

The LOG

January 2016

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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



Gary Holthaus, Minister

Back in the mid-Fifties British playwright Christopher Fry wrote a verse play called *The Dark Is Light Enough*. I don't remember much about the play except the title, which I've never forgotten. It's no surprise that it comes to mind in mid-winter, around solstice when the darkness is deepest upon us and it sometimes tempts us to just go lie down.

Yet we are just easing out of the darkness of the shortest days of the year. And this year the idea that the dark is light enough was borne out, for me, by events here at Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. All fall, as the days grew shorter AUUF members and friends found their way through the growing darkness to give their talents in various kinds of work on our building, singing in the choir, working on various committees or Ministry Teams. Some gave their time, teaching in RE, being mentors to our Coming of Age Youth, working with the Alliance, or as greeters and ushers to welcome visitors or newcomers, or serving on the Board of Directors. Many of those who performed such

necessary tasks also gave their money to support the costs of supporting a growing body of activities and staff for an increasing number of participants. And even those who had no time or who could no longer tackle tasks they once performed with ease, gave from their wages or their pension to help us find our way through the winter darkness.

For all these folks, the dark was light enough to let us offer some especially special services and events:

Our recent "Blue Christmas," planned and co-sponsored with us by Anchorage Hospice offered consolation and companionship to the largest group ever to attend.

Our Christmas Eve Program was another special event that drew all ages and all kinds of folks (both believers and non-believers) together for a true celebration of the season.

The last few months of growing darkness proved once again that "the dark is light enough" and that light and life have an astonishing persistence, even buoyancy, and now, once again our human efforts and the return of the light are aligned as we begin again pulling together to give our time, our talents, and our gifts to sustain us for another year of activities and events that nourish our minds and inspire our hearts.

See you at the Fellowship, Gary

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Calendar Highlights

Dec 30 Marlowe Thomas
Celebration of Life 6-8 pm
Jan 4 Church office open
Jan 10 Plastics Recycling
Jan 13 Board Meeting
Jan 20 Dad's Group Starts
Jan 23/24 Bill Clontz
Jan 27 Project Homeless Connect



December news from the AUUF Board

Marty Freeman, President

One of the joys and challenges of working with the Board is hearing the abundance of exciting ideas for strengthening AUUF and broadening our reach in our Fellowship and the greater community – how can we make AUUF available more of the week? What can we offer young adults? How do we provide professional development opportunities for staff and volunteers? How do we build partnerships with other faith communities?

Bringing these ideas to fruition depends on strengthening our leadership skills and expanding funds to support new activities. Happily, there is good news on both those fronts. In the last month, the Stewardship committee has worked with Bill Clontz, our UUA consultant on building the stewardship campaign for the operating funds that underpin all our work, and have received new pledges for 2015 from new members and friends. Looking to the future, we are excited to report that Doug Eby and Frank Mitchell are chairing a team to start planning for a capital campaign – you will hear more about this in coming months. The staff are putting together a plan of what we would like to have for staffing over the next 3 to 5 years. We also plan to start convening the Program Council on a regular basis – this group brings together the chairs of all the committees to build leadership skills, strengthen communications, and share goals and needs. As one person described the Program Council at their church, “It’s the place where good ideas go to get better.”

I look forward to hearing your good ideas, too. Wishing you a joyful season, Marty Freeman

Joy to the world from the Alternative Gift Shop!

Thanks to all who participated in the Alternative Gift Shop this year we were able to give more generously than ever to seven great organizations working in Anchorage and around the world on climate change, reproductive health, refugee services, mental illness, libraries and literacy, helping inmates transition to better lives, and assisting neighbors and friends in need. The final total was \$5,255, spread among Friends of the Library (\$455), Citizen's Climate Education Corporation (\$1,230), the UUSC Refugee Crisis Fund (\$860), Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest (\$755), Running Free Alaska (\$805), the National Alliance on Mental Illness (\$275), and our own Minister's Discretionary Fund (\$875).

Celebrating Our Past; Launching Our Future!

Judy Engh, Chair Stewardship

We just celebrated 60 wonderful years of being AUUF... who are we going to be in the next 60 years? We are in exciting times right now with our newer home and many new people visiting each week! We have the potential to really launch ourselves into great things for these next 60 years. We could greatly expand our programs and outreach into the community... we could green up our building and make it accessible to all. Our future is in our hands... what shall we do to make it great?

At the end of January/early February you will be contacted by one of our volunteer stewards who are gathering annual pledges from members and friends. Please welcome them to your homes for about an hour so we can talk about our hopes and dreams for our future. We want to enter our next fiscal year very strong so we can continue to expand our great programs. When we show that we can do that, we can start planning for capital improvements as well.

Thank you very much to those who have volunteered to be stewards to reach out to our members and friends... and thank you in advance to everyone for welcoming them into your homes and making a financial commitment in support of AUUF!

Social Justice Committee

By Dennis Arashiro

"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward." - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Words worth living by to mark the new year and honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The arc of the moral universe doesn't bend toward justice on its own. Doing only what we've done before and for only as long and as much is not an option. That is why the Social Justice Committee is democratizing the process of selecting the recipients of the Half Portion for Social Action. That is why we are looking for more ways to connect with the agents of change in our community and larger world. Putting money in the Sunday collections is only a start. That is why we need you.

The Social Justice Committee is a committee of the present and willing. There is no limit to membership in the committee in terms of numbers or time. Want to get involved? Just show up! Achieving social justice needs many hands and minds. We need more of us doing more, or we stop moving forward. Join us when we meet at **12:30 PM on Sunday, January 17, 2016, in Gary's office**. Join us in spirit if you can't attend by sharing your thoughts with us. Call or email me with ways of moving forward. Dennis Arashiro at 444-4324 or elvischannel@yahoo.com.

Half Portions for Social Action: Brother Francis Shelter

By Dennis Arashiro

"Rats and roaches live by competition under the laws of supply and demand. It is the privilege of human beings to live under the laws of justice and mercy." - Wendell Berry

"Anchorage is a great place. I think I'll settle in here." we say. Enough of us settling in means rents go up. Enough of us settling in means wages go down. Enough of us settling in means some of us go homeless because our work can't pay for our rent. That's the cold blooded logic of the law of supply and demand, a law with no connection to justice or mercy.

Our larger and longer fight is in addressing what law ultimately rules our lives, but in the meantime there are the immediate needs of those made homeless by the law of supply and demand. That is why the Social Justice Committee designates Brother Francis Shelter as the January recipient of the Half Portion for Social Action. In addition to contributing through the Sunday collections, there will be the opportunity to provide the blankets, clothing, and hygiene goods to keep the shelter clients moving forward. Moving forward as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. insisted.

See You At Project Homeless Connect!

By Dennis Arashiro

"I don't want you to save me. I want you to stand by my side as I save myself." - Sushil Singh

Wednesday, January 27, 2016, 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.

Last year I participated in serving lunch. I once owned and managed a restaurant; so, I've experienced the reward of making someone's day by providing a great dining experience. Yet, I have never experienced such a wave of positive energy and gratitude as the one at Project Homeless Connect. 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. All of your donations not yet in by press time.)



Adult Programs

Finding Your Way Into Fellowship (2 sessions). An introduction to UU History, UU Thought and UU Engagement led by Gary Holthaus. Wednesdays, Feb. 17 & 24, 6:30 – 8:00.

Young Adult/Adult OWL - Our Whole Lives Sexuality curriculum,

Mark your calendars to participate in this unique program. Sign up in February.

Using values, communication skills and spirituality as starting points, this program explores sexuality issues for adults of all ages. Builds understanding of healthy sexual relationships affirms diversity and helps participants accept and affirm their own sexuality throughout their lives.

It will be led by trained facilitators Ken Winterberger and Mara Hill & Katherine Huffman. 8 sessions on Monday nights, March 21 - May 9th. 7-9 pm. Great for couples, childcare provided as needed.

Parenting Workshops

Parents of Toddler/Preschool

Led by Kalen Saxton, this 2-workshop group will present ideas, answer questions and give you some basic support as your child's early educator! Let Kalen know which you prefer. 244-8221:

Tuesday / Thursday nights, February 9 and 11 from 6 – 8 pm? OR Saturday, Feb. 13, 2-5 pm?

Parents of School Age Children

Led by Kalen Saxton, this 2-workshop group will present ideas, answer questions and give you some basic support as your child's early educator! Let Kalen (244-8221) know which you prefer:

Tuesday / Thursday nights, March 8 and 10? OR 6 – 8 pm. OR Saturday, March 12th, 2-5 pm?

Dad's Parenting Group –Discussions about –“What is a father?”

3rd Wednesday Night of Each Month. 7:00 – 9:00 Begins -January 20th

What is a responsible father supposed to do? How should he act? Answers to these questions have changed over every generation and are different all around the world but what are the answers for fathers in this time and place?

Come join a group of fathers as we tackle some big issues of being a father in the 21st century in Anchorage. Jason Walsh will lead the discussions. There may be readings, there may be differing views, and the only guarantee is that there will definitely be no concrete answers; but you don't have to struggle with fatherhood alone.

If you are a new father or an old father, a father of one or many, please join us to discuss this broad and important role we struggle to fill.

ONGOING GROUPS

Freethinkers At AUUF– Gathers Fridays at noon downstairs in room 4 at the fellowship. Meets from noon – 1:30. Contact George Bryson – gfbryson@gmail.com for more information

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

Small Group Ministry – Connect to UU's on a deeper level. Small groups are a group of people who commit to meeting weekly or biweekly for a semester to discuss themes chosen by the group using a “Small Group” format. Organized by Susan Orlansky Call Susan, 248-1141 if you would like to participate in a group.

Hungry Book Club – meets monthly, Shirley Dickens, convener. Meets the 2nd Tuesday afternoon at 2 pm for snacks and discussion. Everyone is welcome. Consult the LOG for the next book and call Shirley for directions.

Community Group, **Fireweed Sangha of Mindful Living** Meets in the downstairs gathering room on Monday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. a community of lay people who practice Buddhism according to the teachings of Zen teacher Thich Nhat Hanh. Practice sessions last an hour and a half. A period of silent meditation followed by a short check-in from each member. Walking meditation and perhaps some singing, followed by a Dharma reading, discussion and another silent meditation.

Hungry Book Club News

by Shirley Dickens

The Hungry Book Club (an open book club) met at the wonderful Doriola's Cafe to celebrate. Ten of us shared a wonderful meal and each brought a wrapped book we wanted to share with someone else and we had a chance to pick a number and chose. What an interesting collection of books we brought. A good time was had by all.

For January 12th meeting, back at Pioneer home at 2 p.m. (with Debbie Cahoon hosting us) we will be discussing Ken Follett's very big (900 pages) but very readable book called "Fall of Giants". I am already 1/2 way through and can hardly put it down. He has researched all aspects of this novel and I am learning a great deal about the start of the 1st World War. Saga starts in 1911. Come join us in January! Call 563-4499 for more information.

the aurora, Young Adults

If you are interested in helping the aurora host the 4 A's 2nd Friday luncheon, please contact Mara Hill, [907 632-5909](tel:907-632-5909). If you'd like to help start a young adult library at AUUF, contact Randy Waggner, [907 304-0140](tel:907-304-0140). Ideas? Ideals? 'I'd eat's? Call Eric [907 230-6915](tel:907-230-6915).

January Birthdays, Best Wishes!

Birthdays are no published in our online version

A New Addition to the Music Program

Marcia Stratman, our choir accompanist, has lived in Alaska since 1965. Although officially retired as Director of Music at Anchorage Lutheran Church in 2014, she is kept busy doing freelance accompanying for various ASD school choirs, students of private music teachers and various churches. She also teaches for OLE, and enjoys giving a few piano lessons. She and her husband, Joel, live with two geriatric dogs and dote on two lovely grandchildren.

Alliance

by Shirley Dickens, Chair of the Alliance

Thank you to all who supported our Christmas sales (both Sundays). Thanks for buying and bringing us stuff. We couldn't have done it without you all and you were very generous. Also we are grateful for all the help we had in setting up twice, storing everything for one week, then setting it out again. We had the most help ever (guys too) and we are very grateful for new members who are younger and stronger and wonderful. We did well and cleared about \$1300.00.

We are planning a reception for Marlowe Thomas's "Celebration of Life" Wednesday December 30th at 6 PM. Probably a large crowd, he was very well known in the music world here in Anchorage and had lived here many, many years. The Alliance will be responsible for the food for the reception and buy some flowers for the social room.

Still Time to order a Chair Plaque!

This is a nice way to remember your family or a dear friend of this Fellowship. \$200.00 will get you a name plaque. See the Alliance member at the round table in the social room Sundays between the services and after the 11 am service to place an order and make payment. We have a list of folks already honored, if you can't remember if you ordered in the past or not. The Alliance orders the plaques, and sees to it that the plaque is mounted. \$100.00 goes to the general coffers of AUUF and any remainder goes to the good causes of the Alliance. (The order will be placed at the end of January, so act now!)

Please consider a year-end gift to AUUF.

In the course of year-end tax planning, you may find yourself considering special one-time donations. In addition to checks and cash, we welcome your donations through the "donate now" button on the church website www.anchorageuuf.org. Credit and debit card donations made on-line to the Fellowship as late as noon Wednesday December 30th can count as a 2015 donation for tax purposes. Donations by check must be postmarked by New Year's Eve. Thanks for your continued generosity.

The AUUF Local Organizing Ministry is continuing discussion and training with AFACT's Director, Chelsea Gulling. The one hour meetings begin at 5:30 PM and will be held at the Fellowship on January 5 and the 19th.

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Grateful for the wonderful all day workshop called "Mental Health First Aid USA" given for 20 plus of this congregation on a Saturday early in December. Very informative, practical, a wonderful workbook to take away with us filled with resources and do's and don'ts and dedicated presenters. Thank you to Marty Herriott and the Committee for Shared Ministry for arranging this opportunity for us to learn a lot about being the first responder to someone in crisis.

Grateful for all the positive energy with a Sunday filled with children (Mitten tree) soup Sunday, Alternative Giving Fair, decorating cookies, trimming our Christmas tree (which is beautiful by the way). It was lovely to see Coming of Age people involved and all the older kids helping the younger kids and everyone having a great time.

So sorry to hear of Diane McIntyre's sister's recent death. She had been ill for some time but did expire in late November. Diane has been in Minnesota with her sister and family for a couple of weeks but is now back home.

There has been a wonderful very full obituary for our own Marlowe Thomas in our local paper. There will be a Celebration of Life for him (a very long time member of AUUF) this Wednesday December 30th at 6 PM in our Sanctuary. He had turned 101 just a week before he died. He was a gentle, loving man who adored his wife, child, grandchildren, and music. He was a very talented music teacher and violinist.

Grateful for all who helped plan and participated in our Blue Christmas service, December 15th ... We planned and offered this service in partnership with Hospice staff. Fliers and other advertising was distributed around town (as well as to Hospice's clients and families). It will be a beautiful service (as always) and well attended. This is AUUF's ministry to those who aren't happy and jolly this Holiday season for whatever reason. Part of the evening, besides the service, is a simple meal of soup and bread and companionship some of members of the congregation who listen to people's stories and eat with them.

Hurrah for Marie Lundstrom who is formally receiving another Master's degree from UAA. This congregation totally supports you brave people who pursue "higher education". You go, girl! We are proud of you.

Healing thoughts and warm feelings for Mim Chapman, longtime friend and supporter of the Fellowship, who is recovering from double knee replacements.

Ron McCoy just took his second trip to California to see his very sick sister. She continues with Hospice but is extremely ill. We wish her comfort and an easy passing.

Looking forward to seeing all the students and families who will be with us for Holidays... December 24th Christmas Eve service is not to be missed. Besides a wonderful Pageant and gorgeous music, we will get to see lots of our young people home for Christmas break and perhaps a grandmother or grandfather or two. This is always special service.

Wishing each of you a lovely Holiday Season and a New Year filled with good health, loving relationships, plenty of joys and laughter.

Airport Heights Community Council The Airport Heights Community Council is hosted by AUUF this year while the school is remodeled. **Next meeting is Jan. 21, 7-9 pm.** For information contact Kalen Saxton, who serves as our representative, 244-8221.

Friendly Recycling Tip: Think before you buy anything wrapped in plastic.

Recycling Plastics: January 10th, 5's like yogurt containers.

R.E. Notes for January 2016

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

A Wonderful New Year! By the time you read this, Christmas will be over and we will be looking forward to our new year.

The CYRE Committee has been looking at a wonderful new way to “do” Religious Exploration that truly is exploration! We will be giving it a trial run this winter, February thru May. “Workshop Rotational” is working in many UU RE programs. It will be a monthly rotation of workshops for groups of multiage children K-5th grade. Workshops like “Contemplation”, “Creation”, “Dramatization”, “Cooking”, “Gardening”, etc., topics that can be envisioned and created from the month’s story and theme.

We will be looking for “non-traditional” teachers: adults with hobbies or passions that they wouldn’t mind sharing with a group of children for a short time involvement. We will also be looking for group guides to rotate with the class for the month and enjoy the workshops with them. No prep required! If you are interested in exploring this new way of providing RE, talk to or email Rosene or anyone on the CYRE Committee. We would love for you to share your passions!

A big shout out and Thank You to the Helping Hands of our many volunteers this year who help teachers in their classroom, prepare snack and soup, and help with a myriad of RE activities. Our Religious Exploration ministry happens best with the loving participation and support of all members of our community.”

Wishing you peaceful and Enjoyable holidays!

Rosene

Our Program

January 3 – Cross Age New Year celebration downstairs

January 10, 17, 24 – Regular Classes

January 30 – Beginning of Workshop Rotational, a special kind of RE; mixed age class K- 5th. Pre’s and youth regular classes continue.

Our Whole Lives (Our Whole Lives Sexuality curriculum)

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 11 Parent Info night Monday 7-8:30 pm

January 16 – Parent & Child Kickoff Saturday 1:00-2:30 pm

January 17 – March 6 - OWL Workshop sessions 12:45 – 1:45

High School OWL

Our Whole Lives for High school Juniors and Seniors

January 7, Parent Orientation meeting, Thursday 7 – 8:30

January 9 - HS OWL Kick off – Saturday, 1:00 – 3:00

January 10 – Mar. 6 – OWL Workshop sessions, 12:30 – 3:00



RE Social Justice

Guest at your Table - We hope you are remembering to keep **FEEDING THE GUEST AT YOUR TABLE (aka – BOX)** during the holiday season and until January 17th when you will bring them back to the Fellowship for our Ingathering during Story For All Ages.

Service Projects - Congratulations to the **Fire Keepers** who earned over \$387 at their Soup Sunday in November! They took a little field trip in December to McKinnell House to deliver this donation and the 3 huge bags of mittens, hats, scarves, socks and jackets collected on Mitten Tree Sunday. ‘Way to go’ Fire Keepers!

Youth Soup Sunday in December during Winterfest raised \$377 for Planned Parenthood.

Parenting Classes offered in February and March (see page 4).

Dad’s group starting in January third Wednesdays 7-9. (see page 4)

About our Speakers and Services (see back page)

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

William R. (Bill) Clontz brings over forty years in leadership development and coaching, organizational effectiveness, and strategic planning to his work as a stewardship consultant serving UUs, from congregations to the UUA. He has over 25 years of active participation in UU church leadership and stewardship and 15 years of business development and portfolio management as a corporate officer, including working with nonprofits and nongovernmental organizations. His focus as a stewardship consultant over the last five years has been empowering congregations to have successful stewardship environments, leadership development, and the growth of our movement.

Dr. Aron Crowell is an Arctic anthropologist and is the Director of the Smithsonian Institution's Arctic Studies Center. He has a Doctorate in anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley and he is an affiliate faculty member of the University of Alaska.

Rick Halford is a long-time Alaskan. He served for 25 years in the Alaska Legislature (from 1978 to 2003) and was Senate President for two terms. He was immersed in the decisions which implemented the Permanent Fund. Rick was in the Senate when the price of oil sank to \$8 per barrel, and he had to deal with those fiscal challenges. He holds a degree in History and Political Science from Alaska Methodist University. Recently he served as co-chair of Governor Walker's 2014/2015 transition team.

Michael Carey was born and raised in Fairbanks. He attended Fairbanks public school before going on to Ithaca College in New York, where he received a B.A. in History. He did graduate work in the History Department at Duke University in North Carolina before turning to journalism. Michael was an editorial writer and columnist for the Anchorage Daily News for 16 years and the editorial page editor for 10 years. Michael has also served as the host for the Public Television shows: "Alaska Edition" and "Running"

Cliff Groh is a lifelong Alaskan, lawyer, and writer who is Chair of Alaska Common Ground and has served on the board of that organization for two decades. He has authored or co-authored four chapters in academic books about Alaska fiscal policy.

Gunnar Knapp is Director and Professor of Economics at the University of Alaska Anchorage Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER). He has been researching Alaska's economy for the past 34 years, and his analysis over the past two years has included a focus on the state's revenues, expenditures, savings, and options for addressing the fiscal challenges.

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.

Matsu UU: UUs are organizing in the Mat Su Valley. For information about their activities contact
MatSuUUF@gmail.com Phone: Toni,
(907) 745-4404.

Meditation Group

Upright Noble Zen meets this each Sunday at 5pm in the gathering room with Zen teacher Dana Kojun Lederhos. The program includes mostly seated meditation and instruction appropriate to whoever is present on a given night. Church members and newcomers are always welcome. Meditation cushions and chairs are provided. Learn more at uprightnoble.wordpress.com or email anchoragemeditation@gmail.com.



From the Fellowship office:

Deadlines: The LOG deadline is the third Sunday of each month, for February January 17th. Early entries are greatly appreciated. Wednesday is the deadline for announcements to be printed in the Order of Service.

Your 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.) **Are you frustrated** with constant changes to your credit card? We also can setup routine donations through your checking or savings account. Contact the office or fill out a pledge form with your account information.

Got Miles? We can use the donation of your excess miles to defray travel costs for staff and volunteer training. 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.

Remember: This is a busy building. Contact the office in advance to book your event or committee meeting on the building use calendar.

Lost and Found: We have quite a collection of found items. Please check for yours. Uncollected items will be donated mid January.

~~ Amy, Church Administrator 248-3737 auuf@gci.net.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Information

Office phone: 907-248-3737 Email: auuf@gci.net

Website: 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 Phones and Email

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

Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration, 441-6815, rbeacy@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, Church Administrator, 248-3737 x 3 or auuf@gci.net

AUUF Board of Directors

Marty Freeman, President; Erik Hill, Secretary; Carma Reed, Treasurer;

Helen Nienhueser, Vice President; Amanda Mack; Rod McCoy; Don Crandall

Other Contacts

4As Lunches – the aurora

Adult RE – Vacant

Annual Dinner / Auction – Stephenie Wheeler

AFACT – Marie Rozak, Ron Devon

Alliance – Shirley Dickens

Building and Grounds - Bruce Roberts

Children and Youth RE – Deena Mitchell

Childcare Coordinator – Kalen Saxton

Committee on Shared Ministry – Marty Herriott

Communications – Stephenie Wheeler

Endowment – John Blaine

Finance – Judy Engh

Green Sanctuary – Suzie Kobierowski / Cathy Steen

Interior Design – Irene O'Brien / Cindy Kinard

Nominating – Ron Devon/Stephenie Wheeler

OWL – Katherine Huffman

Pastoral Care – Don Crandall / Robin Hill

Pastoral Pantry – Amanda Cash

Planned Giving – Wray Kinard

Playground Planning – Kalen Saxton

Safer Congregation – Vacant

Social Justice Committee – Dennis Arashiro

Small Groups – Susan Orlansky

Speaker's Forum – George Bryson

Stewardship – Judy Engh

UUSC Coordinator – Vacant

Welcoming Committee – Denise Martin

Whalecoast – Denise Martin

Worship Associates – Marilyn Lee

Young Adults (the aurora) – Eric McCoy

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AUUF SERVICES –January 2016

Sunday, January 3

9 am Dr. Aron Crowell, "First Encounters: Captain James Cook and Alaska Native Peoples in 1776"

11 am Panel, Seven Principles

Sunday, January 10

9 am Rick Halford

"Alaska's Permanent Fund: What Did We Intend?"

11 am Gary Holthaus

Sunday, January 17

9 am Michael Carey, "A Pre-Oil-Era Journalist Imagines a Post-Oil-Era Alaska"

11 am Gary Holthaus

Sunday, January 24

9 am Bill Clontz, "UU Stewardship, Joan Rivers, Robert Kennedy and You"

11 am Bill Clontz, 'Please Pass the M&Ms: Reflections on Membership, Stewardship, and the Sweet Life of Being a UU'

Sunday, January 31

9 am Cliff Groh and Gunnar Knapp, "Hands-On with Alaska's Tough Fiscal Choices: You Decide!"

11 am Gary Holthaus

Regular Tuesday Evening Services

7 pm January 5, 12, 19, 26

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- January 2016

Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare

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

The LOG

February 2016

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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



Gary Holthaus, Minister

Among the most positive characteristics of the leadership of AUUF over the years has been its ability to look ahead, to visualize possible futures, and then create the circumstances that make the vision a reality. Since the Sixties, when “programmed learning,” and “strategic planning” really came to flower, thanks to Ford Motor Company and Shell Oil, every business in America, including non-profits has talked a good game about planning, and yet their plans have often remained short-term and the goals prescribed gone unmet.

Indeed, since those early days of systems planning it has been interesting to watch long range plans shrink. Since the late Sixties and Seventies they’ve gone from ten year plans to five year plans to three year plans, to other sorts of planning less dependent on data. In a conversation in the Nineties a few of us were talking about long range plans and a vice president of Ford who was a participant, snorted and said, “You mean till Friday?” and an Arco executive said we think we can depend on our data out to about 18 months...

Yet, our foresighted leadership said five or six years ago, “Here are some things we’d like to accomplish in the next five years.” They’d asked for your input and organized the ideas you’d suggested and they brought that message back to you. One outcome of the Stewardship Committee’s foresight (and yours) became clear when Doug Eby spoke to us on January 24, as this year’s stewardship campaign began. He told us that he’d checked the list of goals you set, and that you had, over the last five years, met 95% of them. That’s an outcome few corporations have met over the same time frame, and some, with far less foresight than you have, are now wondering what to try, or where to go, next. When Doug finished talking everyone burst into spontaneous applause. It took a lot of folks’ time, talent and pledges to make that happen. That was appropriate because we know where we are now, and what we want to become: a caring community where we can be challenged, comforted, and supported as we seek personal, social, and environmental justice for our community and our world. The challenge is before us; we have our history as evidence we can create the future we want.

