik Hill: “My Life as a Photojournalist”
11 am Enrichment Service

Tuesday December 12

6 pm Blue Christmas

Tuesday Evening Services 6:30

Dec 5, 19

Sunday December 17

9 am Ann Fienup-Riordan, Alice Rearden:
“Treasures of Yupik Storytelling”
11 am Winter Solstice, Bill Sherwonit

Sunday December 24

11 am Christmas Eve Service, Gary Holthaus
6 pm Christmas Pageant

Sunday December 31 New Year’s Eve

10 am Gary Holthaus, “New Year, New Beginnings”

Sunday January 7

9 am Ruth Sheridan with George Bryson,
“The Ruth Sheridan Century”
11 am Becca Bernard

CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS- December 2017

Sunday 11 am ~ Classes for toddlers through high school

Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare ages 1-10