On another front, I’m excited about our services in February and March. March is National Women’s History Month and my hope is to tell you about four famous women of great accomplishment whom you may, or may not, know of but will, I hope, be glad to hear about. They are all brilliant, courageous, and committed, and all have changed our world for the better. Each of them challenged our conventional wisdom, made governments feel threatened, and rendered the rest of us uneasy. Since March also has Palm Sunday and Easter, I will present two of those talks in February and two in March. My title for this series is “Dangerous Women.” I stole it from a book. How I wish I could call the series, “Dangerous Women I Have Known.”

See you at the Fellowship, Gary

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Calendar Highlights

Jan 31 RE Workshop Rotational begins
Jan 31 Grounds Team Meeting
Feb 11 Share the Care
Feb 12 the aurora potluck
Feb 9 / 11 Parent Workshop Toddler/ Preschool
Feb 20 Run and Walk for Warmth
Feb 20 Winter Game Night
Feb 28 Soup Sunday

February news from the AUUF Board

Marty Freeman, President

Can it be? Are we already planning for the 2016 annual meeting? Yes! And none too soon – the meeting this year will be May 1, and there's lots to think about in advance. What might you expect for this year's meeting?

- **Budget:** AUUF's annual budget must be approved every year by the Congregation. The budget affects every part of our organization, and how much we can do to further our mission to help create a just, safe, and caring community. We are all in this together – please keep this in mind as you think about your pledge for this year.
- **Bylaws:** If there are any changes to the bylaws, they must be approved by the Congregation. The Board will be considering whether any changes are needed – if so, we'll have more info next month.
- **Issues:** If AUUF wants to take a position on an issue, we vote on it at the annual meeting, and an 85% approval of the voting members present is required. This year, the national UU Association is considering putting four issues on the discussion agenda for the 2016 General Assembly (GA). They include:
 - A national conversation on race,
 - The corruption of democracy due to the definition of "corporate personhood,"
 - Climate change and environmental justice, and
 - Ending gun violence in America.

The Board voted to endorse discussion of these issues at the GA. The next step is to decide whether AUUF wants to make any recommendations on these issues, and whether one should be the top priority. The Social Justice Committee will be discussing what to recommend to the Congregation at the annual meeting. If you are interested in helping shape that discussion, contact Dennis Arashiro.

- And we are considering one home-grown issue, too. The fiscal situation in Alaska affects our state and all its people. How, when, and whether the state legislature addresses this issue will determine whether the effects are distributed fairly. This issue speaks to our principles for use of the democratic process, and for justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. What can AUUF contribute to that process? Rod McCoy, Helen Nienhueser, Sam Cason, and Don Crandall are working to draft a statement for broader discussion and possible action by the Congregation. Ideas are welcome.

The annual meeting is a lively ritual that is central to our Fellowship. Mark your calendar early. And if you are not yet a member but want to be able to vote at the annual meeting, you will need to sign the membership book 30 days in advance. Please contact our minister, Gary Holthaus, if you want to join AUUF.

May 2016 treat you well, Marty Freeman

Seeking Responses to the AUUF Ministerial Survey

Peggy Robinson, Chair Human Resource Committee

The Human Resources Committee, under the direction of the Board, has created a brief survey seeking information from the congregation that will assist the Board with their annual evaluation of our minister, Gary Holthaus. Input from the congregation is extremely valuable to this process. We have sought to keep the survey brief and expect that it will take approximately 10 minutes or less to complete. All responses to the survey will be anonymous.

The survey will be available beginning Sunday, January 31st and it will close on Sunday, February 28. The survey is designed as an electronic survey that can be completed on a computer or smartphone. We will also have paper copies for those who prefer that method. We encourage people to complete the survey online because it will be easier to sort the results, but we will certainly appreciate responses in any form.

We will distribute a link to the electronic survey through the AUUF website, email lists, and through the AUUF Google group. If anyone would like the survey link emailed to them, please contact Jackie Cason of the Human Resources Committee: jackiecason@gmail.com. If anyone cannot pick up a paper copy at the Fellowship and needs it mailed to them, please contact AUUF Church Administrator Amy Lundell, auuf@gci.net or 248-3737 x3.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this important aspect of our fellowship!

Financially Supporting our AUUF Community of Friends and Companions

Judy Engh, Wray Kinard, Chairs Stewardship and Doug Eby and Frank Mitchell, Chairs Capital Campaign

The AUUF Community is a very important community for its members, and is indeed the primary intellectual, spiritual and social community for many of us. Being in community means the richness of all aspects of being in an interdependent group – sharing, celebrating, caring, and supporting the community with our time and money. All of these dimensions are needed for true community to emerge from the gathering of individuals. Our AUUF community is fully voluntary and funded and staffed and created completely by its membership, not any outside entity.

This is the time of year when we talk with each other in two's and three's about what it is that drew us to the AUUF community, what we find most meaningful, and how we are going to pledge our time and money in support of maintaining and improving this valuable community. Financial support means ongoing support to help pay for staff, heat, lights, maintenance, and all that it takes to support our coming together and having highly valuable experiences that stretch us and bring us together. Financial support also means occasionally adding a larger one time gift to be able to make investments in our facility and furnishings. These two types of financial support take the form of the Annual Pledging so that an operational budget can be developed – and a Capital Campaign, usually occurring once every 3-7 years to support moving to a new facility or making significant changes in the one we currently occupy. This year we intend to do both – annual pledging now, and a capital campaign this coming fall.

There are some very important things to understand about doing both in the same year - the most important is that they are separate activities and that our giving must be 'both/and' and cannot be 'either/or'. Our pledges need to be at least the same or larger than the previous year to keep the programs and facilities going. This year we have some ambitious goals as we follow our principles of paying our staff fairly and intentionally plan for growth.

A Capital Campaign gift needs to be in addition to one's annual pledge, but it is a 'one-time' gift. The 'one time' gift can be paid off, however, gradually over three years. The financial goal of a Capital Campaign is generally somewhere in the 2-4 times the annual budget. For us that means a minimum goal of about \$500 thousand. *(See page 4 for more details.)*

It is an exciting time to be AUUF! We gather in the upcoming days and weeks in two's and three's to talk about our dreams and wishes and to pledge our financial support to each other and our community. We then move into dreaming about creative changes to our facility to make it work even better in support of this community and, then, gather again to discuss how much we can put towards making those ideas into reality. We also continue to encourage each other to remember AUUF in our Wills, Investments, and Estate Planning. All of this is an expression of the importance of this community - our friends and partners who care for each other, inspire each other, challenge each other, and grow together to build a better AUUF, Anchorage, Alaska, country, and world! It is an exciting time. It is a time to celebrate the importance of the AUUF community... OUR community!

Do Your Part to Help Make Visitors Welcome -- Join a Hospitality Team!

By Denise Martin

*"Hospitality is not something to be proclaimed; it must be lived. Hospitality is both a spiritual discipline and an expression of spiritual health."
-- Peter Morales*



AUUF has begun creating teams of 7 people to handle Sunday morning greeting, ushering, setting up the social room, and other things hospitality-related, for both Sunday services. These hospitality teams divide and handle easy-to-manage tasks, in order to make it easy work for even newer members to commit, as well as those who already serve on other committees. The plan is that the teams will be assigned to only a few Sundays each year, (much like the Worship Associates group is scheduled). If you would like to lead a team, or just serve on a team, please contact Denise Martin 345-8787. A quarterly organizing meeting for the Hospitality Teams will be held at AUUF in the upstairs social room on Tues. Feb. 2 at 6:30 p.m.

Planning for the Capital Campaign

Judy Engh, Wray Kinard, Chairs Stewardship and Doug Eby and Frank Mitchell, Chairs Capital Campaign

Bill Clontz has worked closely with the stewardship committee the past few months to prepare for our annual stewardship pledge drive while we have quietly started planning for a capital campaign drive. We have been talking about a capital campaign for years and now we are setting the stage for it. Please remember as we begin this exciting path that we need everyone to at least maintain their annual pledges... as well as increasing some... before, during, and after a capital campaign.

The list of things that might be funded by a Capital Campaign is very long – including a significant remodel of the south entry from the parking lot, better handicapped access and in-facility mobility, improved connectivity between the Auditorium and Social Room, energy saving windows, high quality room dividers in the large RE rooms, bathroom/office/playground upgrades, solar panels, piano rebuild, a meditation space, and various additional suggestions. Important work will be done beginning right after the pledge effort to get input from everyone. It is unlikely that everything can be funded, so important work needs to be done to have a trusted, transparent, inclusive prioritization process.

The Capital Campaign Committee has been put in place by the Board of Directors, and is chaired by Doug Eby and Frank Mitchell. They are coordinating closely with the leadership of the Board, with the various financial committees, with outside expert consultants, and with AUUF staff. Many opportunities for input from everyone will be provided and the process aims to be very transparent and inclusive. The first few meetings have concentrated on getting organized and working out a proposed set of Goals based upon the AUUF Mission and Covenant and the UU Seven Principles. Using this approach the goals and values that have emerged are: being welcoming/inviting/comfortable, building on a sense of identity, optimizing access/functionality/financial value/environmental responsibility, creating pride/inspiration/beauty/connectivity, and being responsible members of our community. We expect to use these goals/values in working with committees and AUUF community members throughout the process – and certainly welcome feedback now and at any and all times along the way.

This is an exciting time and we thank you all for your support of the present and future of AUUF! Stay tuned for much more information to come in the next few months!

the aurora, Young Adults

By Eric McCoy

Feb. 12th, 6 pm –At the Fellowship, Come to a vegan potluck and short presentation about green eats and the benefits, near and far. Whether Abe was honestly a vegetarian or not, he said this: "I am in favour of animal rights as well as human rights. That is the way of a whole human being." **Abraham Lincoln**

the aurora bibiloteca--Quite a few people are interested in building a library for specifically for Young Adult RE. Please, let Randy, bluejaypie@gmail.com, know titles/topics of interest, or interest in helping.

Music--the aurora is interested in hosting a singer/songwriter concert series at AUUF. If you have ideas, thoughts and/or aspirations, please email Cy Two Elk at: cytwoelk@gmail.com

OWL--Our whole lives is a comprehensive sexual education program. We will have Young Adult sessions soon! Email theaurora@gmail.com if you'd like to get involved.

Social Justice Committee

By Dennis Arashiro

In the 1969 film comedy *Popi*, Alan Arkin portrays a hard working but struggling Puerto Rican father of two in Spanish Harlem. He so desperately wants a better life for his sons that he sets them off in a boat off Florida in order to have them rescued as Cuban refugees. He sees the ruse working as the boys are greeted as anti-Communist heroes and are offered a better life adopted by rich Anglos. Perhaps we should advise Syrian refugees to do the same thing: pretend they are anti-Castro Cubans and change their names to Rubio and Cruz so that they can be fully welcomed to our shores.

That is one response to social injustice: take on the identity of those whose humanity is exalted and deny your connection with those whose humanity is denied. Pass for white if you light enough; closet yourself if you are gay. There's only one problem: the rules of the game remain and social injustice continues. Taking on injustice instead of taking on guises is the only answer. You can help in this effort by participating in the Social Justice Committee. We meet next at **12:30 PM on Sunday, February 21, 2016, in Gary's office**. You can also contribute your thoughts and proposals by calling, texting, or emailing me. Dennis Arashiro at 444-4324 or elvischannel@yahoo.com.

Half Portions for Social Action: UUSC-UUA Refugee Crisis Fund

By Dennis Arashiro

Let the UUSC and UUA speak for themselves:

"The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) and the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) remain gravely concerned about the global refugee crisis and are committed to taking action. Donations to our UUSC-UUA Refugee Crisis Fund will go directly to our partners operating on the ground in countries receiving refugees. Our work will focus on ensuring the safe passage of refugees seeking safety and helping refugees access their rights in host countries.

Right now, 11 million Syrians have been forced to leave their homes after 4 years of civil war. Worldwide, an estimated 60 million people have been displaced, leading to the largest crisis of forced displacement since World War II. It is our moral imperative to act during this tragedy, and the UUA and UUSC will continue to respond in the coming weeks and months. The UUA and UUSC have a long history of aiding people who are fleeing violence and persecution--a history rooted in helping refugees fleeing Nazi oppression during World War II."

This is our tradition; this is our challenge. Give on Sunday.

Share the Care

By Robin Hill

Lightening each other's' load with a simple meal or ride can go a long way in making someone's life easier, especially during difficult or stressful situations. It also can go a long way in making AUUF a more compassionate, connected and caring community. To that end, we're planning to start a "Share the Care" group here at the Fellowship. Some of you may be familiar with the concept, while others may not be. In a nutshell, here's how it works: Individuals willing to provide an occasional meal, ride or other service sign up to join a closed email group maintained by two or three individuals. As needs arise, an email is sent to the closed group and those willing and able to respond sign up to fill that particular request. For example, a meal on Tuesday evening or a ride to Providence Thursday afternoon. If you can help, wonderful. If you can't this time, don't worry because someone else in the group likely can. The larger the group of helpers, the more likely we'll be able to respond. If you'd like more information, please attend an informational planning meeting at 7 pm, Thursday, Feb. 11, in the upstairs social room. Questions? Already know you're interested in joining? Please email Teresa (tzimmer@gci.net) or myself (akhills@ak.net) and we'll be sure you're included. Watch future LOGs and the GoogleGroup for more information and updates.



Adult Programs

(Sign up forms on the bulletin board in the social room.)

Finding Your Way Into Fellowship (2 sessions). An introduction to UU History, UU Thought and UU Engagement led by Gary Holthaus. Wednesdays, Feb. 17 & 24, 6:30 – 8:00.

Young Adult/Adult OWL - Our Whole Lives Sexuality curriculum, Mark your calendars to participate in this unique program. Sign up in February.

Using values, communication skills and spirituality as starting points, this program explores sexuality issues for adults of all ages. Builds understanding of healthy sexual relationships affirms diversity and helps participants accept and affirm their own sexuality throughout their lives. It will be led by trained facilitators Ken Winterberger, Mara Hill and Katherine Huffman. 8 sessions on Monday nights, March 21 - May 9th. 7-9 pm. Great for couples, childcare provided as needed. Registration is \$ 50 per person, \$ 75 per couple.

Parenting Workshops

Parents of Toddler/Preschool

Led by Kalen Saxton & Bev Grogan, this 2-workshop group will present ideas, answer questions and give you some basic support as your child's early educator! Let Kalen know which you prefer. 244-8221:

Tuesday / Thursday nights, February 9 and 11 from 6 – 8 pm? OR Saturday, Feb. 13, 2-5 pm?

Parents of School Age Children

Led by Kalen Saxton & Bev Grogan, this 2-workshop group will present ideas, answer questions and give you some basic support as your child's early educator! Let Kalen (244-8221) know which you prefer:

Tuesday / Thursday nights, March 8 and 10? OR 6 – 8 pm. OR Saturday, March 12th, 2-5 pm.

Dad's Parenting Group –Discussions about –“What is a father?”.

3rd Wednesday Night of Each Month. 7:00 – 9:00 Begins -January 20th

What is a responsible father supposed to do? How should he act? Answers to these questions have changed over every generation and are different all around the world but what are the answers for fathers in this time and place?

Come join a group of fathers as we tackle some big issues of being a father in the 21st century in Anchorage. Jason Walsh will lead the discussions. There may be readings, there may be differing views, and the only guarantee is that there will definitely be no concrete answers; but you don't have to struggle with fatherhood alone.

If you are a new father or an old father, a father of one or many, please join us to discuss this broad and important role we struggle to fill.

ONGOING GROUPS

Freethinkers At AUUF– Gathers Fridays at noon downstairs in room 4 at the fellowship. Meets from noon – 1:30. Contact George Bryson – gfbryson@gmail.com for more information

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

Small Group Ministry – Connect to UU's on a deeper level. Small groups are a group of people who commit to meeting weekly or biweekly for a semester to discuss themes chosen by the group using a “Small Group” format. Organized by Susan Orlansky Call Susan, 248-1141 if you would like to participate in a group.

Hungry Book Club – meets monthly, Shirley Dickens, convener. Meets the 2nd Tuesday afternoon at 2 pm for snacks and discussion. Everyone is welcome. Consult the LOG for the next book and call Shirley for directions.

AFACT/AUUF - The AUUF Local Organizing Ministry continues to meets twice monthly at the Fellowship for training and discussion. For more information please contact Marie Rozak.

the aurora –young adult group. See page 4 for details.



Hungry Book Club News

by Shirley Dickens

Seven faithful book lovers made it to the January meeting to discuss the Fall of Giants by Ken Follett. Now most of us want to continue on with the next two books in this series. While The Fall of Giants tackled World War 1, the second follows the cast of characters into World War 2 (another 900 plus pages of saga. But that's another story and we did not choose that as the February read. We chose "Last Letters from Attu, the True Story of Etta Jones, Alaska Pioneer by Mary Breu. Thank you Robyn Lauster for your recommendation!

You can probably try to get it from the Library, the University Library, Title Wave, Barnes and Noble or the every present Amazon.com. We hear this is quite a story and about one of our own who was sent to Japan. One I never heard about but an Alaskan pioneer. Join us at the Pioneer Home, 3rd floor where Debbie Cahoon hosts us with tea and coffee and we bring healthy (mostly) goodies to share. We will meet Feb. 9th, (second Tuesday in Feb.) at 2 PM.

Women's Retreat?

We are considering organizing a women's retreat for this spring. We are looking for a few women to help with this fun and exciting task. If you are interested please let Gwen Perry Crawford or Tereasa Zimmer know. If we have enough helpers we will proceed forward! Happy New Year to All!

February Birthdays, Best Wishes!

(birthdays are not published in our online version)

Celebrate the Past, Launch the Future! We're excited to announce the stewardship (pledge) drive will be an every member canvass this year. This means that one of our many stewardship ambassadors will call you to set up a time to meet with you. This is really important as it gives each of us time to talk about our hopes and dreams for AUUF and to think about how each of us can support its mission. Please plan to set aside 45 minutes to meet with a volunteer when they call. *Thank you so much! ~ Judy Engh.*

Alliance

by Shirley Dickens, Chair of the Alliance

January 10th, the Alliance met following the 11 AM service to discuss our Reception for Marlowe Thomas, turn in receipts, and to discuss the number of name plaques sold (so far) for our new chairs. As of our meeting we had have sold 12, with more orders coming in. Orders end at the end of January. We have two more new members, Kate Lehn and Yolanda Meza and we are thrilled. That makes 4 new members counting Gwen Perry Crawford and Mel Baker.

We won't meet in February (unless it is necessary). Next scheduled meeting will be Sunday, March 13, 2016 at 12:30 PM. *Editor's note: the Alliance rummage sale is scheduled for May 14. Save your treasures.*

Community Group, **Fireweed Sangha of Mindful Living** Meets in the downstairs gathering room on Monday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. a community of lay people who practice Buddhism according to the teachings of Zen teacher Thich Nhat Hanh. Practice sessions last an hour and a half. A period of silent meditation followed by a short check-in from each member. Walking meditation and perhaps some singing, followed by a Dharma reading, discussion and another silent meditation.

Airport Heights Community Council The Airport Heights Community Council is hosted by AUUF this year while the school is remodeled. **Next meeting is Feb. 18, 7-9 pm.** For information contact Bruce Roberts, who serves as our representative, 952-9969.

Friendly Recycling Tip: Buy things in glass instead of plastic. If it only comes in plastic, figure out how to make it yourself or do without. For instance, dill pickle relish comes most often in small plastic jars. Buy a glass jar of dill pickles, chop up, and make your own relish.

Recycling Plastics: **March 13th**, 5's like yogurt containers.

Choir Schedule

Thursday, Feb 4th 7:00-8:30pm
Thursday, Feb 11th 7:00-8:30pm
Sunday, Feb 14th 9:45-10:30am
Thursday, Feb 18th 7:00-8:30pm
Sunday, Feb 21st 9:45-10:30am
Thursday, Feb 25th 7:00-8:30pm

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Dick Gay checked in with the AUUF office after the holidays. He is in much better health now and very charmed by the "honorary doctorate" from APU that he received. His address (currently) is 5581 Seavue Road, Blaine WA 98230.

A BIG Happy Birthday for our own Beloved Senior Congregant, the amazing Ruth Sheridan who turns 98, Monday, January 25th. You are an example to us all, Miss Ruth with your life of service and example with protests and marches. You have always "put your money and energy where your mouth is", living what you believe. Thank you for gracing us with your energy and presence. We love you!

Grateful for Judy Engh, Wray Kinard and ALL the Stewardship committee who re doing such an excellent job this year with major reorganizing of the Stewardship campaign. I have loved hearing the personal story of each person who has volunteered to share WHY they think AUUF is worth pledging financial support to. Thanks to all who helped redesign the pledge form, it's better each time.

It was so much fun to see a room full of Fellowship folks who were participating in the Visiting Steward training with Bill Clontz, our UUA Stewardship consultant. Thank you for investing your Saturday morning and ongoing time and effort in this important cause. Our visiting stewards: Wray Kinard, Amanda Mack, Dennis Arashiro, Lynn Hallquist, Rachel Pompe, Judy Engh, Alix McKee, Bruce Roberts, Sara Kozup-Evon, Doug Eby, Marilyn Lee, Amy Westfall, Diane Smith, Mara Hill, Rod McCoy, Kalen Saxton, Andrea Cordano, Marty Freeman, Denise Martin, Stephanie Koonz, John Blaine, Bill Jamison, Erik Hill, Mary Spalding, Teresa Zimmer, Lauren Rench, Carma Reed, Gwen Perry Crawford, Melanie Baker, Wendy Romberg, Shirley Dickens, Cassie Thomas, Helen Nienhueser, Mindy Willis, Yolanda Meza, Deena Mitchell, Don Crandall, Cindy Kinard, Ruth Lindeen, and Carol Nelson.

Grateful for all the new faces we see in our congregations, the new Hospitality teams. Lots of people volunteering for many things. That's what makes us "Beloved Community" of which I am so proud to be a part.

Be well, dear people, take your Vitamin D 3, avoid the nasty winter cold germs running around. Come to AUUF often, it's a boost for your immune system, I think.

Grounds Ministry Team

by Sharon Cissna and Sid Attwood, Chairs

Are you interested in our outside spaces and curb appeal? Have opinions, design talents, or just like to get dirt under your finger nails? Join the newest ministry team at your Fellowship, the Grounds Ministry Team. Join us for our first meeting **Sunday January 31st** after the 11 am service.

The first meeting the team will begin by studying the elements with those who are present: giving concerns, comments and suggestions to develop the best 'impression'. The plan starts taking as many voices as possible to meet a calendar and need's list for Spring, Summer and Fall. We'll work together until we have gotten concerns and dreams of each there understand.

This next Sunday's meeting will have posters displaying each of the 'outside elements' embodied in the "Gound's Ministry Team's" responsibility. We begin the process giving each person a voice, include members and visitors in the fulfillment of the goal: Making this a labor of love, and FUN!

Interested? Contact us: Sid Atwood, 440-9183 and Sharon Cissna, 244-0522.



R.E. Notes for February 2016

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Our Program February 7, 14, 21, 28

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

Early Birds – Jr and Sr Youth – Pertinent topics of youth interest

11:00 Service – Preschool and Youth classes will remain the same,
K – 5th will Change to:

Parenting Workshops offered in February and March.

Dad's group starting in February third Wednesdays 7-9.

Young Adult / Adult OWL Sign up !

All the details page 7!

Workshop Rotational!

In the dark and cold of winter, we are shaking things up a bit with a new, style of RE!

Workshop Rotational is a special way of offering Sunday morning Religious exploration that will have fun and interesting workshops for children to participate in each week. For the next 4 months the RE program will be using this style of classes for the Elementary age groups.

Our theme for the first Rotation beginning January 31st is Compassion.

Each week there will be a story about the theme, and then children will rotate in mixed age groups to 1 of 4 workshops. The groups will rotate to a different workshop week by week, until each group has done each workshop. Workshops will include Contemplation Space, Make It Space, Action Space & Helping Hands. Each Rotation will have various Theme workshops based on the stories used and interests of our volunteers.

February Theme – Compassion; March – Courage

April – Justice; May – Wonder

We are recruiting volunteers to be Group Guides, who will rotate with a group and be a helper to the Workshop leaders. Workshop leaders will present their same workshop each of the 4 Sundays of the Theme Rotation. If you are interested in presenting a Workshop on a theme, please contact Rosene Beachy or Annie Belts on the CYRE Committee. *(Or go to this volunteer link to participate: <http://vols.pt/LTTqsu>).*

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.

Service Projects Soup Sunday Service Projects –Thanks to all the wonderful Soup Makers.

Congratulations to the Star Gazer class (4-5th graders) who had a successful Soup Sunday on January 24, raising \$ 276 for their social justice project.

Next Soup Sunday is February 27, organized by the Moon Spinners class (Middle school/Jr youth).

RUN for ALL AGES – Join the AUUF team!

Join us at "Run & Walk For Warmth" event that raises money to help those who need assistance with rent or utilities. Imagine if you had to choose: *Paying your rent or getting food for your family? OR *Paying your utility bills or getting medicine?

These are some of the hard decisions Anchorage families need to make every month. When a family is living on the edge, sometimes these choices can be the difference between a roof over their heads or homelessness.

When: Saturday, February 20th 9:30 Am

Where: First United Methodist Church (725 W 9th Ave)

You Can Make A Difference! Hundreds of Anchorage residents will run or walk a downtown 5K to raise money to help our neighbors make ends meet and stay warm, housed and fed. This is perfect timing to conclude our RE program for our first Workshop Rotational RE on Compassion. **Let's have the biggest group there!!**

(register online at www.liveunitedanc.org)

Family & Friends Winter Game Night

Saturday, February 20, 5:30 P.M.-8:00 P.M.

1st Time Ever – A Wii Dance

***** Spicy TACOS, Sparkling CONVERSATION and Mezmerizing dance moves!!*****

No SNOW??? Spark up the winter doldrums, Dance instead of ski! Spring is around the corner! Come On and have some fun spending an evening at a Wii dance party with fellow UU members of all ages. CYRE - will provide shells and taco meat, and 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.

YRUU Schedule

Feb. 7th--TBD, Belle

Feb. 14th--Valentine for the World, Ice-skating, Westchester, 10-1 Gretchen

Feb. 21st--TBD, Pierce

Feb. 28th--TBD, Sarah H.

Mar. 6th--Improv, with Moonspinners, Eric

Mar. 13th--Improv, with Moonspinners, Eric

Mar. 20th--Rock Climbing, Rock Gym, Logan

Mar. 27th--The Force and UU, Lucas

Apr. 3rd--Youth CON, Happiness, Eric

Apr. 10th--TBD

Apr. 24th--Pump it Up Sunday!

YRUU is serving at the Brother Francis Shelter every Monday at 6:30 p.m. Feel free to call 907 982-9777 with questions, or to RSVP. We have a short-lived, but strong tradition of service we can be proud of! Thank our youth and our visionary Social Justice Sponsor, Jeanne Fischer!

PNWD Youth Spring CON is COMING!

The Pacific Northwest District Youth Con will take place the first weekend in April in Washington. The paperwork is different this year, and so is the funding. The plane flight is set and several youth have already bought tickets. Interested youth should contact **Eric McCoy at auufcyp@gmail.com**. ASAP! Adults interested in making donations of money or miles tickets should contact Eric, as well.

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.

Matsu UU: UUs are organizing in the Mat Su Valley. For information about their activities contact
MatSuUUF@gmail.com Phone: Toni,
(907) 745-4404.

About our Speakers and Services (see back page)

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

Julie Decker has served as the Director of the Anchorage Museum since January 2013. Prior to that she had served as the Chief Curator of the Museum. She holds a Ph.D in Contemporary Art History from Union Institute and University, and a Master's Degree from Golden Gate University.

Faith Gemmill-Fredson of Arctic Village, Alaska is the founder and current Executive Director of REDOIL (Resisting Environmental Destruction On Indigenous Lands) REDOIL is a grassroots network that was created by Alaska Natives to share knowledge, experience and strategies to address the detrimental impacts of fossil fuel, mining and climate change in Alaska. Prior to the work with REDOIL, Faith served as the Program Director of the Gwich'in Steering Committee, working on issues of oil development, human rights, and defense of Gwich'in ancestral homelands. She attended the Climate COP 21 (Conference of the Parties) in Paris.

Natalie Landreth is a Senior Staff Attorney at the Native American Rights Fund, based in Anchorage. She has been at the forefront of the development of tribal jurisdiction in Alaska through her involvement in a series of cases beginning with *Kaltag v. Hogan*, a case that established Alaska tribes have original jurisdiction to adjudicate children's cases. She is a graduate of Harvard University (*magna cum laude*) and Harvard Law School. She served as a law clerk to Dana Fabe, Chief Justice of the Alaska Supreme Court. She is an enrolled member of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Sören Wuerth is a teacher, activist, and writer living in Girdwood, Alaska. As a traveler on Spaceship Earth, he works to keep fellow passengers aware of systemic problems that threaten the engines of our biosphere. He maintains a blog at glacierwatch.wordpress.com.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Information

Office phone: 907-248-3737 Email: auuf@gci.net

Website: 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 Phones and Email

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 AUUFCCYP@gmail.com

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

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

AUUF Board of Directors

Marty Freeman, President; Erik Hill, Secretary; Carma Reed, Treasurer;

Helen Nienhueser, Vice President; Amanda Mack; Rod McCoy; Don Crandall

Other Contacts

4As Lunches – the aurora

Adult RE – Vacant

Annual Dinner / Auction – Stephenie Wheeler

AFACT – Marie Rozak, Ron Devon

Alliance – Shirley Dickens

Building - Bruce Roberts

Children and Youth RE – Deena Mitchell

Childcare Coordinator – Kalen Saxton

Committee on Shared Ministry – Marty Herriott

Communications – Stephenie Wheeler

Endowment – John Blaine

Finance – Judy Engh

Green Sanctuary – Suzie Kobierowski / Cathy Steen

Grounds – Sharon Cissna / Sid Atwood

Interior Design – Irene O'Brien / Cindy Kinard

Nominating – Ron Devon/Stephenie Wheeler

OWL – Katherine Huffman

Pastoral Care – Don Crandall / Robin Hill

Pastoral Pantry – Amanda Cash

Planned Giving – Wray Kinard

Playground Planning – Kalen Saxton

Safer Congregation – Amy Westfall / Jackie Cason

Social Justice Committee – Dennis Arashiro

Small Groups – Susan Orlansky

Speaker's Forum – George Bryson

Stewardship – Judy Engh

UUSC Coordinator – Vacant

Welcoming Committee – Denise Martin

Whalecoast – Denise Martin

Worship Associates – Marilyn Lee

Young Adults (the aurora) – Eric McCoy

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

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AUUF SERVICES –February 2016

Sunday, January 31

9 am Cliff Groh and Gunnar Knapp,
"Hands-On with Alaska's Tough Fiscal Choices:
You Decide!"
11 am Gary Holthaus, "Dangerous Women, Part I:
Emily Greene Balch"

Sunday, February 7

9 am Polly Carr, "Expanding Voter Access in Alaska"
11 am Gary Holthaus, "John Brown's Body: Abraham
Lincoln Walks at Midnight"

Sunday, February 14

9 am Faith Gemmill-Fredson and Soren Wuerth,
"Impressions from Paris: the Climate Summit"
11 am Gary Holthaus, "Jeanette Rankin: First
Woman in U.S. Congress"

Sunday, February 21

9 am Natalie Landreth, "Future of Tribes in Alaska"
11 am Gary Holthaus,
"Poverty in America: \$2 Per Day"

Sunday, February 28

9 am Julie Decker, "The Anchorage Museum in the
Digital Age"
11 am Guest

Regular Tuesday Evening Services

7 pm February 2, 9, 16, 23

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- February 2016

Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare

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

The LOG

March 2016

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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



Gary Holthaus, Minister

February was a month of accomplishments: an emphasis on stewardship featuring our Stewardship Committee's selection and training of those who are now calling on all our members and friends a part of our every member canvass. Bill Clontz our Unitarian Universalist Association's consultant was up to help us start that effort. Our Capital Campaign Committee is developing a plan to make our new facility better for us. Our Pastoral Care Committee has been working to help our AUUF community fulfill its commitment to serve our congregation; and our local organizing members have been working with AFACT to help us serve our larger community beyond our doors. Our Human Resources Committee continues to meet to refine our various job descriptions and help us chart our staffing needs to maintain and develop our growing congregation. Our Board of Directors continues its work of planning, and administering our work so we meet our fiduciary responsibilities. Rosene and Eric and the Children, Youth, and Young Adult RE programs continue to find innovative ways for our children to grow into adulthood with Principles that will serve them and our society all their lives. Tamara and our Choir keep bringing our music to life, enriching our Sunday Services with music that is surprising, joyous and moving.

All those efforts mean we are continuing to grow toward becoming a caring community, and they allow us to look forward to the coming weeks of March with anticipation. The results of many of those efforts will become apparent in these coming weeks, and March also brings us some special features and events to nourish our spirits, burnish our minds, and strengthen our sense of community.

Easter week begins on March 20, Palm Sunday. It is also a tie in history when a revolutionary Jesus went up into Jerusalem to celebrate the Seder on the night Western Christian people since have called "Maundy Thursday," the night of "the last supper." The next day, "Good Friday," he was led to his crucifixion. Easter Sunday we celebrate a regenerative world which we ourselves can help create.

Those events indicate some of the reasons that some of the "Dangerous Women" featured in our Sunday 11:00 and Tuesday 7:00 o'clock services recently (Malala Yousafzai in February; Shirin Ebadi, and Wangari Buta Maathai this coming month) have been threatened with death. There are evils beyond the tolerance of society; there are limits to the good that society will tolerate as well. It is no wonder that Jesus

was hung between two thieves, or that Malala was shot in the head by masked government assailants.

We'll be exploring these themes again this year with a special Maundy Thursday service that includes a pot luck, some readings and some music. Last year's program led people to say, "We should do this every year!" So we will. Similarly, last year we held a Good Friday celebration the following evening. That featured Shirley Mae Springer Staten, a beloved Anchorage musician who sang a special service with us. Shirley has agreed to do that again this year, and as last year, there will be a pot luck supper as part of that service too. These two special evening services give us a way to think about these events from a unique perspective that honors our intelligence, our Unitarian Universalist living tradition and Principles, and our human experience. Don't miss these two nights: Maundy Thursday, March 24, 5:30 till 7:30; and Good Friday, March 25, 5:30 till 7:30. Easter morning, 11 am.

See you there, Gary

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Calendar Highlights

Feb 28 Soup Sunday
Mar 5 Women Cloz Swap
Mar 24 Maundy Thursday
Mar 25 Good Friday
Mar 27 Easter
April 29/30 Woman's Retreat
You Rock Camp! (June 27-July 1)
(Youth)
Peace Camp July 11-15

March news from the AUUF Board

Marty Freeman, President

The fifth principle has been at the forefront of Board business this month: *The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.* It may seem odd at first for a church to consider the state budget an appropriate issue to address. However, the fiscal situation in Alaska affects everyone – rich and poor, urban and remote; children, parents, and elderly. How – and how quickly – the legislature acts to put the state on firmer ground financially will determine whether we as a state provide quality education for all children, medical care for everyone, and social services to those who need them most. In short, it will be hard to build the just, safe, and caring community that is at the core of the AUUF mission if we don't establish a sustainable state budget. The good news is that Alaska has the financial resources to find a solution. This month, the AUUF Board adopted a resolution asking the Governor and Legislature to act this year to develop a sustainable fiscal solution, and encouraging AUUF members to engage in the political process to develop that solution. We took this action now so that we can forward it during the legislative session. As per AUUF policy, we will also bring it to the attention of the congregation at the annual meeting.

On a parallel track, we are working on our own FY17 budget. One new item you will see in this year's budget is our contribution to AFACT (Anchorage Faith in Action Congregations Together). Up until now, we have counted on support from the Alliance and other donations to contribute our share to AFACT. The Board believes that AFACT membership helps magnify our voice in the greater community, and should be supported by our operating budget. If you are interested in knowing more, we will be scheduling a number of informational meetings in April to discuss this and other budget questions. Watch for news in the April Log and on our new website. And don't forget – if you are not yet a member, and would like to be part of the decisions at the annual meeting, you will need to become a member before April 1. We welcome your voice in our fellowship.

Job Opening, Congregational

Involvement Coordinator Assists potential, new, and current members to engage actively in Fellowship events and programs. Be a resource for staff and committees in developing volunteers, leadership potential, and activities. (Part time). Interested? See full posting on Craigslist or in the office.

Which brings me to the last item...big THANK YOUs:

- To Stephenie Wheeler, Ken Winterberger, Amy Lundell, George Baker, and all from the Communications team and staff who made our new website a reality. This is a key part of our outreach and welcoming efforts, and it looks terrific.
- To all the visiting stewards working hard on the Stewardship Campaign.
- To all the members and friends who have pledged to support AUUF in the coming year.

We are Launching the Future! Only \$118,000 to go!

Judy Engh, Wray Kinard, Chairs Stewardship

Our "Celebrate the Past, Launch the Future" annual stewardship campaign is doing just as it says... celebrating our first 60 years and positioning ourselves to launch into the next 60! We've been having great 1:1 canvass conversations with our members and friends and are very excited about our future. Folks are renewing and increasing their pledges as they consider the importance and value of AUUF in their lives as well as in other's lives. Some folks never attend and are still happy to pledge and support the mission of AUUF. THANK YOU to all who have pledged so far!! As of Feb 14, we have pledges totaling \$202,000! We need 84 more pledges to meet our goal of 160 donors. We also have a stretch goal of \$350,000 and 175 donors for an aspirational budget.

The Board is putting together the budget already in anticipation of our annual meeting May 1st. The budget is based on **written pledges**, so if you have not done so already, please fill out a contribution form that can be found at AUUF or on our brand new website! You can also set up your own automatic contributions through a link under "Giving" on the "Donate Now" page.

Thank you all for your support of our wonderful community!!

Capital Campaign Update

Doug Eby and Frank Mitchell, Chairs Capital Campaign

Every 4-7 years it is expected to have a Capital Campaign in most churches – either for a new facility or to improve the current one. Ever since our move to this facility, there have been many conversations and ideas about how to improve this facility. It is time to make the dreams a reality!!

The Capital Campaign will be in the Fall of this year, with the construction projects to be the following spring/summer. Giving is one-time money and it is critical to be above and beyond the annual pledges, because the pledges are necessary for the day to day program operations. These one-time gifts can be paid off over a three year time frame. Given the experience and advice shared with us by our UUA fund-raising consultants about remodel projects like ours, our expectation is that we can raise about 2-3X our annual giving. The Board has approved a target of \$750,000 for the capital campaign.

The Board appointed a committee and the co-chairs, Doug Eby and Frank Mitchell. They have been meeting together as a committee, and with the many committees within AUUF to get ideas and feedback. The first big product is a list of Goals, which will be used to score the proposed projects. Here are the Goals...drawn from the AUUF mission statement and Covenant – and from the UUA Seven Principles:

Goals for Capital Campaign Projects*

- ☐ Welcoming, Inviting, Comfortable
- ☐ Improved sense of identity
- ☐ Improve Access & Functionality
- ☐ Improve Pride, Inspiration, Beauty, Environmental Connectivity
- ☐ Usable by many people, groups & organizations
- ☐ Responsible Ownership – more ‘green’, neighborhood improvement....
- ☐ Fiscally Responsible
- ☐ Expand Value for eventual resale

In the services on two Sundays – Feb. 28 and March 6 – the Bulletin will have an insert for each person to mark their top four goals from the above list! We ask that each person vote only once....honor system...

Capital Campaigns are for major projects that improve the performance and value of the property, generally over \$2,000. Smaller cost items should be covered by the board approved budget. There have already been many suggestions.

1. Probably the largest and most requested proposal is a major renovation of entry on the south (parking lot) side to make entry and exit easier, incorporate handicapped acceptable entrance to both floors, and make optimal use of the southern light/sun.
2. Sound barrier capable room dividers in two large RE rooms (west rooms)
3. Auditorium Upgrades/Remodels – ramp, AV technology
4. Social Room Upgrades – auditorium connection, higher grade kitchen
5. Office Upgrades – storage, natural light, connection to entries.
6. Library/Meditation space
7. Bathroom Upgrades
8. Parking Lot, Playground, Garden improvements

The list can still be expanded. The Goals will be given prioritization by the congregational vote and then be used to prioritize the list of projects. The prioritized list will be presented at multiple venues/meetings before, during, and after the AUUF annual meeting for comment and input. Projects will be funded in prioritized order until the money runs out. Work is ongoing to further define and price out (approximately) each project.

We thank you all for your input already received and for the lively discussions to come. It is exciting to think about what we can do to make this an even more remarkable facility and home for our beloved community.

AUUF Local Organizing Ministry of AFACT

By Marie Rozak

Member congregations of AFACT create what is called a Local Organizing Ministry (LOM). Each congregation can determine an issue of special interest that it would like to address. It may find another congregation with a similar interest. Together they may define that issue and create an action that will help effect change in the whole community.

AUUF members recently participated in supporting First Covenant Church and Catholic Native Ministry LOMs whose research had indicated Anchorage has too few detox centers for our population.

Approximately 20 AUUF members joined another 400 Anchorage citizens in a public hearing featuring a panel of distinguished state and city leaders who heard testimony from people who need detox services but cannot get beds. While the problem of a lack of detox facilities in Anchorage is extreme and does affect the entire city, two LOM's decided to tackle it together. First Covenant Church and Catholic Native Ministry LOM's have worked long and tirelessly to bring attention to this need. The evening of February 15 their second town hall meeting was held with over 400 people attending. The panel of guest speakers was Randall Burns, Acting Director of Behavior Health of State's DHSS, Angela Birt from the State's Department of Commerce, Dr. Jay Butler, Chief Medical Director of Public Health with DHSS, and Anchorage Mayor Ethan Berkowitz. These two LOM's are demonstrating, in a dramatic example, what LOM's can do.

AUUF can use the same organizing process to determine an issue worthy of our attention and our actions. AFACT then will help us organize a town hall meeting to express public interest on the issue and enlist the assistance of public officials to address it. Where there is a need, there is an opportunity, using the AFACT organizing process, to make new friends while reaching out to the larger community with an activity of service..

the aurora, Young Adults

By Eric McCoy

I had a great meeting with Pedro Kim. He's volunteered to be our Active Events Coordinator, a desperate need filled! We sketched out a schedule for the following year. Dates and times after March TBD at the business meeting (contact if you'd like to attend)

March 10th -- Get Air -- Both Pedro and Olli have experienced the fun of this indoor trampoline park. First stop, 6 pm, Midnight Sun Brewery, 8111 Dimond Hook Dr. for a 30 minute brewery tour, and then off to Get Air Anchorage 11051 O'Malley Centre Drive at 7 pm.

March 10 -- Midnight Sun / Get Air

April -- Rock gym

May -- hiking

June -- train to Denali (trip),

July -- fishing

August -- paintball/nerf

September -- hiking/canoeing/kayaking

October -- secret service event

November -- curling

December -- ice skating

Young Adult OWL sign-ups are in the Social Room, or drop off registrations in Rosene's office or mailbox. Support this awesome program!

4A's (Alaska Aids Assistance Association) needs your salad (or main, or bread, or dessert). Every 2nd Friday, for more years than we can count, the aurora and AUUF team up to feed this great organization. Who knew your Quinoa and Tangerine salad could play a supporting role in our supporting role! Please sign up in the social room.

Contact us! [907 230-6915](tel:9072306915), theaurora@gmail.com

Matsu UU: UUs are organizing in the Mat Su Valley. For information about their activities contact MatSuUUF@gmail.com Phone: Toni, (907) 745-4404.

Proposed Resolution on the State of Alaska Fiscal Future

The board has adopted a resolution expressing our belief that there is united concern in our fellowship about the state fiscal plan and the need for development of a sustainable budget this year. We noted that many in our congregation are involved in Great Alaska Schools and are calling to sustain funding for schools during this downturn in revenues for the state. We noted the ISSR report by Gunnar Knapp who spoke at our forum and brought his budget creation and display mechanism. Knapp's article on the state budget lays out the importance of maintaining our Alaskan economy and failing to maintain our state budget could create a fiscal cliff.

At our meeting Wednesday, February 10th we took up, amended and passed this resolution. All board resolutions are brought to the congregation at our annual meeting where it can be amended and must receive an 85% approval vote to continue as an AUUF resolution.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Resolution State of Alaska Fiscal Future Immediate Action Needed

WHEREAS, we believe in the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregation and in society at large,

WHEREAS, we believe in the importance of state services for children such as education, support for families in need, medical care, and other services,

WHEREAS, we recognize the need for sustaining our economy as explained in recent research report from the UAA Institute of Social and Economic Research, "An Introduction to Alaska Fiscal Facts and Choices", July 5, 2015, Gunnar Knapp

WHEREAS, we recognize the political need for an informed citizenry to support and demand legislative action to best sustain our economy and social services,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship asks our members to engage themselves and other organizations and individuals in the democratic process to support the cause defined in this resolution.

AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship requests the Alaska State Governor and Legislature create and pass, THIS YEAR, the best possible legislative solutions to sustain our state services and our economy now and in the future.

Passed at the AUUF Board Meeting, February 10, 2016, Marty Freeman, President

Spring Cloz Swap

By Gwen Perry Crawford

Attention all you clothes horses out there! Yet another opportunity to swap out what doesn't work so well for you anymore & to try new colors / styles - all at the perfect price. Join us @ the Fellowship **March 5 / Noon - 3 pm**. Sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Committee.

The swap occurs in room 3, and all clothes not selected will be taken to a charity. Teens are welcome. Please bring only clothes and accessories. This is a swap, please don't just dump clothes and leave. If you have a portable mirror that is helpful (we know we have 2 so far). Please bring a small (optional) donation to the Minister's Discretionary fund for folks in need.

This event is not limited to AUUF members, so bring your girlfriends and daughters. The swap is, however, limited to women.

Social Justice Committee

By Dennis Arashiro

Our Second Principle speaks not of equality but equity in human relations. That's because equality promotes justice and fairness by providing the same things to us all. Equity promotes justice and fairness by providing the things that meet the different needs of us all. Equality only works if we all start at the same point. Because we all have different starting points in life, equity must be our goal. Consider the many ways some of us are unfairly privileged over others. There is racial privilege in the wealth that comes from stealing the land, labor, rights and opportunities of others. There is class privilege that comes from inherited wealth. There are gender privilege, native born privilege, religious privilege and many others.

Our understanding of inequity and privilege is still a work in progress. We need to consider climate change as an issue of geographic and environmental inequity and privilege. We need to look at mental and physical health and disability as an issue of inequity and privilege. That is why we can see such diverse organizations as the Citizens' Climate Education Corps, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, and Stone Soup Group as social justice allies. That is why there so many ways that we can work toward social justice. We welcome your participation in this effort. Join us when we meet at **12:30 PM on Sunday, March 20, 2016, in Gary's office**. Call or email me if you cannot attend but wish to share your thoughts and proposals with the committee. Dennis Arashiro at 444-4324 and elvischannel@yahoo.com.

Half Portions for Social Action: Stone Soup Group

By Dennis Arashiro

"The miracle is this - the more we share, the more we have." - Leonard Nimoy

The miracle of stone soup. A stone as just a stone can feed no one; a stone as a rallying point for a community can feed everyone. That is the lesson of the fable where everyone makes a modest contribution to a soup pot containing only water and a stone, creating a nourishing meal for all. That is the mission of Stone Soup Group: to involve the entire community in unlocking the potential in children with special needs and empowering their families. This organization was started by such families to serve others facing the same challenges.

By providing information, guidance, trainings, and supportive activities, Stone Soup Group brings families, professionals, and organizations together to learn from each other and support each other in addressing disability. This is all part of the larger effort to recognize the inherent dignity and worth of every person and to seek justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. That should resonate with all of us--enough for us to give generously this month.

Three Events to Celebrate Spring

By Gary Holthaus

Thursday March 24th 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, March 25th, 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, Rosene Beachy, and other guests; and of course, pot luck supper and a sense of community.

Sunday, March 27th, 11:00 a.m. Easter, "Paul's Letter to the Faithful"

Celebrate a joyous spring, renewal and regeneration with crocus and music, readings, family and friends.

Adult Programs

(Sign up forms on the bulletin board in the social room.)

Young Adult/Adult OWL - Our Whole Lives Sexuality curriculum, Mark your calendars to participate in this unique program. Registration forms in the social room. Put in Rosene Beachy, DLRE's mailbox. Using values, communication skills and spirituality as starting points, this program explores sexuality issues for adults of all ages. Builds understanding of healthy sexual relationships affirms diversity and helps participants accept and affirm their own sexuality throughout their lives. It will be led by trained facilitators Ken Winterberger, Mara Hill and Katherine Huffman. 8 sessions on Monday nights, March 21 - May 9th. 7-9 pm. Great for couples, childcare provided as needed. Registration is \$ 50 per person, \$ 75 per couple.

Parenting Workshops

Parents of School Age Children

Discussion led by Kalen Saxton and Bev Grogan, retired educators, this workshop cover common concerns such as homework, time management, friendships, healthy sleeping and eating habits. Let Kalen (244-8221) know you are signed up. Saturday, March 12th, 2-4 pm.

Dad's Parenting Group –Discussions about –“What is a father?”

3rd Wednesday Night of Each Month. 7:00 – 9:00 For more info: Jason Walsh 980-2218

What is a responsible father supposed to do? How should he act? Answers to these questions have changed over every generation and are different all around the world but what are the answers for fathers in this time and place?

Come join a group of fathers as we tackle some big issues of being a father in the 21st century in Anchorage. Jason Walsh will lead the discussions. There may be readings, there may be differing views, and the only guarantee is that there will definitely be no concrete answers; but you don't have to struggle with fatherhood alone.

If you are a new father or an old father, a father of one or many, please join us to discuss this broad and important role we struggle to fill.

ONGOING GROUPS

Freethinkers At AUUF– Gathers Fridays at noon downstairs in room 4 at the fellowship. Meets from noon – 1:30. Contact George Bryson – gfbryson@gmail.com for more information

Auuf Buddhist Group – 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 7-9 pm at the home of Marty Herriot. A study group about Buddhism using some but not all the small groups techniques. Call Marty for directions. 245-1461

Small Group Ministry – Connect to UU's on a deeper level. Small groups are a group of people who commit to meeting weekly or biweekly for a semester to discuss themes chosen by the group using a “Small Group” format. Organized by Susan Orlansky Call Susan, 248-1141 if you would like to participate in a group.

Hungry Book Club – meets monthly, Shirley Dickens, convener. Meets the 2nd Tuesday afternoon at 2 pm for snacks and discussion. Everyone is welcome. (See below).

AFACT/AUUF - The AUUF Local Organizing Ministry continues to meets twice monthly at the Fellowship for training and discussion. For more information please contact Marie Rozak.

the aurora –young adult group. See page 4 for details.

Hungry Book Club News

by Shirley Dickens

Seven met and discussed "Last Letters from Attu, the True Story of an Alaskan Pioneer, Etta Jones". We enjoyed it as this was new information for most of us. We chose 2 new books. The March read will be "Under the Wide and Starry Sky" by Nancy Horan, winner of some awards. This is about Robert Louis Stevenson and his meeting a feisty American woman in Paris and their love affair and marriage. It is beautifully written and researched. April's book is "Kashmir Shawl" by Rosie Thomas. We meet monthly, second Tuesday of the month at 2 pm at the Pioneer Home where Debbie Cahoon and Pioneer Home host us with free coffee and hot water for teas. The members bring somewhat healthy snacks. Come check us out. Call Shirley 563-4499 if you need more information.

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Grateful that though Jim Hitchcock, beloved husband of Rev. Beatrice Hitchcock, was admitted to Mat Su Hospital with symptoms of pending stroke but he got to medical care in time to avoid major damage. He will be having surgery in Anchorage soon. Beatrice is here with him. This is being written late January, 29th. Hopefully by the time this is printed Jim has had successful surgery and all is well with Jim.

Also grateful that member Shirley Randal is out of Providence hospital and in an assisted living home called Marietta House on Young Street off Tudor and Lake Otis St. Call before visiting (222-1164). We understand she is better and eating and gaining some of those lost pounds. Her daughter is here from back East visiting and helping Shirley sort things out. I am sure Shirley would appreciate cards.

Good news just reached me that Bob Curtis Johnson heard about Shirley Randal's cat needing a new home and has "adopted" the cat. Bob was a member of AUUF a few years ago and is now a Friend. Bob is a "cat lover" who was currently without a cat. May you be very happy with Shirley's cat.

So pleased to hear that 20 UUs were at the recent AFACT public meeting February 15th at St. Anthony's Catholic church regarding the lack of detox facilities in Anchorage. It was a great example of how AFACT can help congregations organize to support their values and concerns.

Also pleased to see 6 UUs at the annual Walk for Warmth on February 20.

A big THANK YOU to all the Stewardship volunteers and all who met and hosted them as they made their calls. It does "take a village" to keep a church afloat financially. We are just lucky that many of our members and lots of friends of the Fellowship care about our "liberal voice and beloved community" and chose to support us with money and volunteer activities. Well done, everyone.

A small personal note, Thank you everyone for the Birthday party, good wishes, beautiful cakes (2) and almost overwhelming attention around my 80th birthday celebration. TK and Marty are the best at hosting a party. I am very grateful for this community and wish such a celebration for each of you sometime in your life.



Grounds Ministry Team

Interested in getting dirty? Contact us: Sid Atwood, 440-9183 and Sharon Cissna, 244-0522.

Friendly Recycling Tip: Inventory your use of consumables. Are you recycling paper towel, toilet paper, and wrapping paper tubes?

Recycling Plastics: March 13th

Choir Schedule

Thursday, Mar 3rd 7:00-8:30pm
Thursday, Mar 10th 7:00-8:30pm
Thursday, Mar 17th 7:00-8:30pm
Sunday, Mar 20th 9:45-10:30am
Thursday, Mar 24th 7:00-8:30pm
Thursday, Mar 31st 7:00-8:30pm

Women's Retreat

We are in the process of organizing a Women's Retreat this year at the fellowship April 29 and 30. If you have something you would be happy to offer to UU women that weekend, please let me know. ~ Teresa Zimmer 278-2033.

March Birthdays, Best Wishes!

(Birthdays are not published in our online version).

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).*

R.E. Notes for March 2016

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Our Program March 7, 14, 21, 28

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

Early Birds – Jr and Sr Youth – Pertinent topics of youth interest

11:00 Service March, 6, 13, 20 Chalice Circle at 11:00 and Workshop Rotational for Elementary ages. Preschool and youth classes are self contained.

March 27 Spring Fling - Easter activities and basket making!

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 wrapped candy and 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!

Please bring items to the fellowship by March 20

We will also need non dyed, hard boiled eggs brought on March 27

RE Social Justice

Thanks to all the Soup Makers in the Moonspinners (JR Youth) class. Funds (\$ 276) will go to the Animal Shelter.

Next Soup Sunday is March 27, coordinated by the Wind Walkers class.

Mark your calendars for a Spring Extravaganza: SHOWY SOUP AND SOUPER SHOW

Soup Sunday in April will be on the 3rd Sunday, April 17th as a fund raiser by our COA (Coming of Age) program. Gourmet Soups & Desserts & Variety Show. Tickets will be sold by COA youth.

Programs

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 Rosene Beachy, DLRE to get an application form. There will be an Elementary OWL training somewhere in the US during the summer. Training is required to teach this program. They are held at a UU church and usually last from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon. Home hospitality and meals are covered in the registration fee. Trainings funds provided from our prior OWL registrations.

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 February 28th is "Justice".

Parenting Workshops offered in March.

Dad's group every third Wednesday 7-9.

Young Adult / Adult OWL Sign up ! Starts in March!

All the details page 7!

Save the Date – First Ever AUUF Summer Camp!!!

As you start making summer plans for your K – 6th grader, mark your calendar for our first ever AUUF summer camp. During the week of **July 11-15** this year's "Peace Camp" will be full of UU summer fun with friends!

Sign up list and registration forms at the Parent Info Spot downstairs. Feel free to contact Rosene (rbeachy@alaskalife.net) for details. *July 11-15, 9am – 4:30.*

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

Cost will be \$100 for 1st child, \$75 for 2nd, and \$50 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.

Each week there will be a story about the theme, and then children will rotate in mixed age groups 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, Camera . . . Action and a unique Themed workshop based on the stories used each week.

Our Journey Guides have just as much fun as the kids! No prep! Needed for April and May!

Looking for volunteers to be Journey Guides, they will accompany a cross age group to their workshop each week and be a helper to the Workshop leaders. You can sign up for 1-4 Sundays a month.

Workshop leaders will present their same workshop each of the 4 Sundays of the Theme. We will help you create a plan having to do with the theme.

March Theme— Justice; April – Courage; May - Wonder

Sign up at our Volunteer Spot with this link: <http://vols.pt/sjbffr>

Thanks to everyone who brought items for our “Blessing bags” for homeless people that were made in the Helping Hands workshop during our “Compassion” theme in February!

YRUU Schedule

Feb. 28th--TBD, Sarah H.

Mar. 6th & Mar 13th--(Spring Break) YRUU & Moonspinner Improvfest!, Eric

Mar. 20th-- Rock Climbing, Rock Gym, Logan

Mar. 27th--The Force and UU, Lucas

Apr 1-3 CON, AUUF Happiness, Eric

Apr. 10th-- Bring back the Flame! CONgoers

Apr. 24th—Bridging

Apr 24 Pump it Up Sunday!

YRUU is serving at the Brother Francis Shelter every Monday at 6:30 p.m. Feel free to call 907 982-9777 with questions, or to RSVP. We have a short-lived, but strong tradition of service we can be proud of! Thank our youth and our visionary Social Justice Sponsor, Jeanne Fischer!

PNWD Youth Spring CON is COMING!

The Pacific Northwest District Youth Con will take place the first weekend in April in Washington. The paperwork is different this year, and so is the funding. The plane flight is set and several youth have already bought tickets. Interested youth should contact **Eric McCoy at auufcyp@gmail.com**. ASAP! Adults interested in making donations of money or miles tickets should contact Eric, as well.

ALL AK UU Campout, Denali? (May 20-22) —a campout of undetermined date, duration and distance—we’ve wanted to for a couple of years, and we’d like to finally make it happen!

You? You Rock Camp! AUUF, Anchorage (June 27-July 1) —A week-long music camp that takes youth from zero to hero, with 7 principles as a theme.

AlasCon, Kings Lake Camp, Wasilla (Sept. 23-25) —parallel to AUUF’s Fall Frolic, Youth prepare workshops and worships, for themselves and others.

Contact me for more info, or ideas about other trainings and/or experiences.

Calling All Seniors Who Are Graduating . Bridging Discussion and planning lunch – March 20, 12:30 – 3:30 in Gary’s office. Let Eric or Rosene know you would like to participate in our Bridging ceremony on April 17!

About our Speakers and Services (see back page)

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

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.

Mary Katzke graduated magna cum laude in 1992 from New York University Tisch School of the Arts with a MFA in writing and directing film. With 30 film credits to her name, she has used documentary film to tell her own stories and those of her fellow Alaskans.

Drew Phoenix is the Executive Director of Identity, Inc., which serves Alaska's LGBT Community through its programs of advocacy, education, and community building. Before his work with Identity, Drew served and continues to serve for over 25 years as an ordained minister of The United Methodist Church and spent four years as Director of Development and Communications for the ACLU of Alaska.

Dr. Bruno Kappes is a 37-year tenured professor of psychology and health science at UAA and is also a licensed psychologist with 30 years in private practice, a certified biofeedback therapist, and a certified medical psychotherapist. He holds a BA and MA from the University of Missouri and a PhD from Kansas State University. He pioneered distance delivery instruction via teleconferencing, live televised courses statewide, as well as video, DVD and Internet. He currently teaches eLearning courses to 900 students each year and actively promotes University wide ePortfolio initiatives.

Alliance

by Shirley Dickens, Chair of the Alliance

The Alliance rummage sale is May 14. Save your treasures.

The Alliance didn't meet during February. We will meet March 13th (second Sunday of the month) at 12:30 PM in the Wiggle. We will have a guest from the "Capital Funds Drive".

The new sanctuary chair Plaques have been ordered. The Alliance offered a chance to buy new name plaques for some of our new chairs in the Sanctuary recently. We had many respond. The new name plaques will be: Rick Zimmer, Louise Gallop, Debbie Cahoon, Julia Garrigues, Irene Hedstrom, Edward and Mary Dryden, Helen and Gayle Nienhueser, Dick and Averill Gay, Eugene L and Mary Kulawik, The Freedman Family, Gwen and Harry Crawford, Irene and David O'Brien, and John McKay and Christy Willer.

Thank you for your generosity. The Alliance appreciates the business and so does AUUF. We split the fee with AUUF. We will offer a chance to buy more plaques again next year.

Do you have a 'fine hand?' We have need for a volunteer with time honored skill of good penmanship to give of their time and talents at home, or here if you wish, writing a few notes and cards. If this is something that might interest you, please contact Amy Lundell in the office for the details. auuf@gci.net.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Information

Office phone: 907-248-3737 Email: auuf@gci.net

Website: 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 Phones and Email

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, Church Administrator, 248-3737 x 3 or auuf@gci.net

AUUF Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and 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 –March 2016

Sunday, February 28

9 am Julie Decker,
"The Anchorage Museum in the Digital Age"
11 am Special Program,
'Celebrating AUUF! Giggling into the Future!'

Sunday, March 6

9 am Senator Berta Gardner,
"State of the State Budget in Juneau"
11 am Senator Berta Gardner,
"State of the State Budget in Juneau"

Sunday, March 13

9 am Mary Katzke,
"A Year with My Son in World School"
11 am Gary Holthaus,
"Dangerous Women: Shirin Ebadi"

Sunday, March 20

9 am Drew Phoenix,
"A Brighter Future for Our LGBT Community?"
11 am Gary Holthaus, "Jesus as Poverty's Child"

March 24 Maundy Thursday

5:30 pm "Creating The Sustainable Community"

March 25 Good Friday

5:30 pm Shirley Staten and Friends
"Were You There?"

Sunday, March 27 Easter

9 am Bruno Kappes,
"Wide World of eLearning in Alaska"
11 am Gary Holthaus, "Paul's Letter to the Faithful"

Regular Tuesday Evening Services

7 pm March 8, 15, 22, 29

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- March 2016

Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare

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

The LOG

April 2016

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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



About our letter to the Congregation...AUUF seeks to become a caring community that is open and inclusive of any who wish to participate in our Fellowship. But because we want it to be safe and open for all, that means there are limits we must respect in order to be respectful of everyone's comfort and safety. Any who are concerned about this, there will be a listening circle April 3rd 12:30 in the Sanctuary
-Gary Holthaus, Minister

Open Letter to the Congregation: Addressing Disruptive Behavior in a Beloved Community

Our Fellowship prizes both the first UU Principle honoring the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and our mission, under which we strive to create a just, safe, and caring community.

When there is disruptive behavior within AUUF it is a challenge to live out these standards. Over the past several months there have been some incidents of disruptive behavior at some AUUF events and services. How do we handle this behavior in keeping with our principles? Here are the steps we have taken so far in this case, and this serves as an example of how we might address future challenges.

- First, representatives of the staff, board, and Committee on Shared Ministry met to review the first significant incident, and to consult with UUA staff for the Pacific Northwest District with experience in similar cases.
- Second, our minister, Gary Holthaus, and I met with the person involved to express our concerns, clarify our expectations of respectful behavior, and listen.
- We instituted a behavioral agreement, signed by both parties.
- When another incident occurred, we instituted a 2-month leave of absence from all AUUF activities. During the leave, Rev. Holthaus checked in regularly with the person.
- Sadly, we have not been able to change the disruptive behavior. After the initial leave, there was a third disturbance. We have re-established the leave, extended to apply it to all activities in our building, and notified the police. Before returning, but in no case prior to June 1, we will require documentation in writing that the person is receiving professional help for the behavior issues. Any infringement of the leave will be cause to call the police.

This has been a difficult and sad series of events. We want to be a fellowship that can welcome individuals with various challenges, and we continue to hope that we can find a way for this person to again become part of AUUF activities successfully. We appreciate those who have expressed care and concern for all involved.

If you have any questions, concerns or insights please contact Gary Holthaus, Marty Herriott with the Committee on Shared Ministry, or me.

In fellowship,
Marty Freeman, Board president
Gary Holthaus, Minister

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Calendar Highlights

April 17 COA Variety Show And Luscious Lunch
April 23 Family Passover Seder, Saturday 6-8 pm
April 24 Newcomer's Luncheon
April 29/30 Woman's Retreat
May 1 Annual Meeting and Electronics Recycling
You Rock Camp! (June 27-July 1) (Youth)
Peace Camp July 11-15

Our third principle: "Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations."

April news from the AUUF Board

Who are we? 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. (AUUF mission)

How do we work toward our mission? By joining with other groups and congregations to work together for social justice, by volunteering at Project Homeless Connect and Airport Heights School, providing lunch for the 4As, checking on our neighbors, advocating for just solutions to Alaska's fiscal crisis, washing dishes, singing in the choir, and devoting times to our committees and ministry teams, and countless other acts of the heart. By challenging and recharging ourselves at the Forum and worship services. And by providing the financial support to make this work possible.

Our annual meeting is coming up on May 1, and it is an important part of supporting AUUF's mission. At the meeting, we will:

- Determine our budget for FY17,
- Vote on the AUUF Alaska Fiscal Policy resolution and social justice issues for consideration at the 2016 UUA General Assembly,
- Elect Board and Endowment Committee members,
- Hear about the next steps in a capital campaign.

The Board is proposing a budget based on pledges of \$300,000 for FY17. Thanks to the hard work of our Stewardship Committee, and to the generosity of AUUF members and friends we are closing in on that target. If you attend the Forum or services, have children in the RE and OWL programs, and support the mission of AUUF and you haven't pledged, please do so now. Our Fellowship operates on pledges.

What can we do with our proposed budget?

- Keep our Forum, worship services, RE, music program, and activities to build community strong and vibrant,
- Share our resources with others through the half-portion of our weekly offering, Minister's Discretionary Fund, and active participation in social justice initiatives,
- Identify and act on issues of deep concern to our Fellowship, and amplify our voice in efforts to address them through participation in AFACT,
- Live out our 5th principle (democratic process!) with a payment-in-lieu-of-taxes contribution that better represents our fair share of costs for public services,
- Care for our staff and facilitate their growth by moving their compensation toward UUA recommended mid-levels, supporting professional training, and funding the remaining portion of the RE director's sabbatical,
- Make sure that OWL sexuality education is available in Anchorage at a time when the legislature is trying to constrain schools from providing thorough and accurate information,
- Be responsible stewards of our building – keep it welcoming, functional, sound, and green. And, with a solid operating budget for FY17, we will have the basis for realizing our dreams for improvement through a capital campaign.

I look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting. In Fellowship,

Marty Freeman, AUUF President

Annual Meeting Informational Meetings!

If you have any questions about items on the agenda for the Annual Meeting (sent to members by mail), please to come to one or more of the informational meetings to be held this month in the social room! We can address any of the annual meeting agenda items, including the FY17 proposed budget, State Fiscal Policy resolution, or any other annual meeting business of interest to those present.

Between Sunday Services: April 10, 10:00am and April 17 10:00am

Before the 7:00pm Tuesday service: April 12 6:00pm

Opportunities... Responsibilities... Values... \$316,000

By Judy Engh, Chair Stewardship and Gary Holthaus, Minister

How many of us grew up UU? How many of us grew up with specific expectations of religious belief? How many of us grew up without any knowledge of the stories of the world religions? How did this upbringing influence who we are today?

AUUF has wonderful opportunities for RE - religious exploration - for all ages. Can you imagine our congregation without RE? We outgrew our old building because of the strength of our RE program. We are delighted that we now have space for our classes and activities. We are blessed to have a full time RE director to plan curriculum and recruit and manage the multitude of volunteers it takes to run a program for children, youth, their parents, and the rest of us. And we are happy that we have a part time Coordinator of Youth to work with our teens and create challenging and fun activities for them. AUUF has become known across many spots in Anchorage as “that church that provides OWL”. Families come to us for these programs and we are the richer for it!

This is what we do as a community. This is a covenant between us and for future generations of UUs... We are living our seven principles. Whether you participate in the life of AUUF via your children/youth, the Free Thinkers, the Forum, Sunday morning or Tuesday evening services, no matter your ages or family status, we are all exploring our world together through the set of principles we abide by.

We do have specific costs for staff and building which means that none of our programs are really free. We have a proposed budget for \$316,000 in pledges that will pay for all of our expenses, including our investment in children and families. It will pay our minister and DLRE what is recommended by AUUF guidelines. It will pay the building costs. It will pay to train the numerous wonderful volunteers who are integral in our programs.

We want to welcome all people into community here. We commit to provide age appropriate programs that encourage spiritual growth for all. We ask everyone to consider how they can commit to make that happen. We need to **average \$2,000/household (\$170/month) in written pledges** to fund all of our programs. *Won't you join in investing whatever you can in our future?* Thank you again for generously supporting AUUF!!

Capital Campaign Update – April 2016

By Doug Eby and Frank Mitchell

The Capital Campaign work continues to move forward steadily. We have met with all committees and staff and many individuals. There are three main products – 1) affirmation of the goals to be used to rank projects, 2) multi-voting to weight the relative value of goals (see below), and 3) creation of a list of the top projects desired by AUUF. The prioritization process results will go to the Board of Directors in April for affirmation. The input from all of the committees, staff, and individuals has resulted in a list of high priority proposed projects. Approximate costs for each project will also be taken to the Board for discussion in April. The AUUF Board has set a Capital Campaign goal of \$750,000. The list includes... an improved southern entry with a lift, improved social room, expanded kitchen, optimal offices, optimal sized RE rooms, a meditation/library space, upgrades to bathrooms and auditorium, improved grounds and parking, better storage, and optimal window quality and preservation.

At the AUUF Annual Meeting on May first we expect to have proposed floor plans for projects, some 3D conceptual drawings, and approximate costs for each project, along with the approved prioritized list. We are planning AUUF Community review meetings, with this information presented, just ahead of the Annual meeting. Approval of all of the work and plans are hoped for at the Annual Meeting. See you there!

Goals	% Weight
Welcoming, Inviting, Comfortable	17%
Improved sense of identity (UU)	6%
Improve Access & Functionality	22%
Improve Pride, Inspiration, Beauty, Environmental Connectivity	11%
Usable by many people, groups & organizations	15%
Responsible Ownership – more ‘green’, neighborhood improvement....	13%
Fiscally Responsible	12%
Expand Value for eventual resale	4%

Social Justice Committee

By Dennis Arashiro

Half Portion for Social Action Voting:

Sunday, April 10, Tuesday, April 12, And Sunday, April 17

Our Fifth Principle calls for the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large. That is but one reason why we are democratizing the Half Portion for Social Action. We are also seeking a more informed and involved Fellowship in meeting social justice needs. We are seeking more trust and credibility in our relationships with Half Portion recipients. We are seeking greater financial support for the chosen causes. The voting this month is just the beginning. As you inform yourself on the Half Portion candidates, consider how to continue your education on social justice. As you make your selections, consider how to improve the voting process.

Look for instructions online and during services on how to vote during the scheduled period. The Social Justice Committee welcomes your questions, and suggestions on this when we meet at **12:30 PM on Sunday, April 17, 2016, in Gary's office**. Feel free to share your thoughts with us before, during, and after the voting by calling or emailing me. Dennis Arashiro at 444-4324 or elvischannel@yahoo.com.

Half Portions for Social Action: The Wilderness Society

By Dennis Arashiro

"The idea of wilderness needs no defense, it only needs defenders." Edward Abbey

Many of us may share Edward Abbey's sentiment. Yet, it is one thing to defend the idea of wilderness; it is quite another to defend wilderness itself. For eighty years The Wilderness Society has been at the forefront in the designation of nearly 110 million acres of protected wilderness areas in our country. It has engaged in the scientific and economic study of wilderness to develop the best environmental policies. It has engaged in building coalitions with faith communities, scientists, sportsmen, ranchers, business leaders, and others to make wilderness a priority for all.

Alaska has been a major focus of The Wilderness Society. Through its research, education, and lobbying efforts, it has worked to create and protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the Western Arctic Reserve, and the Arctic Ocean. It has worked with our land use agencies to understand and cope with the effects of climate change in our lands and waters. This is why the Social Justice Committee names The Wilderness Society the April recipient of the Half Portion for Social Action.

AUUF Family Passover Seder, Saturday April 23 6-8 pm

Come and join a family-friendly celebration of spring filled with Jewish traditions: sharing red wine (or grape juice), eating matzo, and singing songs of freedom. Matzo, parsley, bitter herbs, charoset and boiled eggs will be provided. Please bring – a vegetarian dish to share, wine glasses, and a bottle of wine or juice. Please RSVP by Friday April 15 to –Kelly Hartleib kellyhartleib@gmail.com, Home # 272-7040. *Setup and clean up an hour before and after if you can assist.*



Newcomer's Luncheon April 24

On Sunday, April 24, we are inviting any newcomers at AUUF to stay after the 11:00 a.m. service, and be our guest for lunch starting about 12:30. This will be an opportunity to learn more about our Fellowship, and Unitarian Universalism. There will be a few long-term members present; some will be providing short presentations. You will also have an opportunity to ask questions. If you have children, they are welcome, we are happy to provide a childcare for them. For those bringing children, please RSVP so we can prepare age-appropriate care: Rosene Beachy 248-3737, or Denise Martin 345-8787. You can also reserve your spot by signing up on the bulletin board in the social room.

Whalecoast 2016 is Coming!

June 9-13 "National Park Tour", also July 20-22 "All Alaska Tour"

We have a long tradition of offering hospitality for lower 48 UUs on the WhaleCoast tours. Besides being great fun, this is a money raising event for the Fellowship. This year AUUF stands to make a record amount of money from the 2 tours, but it will mean we need more volunteers than ever as well! Each tour has up to 40 or more visitors from around the U.S., plus the 2 coordinators from Fairbanks.

The **June tour** will be a little different than previous ones in that guests begin the tour in Anchorage, and make their own flight arrangements to arrive Sat. June 11 afternoon or evening. Hosts will pick them up at the airport, but not all at the same time. Guests will attend Sunday Service at AUUF the next day, visit the Native Heritage Center and then back to our Fellowship for a Sunday evening banquet that we host. Mon. morning we put them on a train to Seward.

BUT! There is also an option with this tour for for guests to come a Day Or 2 Early (and pay us an extra \$79 per night). Guests will mostly be "on their own" these extra days in the daytime. Some driving may be required but we can line up volunteer drivers to help.

The **July tour** will be just like the last few years, with a Wed. night arrival by train, Thurs. banquet and Fri. a.m. drop off at the airport.

We need hosts willing to commit a spare bed for hosting guests on these nights, and to help prepare 2 fabulous banquet at AUUF: one on June 12 and one on July 21.

So, **please think about it!** You can help for one or both tours, in any or all of these ways:

1. Housing a guest or 2 (this is the most challenging part overall! We'll need about 42 beds for each tour!)
2. Help with the banquets on Sun. June 12 Thurs. July 22; Kalen Saxton is coordinating.
3. Help with transportation. Many of our hosts are not able to perform all the driving that the tours require; and some shuttling from the Museum to the banquet may be necessary.

Other volunteers may be needed as tour details become available.

Sign-up sheets and information can be found in the social room on the bulletin board. **Even if you have already given a verbal commitment to be a host or volunteer, we need you to fill out one of these sheets and return it to me, or place it in the corner mail slot** at the Fellowship that shows the little Whale's tail logo. And a big thanks to everyone who has already done this.

Please email me, Denise Martin, at dulcimer.diva@gmail.com to let me know you are available. Call me with questions at 907-345-8787. Thanks so much!



Grounds Ministry Team

It's time to get dirty and be busy. The team has been meeting and making plans for spring, and now spring is here. Interested? Contact us: Sid Atwood, 440-9183 and Sharon Cissna, 244-0522.

Adult Programs

(Sign up forms on the bulletin board in the social room.)

ONGOING GROUPS

Freethinkers At AUUF— Gathers Fridays at noon downstairs in room 4 at the fellowship. Meets from noon – 1:30. Contact George Bryson – gfbryson@gmail.com for more information

Auuf Buddhist Group – 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 7-9 pm at the home of Marty Herriot. A study group about Buddhism using some but not all the small groups techniques. Call Marty for directions. 245-1461

Small Group Ministry – Connect to UU's on a deeper level. Small groups are a group of people who commit to meeting weekly or biweekly for a semester to discuss themes chosen by the group using a "Small Group" format. Organized by Susan Orlansky Call Susan, 248-1141 if you would like to participate in a group.

Hungry Book Club – meets monthly, Shirley Dickens, convener. Meets the 2nd Tuesday afternoon at 2 pm for snacks and discussion. Everyone is welcome. (See below).

AFACT/AUUF - The AUUF Local Organizing Ministry meets twice monthly at the Fellowship for training and discussion. For more information please contact Marie Rozak.

the aurora –young adult group. Contact Eric McCoy for information.

Dad's Group – Discussions about 'What is a Father?' 3rd Wednesday every month, 7-9 pm. More info contact Jason Walsh 98-2218.

Letting the Light In

by Irene O'Brien, co-chair Interior Design Committee

Did you notice the new room-darkening blinds in the Sanctuary? We now Let the Light In*or* Keep the Light Out. The new blinds are grouped into "Six Zones", which will allow us to raise and lower various blinds as needed, for presentations, movies, and events throughout the week.

Cool feature: There is a wireless hub which allows Building Administrators to check on the windows remotely, making sure the blinds are closed at night in the winter.

Light filtering blinds, with retractable cords, have also been installed in the Wiggle and Social Rooms, as well in Gary and Amy's offices

Thank you for your financial support and additional gifts from The Alliance and Green Sanctuary committees that made this improvement possible.

Hungry Book Club News

by Shirley Dickens

We were a small group this month but all enjoyed the book, "Under the Wide and Starry Sky" by Nancy Horien about Robert Louis Stevenson and his American wife. We have chosen "The Kashmir Shawl by Rosie Thomas for our April read, (published in 2011). It got wonderful reviews and is widely available. We meet again April 12th (second Tuesday of the month). We are an open book club and all friendly people who appreciate good books are welcome. Debbie Cahoon will host us again at the Pioneer Home on 11th St. at 2 PM, 3rd floor. **Come join us!**

Alliance

by Shirley Dickens, Chair of the Alliance

The Alliance met March 13th and paid the bill submitted by Marjorie for the 14 chair plaques. Next project is to mount the plaques. We had a "guest", from the Capital Campaign Committee, Jobe Bernier who went over all that the committee feels needs to be done in the future to bring our building up to our satisfaction. The Alliance will no doubt be hearing more about the master plans and will be able to assist in some way financially.

The Alliance had another guest, our minister Gary asking for help to fund AUUF's share of belonging to AFACT for the rest of this year. We donated \$1,000 towards the remaining dues of \$ 1375. We also gifted the Minister's Discretionary Fund with a onetime check for \$500.00. We also voted to provide a once a month, (first Sunday of the month) "celebration cake" for the congregation in the social room. This would be to honor the birthday people of that month or anyone else who has something to celebrate. Gwen Perry Crawford will take on buying the cake but the Alliance will pay for it. Marjorie will donate Alaska air miles to Gary to go to General Assembly in Ohio in June, 2016. *Rummage Sale is May 14, save your treasures.*

Matsu UU: UUs are organizing in the Mat Su Valley. For information about their activities contact MatSuUUF@gmail.com Phone: Toni, (907) 745-4404.

AUUF Annual Women's Retreat – "Connecting"

Friday evening April 29 and all day Saturday, April 30th

This year's women's retreat will take place at our very own **AUUF Fellowship Building**. We hope this will allow those of you who can't travel away for a weekend to participate in as much as you can, without feeling a conflict about being away.

This is what we envision:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| * community building | * new friends |
| * spirituality | * food |
| * music | * creativity |
| * nature | * sharing |
| * physical activity | * fun and laughter |
| * learning | * service |
| * self-care | * connections |



We plan to begin **Friday** evening with a "joyful" hour from 5 to 6 PM, allowing folks to float in as they may: socialize, and transition from the work-a-day world. From 6 to 7 we will offer a light meal. The program will begin around 7:00 PM with a large group gathering. The planned program will end around 9:00 PM. People may stay to socialize or even sleep over at AUUF if so desired.

For those who want to sleep in their own beds, **Saturday** morning large group events will begin at 10:00, with earlier options downstairs for Yoga (8:00) and breakfast (9:00). Please be respectful of the AA group that meets upstairs from 9 to 10:00 and join us downstairs if arriving before 10:00.

Saturday will include a number of opportunities to participate in community building with the large group. There will also be small group discussions, meditation, craft activities, music, outdoor exercise, education, and a service project. We anticipate sharing a light dinner and having a closing gathering from 5:30 to 7:30.

Each person is welcome to participate in those events that meet their needs and time schedule. We hope that the large group can stay together as long as possible but we understand the needs of individuals and families, and if leaving before the scheduled end time is needed, this is understood.

Meals will be available Friday evening, and on Saturday for breakfast, lunch and dinner, with snacks available as well. The menu will provide delicious Vegan courses, which will be tasty and filling. If you have specific dietary needs, please feel free to supplement for yourself.

Teens are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Registration forms will be attached to the bulletin board in the upstairs social room with a large labeled manila envelope there as well, to place the completed forms into. Checks should be made out to AUUF with "women's retreat" in the memo line. The cost of the retreat is expected to be nominal and was not yet determined at the time this article was printed. It will be specified on the registration form. Scholarships will be available if needed.

We need to have all registration forms turned in by Sunday **April 17th, 2016** to help with planning.

Hope To See You Here!

Questions? Call or e-mail Michele Champion 279-9217, akmichelechamp@yahoo.com

Annual AUUF electronic recycling May 1.

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 please call me, Yolanda Meza @ 764-9234. *No smoke detector or vacuums please.*

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Grateful that AUUF was able to purchase the wonderful special Blinds for the Sanctuary, Gary's office, and the social room . They are beautiful, very useful, and environmentally friendly and should help us darken the Sanctuary and social room when needed (and allow us to rent those spaces for classes, etc). Well done Irene O'Brien and your interior design committee.

Congratulations to one of our own former children who grew up here at AUUF in our RE, Shea Winterberger, oldest daughter of Paula and Ken Winterberger who are long time members. Shea has just recently earned the position of "executive officer" (second in command) of a Coast Guard ship, the USCGC Cypress, home ported in Pensacola, FL. Well done, Shea! I'm sure you have earned this responsibility with years of hard work and training. We are so proud of you!

Grateful for Stephenie Wheeler and the Endowment Committee that are getting together a brochure "About Louise" Gallop and her gold nuggets and a web site as they begin the process of selling the gold AUUF was gifted with (one of several large gifts) given to our congregation. Stephenie and others are working hard to get this together before Whale Coast comes this summer (potential customers). I am sure we will have an opportunity to buy also.

Grateful that Gary had a great 2 week vacation in Florida with his lovely wife recently. An excellent time to squeeze Berta Gardner in to speak to us about the Alaska legislature and the state's money problems.

Grateful that the 14 new chair plaques are here and in Bruce Roberts' capable hands. Look for your chair if you are one of the ones who ordered a name plaque. It's always fun to sit in "your chair".

Our Music Director, Dr. Tamara McCoy will be performing with classical guitarist Valerie Hartzell in England on a 12 day tour in May. Prior they will be touring in Southcentral in April. You can enjoy their performance at two events in Anchorage: Sunday, April 10th, 2016 @ 4:30pm Anchorage Lutheran, W 15th Ave, or Sunday, April 17th @ 4:30pm, E.R Brown Auditorium Grant Hall, Alaska Pacific University, 4101 University Drive.

As we go to print, we find that two of our elders were recently admitted to Regional Hospital. Debbie Cahoon (from Pioneer Home) is in PCU and Judy Whitaker was admitted to Regional on Monday the 28th. We hope both will do well and not have to stay long. Be well, both of you.

Spring IS coming, in spite of the recent big snow storm, get out the seed catalogues, wash that filthy car, think about lawn maintenance, get ready for "spring cleaning" and above all, BE WELL, dear people.

Choir Schedule

Thursday, Apr 7th 7:00-8:30pm
Sunday, April 10th 9:45-10:30am
Thursday, Apr 14th 7:00-8:30pm
Thursday, Apr 21st 7:00-8:30pm
Sunday, April 24th: 9:45-10:30am
Thursday, Apr 28th 7:00-8:30pm

April Birthdays, Best Wishes!

Birthdays are not published in our online version.

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 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).*

Job Opening, Congregational Involvement

Coordinator Assists potential, new, and current members to engage actively in Fellowship events and programs. Be a resource for staff and committees in developing volunteers, leadership potential, and activities. (Part time). Interested? See full posting on Craigslist or in the office.

Members and friends of the Fellowship are welcome to apply.

+

R.E. Notes for April 2016

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Our Program April 7, 14, 21, 28

9:00 Service – Kid's and Toddler Childcare available

Early Birds – Jr and Sr Youth – Pertinent topics of youth interest

11:00 Service - Workshop Rotational for K-5

Theme this month is Courage,

Preschool and Youth – age group programming

Next Workshop Rotation planning meeting Sat., April 9, 10 am downstairs at AUUF

Coming Events

Spring Seder Service – Saturday, April 23, 6:00 pm – 8:00

Family Friendly Seder Dinner at the Fellowship.

Join us for a multi-generational potluck 6:00 pm, Saturday, April 3rd. Great for families and fun for kids! There will be about half an hour of active group participation in reading and singing a newly updated ritual Seder service with some traditional and some new elements. Do you know what is on the Seder plate and why? Do you know what the 10 famous plagues are? And just how this relates to Social Justice?

Whether we are Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Bahá'í, Unitarian-Universalist, Humanist or from another faith, on Passover we can all be inspired by one of the most famous stories from the Old Testament, or *Torah*. As we celebrate with food and drink wine (or grape juice), we rejoice in our freedom and we renew our commitment to working for freedom and justice all over the world. A joyful potluck feast will follow! Bring a traditional or favorite family recipe!

CYRE Committee

Come Join in the excitement of our Religious Exploration programs! We need your ideas and enthusiasm!

Volunteer on the CYRE Committee or as a class leader for next year 2016-17!

The CYRE Committee planning retreat will be Sunday April 24, 12:30-5 pm to plan for 2016-17.

Call/email Deena Mitchell, 743-6017 or Rosene Beachy, DLRE, 441-6815 to chat further about these possibilities.

Summer Program

Workshop Guides needed for Summer Sundays – STEAMPunk June 5 – August 28

Do you have a bit more time during the summer months? Would you like to participate in RE but are worried about how to do it? Come spice up your summer – try something new!

Lead a summer Sunday for our program -

“STEAMPunk Sundays”.

STEAMPunk, stands for ; Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math, Music, and Movement!

We plan to spend 1-2 Sundays on each theme. Dates are flexible – pick your date and your area of interest!!

Volunteer to turn your Ideas into experiences for a lively and creative UU kids hour! Honoring our 5th UU source, Science and Reason, we invite you to lead our children and youth through an exploration of ideas, to challenge them to shape our world for the better, and to help prepare our youngsters to be future leaders.

Save the Date – First Ever AUUF Summer Camp!!!

As you start making summer plans for your K – 6th grader, carve out a week to participate in our first ever AUUF summer camp. During the week of **July 11– 15**, this year's "Peace Camp" will be full of UU summer fun with friends, exploring peace ideas through movement, song, theater, games and more!

Sign up list and registration forms at the Parent Info Spot downstairs. Feel free to contact Rosene (rbeachy@alaskalife.net) for details. *July 11-15, 9am – 4:30.*

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

Cost will be \$100 for 1st child, \$75 for 2nd, and \$50 for 3rd

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

There will be a Summer Program information/planning meeting Saturday, April 23, 10 am downstairs at AUUF. Bring your ideas and calendars and we can create something wonderful. Talk to Deena Mitchell or Rosene Beachy, or sign downstairs at the RE Info Spot!

Don't hesitate sign up now for this great opportunity to be a leader or helper!

RE Social Justice

February Soup Sunday coordinated by the Moon Spinners (Jr Youth) raised, \$231 for the SPCA

March Soup Sunday coordinated by the Wind Walker class raised \$202 for the SPCA

YRUU Schedule

April 1—Con Departure, AK Air 4:15a
April 10—Rock Climbing 10:00a-12:00p (4840 Fairbanks St.)
April 17—Bridging (everyone upstairs)
April 17—Coming of Age Variety Show 12:30p-2:30p
April 24—Pump-it-up Sunday (everyone outside) 10a
May 1—TBD
May 8—TBD
May 15—Celebration Sunday/Coming of Age
May 20–22—Camp out!
June 27-July 1—U?U! Rock Camp!
Aug. 13-15—Retreat!

Dad's group every third
Wednesday 7-9.

All the details page 6!

Coming of Age Variety Show and Luscious Lunch

Sun. April 17, 12:30-2:30 p.m. at AUUF. Tickets \$10/person or \$25/family.

Gourmet soups, salads, sides, desserts & beverages. Lots of talent! Unforgettable & unusual acts! Brought to you by AUUF Coming of Age Youth: Tatum Hartlieb, Piper Hartlieb, Emily Larabee, Gretchen Mitchell, Julia Nauheim, Everett Cason, Lucas Devon, Reese Lockard, Nina Moore, and all their mentors! You can purchase tickets from any Coming of Age Youth, or pay at the door. Proceeds benefit the AUUF Coming of Age program. Jokes, magic, songs, juggling & more. Don't miss it! For more information, contact TK Kleiner, 907-317-2799 or email tkkleiner@gmail.com.

Every Monday—Brother Francis Shelter, 6:30p-8:30p. We meet every Monday to help serve dinner at the Brother Francis Shelter. Contact Eric 907 230-6915, if you intend on coming.

Letters of Love—The wonderfully decorated envelopes displayed between the upstairs bathrooms and along the south RE entrance are Letters of Love. Half portion of the donations goes to KIVA loans, a non-profit that offers micro loans to the underprivileged in developing countries. Please give generously.

PNWD MUSICON—Our YRUU group is sending 8 youth (2 bridging seniors!) to Camp Cispus in Gresham, OR. The youth will participate in a 48 hour Utopia with 200 peers and supportive adult staff and sponsors. Most of our fundraising goes to the burden of out of state travel and training.

Rock Climbing—As part of an emphasis on active worship outings, the YRUU is going to go rock climbing on APRIL 10th from 10-12a at 4840 Fairbanks St., hosted by our own state champion rock climber, Logan Antrobus! Paperwork can be downloaded at <http://www.alaskarockgym.com/>

Bridging Service—April 17th our fellowship will honor two of our wonderful seniors, Carson Miller and Jamie Schroyer. They have prepared a wonderful service that ties together all the varied pieces of fabric that make up our church. Please come celebrate, and continue the celebration with the Coming of Age Variety Show afterward!

Pump-It-Up Sunday—Want to save billions of gallons of gas? Be part of a movement to properly inflate your tires! April 24th, as our Green Sanctuary celebrates Earth Day on the inside of the church, our youth will be in the parking lot checking and inflating your tires. The service is optional, and is easy as saying yes when you park. Let's give those depressed tires a pick-me-up!

About our Speakers and Services (see back page)

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

Dwaine Schuldts is a modern day explorer. He has taught outdoor education and has led expeditions to Antarctica, Greenland, and the Canadian Arctic. Dwaine became interested in the Lt. Allen Expedition and undertook the substantial job of getting it reprinted with historical accuracy including many drawings and maps. His current day job is manager of the Dena'ina Center in Anchorage.

Brian Patrick O'Donoghue teaches Journalism at University of Alaska Fairbanks. His 14-year, student-assisted investigation of the Hartman murder case yielded discoveries cited in court decisions, and figured prominently in exoneration arguments made by the Alaska Innocence Project that culminated in a December 2015 settlement freeing the so-called "Fairbanks Four". For these efforts, O'Donoghue has been recognized by the state press association, Fairbanks Native Association, and others. Over a 30-year career spanning print, broadcast and mobile journalism, O'Donoghue reported what it feels like pulling 7Gs in a F-16, building oilfields at 70-below on Arctic Ocean ice, and sweeping Iraq palm groves for weapons with Stryker Brigade soldiers. His news photos document Mid East peace talks, tribal gatherings, disasters, politics and jazz. He was Fulbright-Nehru Scholar in India, and his books, including *My lead Dog was a Lesbian*, recount mushing in both the Iditarod and Yukon Quest. Brian and his wife Kate Ripley have three children.

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.

Aleesha Towns-Bain is Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Rasmuson Foundation. Aleesha has a Bachelor of Arts with concentrations in journalism and Native American studies from The Evergreen State College and a Master of Arts in journalism from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Prior to joining the Foundation in 2008, she was the editor of the Crested Butte News, a Colorado weekly, and was honored several times by the Colorado Press Association. In addition to her work as a journalist, Aleesha worked in public relations in Washington D.C. specializing in Native American issues. Most recently, Aleesha has worked on 'Recover Alaska' and the 'Alaska Children's Trust'. In 2012, she was selected as one of Alaska's Top 40 Under 40. Her mother's side of the family has its roots in Pilot Point, in the Bristol Bay region.

Friendly Recycling Tip: Save colorful comics and use for birthday gift wrap.
Recycling Plastics: April 10, June 12.
Number 5's.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Information

Office phone: 907-248-3737 Email: auuf@gci.net

Website: 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 Phones and Email

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 AUUFCCYP@gmail.com

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

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

AUUF Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and 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 –April 2016

Sunday, April 3

9 am Dwaine Schuldt, "Mapping Alaska: The
Daring 1885 Lt. Allen Expedition"

11 am Gary Holthaus

Sunday, April 10

9 am Aleesha Towns-Bain, "The Rasmuson
Foundation: Past, Present, and Future"

11 am Gary Holthaus

Regular Tuesday Evening Services

7 pm April 5, 12, 26

Sunday, April 17

9 am John McKay, "Come Again? Poetry of
Conviction and Passionate Intensity"

11 am Gary Holthaus

Sunday, April 24

9 am Brian O'Donoghue, "Journalism and Justice:
Following the Fairbanks Four"

11 am Earth Day Service

May 1 Annual Meeting 10 am, breakfast 9

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- April 2016

Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare

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

The LOG

May 2016

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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



Gary Holthaus, Minister

This past month, as I have done every April since I became your called minister, I spent three days at the Archbishop Brunett Retreat Center at The Palisades just south of Seattle. Twice each year, spring and fall, the Pacific Northwest District of the Unitarian Universalist Ministerial Association (UUMA) holds a retreat. I was invited to the first one a bit over four years ago although I had no UU credentials that would entitle me to an invitation. I was invited by Rev. Bruce Davis, who was then the President of the group. Clergy from Washington, Idaho, and Oregon participated. I found them to be very welcoming, open, and collegial to this outsider who might have been seen as an interloper.

The program included many opportunities for everyone to get acquainted and I was invited to participate in all the discussions. Late on the second day of that first retreat, Bruce stopped me and asked if I would be interested in becoming an Associate Member of the UU. He explained that then I would not need a special invitation to attend meetings of the regional group or the larger UUMA. Of course I said yes. He outlined the steps to accomplish that. It would take three or four members of the group to be willing to write letters of support to the national UUMA, a statement of my own to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), transcripts of my college and seminary training, and a curriculum vita. Then it would depend on the UUA to determine if I were a fit person to become an associate minister of the UUA. It would all take several months. Since I was so new I assumed it would be slow going.

But when I agreed, Bruce promptly enlisted Rev. Rick Davis, pastor at Salem, Oregon's UU Church, and a couple of hours later they had arranged a meeting with them and a few others who had agreed to support my application. It's hard to imagine a more open and accepting group, especially on such brief acquaintance. Bruce promptly began to grease the UUA skids for my application, including writing his own letter of support, and before the next retreat I had been accepted by the UUA as an Associate Minister.

Bruce has since retired; Rick has remained active; and both continue to come to our conferences and retreats, and I always greet them filled with gratitude for their help, and for the opportunity they created for me to get to know others, and to participate in the discussions these conferences create for us all to learn something new and get more deeply acquainted in this mutual work we share.

It is a deep reminder that we are not in this alone, that our connections with other UU's in distant places strengthen us all; that folks in Massachusetts create exciting materials for our children and youth, so they may grow in wisdom, sharpen their sense of social justice, and increase their awareness of our participation in the larger world we all must care for. Such gatherings are another reminder that we have a larger role in the world than our congregation, our town, our state; a reminder that if we want colleagues, we have to be colleagues; that we are all in this together. Being minister at AUUF has offered more pleasures and opportunities than I could have imagined thanks to all of you, who make it possible, and to those new colleagues who offer ties that make it real.

See You at the Fellowship, Gary

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Calendar Highlights

Alliance Rummage Sale May 14,
8 am-4pm

Chow and Endow May 15

Gallop Gold Sale May 15

Choir Concert May 22 6pm

May 29 RE is off

RE Summer Sundays – STEAMPunk
June 5 – August 28

UU Campout—May 27-29, Savage
River Campground

You Rock Camp! (June 27-July 1)

May news from the AUUF Board

I know Thanksgiving is in November, but I am too grateful to wait that long. I just spent most of the weekend at the Fellowship and my spirits and faith have been buoyed by the experience.

Friday night and Saturday I joined with forty or so women from the Fellowship for the annual women's retreat. For the first time I can remember, two brave YRUU'ers joined parts of the retreat, and added new threads to the tapestry. I got to end Friday walking with friends, start Saturday morning with yoga, join whole-group activities, do some beading, think about a vision for the next year of my life, sing, laugh, and build connections to new, renewed, and long-time friends. I give thanks to all who organized the retreat, and to all who enriched it with their presence. (To the men of AUUF: you have to try this retreat business...)

It was the perfect background to prepare for the annual meeting on Sunday. We had an ambitious schedule, including the annual budget (adopted), capital campaign planning (endorsed), the Alaska fiscal resolution (passed), polls on the half-portion for social action and the big issues for discussion at the General Assembly (to be tallied), and voting for new Board and Endowment Committee members (elected). We got through it all, and I am proud to be part of an institution where civil discourse is alive and well.

How is that possible in two hours?

- Because Dennis and Don came early to set up breakfast,
- Because Amy and her helpers got materials ready in advance,
- Because Bruce made sure the sanctuary was ready,
- Because the Board brought food,
- Because Lynn, Kalen, and Ruth took care of registration,
- Because Gayle set up the sound in advance and Alix made sure the microphone got to everyone,
- Because Carma held advance informational sessions on the budget,
- Because Frank, Jobe, Doug and the Capital Campaign Committee did the same for the campaign,
- Because Judy, Wray, and the Stewardship Committee led a campaign bringing in our highest pledge total ever,
- Because many did dishes,
- Because the Committee on Shared Ministry and Karen Tschannen crafted the covenant that keeps us aware of our aspirations for working together,
- Because of all who turned out and questioned, discussed, listened, and voted.

I am grateful for Frank Mitchell and Birgit Arroyo were re-elected to the Endowment Committee, and Wray Kinard was newly elected. I appreciate their willingness to lead efforts to build the endowment.

I am excited that Peggy Robinson and Kelly Hartlieb will be joining the Board July 1 bringing great experience from their work inside AUUF and elsewhere.

Lastly I am grateful for Carma Reed and Erik Hill. Carma and Erik have served as Treasurer and Secretary for at least three years. These positions are often the unsung heroes of organizations, but the congregation gave them a standing ovation which shows how much they have given the Fellowship.

Thank you all.

In fellowship, Marty Freeman

Overflowing, A musical Celebration

Presented by AUUF Choir

Sunday May 22 6pm

Donations Accepted to support the Music Program and Minister's Discretionary Fund.
Musical Director, Dr. Tamara McCoy,
Piano Accompanist Marcia Stratman



UUA Congregational Study/Action Issues Poll

At the annual meeting, we handed out a poll on AUUF priorities for nationwide UU study issues. Four issues will be on the agenda at the 2016 General Assembly for consideration as a Congregational Study/Action Issue for the next four years. One issue will be selected at the GA. UUA Advocacy and Witness staff will then prepare a Study/Action Resource Guide for the selected issue and the Commission on Social Witness will hold workshops on the issue at the 2017 and 2018 General Assemblies, and congregations will have an opportunity to submit comments on the issue and study/action guide. In 2019, the Commission on Social Witness will draft a Statement of Conscience for consideration at the GA. If approved by a two-thirds vote at GA, congregations and UUA staff will carry out a year of implementation in 2020.

We would like to provide AUUF delegates to the GA with information on how AUUF would rank the issues under consideration. This does not bind our delegates, who can vote based on their conscience and the GA discussions. However, it will provide them with perspective from our congregation. If you were not able to make the annual meeting, copies of the poll are available on the bulletin board in the social room through **May 15**. The four issues follow:

- **Climate Change and Environmental Justice:** What is the moral response to climate change? How can congregations work in solidarity with the oppressed? The problems of racism, economic injustice, patriarchy, ageism, and ableism continue. We need a vision with a plan for environmental justice. Support human rights, care for the wounded, and defend Mother Earth.
- **A National Conversation on Race:** The blatant racism directed at Pres. Obama, increased killings of unarmed Black men by police officers, persistent racial inequity, and the attacks on the Black Lives Matter Movement show that our country needs a faith community to demonstrate leadership in modeling racial reconciliation through a national conversation on race. We can't wait for someone else to figure out how to recognize and combat racism, or to effect reconciliation. Our denomination and our nation cry out for guidance towards love and compassion. We have much to learn from one another. We have much to teach the world. Let us begin the conversation to bring love and healing to the world. Together we can.
- **Ending Gun Violence in America:** Gun violence in our country is epidemic. There are significant, societal, demographic and racial issues to investigate. Our American gun culture must be addressed. There are no simple answers as the NRA would suggest – we need to listen, learn, and act.
- **The Corruption of Our Democracy:** As corporations use “corporate personhood” and “money as speech” for their interests rather than the people’s needs, can a constitutional amendment be passed to protect us? Could this further Unitarian Universalist work for social and environmental justice and help protect the health and safety of the people and the planet?

Chow & Endow: Lunch-and-Learn About AUUF's *Fund for the Future*

On Sunday, May 15, the AUUF Endowment Committee will host a luncheon in the Fellowship Social Room, beginning at 12:45 p.m.

Join us to learn more about our Endowment.

Discover...

- ... how and why the Endowment got started
- ...how “Planned Giving” fits with Endowment support
- ...examples of ways to include the Endowment in your financial planning
- ...how the Endowment and the Capital Campaign work together
- ...how the Louise Gallop Gold Nugget sale benefits the Endowment (see page 4).

Bring an appetite, and enjoy a light lunch of soup, sandwiches and salads. If you want child care contact Rosene ahead of time. Questions? Contact Endowment Committee Chair John Blaine at 248-3219 or jblaine@arctic.net

Gallop Gold Sales Event May 15

Proceeds from nugget collection to benefit Endowment

Thanks to the generosity of beloved elder Louise Gallop we have seeded our *Fund for our Future*, the AUUF Endowment. The Endowment Committee is now preparing to sell a collection of gold that Louise mined from her claim in the heart of Denali National Park. Proceeds go directly into the Endowment.

On May 15, in conjunction with the Endowment Luncheon, get a first peak at the Gallop Gold collection... nuggets and jewelry-grade pieces. AUUF members and friends also get first pick from a wide range of shapes, sizes and prices to fit every budget.

Cleaning, preparing, and promoting the gold for sale has been a strictly volunteer effort, meaning every penny earned will go into the fund. Special thanks to Paul Wheeler for lending his mining expertise, for cleaning all the gold, weighing it with precision instruments, and photographing pieces for display on a web site.

The Committee plans to organize Nugget sales events during the Whale Coast tours this summer. So be sure to stop by the Gallop Gold Sales Event. Look for a flyer with details on the event times and exact location within the AUUF facility, and for a web address to a virtual display of the Gallop Gold.

Questions about the Gold Sale? Contact Stephenie Wheeler at (907) 382-3327 or email msgmaker@gci.net.

AUUF Local Organizing Ministry of AFACT

By Marie Rozak

AFACT staff, board and volunteer members have been very busy throughout March and April. It's that time of year for many nonprofits; the time for budgeting, reviewing management, and annual meetings. Though stressful in the beginning, the organization has elected additional board members, and restructured administrative responsibilities, offering a positive status report delivered at the April 16 City-Wide Meeting.

That meeting was hosted by AUUF with a packed social room, a sense of community, reports of progress, and culminating with cake, slide show, original music written for the event as well as a ritual closing in the sanctuary to say good-bye to Chelsea Gulling, AFACT's Executive Director. We wish her all the best as she moves on.

Thank you to AUUF members who attended and especially those who came early to help set up the room and/or stayed for clean up. Thank you also to the group who normally rents the room Saturday mornings for cheerfully moving downstairs for this one. AFACT also held a committee meeting before, and one after, in other areas. The place was a little beehive for a few hours.

Another report given at the City-Wide told of a small research committee sent to Juneau April 13th and 14th to speak with legislators and staffers regarding the state budget status. I was fortunate enough to be able to join this group. While there we each also visited our own representative and were introduced at a floor session by Rep. Geran Tarr.

That trip came about after a couple of months of research locally where members met with municipal leaders and agency directors seeking responses as to how budget decisions would affect their departments and the people served by them.

There will be a "next steps" meeting May 28 where AFACT members will discuss what has been learned and whether it will be, or could be, lifted up as an issue for the organization.

Our own Local Organizing Ministry is continuing to meet individuals in the neighborhood and fellowship. One of our members has picked up the Central Emergency Cold Weather Shelter for research. This is one of the Municipality's programs to provide temporary cold weather shelter for homeless families. The LOM will begin supporting this research if so decided at the next meeting to be held May 3, 5:30 at AUUF.

Sharing the Care

If you, or someone you know, is in need of an occasional meal or ride, our Share the Care group is ready to help. All you have to do is contact one of the group's administrators with the details and they'll take it from there. More than 40 people have signed up to receive email notices and to do what they can to make life a little easier during difficult times. For the time being, we're best able to provide meals or transportation but may be able to add other services later. Unfortunately we can't guarantee that every need will be met every time, but we certainly do guarantee that we'll do our very best to get the word out. Please contact Robin Hill (akhills@ak.net); 244.9192), Teresa Zimmer (tzimmer@gci.net; 331.7034) or Amy Lundell in the office with your request.

Membership at AUUF ~ Is the Time Right For You?

By Denise Martin

In April we held a Newcomers' Lunch for those who want to know more about AUUF. Over lunch, we provided information about our Fellowship's many groups and programs, and answered questions. If you missed it, please do come in the future! These luncheons are held at least twice a year.

Part of what took place was an invitation to membership. We want everyone who comes into our community to be invited into formal membership from time to time. Becoming an official member involves basic steps, in no particular order: regular participation and engagement in our services and programs, two evenings with our minister to learn about UU history and belief, and a meeting with a stewardship representative. Signing the membership book creates the formal record of your joining AUUF.

We all know and love this community, and what it has to offer. If AUUF is a place of community for you, where you find spiritual growth, where you engage your mind and heart, where you participate in acts of social justice, and where your children can explore their spiritual beliefs, perhaps you are ready to become an official voting member of our fellowship. If the time is right for you, I invite you to look through a member packet (available in the minister's office), and let us know. Please feel free to contact Gary any time about membership.

the aurora, Young Adults

By Eric McCoy

UU Campout—May 27-29, Savage River Campground. First ever, hopefully forever! Fairbanks and Anchorage and others will meet at Alaska's Wilderness Wonderland. Come for the camping, stay for the fellowship! So I know someone with rafts. Anyone want to go this summer? Eric 907 230-6915. P.S. let's grab a bite sometime!

Whalecoast 2016 is Coming!

June 9-13 "National Park Tour", also July 20-22 "All Alaska Tour"

We have a long tradition of offering hospitality for lower 48 UUs on the WhaleCoast tours. Besides being great fun, this is a money raising event for the Fellowship. Volunteers of all talents and abilities are needed. If you haven't signed up yet please do today.

1. Housing a guest or 2
2. Help with the banquets on Sun. June 12 Thurs. July 22; Kalen Saxton is coordinating.
3. Help with transportation.
4. Other volunteers may be needed as tour details become available.



Sign-up sheets and information can be found in the social room on the bulletin board. Please email me, Denise Martin, at dulcimer.diva@gmail.com to let me know you are available. Call me with questions at 907-345-8787. Thanks so much!

Social Justice Committee

By Dennis Arashiro

"Everyone has a plan till they get punched in the mouth." - Mike Tyson

You've just had the opportunity to select ten recipients of the Half Portion for twelve upcoming months. Why ten and not twelve? Because the future can punch us in the mouth. The Social Justice Committee will leave two months open for whatever the future brings--natural disasters, social upheavals, economic shocks, and individual pleas for help. It's happened before. When the Minister's Discretionary Fund was so depleted that Gary feared turning away people in dire need, the Fund had to become a Half Portion recipient for that month. The UUSC/UUA Ebola Emergency Relief Fund had to become a Half Portion recipient to meet that crisis. When South Sudan Medical Relief struggled to operate under war conditions, it received timely contributions from both the Half Portion and the Minister's Discretionary Fund.

In the months to come there may be more punches in the mouth. We could use all our voices to bring awareness when they happen. Please join us when the Social Justice Committee meets at **12:30 PM on Sunday, May 15, 2016, in Gary's office** to give us what we need to think and act effectively. If you cannot attend, you can share what you know, what you think, and what you feel by calling or emailing me. Dennis Arashiro at 444-4324 and elvischannel@yahoo.com.

Half Portions for Social Action: Identity Inc.

By Dennis Arashiro

"All young people, regardless of sexual orientation or identity, deserve a safe and supportive environment in which to achieve their full potential." - Harvey Milk

The greatest challenge in emerging from childhood into adulthood is the struggle with the sense of identity. How much greater is this challenge for LGBTQ youth? Four in 10 say their community is not accepting of them. They are twice as likely as their peers to report being physically assaulted at school. More than a quarter of them say that their biggest problems are rejection by family, bullying in school, and fear of being out or open. They are overrepresented in foster care, juvenile detention, and homelessness. They are many times more likely to attempt suicide than their straight peers.

Identity, Inc., is there for LGBTQ youth. Through its Q-Clubs in Anchorage and in the Valley, it provides that supportive environment they need. Identity is there through its GSA Council, which works with Gay-Straight Alliances and Diversity Clubs in our schools. Identity is there through Translution, a social and educational support group for teens who are transgender or working through gender identity issues. Identity is there through Pride Prom, Pride Festival, and Youth Leadership Summits. For its work with youth and all its other endeavors to build a welcoming community, Identity, Inc., is named the recipient of the 2016 May Half Portion for Social Action.

Donate to KSKA

By Rod McCoy

I suggest you donate to KSKA and you make all or part of that donation through AUUF. We use the KSKA funding to buy air time at a nonprofit rate to advertise special events at AIUF that are of particular interest to the greater Anchorage Community.

Write a check to the fellowship with "KSKA Fund" in the subject line. Or go to the AUUF web page to donate by credit card: click the set of blue lines, scroll down to giving, click the V or down arrow beside giving. Then below donate click on Vanco Services, LLC. There is a KSKA Fund among the choices.

Every dime donated to AUUF in this way goes to KSKA. Since all funds used go to KSKA, this donation is separate from your pledge accounting. Thanks for supporting KSKA and AUUF.

Hungry Book Club News: New Location

by Shirley Dickens

The Hungry Book Club met Tuesday, April 12th at Shirley Dickens home (seven of us) to discuss the very interesting book The Kashmir Shawl by Nancy Roberts. All of us liked it (with minor exceptions) and the discussion was lively. We have chosen a very different book for May 10th meeting, The Swerve, How the World became Modern, a scholarly book, very carefully researched, by Stephen Greenblatt. Title Wave gets it, the Library has it and Barnes and Noble will have it too. Also Amazon.com. This book is a Pulitzer Prize winner, published in 2011.

We can no longer meet at the Pioneer home but plan to meet near there at the condos at 9th and M streets. There is a meeting room on the second floor and two of our members live in this large building. Parking may be a bit of a problem (street parking and requiring meters unless you park on the south side of the Park Strip on 10th and walk a bit, so carpooling might be a good idea.)

We are an open book club and all are welcome who love good books. Call 563-4499 if you need more instructions about how to get there. It is a locked building and one of our hostesses would need to let you in.



Grounds Team

It's time to get dirty and be busy. The team has been meeting and making plans for spring, and now spring is here. Interested? Contact us:

Sid Atwood, 440-9183 and Sharon Cissna, 244-0522



Community Group, **Upright Noble Zen**, meets Sundays 5pm (except May 22) in the gathering room with Zen teacher Dana Kojun Lederhos. The program includes mostly seated meditation and instruction appropriate to whoever is present on a given night. Church members and newcomers are always welcome. Meditation cushions and chairs are provided. Learn more at uprightnoble.wordpress.com or email anchorage meditation@gmail.com.

Alliance

by Shirley Dickens, Chair of the Alliance

Our recent meeting was mainly filled with plans for the annual rummage sale, coming up May 14th (Saturday all day, 8 to 4 PM). We have a lot of stuff already from people's moves, cleaning out homes of someone who has passed on. etc. BUT we can still use Good Stuff. Bring us things after Sunday May 8th and especially Thursday, May 12th and Friday May 13th. **We will start setting up Friday afternoon at 2 PM.** We especially need strong legs and shoulders to carry in LOTS of boxes and packages from cars to set up. Please don't bring tires, electronics, clothing that should go into a ragbag and not a sale. Small kitchen items do well, books not so much, children's clothing is always popular and children's toys do well too. There will be ads in the newspaper and on Craig's List,

We are asking with a special plea, **come help us at the set up and then again at the clean-up at the end of Saturday 4 pm** when we need to get rid of everything, either by storing it, giving it to thrift shops, etc. So if you have an extra hour or two come help us with the hard stuff, especially cleaning up so all is back to normal Sunday morning. Thank you so much for your stuff and your time and energy.

Friendly Recycling Tip: When buying plants check out different kinds of pots used. Can you buy them in pots you will reuse? Can you return them right away so that they might use them again? Are they 5s that can go to recycling? Can you store until fall and take part in city wide effort to collect and reuse gardening pots? It is more efficient to re-use than recycle.

Recycling Plastics: June 12. Number 5's.

Two Mindful Journeys in 2017, for UUs & their friends

Peru: Join us March 25-April 5, 2017.

Portugal/ Spain, May 14-24, 2017

Journeys led by UU minister, Wayne Walder, Toronto, Canada, www.nuuc.ca To receive a detailed itinerary for either journey, please email Beverlz@me.com to learn more about Mindful Journeys go to <http://nuuc.ca/spiritual-growth/spiritual-practice/mindful-journeys/>

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Grateful for the life of AUUF member, Debbie Cahoon, who died in hospital March 30th or March 31st (late in the night) with her California daughter, Bonnie, at her bedside. She had a gentle passing and our congregation joined the Pioneer residents and Bonnie in a simple "celebration of her life" at the Pioneer Home Sunday, April 3rd. Debbie found AUUF 20 years ago and jumped in with volunteering for several things, including Social Justice committee, The Hungry Book Club and the Alliance. She had a very gentle spirit and worked hard for our 7 Principles. I personally will miss her very much.

Congratulations are due to Kameron Perez-Verdia, a member of AUUF and also one of Anchorage's hardworking school board members, who was just selected to be the director of The Alaska Humanities Forum. This is quite an important position, which I feel confident he will do very well. We are proud of you, Kameron and hope you enjoy this prestigious job.

Hurrah for the wonderful Sunday services April 17th for both the Bridging Ceremony for our two "Bridging people" to young adult status, a very moving and emotional ceremony. Welcome Jamie Schroyer (daughter of Mindy Willis) and Carson Miller to adult status. We wish you wonderful lives. Then the soup luncheon joined the Coming of Age group for a smashing luncheon and Variety show, enjoyed by about 80 of us for a delightful afternoon of laughs, entertainment and nostalgia. The nine mentors and mentees really pulled out all the stops at home grown entertainment. We have to have one of the top Religious Education departments in the UU world, thanks to Rosene Beachy and all our volunteer teachers and advisors. I am so thankful we moved when we did, the heart of our congregation has so much ROOM now and we are continuing to grow.

Loss is loss, whether it's a big loss or a small loss. Sympathy to Marie Lundstrom on the loss of her 20 year old beloved cat, who (in mercy) had to be put down recently. Some marriages don't last that long. Pets count in my book. Rest in your many memories of the comfort that dear cat brought to you, Marie. Xena Warrior Kitty, rest in peace.

So grateful for the wonderful Seder that Debbie Bock and husband Mark Erickson hosted for about 40 of our congregation (including at least 6 kids) Saturday evening April 23rd. For several years Debbie (Jewish) and Mark (Presbyterian) who raised their two boys in this UU Fellowship, have made sure we hear the wonderful story about the Jewish Passover. A story for all ages, great potluck food and all the traditions that go into a Seder program were in evidence that night. Part myth, part beloved story, it's an exciting tale and it's good to honor it along with our Jewish brothers and sisters. Thank you Debbie and Mark.

Enjoy the warmer days, get outside all you can, appreciate the new delicate green seen everywhere now. Soon, flowers and time to garden. Be Well, everyone.

May Birthdays, Best Wishes!

Birthdays are not published in our online version.

Fred Meyer Rewards Card: *Our last check from Fred Meyer was \$100, 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).*

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 an updated pledge form in the secure pledge box.)

~~ Amy, Church Administrator 248-3737

auuf@alaska.com.

Choir Schedule

Thursday, May 5th 7:00-8:30pm

Sunday, May 8th: 9:45-10:30am

Thursday, May 12th 7:00-8:30pm

Sunday, May 15th: 9:45-10:30am

Thursday, May 19th 7:00-8:30pm

Saturday, May 21st 10:00am-12:00pm (Dress Rehearsal)

Sunday, May 22nd: 5:00pm call (Concert)

Russell Lockwood Leadership School

Do you want to deepen your religious leadership skills? Whether you're interested in social action or stewardship, worship or Web outreach, Russell Lockwood Leadership School is for you.

*July 23 - 29, Rancho Palos Verdes (southern California). *See more at www.uua.org/pacific-western/leadership-school. *Questions? Ask Diane Larson, administrative dean, at rls@uua.org.

R.E. Notes for May 2016

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Our Program

9:00 Service – Kid's and Toddler Childcare available

Early Birds in the teen room for 7th – 12th grade,
Topics of Teen interest

11:00 Service - Workshop Rotational for K-5

May 1 Activities 10-11 am, Workshop Rotational on Wonder
11 - 12 during the Annual meeting

May 8, and 22 –Workshop Rotational program theme on
Wonder

May 15 – Celebration Sunday - Multigenerational Service,
Join us for this very special Sunday.

Celebration Sunday – RE and Teacher recognition, Coming of Age
Recognition – find out what happens in this program, Flower
Communion! **Flower Communion** is a wonderful UU tradition.
Each individual/family brings flowers to share. They are placed in
vases or baskets upon arrival. During the service, there will be a
ritual exchange of flowers, sharing the beauty of spring, and
recognizing the individuality of each member of our wonderful
community. **Pease bring flowers to share!!**

May 29 Memorial Day weekend. **No RE**

Children & Youth Religious Exploration Committee

The CYRE Committee would like to give a great big **SHOUT OUT** to all the teachers, helpers and volunteers who
have helped out this year. We really couldn't have done it without you. Thank you!!

The Committee is excited to be planning for a new RE Year, 2016-2017.

Volunteer as a class leader for next year 2016-17!

We would love for volunteers to sign up before we all run off on our summer adventures!!

This is a large cooperative volunteer program and *we expect participation from all families in some way!* If you
have children in the program and have never volunteered, this would be a great year to begin!

Even If you don't have children in the program, we value your participation! It's a great way to keep in touch
with "kids these days"; participate in one of AUUF's great goals – encouraging and mentoring the spiritual
development of children and youth along life's journey.

These are the needs that you can help fill:

CYRE TEAM - We also need 4 new enthusiastic participants for the CYRE team to plan and carry out our
exciting Religious Exploration vision. What would you like to see happening in our Religious Exploration
program? If you like to help organize events, have ideas you would like to see implemented or changed in the
program and can't commit to classroom teaching – **Being on the CYRE team** will be the right spot for you! Join
the committee to let your voice be heard and help create wonderful programs

Sunday morning Classroom teacher – Yes - YOU Can Teach! Participate on a team of folks for our Fall/Winter
classes with a focus in '16-'17 on World Religions. We will be using some wonderful UU. curriculums. Winter
will bring Hogwarts School of Wisdom and Wizardry and Spring will return to class/teacher groupings with
Workshop Rotational themes and activities.

We will need many enthusiastic, dedicated and flexible volunteers, parents, young adults, and elders to carry
out the Vision & Mission of our Religious Exploration program. You don't have to be an expert! Team teaching
is how we enable everyone; opportunity to participate in the upstairs services about half the Sundays, and still
be involved in the fun downstairs. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn along with the kids! Sign Up to help
out!

Register Now –AUUF Summer Camp!!!

Carve out a week for your K-6th grader to
participate in our first ever AUUF summer
camp. During the week of **July 11– 15**, this
year's "Peace Camp" will be full of UU
summer fun with friends, exploring peace
ideas through movement, song, theater,
games and more!

Sign up list and registration forms at the
Parent Info Spot downstairs. Feel free to
contact Rosene (rbeachy@alaskalife.net)
for details. *July 11-15, 9am – 4:30.*

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

*Cost will be \$100 for 1st child, \$75 for 2nd,
and \$50 for 3rd for AUUF Members and
Friends. Others \$150.*

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

Leaders still needed for our summer program **"STEAM punk Sundays"**.

Volunteer to turn your Ideas into experiences for a lively and creative UU hour! Honoring our 5th UU source, Science and Reason, we invite you to lead our children and youth through an exploration of ideas, to challenge them to shape our world for the better, and to help prepare our youngsters to participate in the 22nd century. STEAM punk, stands for: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math, Music, and Movement!

Dates are flexible – pick your date and your area of interest!! We have lots of ideas for activities, check with Rosene about possibilities if you are stuck!

Please register your children and youth for next year's program.

Registration and volunteer forms will be available in the Social room every Sunday in May, downstairs at the RE info Spot, at our AUUF website

YRUU Schedule

May 6-8 Rites of Passage Retreat Camp Birchwood

May 8—TBD

May 15—Celebration Sunday/Coming of Age

May 20–22—End of Year Retreat, Big Lake

May 27-29 – All Alaska UU Campout Denali National Park – Savage River Campground

June 27-July 1—U?U! Rock Camp!

July 17- 23 Goldmine

Aug. 13-15—Retreat!

Every Monday—Brother Francis Shelter, 6:30p-8:30p. We meet every Monday to help serve dinner at the Brother Francis Shelter. Contact Eric 907 230-6915, if you intend on coming.

All Alaska UU Campout – First ever, hopefully forever! Fairbanks and Anchorage will meet at Alaska's Wilderness Mecca. Come for the camping, stay for the fellowship!

- Eric 907.230.6915

Adult Programs

ONGOING GROUPS

Freethinkers At AUUF— Gathers Fridays at noon downstairs in room 4 at the fellowship. Meets from noon – 1:30. Contact George Bryson – gfbryson@gmail.com for more information

Auuf Buddhist Group – 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 7-9 pm at the home of Marty Herriot. A study group about Buddhism using some but not all the small groups techniques. Call Marty for directions. 245-1461

Small Group Ministry – Connect to UU's on a deeper level. Small groups are a group of people who commit to meeting weekly or biweekly for a semester to discuss themes chosen by the group using a "Small Group" format. Organized by Susan Orlansky Call Susan, 248-1141 if you would like to participate in a group.

Hungry Book Club – meets monthly, Shirley Dickens, convener. Meets the 2nd Tuesday afternoon at 2 pm for snacks and discussion. Everyone is welcome. (See page 7).

AFACT/AUUF - The AUUF Local Organizing Ministry meets twice monthly at the Fellowship for training and discussion. For more information please contact Marie Rozak.

the aurora –young adult group. Contact Eric McCoy for information.

Dad's Group – Discussions about 'What is a Father?' 3rd Wednesday every month, 7-9 pm. More info contact Jason Walsh 98-2218.

About our Speakers and Services (see back page)

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

Caitlin Hedberg has served as a development officer for Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and the Hawaiian Islands (PPGNHI) for over five years. During that time, she is perhaps most proud of the way that PPGNHI has innovated to serve rural Alaskans with the Planned Parenthood Care app, which connects Alaskans everywhere with direct access to clinicians to provide birth control and other critical reproductive services. She holds a M.A. from the University of Denver in International Administration, and a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Colorado at Denver. Caitlin speaks Spanish fluently and enjoys traveling and exploring the world, especially nature. She lives in Anchorage with her partner, Chris, and her 10 month old pup, Carlo.

Dr. Stephen Haycox is professor emeritus at the University of Alaska Anchorage. He earned a BA (summa cum laude at Seattle University), an MA and a PhD (University of Oregon) in History. His honors include the Distinguished Teaching Award from the UAA Alumni Association in 1989, the Edith R. Bullock Prize for Excellence from the University of Alaska in 2002, and the Alaska Governor's Humanities Award in 2003. The Alaska Historical Society recognized him as Alaska Historian of the Year in 2003. He regularly contributes commentary for the Alaska Dispatch News, as he did previously for the Anchorage Daily News.

Dr. Tina Tomsen was a military brat, graduated from Dimond High School, went to Rice University, the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, then did 2 years at Dartmouth and 3 more at Baylor College of Medicine for residency. She returned to Anchorage in 1986 and was in solo practice from 1986 - 1995, at which time she became one of the founding partners of the Anchorage Women's Clinic. She is now the last practicing founding partner at AWC, which has grown to employ about 70 souls. Tina has limited her practice to (benign) gynecology since 1992, added robotic surgery to her skillset in 2009, and most recently ceased doing major surgeries to have time for more administrative duties while continuing office practice and minor surgeries. She has "too many hobbies, and has developed plenty of opinions.... but that makes for a good life."

Ron Green CDCS, has over 26 years' experience working in the field of addiction; the past 14 years he has worked for Narcotic Drug Treatment Center, Inc. as the Center for Drug Problems Clinical Director. He supports medicated assisted treatment and is a certified methadone advocate. He is an advocate for Alaskans in recovery as President of Meeting the Challenge. Mr. Greene educates Alaskans in recovery on how to advocate for substance abuse treatment in Alaska and demonstrate how treatment has saved their lives. Ron Greene is President of the Alaska Addiction Professionals Association and devotes many hours assisting individuals with the process of recovery. Ron is a person in long term recovery and will celebrate 28 years of continued sobriety on June 15, 2016.

Community Group, **Fireweed Sangha of Mindful Living** Meets in the downstairs gathering room on Monday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. a community of lay people who practice Buddhism according to the teachings of Zen teacher Thich Nhat Hanh. Practice sessions last an hour and a half. A period of silent meditation followed by a short check-in from each member. Walking meditation and perhaps some singing, followed by a Dharma reading, discussion and another silent meditation. All are welcome.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Information

Office phone: 907-248-3737 Email: auuf@gci.net

Website: 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 Phones and Email

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, Church Administrator, 248-3737 x 3 or auuf@gci.net

AUUF Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and Other Contacts are available on our Website

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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AUUF SERVICES –May 2016

Sunday, May 8

9 am Caitlin Hedberg and Dr. Tina Tomsen,
"Planned Parenthood Under Fire"
11 am Gary Holthaus, "A Mother's Day Tribute"

Sunday, May 15

9 am Steve Haycox, "Sanders, Trump, and Populism
in America"
11 am Celebration Sunday and COA

Sunday, May 22

9 am Ron Greene, "Alaska's Prescription Opiate and
Heroin Epidemic"
11 am Gary Holthaus

Sunday, May 29

9 am Gary Holthaus, "A Tale of Two Veterans"
11 am Panel, Veterans

Regular Tuesday Evening Services

7 pm May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- May 2016

Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare

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

The LOG

June 2016

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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



Gary Holthaus, Minister

The good news is that our Human Resources Committee has been interviewing candidates for a Congregational Involvement Coordinator (formerly called a Volunteer Coordinator). They enthusiastically chose a candidate to meet with the staff, and the staff endorsed her candidacy with equal enthusiasm. We are now doing the usual tasks: background check, calling references, preparing an offer, and nailing down the stipulations for a contract. As soon as these things are completed the new person can begin getting acquainted, attending services, working 45 hours per month to assist visitors and new comers to find their way into participation in our fellowship that will engage their interests.

I am grateful to the HR Committee for the good work they are doing for us, making sure the necessary paperwork gets done and that we are in compliance with state and federal regulations. Such tasks often feel a bit like drudgery, but they are necessary to make sure that we are treating all employees fairly. What lets the committee avoid real drudgery is simply the good will and good spirit that the committee members bring to their work. This is true of our other committees also.

Another committee meeting is rarely, if ever, looked at with a welcoming smile, but AUUF seems more and more like a place where that happens. That's one of the things that makes working here a pleasure. We accomplish worthwhile tasks, and usually have a good time doing them.

As we head into the summer we have a full calendar of services and programs, don't be a stranger.

See You at the Fellowship, Gary

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Democracy works!

By Amy Westfall and Kalen Saxton

This year the social justice committee involved the fellowship in choosing recipients for the half portion of Sunday's giving baskets. Out of 50 organizations supported over the past six years, 20 organizations were chosen to put to vote-expecting to take the top 10 as those supported through half portion donations over the next year. Below are the top organizations that YOU chose to support this year. Thank you for all of your support, and input into this new process. We had a whopping **81 votes** for this first time! If you would like to nominate an organization or cause for next year, please visit the website at <http://www.anchorageuuf.org/> for the nomination form or ask a member of the Social Justice Committee. *Note: There are 11 here to account for adjustments that may need to happen throughout the year.*

AUUF Minister's Discretionary Fund, Food Bank of Alaska,

Project Homeless Connect, Standing Together Against Rape (STAR),

Alaska Literacy Project, National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI), Brother Francis Shelter, Hospice of Anchorage, Children's Lunchbox (program of Bean's Café), Alaska Innocence Project, Planned Parenthood

Calendar Highlights

RE Summer Sundays – STEAMPunk
June 5 – August 28

June 7 Pilot Presentation

June 12 Plastics Recycling

June 11-13 Whalecoast first tour

June 12 Whalecoast Welcome
dinner

June 18th AFACT City Wide at AUUF

June 22-26 General Assembly (OH)

Peace Camp July 11-15

June news from the AUUF Board

In spring, the Board's work focuses on the budget. Now that the budget has been approved by the congregation, we are diving back into ongoing work with finance policies, committee charters, and planning for the coming year.

One of the new sections in the finance policies calls for a Program Council to take an important role in laying the foundation for future budgets. Program councils exist in many UU churches. Our council will consist of the chairs of the committees and ministry teams throughout the Fellowship. Collectively, these leaders will help identify initiatives and priorities for future years, exchange information on the work of the different groups, and find ways to help strengthen each other's work. As my older brother puts it, "It's a place where good ideas go to become better ideas." We'll keep you posted as our Program Council gets going.

In June, I'm looking forward to one of the privileges of being AUUF president – making the annual PILOT presentation to the Anchorage Assembly. PILOT – our Payment in Lieu of Taxes – is a voluntary contribution to the Municipality of Anchorage. The PILOT contribution tangibly demonstrates the 5th principle (the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large) and our support for separation of church and state. It is a recognition that we, too, benefit from the social, educational, and public safety services provided by the city. We will make the presentation at the Assembly chambers in the Loussac Library on June 7 – we will be heard sometime between 6:00 and 6:30. Come to the presentation, stand with us, and show our pride in being a contributing part of the Anchorage community.

In Fellowship, Marty

Gallop Gold Sales Continue Online, at Events

Have a special occasion coming up? Consider purchasing a gold nugget (or two) from the Louise Gallop Gold Nugget collection. Gold ranges in size and shape, from a quarter-inch flat piece weighing a half gram, to a one-inch nugget weighing 5-6 grams. Prices range from just \$20 to \$400 or so. These make great gifts and excellent additions to special art or jewelry projects.

On May 15, the Endowment Committee introduced the fellowship to the gold nuggets that beloved elder Louise Gallop mined from her claim in the heart of Denali National Park, and subsequently bequeathed to AUUF in her will. Every cent earned from the sale of these nuggets goes into the AUUF Endowment Fund, which will benefit the fellowship long into the future.

More than a dozen nuggets were sold during the sales event on May 15. There are well over 100 left choose from. Get a close look at the nuggets at a web site built to showcase the gold and tell Louise Gallop's story. Visit <http://auufwebbuilders.wix.com/gallop-gold> to browse the nugget collection, categorized by size, and read about Louise and the gold she mined along Friday Creek in the famed Kantishna Mining District. Nuggets may be purchased online – follow the instructions.

The Committee will offer Nugget sales events during the Whale Coast tours this summer. Mark your calendar for Sunday morning, June 12. Questions? Stephenie Wheeler (907.382.3327, msgmaker@gci.net); or Paul Wheeler at (907. 632.1913, pwheeler@gci.net).

Sharing the Care

If you, or someone you know, is in need of an occasional meal or ride, our Share the Care group is ready to help. All you have to do is contact one of the group's administrators with the details and they'll take it from there. More than 40 people have signed up to receive email notices and to do what they can to make life a little easier during difficult times. For the time being, we're best able to provide meals or transportation but may be able to add other services later. Unfortunately we can't guarantee that every need will be met every time, but we certainly do guarantee that we'll do our very best to get the word out. Please contact Robin Hill (akhills@ak.net; 244.9192), Teresa Zimmer (tzimmer@gci.net; 331.7034) or Amy Lundell in the office with your request.

Social Justice Committee

By Dennis Arashiro

"Democracy is too good to share with just anybody." - Nigel Rees

When the Social Justice Committee chose to open up the selection process on the Half Portion for Social Action, we had to decide who should be allowed to vote--just anybody? Obviously not! But where do we draw the line? We could have limited voting to just members of the Fellowship. We could have limited voting to just members and friends of the Fellowship. We chose to involve anybody who attended our services--any member, friend, or visitor engaged in the passing of the baskets. Since we were deciding what happens to the contributions to our baskets, anybody contributing deserved a voice on where those dollars should go. Too inclusive? Not inclusive enough? Let us know what you think.

Join us in discussing our democratizing process in Half Portion selection when we meet at **12:30 PM on Sunday, June 19, 2016, at Gary's office at the Fellowship.** What lessons can we draw from our first voting experience? What should we do next year? If you cannot attend, please share your thoughts, questions, and proposals by calling or emailing me. Dennis Arashiro at 444-4324 or elvischannel@yahoo.com. (*see more page 1*)

Half Portion for Social Action: Friends of Alaska CASA

By Salley Werner, President Board of Directors Friends of Alaska CASA

In 1987, the AK Legislature established the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program under the Office of Public Advocacy. The program trains and supports community volunteers who advocate for abused and neglected children who come into state custody. As CASA volunteers, we work with a Guardian ad Litem (GAL) on one case and work to get to know the child(ren) well so we can make recommendations to the court about what is best for the child. While Social Workers advocate for the state, and Public Defenders represent the parents, the GAL and CASA speak directly to what is the best long-term outcome for the child. The program which started in Anchorage, now has programs in Juneau, Fairbanks, MatSu Valley, YK Delta, and Kenai. The Kenai and YK Delta programs are run jointly with local Tribal CASA programs.

In 1991, the non-profit CASAs for Children was started to raise money to support foster children. Over 25 years, the name has changed to Friends of Alaska CASA, and the mission has expanded to also support CASA volunteers and, as state funds have been reduced, the needs of the programs and staff. We provide money for foster children to go to camp and for activities they might otherwise not get to do (visit the zoo or museum, attend movies or plays, take music lessons or play sports, to name a few). We supply funding to support training, recognize volunteers, and provide activities for volunteers spending time with the children they represent. Most recently we have begun to support training of CASA staff as state funding has been eliminated. All FAC work is done by volunteers; we have no paid positions.

While there are CASA volunteers for less than 25% of all children in state custody here in Alaska, all of us - CASA staff, volunteers, FAC Board members, and our supporters - are all dedicated to continuing our work to do what we can to provide for improved outcomes for abused and neglected children and youth. The Half-Portion Contribution will help us to continue to support foster children, and to ensure that the CASA programs stay strong and healthy as they train and support our volunteers who advocate for the abused and neglected children of Alaska.

Hungry Book Club News: New Location

Tuesday, May 10th found nine book lovers at Mary Kulawik's condo at the corner of 9th and M Street for the first time and it was surprisingly easy to find a parking place. We had a lively discussion about The Swerve, our book for May. We have chosen a "lighter" read for June, a murder mystery by a very talented Canadian writer, Louise Penny. We are reading the first of the Chief Inspector Armand Gamache novels called Still Life. It's in paperback and there are about 10 in the series. Louise Penny started out as a newspaper correspondent in Montreal and covered crime stories. We will meet again at the condo's at 9th and M and try their smaller meeting room on the second floor this next time. All are welcome. Join us, bring a semi healthy snack to share. Shirley 563-4499.



Whalecoast Guests at AUUF Sunday, June 12

The June Whalecoast Tour guests will be making Anchorage their first destination, and unlike previous tours, they will be attending our 11:00 Sunday morning service on June 12. This is an opportunity to mix and mingle with other UUs, so plan to wear your name tag and a big smile and help make a great first impression! Here is the day's plan: All of our 42 Whalecoast guests will be coming to AUUF for an orientation/briefing with the tour director. This orientation will start around 8:00 in one of the gathering rooms downstairs, and will take at least a couple of hours. We hope to offer and present gold sales afterward, and then the guests will all attend the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Afterward, guests will be transported by our volunteers to the Native Heritage Center for the afternoon, and be returned again later around 5:00 for a banquet in our sanctuary.

Big Thanks To All The Whalecoast Hosts And Volunteers: Jane Gray, Susan Orlansky, Jackie Cason, Carolyn Gove, Yolanda Meza, Doreen Ransom, Peggy Coby, Judy Engh, Irene O'Brien, Stacey Mansifeld, Gwen Perry-Crawford, Carol Harris, Heather Flynn, Ingrid Larson, Koala Vandruff, James Dryden, Helen Dangle, Elayne Hunter, Peggy Robinson, Carma Reed, Shirley Dickens, Amy Westfall. Big thanks also to Kalen Saxton for organizing the banquet!

Besides being great fun, this is a fundraiser for AUUF. So thank these volunteers for getting involved. Contact Denise Martin if you have questions: 345-8787.



Grounds Team Update

What's up in the front yard? Emily Becker, 5th-6th Grade teacher at Airport Heights Elementary offered

three raised beds the students can't use this summer because of the construction at the school. Students walked over from the school and unloaded the beds, placed cardboard to keep the grass out, emptied nine large sacks of leaves donated by a neighborhood gardener, soaked the leaves with water, and added their compost rich soil.

Playground: A green toddler swing has been added to the climber/ swing set. A 3'x4' covered sand box has been placed within the 7'x9' frame of a former sand box. It has been filled with 200 pounds of washed sand. It is primarily an activity for toddlers and preschool children. Children are encouraged to sit outside the sand box, and to keep the sand in the sand box. Patterns of use will be observed so we can plan for a larger sand box next year. Toddler swing donated by Sid Atwood, swing hardware donated by James Dryden, sand box donated by Kalen Saxton.

Tree: Sid Atwood, Bruce Roberts and David Wolfe removed the Cottonwood tree whose roots were disturbing the foundation. Natasha Graham and many others have begun to add plants to the east side of the building and the raised beds.

The Alliance completes Garage Sale!

by Shirley Dickens, Chair of the Alliance

The Alliance met May 8th to mainly discuss upcoming garage sale on May 14th. We also welcomed another new member, Carol Harris. Lots of activities around setting up for big sale. Men and trucks enlisted to help with two garages stuffed full of boxes that have been stored for months for this upcoming sale. Thank you Gwen for being willing to take our really good women's clothing to an agency who will give them to women seeking employment. Thank you Marjorie Carter for getting Sam Cason (Ron Devon was willing to help) with loading and bringing stuff from her garage and Joanne Anderson's garage. Thank you Free Thinkers group who set up our tables Friday afternoon in the social room. Thank you George Baker who helped wherever he could. Thank you Bruce for getting out our signs and clothing racks (in storage). Thank you to the host of people who actually helped set up, arrange, sell, help customers find things, set up the Boutique, etc. Thank you all who loaded stuff to take to Value Village for our leftovers. It took all of us to get it together, sell things, pack up and disperse leftovers and get the Fellowship back to looking like it is supposed to for Sunday morning. We are happy to announce that we cleared \$1,200, the best we have done in several years. Thank you one and all. We have stored lots of Christmas-y things for our November Christmas sale. We did it! Hip, Hip, Hurrah!

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Grateful that I belong to a caring and supportive congregation that does what it can to make our lives a little better whether that means rides to and fro or meals when needed or a friendly face to get out and about with others. Thank you to the group that are part of "Share the Care of Sherri", who are making such a difference in the quality of Sherri's life, I think started by Denise Martin but now has several people deeply committed to Sherri's well-being and happiness. Then there is the group started by Teresa Zimmer who try to get meals to new parents, those who are sick or house-bound and has a handful of faithful people who help when they can. Helen Peters just completed the course for nurses to help their congregations with health needs (we used to call them Parish nurses) in the past, now known as Faith Community Nurses Networking. This is a Sister's of Providence sponsored course, helping nurses, mostly thru their Faith communities help with health issues or information. It does take a village to care for each other.

Then we have the wonderful "Pastoral Care Committee" chaired by Mary Ann Eininger who do many good things for the health of our beloved community. Thank you each and every one who jumps in to make a difference in the quality of our lives.

What a wonderful "democracy in action" annual meeting we had this year. We do appreciate all who serve on our Board. It often isn't easy and difficult decisions need to be made but it is a great service to us all to be a board member. Thank you one and all.

What a special Coming of Age Ceremony and Flower Communion we had May 15th as AUUF winds up the formal Religious Program for our children and youth for this church year. Of course we will have a lot of special summer programs (something each Sunday) until our formal programs begin at the end of August. It was very special and the Coming of Age youth have hung their posters telling about their experiences in the Sanctuary. Be sure to check them out,

Thanks to ALL the people involved in our RE downstairs, many teachers sharing classes, an excellent CYRE committee overseeing and advising. Rosene Beachy is so wonderful with the children and their parents and the teachers and our entire congregation. What a blessing she is!

For those of us who fondly remember Rev. Richard (Dick) Gay and want to keep in touch with him, he is still in Washington State with his daughter Sherry and her family. He turned 96 on May 23rd and would appreciate a birthday message (even though it will be "belated" by the time you get this information in your LOG). He is sharing an email with his daughter and can be reached at sherry-ellis@comcast.net, or Dick Gay 5581 SeaVue Rd; Blaine WA 98230. Be Well Dick, we miss you, hope all goes well with you, keep in touch with AUUF. Love and support from Alaska.

Enjoy the warmer weather, decorate your decks, yards, plant those seeds and wear your sunscreen. Summer is almost upon us. Be well, dear people.

June Birthdays, Best Wishes!

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

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!

Friendly Recycling Tip: Repot your plants in those larger pots you saved from last summer.

Recycling Plastics: June 12. Number 5's.

R.E. Notes for June 2016

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Celebration Sunday was a lovely service in spite of the lovely weather drawing many of our families out of doors. The Coming of Age group gave inspiring and thoughtful reflections of the year in their CREDO speeches. And we had a record number for sharing the Flower Communion. Thanks to all who shared their flowers! We had quite a few volunteers participating in RE this year! Please tell them thank you in person when you see any of these dedicated folks. And if you were a teacher who wasn't at Celebration Sunday, please see Rosene or Annie Belts for your AUUF Keychain – because YOU are the key to continuing a wonderful RE program at AUUF.

Thank You 2015-16 Teachers

Water Skippers (1-2 yr olds) Kalen Saxton, Michelle Wasson, Dennis Arashiro, Marie Hildebrandt

Wind Walkers (3-4 yr olds) Frank Mitchell, Cady Lynn Jenkins, Bonnie Moore

Sun Catchers (K - 1st grade) Lauren Rench, Paula Dobbyn, Nadene Reichert

Fire Keepers (2) Kristen Nygren, Erika Bennett, Trish Meissner

Planet Keepers (3rd) Laura Krip, Sheila Menck, Martha Amore

STAR GAZERS – (4th & 5th) Michal Bernier, Abigail Keene, Terry Antrobus

JR YOUTH - Moon Spinners (6, 7 & 8th) Ron Devon, Helen Westervelt, Jess Walsh

YRUU -World Makers (H.S.) Mara Hill, Kristi Taylor Bond

Workshop Rotational Leaders - Amanda Mack, Annie Belts, Stacey Mansfield, Jaime Olson, Alison Hansen, Amy Westfall, Jeanne Duryee

Jr High OWL Katherine Huffman, Laura Greffinius, Sarah Taygen, Shannon Bell, Doug Eby, Ken Winterberger, Sam Cason, Kelley Hartlieb

Elementary 4th-5th – Bethany Buchanan, Kelsie Kline

A Sign Up list is available downstairs now for joining a teaching team for next year. Let's continue this fine tradition of a great RE program.

Summer Program Schedule

9:00 Service – No childcare during the summer

11:00 Service - Cross age program for K- 5th.

Childcare for 1-4 yr. olds. Youth joint group 6th – 12th! Please join us when you are in Anchorage!

Coming STEAMPUNK SUNDAYS

June 5 – Jeanne Duryee

June 12 – Melanie Baker & Kalen Saxton - Sewing

June 19 – tbd

June 26 – Stephenie Wheeler - Math

July 3 – tbd

July 10 – George baker & James Dryden - Widgets

July 17 - Melanie Baker & Kalen Saxton - Sewing

July 24 – Marty Freeman -

July 31 - tbd



Don't forget to sign up for the AUUF Peace Camp!!!

During the week of July 11-15 this year's "Peace Camp" will be full of UU summer fun with friends! For kids, K – 5th/6th grade. Lots of adult and youth volunteers already committed to bringing you a great week. Indoors and lots of outdoor activities, arts, games, music, project workshops and more!

Sign up list and registration forms at the Parent Info Spot downstairs. Feel free to contact Rosene (rbeachy@alaskalife.net) for details, *Scholarships are available, please contact Rosene, and don't let lack of funds stop your kids from participating in this fun week!*

July 11-15, 9am – 4:30. Additional childcare available 8-9am and 4:30 – 5:30. Cost will be \$150 (For AUUF folks - \$100 - 1st child/\$75 – 2nd/\$50 – 3rd)

Recruiting – Class Leaders for 2016-17!

Yes YOU Can Teach! Joining a team to explore World Religions ideas with a group of bright and enthusiastic children is an invigorating and enlightening way to spend 2 Sunday mornings a month! One Sunday prep to be the lead teacher, and the 2nd as an assistant for someone else on your team.

We guarantee you will learn almost as much as the kids!

We've had some really great facilitators this year from folks who don't currently have kids that are RE age. I think it's safe to say they all rather enjoyed it! Team teaching is how we enable everyone, both the opportunity to participate in the upstairs services, about half the Sundays, and still be involved in the excitement downstairs. 26 class leaders needed to share the Sundays, 3 teachers per class for Fall and Spring.

Or if your specialty is magic – Be a professor in **“Hogwarts School of Wisdom and Wizardry”** during January/February! Lesson plans provided! There will be a sign up poster downstairs until all spots are full.

Keep in touch over the summer! The best way to stay in touch is through our Twitter account, the weekly blasts and discussions from the “Goggle” group, AUUF Facebook page, the “AUUF RE” Facebook group and Website.

Questions? – Contact our CYRE Committee – Annie Belts, Alison Hansen

In peace, Rosene Beachy, DLRE

YRUU Schedule

July 17- 23 Goldmine

Aug. 13-15—Retreat! Bird Creek Cabins.

September 23-25 Fall Frolic (Alascon)

October 21-23 Fall CON



Every Monday—Brother Francis Shelter, 6:30p-8:30p. We meet every Monday to help serve dinner at the Brother Francis Shelter. Contact Eric 907 230-6915, if you intend on coming.

Summer Worships—Last summer we held worships from 7-8:30 on Thursdays. We could do it any day really. If you'd like another day, and/or you're interested in developing worships (planning and/or leading), please contact me!

Alascon—We will have another wonderful weekend parallel to Fall Frolic. Hopefully, this will be the year that we host people outside of our congregation! Please contact me if you have ideas for events and workshops and/or pranks and stunts.

Fall CON—We will be at Camp Cispus again, and we can go if we get in gear and raise some funds. As long as we keep it all for one, and one for all, we are happy to support going to both CONS. I'd like to start talking about raising funds to assist YRUUs from other Alaskan congregations, and potentially an Alaska Service Trip!

- Eric 907.230.6915

Fred Meyer Rewards Card: For a little bit of support to the Fellowship beyond your pledge and recurring giving, 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).

Our Airport Heights Neighborhood

The Airport Heights Community Council will hold their Annual Picnic at Takishla Park on Saturday, June 11th. AUUF is a member of AHCC and we are all invited to attend, Hot dogs and sodas are provided. Pot Luck dishes for everything else. Look for flyers with full information.

Adult Programs

ONGOING GROUPS

Freethinkers At AUUF– Gathers Fridays at noon downstairs in room 4 at the fellowship. Meets from noon – 1:30. Contact George Bryson – gfbryson@gmail.com for more information

Auuf Buddhist Group – 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 7-9 pm at the home of Marty Herriot. A study group about Buddhism using some but not all the small groups techniques. Call Marty for directions. 245-1461

Small Group Ministry – Connect to UU's on a deeper level. Small groups are a group of people who commit to meeting weekly or biweekly for a semester to discuss themes chosen by the group using a "Small Group" format. Organized by Susan Orlansky Call Susan, 248-1141 if you would like to participate in a group.

Hungry Book Club – meets monthly, Shirley Dickens, convener. Meets the 2nd Tuesday afternoon at 2 pm for snacks and discussion. Everyone is welcome. (See page 4).

AFACT/AUUF - The AUUF Local Organizing Ministry meets twice monthly at the Fellowship for training and discussion. For more information please contact Marie Rozak.

the aurora –young adult group. Contact Eric McCoy for information.

Dad's Group – Discussions about 'What is a Father?' More info contact Jason Walsh 980-2218. (Suspended for the summer, resumes in the fall.)

About our Speakers and Services (see back page)

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

Yvonne and Scott Goldsmith came to Anchorage in 1975 upon finishing studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Yvonne started work as a land use and transportation planner at the Borough and then the Municipality. In the early 90's she worked with Helen at the AK. Dept. of Natural Resources. She retired two years ago after serving as an epidemiologist for the Alaska Division of Public Health. For exercise, she is now doing what a lot of retired runners do – bicycle. Scott recently retired after nearly 40 years as professor of economics at the University of Alaska Anchorage Institute of Social and Economic Research. Although he continues to work part time on Alaska economic issues, he is transitioning to spending more time on his skis and mostly on his bicycles, trying to keep up with his wife. Together they have bike-toured in Europe, China, Southeast Asia, and the lower 48. They try to fit in the Fireweed 400 in Alaska each summer. Their presentation is about the 3-month, 4000 mile tour they did in the summer of 2014, the western portion of the Silk Route from Kashgar, China, through four 'stan countries, Iran and Turkey, to Istanbul.

Sallye Werner grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and earned a BS from Northern Michigan University in 1968 and a BA from Michigan State in 1973. She taught middle school and high school from 1973 to 1998, mainly in the Anchorage School District, and served as president of the Anchorage Education Association from 1983 to 1984. In 1998 she became a CASA volunteer (Court Appointed Special Advocates act in the interests of children in need.) and is still active in that role. Joining the board of Friends of Alaska CASA in 2000, she has been its president for twelve years and continues to this day.

Teresa Gray is a retired paramedic from Anchorage Alaska who recently returned from Lesvos Greece, where she provided medical aid and support to the 1000's of refugees that arrived on the beaches daily. This ongoing crisis is the largest immigration movement since World War II. Teresa will recount her daily activities with a PowerPoint presentation that will include the remarkable logistics and volunteers, the challenges faced and the amazing people she met on this journey.

Drew Phoenix is the Executive Director of Identity, Inc., which serves Alaska's LGBT Community through its programs of advocacy, education, and community building. Before his work with Identity, Drew served and continues to serve for over 25 years as an ordained minister of The United Methodist Church and spent four years as Director of Development and Communications for the ACLU of Alaska.

Rev. Ruth Greenwood has been involved with the AUUF since the late 70s as a child/teen and the early 90s as an adult. She attended Meadville/Lombard seminary in Chicago and was ordained to the UU ministry at AUUF in 2012.



Community Group, **Fireweed Sangha of Mindful Living** Meets in the downstairs gathering room on Monday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. A community of lay people who practice Buddhism according to the teachings of Zen teacher Thich Nhat Hanh. Practice sessions last an hour and a half. A period of silent meditation followed by a short check-in from each member. Walking meditation and perhaps some singing, followed by a Dharma reading, discussion and another silent meditation. All are welcome.

Community Group, **Upright Noble Zen**, meets Sundays 5pm in the gathering room with Zen teacher Dana Kojun Lederhos. The program includes mostly seated meditation and instruction appropriate to whoever is present on a given night. Church members and newcomers are always welcome. Meditation cushions and chairs are provided. Learn more at uprightnoble.wordpress.com or email anchorage meditation@gmail.com.

Your Credit Card for Recurring Donations When your credit card number or expiration date changes please notify the office. (Call or leave an updated contribution form in the black secured box.)
Frustrated with changing numbers? We can setup automatic donations from your checking. Thank you for your financial support of the Fellowship!



Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Information

Office phone: 907-248-3737 Email: auuf@gci.net

Website: 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 Phones and Email

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, Church Administrator, 248-3737 x 3 or auuf@gci.net

AUUF Board of Directors

Marty Freeman, President; Erik Hill (until 6-30-16); Carma Reed (until 6-30-16); Amanda Mack; Helen Nienhueser; Rod McCoy; Don Crandall; Peggy Robinson (as of 7-2016); Kelly Hartlieb (as of 7-2016)

Other Contacts

Adult Programs – Vacant

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 – Sid Atwood / Sharon Cissna

Human Resources – Jackie Cason / Peggy Robinson

Interior Design – Irene O'Brien / Cindy Kinard

Membership / Member Services – Vacant

Nominating – Ron Devon/Stephenie Wheeler

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 – Judy Engh

UUSC Coordinator – Vacant

Welcoming / Hospitality – Vacant

Whalecoast – Denise Martin

Worship Associates – Marilyn Lee

Young Adults (the auurora) – Eric McCoy

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Permit NO. 440

Return Service Requested

AUUF SERVICES –June 2016

Sunday, June 5

9 am Dr. Youssef Barbour, "Muslims in Anchorage"

11 am Gary Holthaus,
"Prayer: Listening to the World"

Sunday, June 12

9 am Yvonne and Scott Goldsmith,
"Biking the Silk Road"

11 am Drew Phoenix

Sunday, June 19

9 am Sallye Werner, "Supporting Abused and
Neglected Children through Advocacy"

11 am Panel on Fathers

Sunday, June 26

9 am Teresa Gray,
"The Syrian Refugee Crisis: A First Hand Perspective"

11 am Rev. Ruth Greenwood, "Smooth Stones and
Jagged Rocks"

Regular Tuesday Evening Services

7 pm June 7, 14, 28

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- June 2016

Sunday 9 am ~ no Childcare for this service in summer

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

The LOG

July 2016

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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



Gary Holthaus, Minister

A funny thing happened on the way to the Forum and the 11:00 o'clock, and the Tuesday night service at 7:00... I got distracted by this strange feeling in my throat and chest which led to the emergency room at Providence and to a pacemaker, and a couple of procedures still to come, which have meant that I am getting back on my feet quickly. They also have meant that I am very grateful for the expressions of concern and all the good wishes you have sent my way. I know that one of the reasons I'm feeling better and in the office today (June 27) is the encouragement and support you have offered.

As always, I'm spilling over with gratitude to everyone at AUUF, and so happy to be your minister.

And wasn't that a great AUUF turnout for the Pride Parade??!!
Congratulations to one and all who helped pull the event together for us!
You guys are great!

Although I've been feeling more energy than I had, I've been directed by the doctor and Lauren to 'take it easy'. So I'll be using some of the study leave that you wisely all provide your ministers. I'll be in and out, but mostly home with my feet up reading and thinking up things to talk about on Sundays. (Reading being one of my favorite things, of course.)

We've arranged a great set of speakers to fill in at the 11 am service in July, and there is always something interesting scheduled for the Speaker's Forum. Don't be a stranger.

See You at the Fellowship, 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

RE Summer Sundays – STEAMPunk
June 5 – August 28

July 10 Plastics Recycling

July 13 Board of Directors 6:15

Peace Camp July 11-15

July 20-22 Whalecoast,
Banquet July 21

July 27 Shirley Randal COL 6 pm

Aug (TBA) Picnic

Sept. 16-18 Fall Frolic

June news from the AUUF Board

It's Sunday evening, and I'm thinking back over the week. This week, through AUUF, I had the privilege to be part of the following...

- Tuesday: Presenting our fiscal year 16 PILOT (Payment In-Lieu of Taxes) contribution to the Municipality of Anchorage. It was a great chance to speak about our principles to a diverse audience (see the letter elsewhere in the Log). Several Assembly members thanked us warmly, but what really made me smile was that one member noted that AUUF doesn't just contribute to the city through PILOT, but its members do good things for the community throughout the year. Congratulations to all of us – our work is recognized!
- Wednesday: Adopting finance policies at the Board meeting – the policies have been in development for over a year (many thanks to Carma Reed, Sam Cason, Wendy Romberg, Judy Engh, and others who contributed to this effort). We also got to welcome Becky More, the new AUUF Congregational Involvement Coordinator. We are excited to have her at the Fellowship.
- Sunday: Participating in the 11:00 service on a difficult Sunday. The news of the Orlando shootings had just reached Alaska. The worship team – Gary, Tamara, and Barb – made last minute adjustments to their plans to recognize this tragedy in ways that were meaningful to mind and heart. The full weight of the event didn't hit me until Tamara led us in singing, "Imagine." Tears rolled down my face, and I wasn't alone. And that's what was so powerful – we were not alone grieving and thinking about how to respond – we were together, in fellowship. I know many of the Whale Coast visitors were moved, too, and I am glad they could join us on that day.

Marty's Speech at the Pilot Presentation

"Mr. Mayor and members of the Assembly,

Good evening, my name is Marty Freeman, and I am the current Board president of the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

Like many families in Alaska, our church has a tight budget. In difficult economic times our members and friends must make difficult decisions on what they can and cannot afford, and we as a congregation must make the same hard choices. It is significant then, that our budget continues to include an annual Payment In-Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) contribution. It is part of our budget because our congregation insists on it. This year, in the midst of hard economic times, they increased it.

They increased it because this contribution is a tangible demonstration of one of our core principles – the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within Unitarian Universalist congregations and in society at large. We try to live out this principle in our congregation and our community. This year we have been pleased to host the Airport Heights Community Council in our building and to participate in the Council as a neighborhood landowner. We have hosted public forums on the state fiscal crisis because the timeliness and manner of addressing the crisis will determine whether it is done justly and compassionately. We also vote as a congregation to contribute to the municipal budget through a voluntary PILOT donation.

This contribution is a recognition that we, too, benefit from the social, educational, transportation, public safety, and recreation services provided by the municipality. We care too much about the future of our children and grandchildren not to help pay for the upkeep of our city today. We also do this in affirmation of the separation of church and state that safeguards religious freedom for all in our nation.

Therefore, we are pleased to present our voluntary payment in lieu of taxes, as we have done for most of the 60 years that we have been a church in the Municipality of Anchorage. We enjoy the benefits, and commit to sharing the burden, of our local government.

In closing, we would like to express our gratitude for your participation in the democratic process as elected officials and public servants. Thank you."

Introducing Becky More!

We are happy to introduce **Becky More** who joins us part time as our Congregational Involvement Coordinator. Her focus will be assisting new and current members to engage actively in AUUF's events and programs. Becky works full time as the Development Director for Abused Women's Aid in Crisis (AWAIC). Please take time to introduce yourself. Becky can be reached at auufinvolve@gci.net or 248-3737x6.



Becky More, a lifelong Alaskan, is the Development Director for Abused Women's Aid in Crisis (AWAIC), Alaska's largest domestic violence safe shelter and intervention program. Becky earned her B.A. in Business Administration and Management with a Nonprofit Management Emphasis from Alaska Pacific University. Her interest in the nonprofit sector began in the financial services industry where she was heavily involved with local, statewide, and national corporate diversity initiatives at Wells Fargo. Her previous fund development experience was as the Events Manager and then Development Director for Big Brothers Big Sisters Alaska, and as a Gift Officer for Alaska Pacific University. Becky is fluent in American Sign Language. She enjoys attending local comedy shows, theater productions, and live music performances, camping in her teardrop trailer, and spending quality time with her son Logan.

Human Resource Committee Update

After a long stretch of having no active Human Resources Committee, our Board of Directors recruited a new team, and we have been working steadily since last October on various tasks the Board set forth. Our first task was to revise the Congregational Involvement Coordinator job description and to develop the interview questions and process, a task that has come to fruition in the past few weeks. We are thrilled that Becky More has been hired in that position! Her experiences with APU, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and AWAIC have given her many opportunities to engage the community and connect their values to the work of each organization. We hope you will be able to meet her in the next month or so as she learns about us and connects with both visitors and members to enhance their involvement in AUUF programs. Many of you participated in the Ministerial Evaluation survey that was developed by the committee and made available electronically this winter. Thank you for your valuable input!

Our spring tasks have focused on existing positions in an effort to bring our organizational practices into compliance with state and federal labor laws. Through research, we have learned that some changes to our AUUF employment practices are required to meet the law. We have been working with our staff over the last few months to work through these changes, which will go into effect July 1. While these laws can sometimes feel cumbersome and more appropriate for larger organizations, we believe that creating a system with accurate, up-to-date job descriptions, transparent evaluation methods, and hourly documentation practices will help us to recognize more explicitly the work and labor of all our employees. But it is a shift in organizational culture and one we've discussed in other contexts as we grow from a pastoral to a program size fellowship.

If you have any questions about the work of the Human Resources Committee, or would like to join us, please contact members John Blaine, Jackie Cason, or Peggy Robinson.

The Alliance

by Shirley Dickens, Chair of the Alliance

We chose not to meet in June but will meet in July, on the 10th at 12:30 PM for a brief meeting, mostly to discuss the Celebration of Life for Shirley Randall coming up on the 27th, a joyous pot luck celebration which she requested (evening hours I think). You will hear more about this after the planning meeting later this month.

AUUF Local Organizing Ministry of AFACT

by Marie Rozak

The restructuring of AFACT's administration has settled into place quite well. Courtney Eppler has taken the position of Lead Organizer. A part time Interim Director of Administration and part time Grant Writer are in place. Board members have stepped up to manage city-wide engagement, as well as other tasks.

These responsibilities were formerly overseen by Super Executive Director Chelsea Gulling with the help of a couple of very part time staffers. While Chelsea made it work, it was unanimously agreed that it was too much to expect of one person. AFACT was very fortunate to have the benefit of her enthusiasm and skills for so long.

AFACT held its Breakfast of Hope fundraiser May 10 at Central Lutheran Church with approximately 125 guests attending. It was a successful, enjoyable event. Special thanks to Deena Mitchell for serving as a table captain inviting friends and associates to share her table.

In our effort to meet people in the neighborhood, I attended the Airport Heights Community Council annual picnic. It was a fun event with good food and a warm friendly atmosphere. And I did, indeed, meet new and welcoming folks, as well as running into at least 5 other UU's.

If you are interested in gardening, there is information regarding the AHCC volunteer gardening activities on the bulletin board in the social room. Otherwise, just check the plots out as you pass through the area. They are coming in beautifully with more being added.

Social Justice Committee

By Dennis Arashiro

"Actions express priorities." - Mahatma Gandhi

Gandhi speaks of actions, not of one action. Our one action in voting for recipients of the Half Portion for Social Action by itself does not express our priorities. This one single action means nothing if we do not fill the collection baskets at our services. And if we stop there, what does that say about our priorities? Social justice only happens when one action leads to another. That is why we ask our Half Portion recipients what we can do beyond financial contributions to help them accomplish their missions. That is why reading and absorbing Gandhi's words should commit us to one single action only as a prelude to another.

Because there is no such thing as having done enough for social justice, we always need to look for the next action to take. That is why the Social Justice Committee needs the full wisdom of the entire Fellowship to determine that next action and the ones to follow. Please join us when we meet at **12:30 PM on Sunday, July 17, 2016, in Gary's office at the Fellowship** to take that next action. If you cannot join us in person, join us in spirit by sharing your thoughts, questions, and proposals with the committee by calling or emailing me. Dennis Arashiro at 444-4324 or elvischannel@yahoo.com.

Half Portion for Social Action: The Children's Lunchbox

By Dennis Arashiro

The problem: 10,000 hungry kids. That was Anchorage in the year 2000. That led a series of discussions about how to address the problem. In 2004 the Board of Directors of Bean's Cafe formed Kid's Cafe to provide food to local community programs. In 2006 Kid's Cafe merged with Bean's Cafe and became The Children's Lunchbox. Starting in 2009 it has grown to provide weekend food programs at Title I schools throughout Anchorage during the school year and both lunch and dinner offerings in the summer.

The problem: 21,000 hungry kids. That is Anchorage today. We, the full Fellowship, made this a priority concern by voting The Children's Lunchbox to be a recipient of the Half Portion for Social Action. We, the Social Justice Committee, made this July the time to give to The Children's Lunchbox to address the crucial need to feed the children this summer when the schools cannot. Want to help? Give your dollars when the baskets are passed at the July services. Put food in the contribution barrels at the Fellowship. Sign up as a volunteer by applying through the Bean's Cafe website (<https://www.beanscafe.org/volunteer>). You gave The Children's Lunchbox your vote in April; you can give much more now in July.

Turning Louise Gallop's Gold into Endowment and Gifts

Seeking jewelry and metal craft artists to offer value-added gift ideas

The sale of Louise Gallop's bequeathed collection of gold nuggets and pieces continues with at least one sales event in July to be timed with the Whale Coast Alaska's second tour visit. **This is tentatively scheduled for 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 21.** In the meantime, and between sales events, AUUF members, friends and guests are invited to visit the Gallop Gold web site created with support by AUUF's Endowment Committee: <http://auufwebbuilders.wix.com/gallop-gold>. Here, you can browse the nugget collection, categorized by size, and read about Louise and the gold she mined along Friday Creek in the famed Kantishna Mining District. Nuggets may be purchased online – follow the instructions.

Gold nuggets and small jewelry-grade pieces provide excellent fodder for extraordinary art or jewelry projects. Are you looking for gifts for an upcoming birthday, anniversary or other special occasion? Consider that the cost of gold nuggets may be far less than you think. Gold ranges in size and shape, from a quarter-inch flat piece weighing a half gram, to a one-inch nugget weighing 5-6 grams. Prices range from just \$20 to \$400 or so. Remember, every cent of the proceeds goes into the AUUF Endowment fund which will benefit the fellowship long into the future. A purchase is not only a great investment for you, but also an investment in AUUF.

Seeking Jewelry and Metal Craft Artists for Added Value

AUUF members Stephenie and Paul Wheeler are facilitating the sale of the nuggets. Stephenie is seeking AUUF members and friends who are skilled jewelry and metal craft artists who may be willing to help gold purchasers turn their investment into objects of sentiment, meaning and beauty. We are open to ideas for commissions that suitably recognize the artistry, while maintaining affordability. If you have this skillset and the means, please contact Stephenie Wheeler at (907) 382-3327 or email msgmaker@gci.net.

If you have questions about the gold, please contact Stephenie Wheeler or call Paul Wheeler at (907) 632-1913 or email pwheeler@gci.net.

Whalecoast

By Denise Martin, Anchorage Organizer

Big fun was had by all who participated in hosting our 40 Whalecoast guests, and 2 tour directors for the June Whalecoast tour. And I want to extend big thanks to the following multitude of volunteer hosts and drivers who made it all possible:

Jane Gray, Susan Orlansky, Jackie Cason, Carolyn Gove, Yolanda Meza, Doreen Ransom, Peggy Coby, Judy Engh, Irene O'Brien, Stacey Mansifeld, Gwen Perry-Crawford, Carol Harris, Heather Flynn, Ingrid Larson, Koala Vandruff, James Dryden, Helen Dangle, Elayne Hunter, Peggy Robinson, Carma Reed, Shirley Dickens, Amy Westfall, Carma Reed, Stephanie Koonz, Ruth Greenwood, Marie Lundstrom and Rod McCoy. Big thanks also to Kalen Saxton for organizing the banquet, and the hospitality teams who stepped in to help with the orientation, and to Stephenie Wheeler for preparing the Gallop Gold Sales events offered to the guests.

We are raising a lot of money for AUUF from Whalecoast, with a stipend for each night's stay, and also for transportation and banquet, so I hope everyone knows that their efforts are going to pay off in a big way.

July's tour (20th-22nd) will be simpler in that the guests pass through Anchorage mid-week, ending with another great banquet set up by Kalen. Some of the volunteers mentioned above will also be hosting or driving for this one, in addition to: Jeanne Fisher, Bev Grogan, Helen Neinhauser, Deb Addie, Annie Belts and Marty Herriot. Thanks one and all!

Friendly Recycling Tip: Try Gel Roller PILOT pens. These pens are made from recycled bottles.(89%worth). They're retractable and refillable. They can be bought at stores in office supply section.

Recycling Plastics: July 10

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

We are grateful for the life of Shirley Randal, long time member of AUUF, who died June 5th in an assisted living home where she had been since February. She had a gentle passing. There will be a Celebration of Life and a Joyous Pot Luck (her instructions) coming up July 27th here at the Fellowship. That is a Wednesday evening at 6 (I think) Please mark your calendars. I believe some of her family (most live on the East Coast) will be coming. The Alliance will assist in preparations. Please plan to come.

We are grateful for Whale Coast Tours and the UUs who come from all over to be hosted by Alaskan UUs. This is a great "money maker" for our congregation. Sunday, June 12th we hosted around 40 of them, took them to the Alaska Native Heritage in cars after the 11 AM service and had a banquet for them in the evening. Thanks and gratitude to ALL the volunteers, especially Denise Martin who found them homes to stay in and did many other things for the tour, Stephanie Wheeler and husband, Paul, who got together the exhibit and means to offer our guests a chance to purchase some of Louise Gallop's gold that she bequeathed to AUUF. Kalen Saxton who pulled the banquet together, the cooks, dishwashers, setup and take downers, and all of us who came to mingle and host the Whale Coasters. It did take many of us to host this large group. But what an opportunity to get to know some other UUs and make their Alaska trip more fun. *(Editor's note: We received a sizable check and lovely thankyou note from the group, which is posted in the social room.)* Thank you one and all for whatever you did to help. I'm very proud of us.

Also a big THANK YOU to all of us who brought food to 4 A's organization once a month for a very long time (20 plus years), many of the same people who signed up month after month. It was decided to discontinue this. I understand there is a waiting list for other churches to take our spot. Sylvia Short and Fred Hillman initially got us started but the past couple of years interest for this service has lessened. But we did good month after month for a very long time.

AUUF Music Director Tamara McCoy successfully finished her concert tour of Alaska and England completing 19 lectures and concerts in two months, including concerts in Oxford and London. In June, Tamara went to Houston, Texas where she was on the faculty at the international music festival, Classical Minds. At the festival she conducted a guitar orchestra in concert and performed keyboard and guitar, and voice and guitar pieces with Duo Amici. In addition to working at Classical Minds, Tamara was featured on the NPR/Houston Public Media show Classical Classroom where she performed and lectured on the programmatic piano concerto Totentanz, by Franz Liszt. You can listen to Tamara's episode of Classical Classroom at the following link:

<http://www.npr.org/podcasts/381443560/classical-classroom>.

Gratitude to Yana and Diane Smith who served as our congregation's delegates to the General Assembly.

So Proud! Of the 46 UUs who marched in the Pride Parade. A 'Thank You' Jeanna Duryee for organizing us to be such a strong and visible sign in our community of our principles.

Grateful for the recovery of Rosene Beachy who fell and broke her left wrist. After a successful surgery she is back in the office and organizing Peace Camp, the 'not miss event of the summer' for our youngest UUs.

Wishing all of you a great summer, enjoy our gorgeous Alaska, may your travels be safe and your pleasures be restoring. Fish ON!

Sharing the Care: If you, or someone you know, is in need of an occasional meal or ride, our Share the Care group is ready to help. All you have to do is contact one of the group's administrators with the details and they'll take it from there. More than 40 people have signed up to receive email notices and to do what they can to make life a little easier during difficult times. For the time being, we're best able to provide meals or transportation but may be able to add other services later. We'll do our very best to get the word out. Please contact Robin Hill (akhills@ak.net; 244.9192), Teresa Zimmer (tzimmer@gci.net; 331.7034) or Amy Lundell in the office with your request.

July Birthdays, Best Wishes!

(Birthdays are not published in our online version)

Fred Meyer Rewards Card: Beyond your pledge or automatic giving, please link your Fred Meyer Reward help AUUF by buying groceries! Links your 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).

R.E. Notes for July 2016

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Summer Program Schedule

9:00 Service –childcare during the summer when we have staff (positions for care open!)*

11:00 Service - Cross age program for age 4 - 5th. Childcare for 1-4 yr. olds.

Summer Program Schedule: STEAMPunk Sundays 11 – 12:15 AM (Preschool – 5th grade)

Join our volunteer workshop leaders for some fun filled activities in Science, technology, Art and more.

July 3 – Steampunk Creation with Stacey Mansfield
July 10 – Widgets with George Baker & James Dryden -
July 17 - Sewing Engineers with Melanie Baker & Kalen Saxton
July 24 – Environmental activities with Marty Freeman
July 31 - Techy Bread with Mary Gregory
August 7 – Sculpting with Oliver Johnson
August 14 – Electricity with Alison Hansen
August 21 – Steampunk Creation with Laura Krip
August 24 - STEAMPunk creations with Rosene Beachy



Recruiting – Class Leaders for 2016-17!

Next year will be an action packed year with our focus on World Religions in the Fall, Harry Potter and the UU School of Wisdom and Wizardry in January/February, and our Spring months of Workshop Rotation themes – (as class groups, same as Fall.) We promise you may learn as much as the kids!! Teachers still 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, teams of 3 that rotate through the Sundays so you lead one or 2 and help one Sunday each month. There is usually 1 Cross Age or Multigenerational service each month.

Learn to know children and their families gain some new insights and new friends. Some class teams are filling up fast. Call Rosene today!

Sign up list and applications available at the Parent Info Spot. If you are not able to commit to teaching, but would like to be involved, We need several new folks on the Religious Exploration Committee. Talk to Annie Belts or Rosene Beachy.

2016-17 RE Registration

Parents, please register your children for the fall RE program. Pick up a Registration form at the Fellowship if you are there 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!

*** Childcare providers needed** this summer for the Toddler room during the 9:00 and 11:00 services. Teens or adults welcome. \$10/hr. Please contact Rosene Beachy to interview and schedule dates available.

AUUF Fall Frolic annual event is coming soon!

September 16 - 18, 2016

Join us for our annual **Fall Frolic Weekend Retreat**
at King's Lake Camp in Wasilla.
Spend time with your family.
Celebrate in community.

Registration and information available at the Parent Info Spot Downstairs

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 11 when we return for our fall program.

In peace, Rosene Beachy, DLRE

YRUU Schedule

July 17- 23 Goldmine
Aug. 13-15—Retreat! Bird Creek Cabins.
September 23-25 Fall Frolic (Alascon)
October 21-23 Fall CON



Every Monday—Brother Francis Shelter, 6:30p-8:30p. We meet every Monday to help serve dinner at the Brother Francis Shelter. Contact Eric 907 230-6915, if you intend on coming.

Summer Worships—Last summer we held worships from 7-8:30 on Thursdays. We could do it any day really. If you'd like another day, and/or you're interested in developing worships (planning and/or leading), please contact me!

Alascon—We will have another wonderful weekend parallel to Fall Frolic. Hopefully, this will be the year that we host people outside of our congregation! Please contact me if you have ideas for events and workshops and/or pranks and stunts.

Fall CON—We will be at Camp Cispus again, and we can go if we get in gear and raise some funds. As long as we keep it all for one, and one for all, we are happy to support going to both CONS. I'd like to start talking about raising funds to assist YRUUs from other Alaskan congregations, and potentially an Alaska Service Trip!
- Eric 907.230.6915

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Information

Office phone: 907-248-3737 Email: auuf@gci.net

Website: 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 Phones and Email

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

Becky More, Congregational Involvement Coordinator, auufinvolve@gci.net or 248-3737x6.

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

AUUF Board of Directors

Marty Freeman, President; Amanda Mack; Helen Nienhueser; Rod McCoy;

Don Crandall; Peggy Robinson; Kelley Hartlieb

Other Contacts for Committee, Teams, and Projects are available on our website.

Hungry Book Club News

By Shirley Dickens

Eleven (including 2 "snow birds" who have returned for the summer) met Tuesday, June 14th to discuss a very interesting mystery, by Louise Penny, a contemporary writer of mysteries who is Canadian. This was her first of The Chief Inspector of Quebec's crime department and there are 11 novels about this same character, Armand Gamache. Lively discussion by all. We have selected a book for July, by two Alaskans, Gordon Haber and Marybeth Holleman, Among Wolves. While we were at it we chose a book for August, much lighter but full of actual history, called The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Shaffer and Barrows. Both will be found in our library, Title Wave, Barnes and Noble and of course Amazon.com. We will meet next July 12th (second Tuesday in July at Mary Kulawik's condo on the corner of 9th and M. This is a big private set of condos and you may enter the foyer will be unlocked and then ring Mary's number to enter. This is an open book club and available to AUUF members who love to read. Call Shirley 563-4400 for more information.

Grounds Team Update

The grounds committee has been busy the last couple of weeks, working towards creating a welcoming first view of AUUF. Vegetables are growing and flowers are blooming. The compost created by the fellowship from the last year has been added to raised beds for the benefit of this year's crop. Raised beds have been moved and new ones established. If you have a chance, take a walk around the building and see the much improved playground and new growth. All this has been possible due the work of many folks. If you would like to be a part of this exciting team, please see Sid Atwood or Sharon Cissna. Thanks again to all that made the changes possible.

About our Speakers and Services (see back page)

Bill Wielechowski has been a Democratic member of the Alaska State Senate since 2006, representing District H, and now serves on the standing committees on Judiciary, Resources, and State Affairs as well as the Special Committee on Federal Overreach and the Joint Committee on Armed Services. He graduated magna cum laude in 1989 with a BS in Business Management and Finance from Seton Hall University and earned a JD in 1992 from Seton Hall University, School of Law. Bill is a member of the fellowship.

Rebecca Koford has been the Executive Director at Anchorage Youth Court for almost four years. She enjoys that her work at AYC focuses on early intervention and prevention strategies to keep youth out of the justice system. She received her J.D. from Georgetown University, maintains her Texas law license, and occasionally contemplates taking the Alaska Bar Exam before getting distracted by better things to do with her free time.

Peter Dunlap-Shohl worked as a cartoonist for the Anchorage Daily News for twenty-five years. He has won various prizes, including the First Amendment Award from the Alaska Press Club. He has the blogs *Frozen Grin*, *Off and On: The Alaska Parkinson's Rag*, about living with Parkinson's Disease. He is the author of *My Degeneration: A Journey Through Parkinson's (Graphic Medicine)*.

Jack Roderick was born in Seattle in 1926, and served in the US Navy Air Corps in World War II and later earned degrees in political science (BA, Yale, 1949), law (JD, University of Washington, 1959), and public administration (MPA, Harvard, 1981). He moved to Anchorage in 1954, where he worked as a truck driver before getting involved in oil exploration, practicing law, and serving in many government positions, including Peace Corps Regional Director in India (1967-8), Anchorage Borough Mayor (1973-5), Alaska Department of Natural Resources Deputy Commissioner (1976-8), US Farmer's Home Administration's Alaska Director (1978-9), and Alaska State Energy Director (1984-5). He has taught at University of Alaska Anchorage and Alaska Pacific University. He is the author of Crude Dreams: A Personal History of Oil & Politics in Alaska.

Marty Herriott, PhD, is a long-time member of AUUF and Chair of the Committee on Shared Ministry. She is a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner in private practice.

Rev. Ruth Greenwood has been involved with the AUUF since the late 70s as a child/teen and the early 90s as an adult. She attended Meadville/Lombard seminary in Chicago and was ordained to the UU ministry at AUUF in 2012. Bill Sherwonit was born in Bridgeport, Conn. and has called Alaska home since 1982. He has contributed essays and articles to a wide variety of newspapers, magazines, journals, and anthologies and is the author of more than a dozen books. His newest book is a collection of essays, *Animal Stories: Encounters with Alaska's Wildlife*, published in September 2014. His website is www.billsherwonit.alaskawriters.com.

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Permit NO. 440

Return Service Requested

AUUF SERVICES –July 2016

Sunday, July 3

9 am George Bryson, "Sapiens -- A Brief History of Humankind"
11 am Panel, 'Freedom'

Sunday, July 10

9 am Bill Wielechowski,
"2016 Legislative Session: The After-Life"
11 am Bill Sherwonit

Tuesday Evening Services are suspended
for summer. They will resume in the fall.

Sunday, July 17

9 am Rebecca Koford, 'Anchorage Youth Court:
Lowering Recidivism through Restorative Justice'
11 am Marty Herriott, 'Mind over Matter: Cognitive
Strategies for Troubled Times.'

Sunday, July 24

9 am Peter Dunlap-Shohl,
"Bam!Ow!@#! -- Parkinson's"
11 am "Lammas Ritual, The First Harvest"

Sunday, July 31

9 am Jack Roderick, 'Sixty Years in Anchorage'
11 am Margaret Timmerman, 'Community Gardens
in Anchorage'

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- July 2016

Sunday 9 am ~ no Childcare for this service in summer

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

The LOG

August 2016

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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



From Gary

I am so grateful for all the thoughtful words that have come my way the last few weeks! Offers to help or bring food...cards, books. I'm glad to back at least part time as I write this (July 27th).

It has been an odd week or so, Lots of uncertainty about another procedure, an ablation, and then a decision to put it off for now. Partly because they thought I'd had a heavy enough set of procedures that I needed time to recoup from what had been done... So they approved me for travel and OK'd me to meet Lauren Thursday in Spokane and begin two weeks of vacation. I'm still tired and occasionally short of breath, but they said that's expected given what they've done so far.

They've made a couple of minor adjustments to the pacemaker, but it seems to be working fine. It's just that it can't do everything that needs to be done. One atrium is perking at 300 and has a fibrillation, the other slower but has a flutter. The bottom is slower. I've been in the office for a few hours at a time last week and this, but not up for much of anything else, mostly feeling like a slug and reading. Love the latter and have asked for a prescription for reading four hours per day, renewable forever. I figure I can ride in the car without "overdoing," and being with Lauren generally fixes everything.

We plan to get into Montana via Missoula and then down through the Northeast corner of Yellowstone and over Beartooth Pass to Red Lodge (My old stomping grounds). Beartooth Highway is the most beautiful portion of highway in North America, bar anything else I've seen. At the top it is alpine tundra at 11,000 some feet elevation with 360 degrees of mountain peaks, high lakes and deep canyons in view: Yellowstone Park to the West, the Tetons just south, the Winds and the Bighorns southeast and the Pryors and the Crazyes circling round toward the east and north. I've been over a lot of that country (about a hundred mile radius) a foot or horseback, alone or with others, hunting, fishing, or just snooping around (pictographs, petroglyphs, potshards, companionable piles of flint chips in a circle where the men sat making arrowheads some time back, etc.). Figure I won't get another chance to see that country so I'm excited at the prospect. Nostalgia trip for sure.

I'll be back on the 16th of August, and plan to be there for the 11:00 on the 21st, and will be very happy to see everyone and be back at it!

Well, this is now more than anybody ever wanted to know, so will stop this jabber.

Best to all and see you at the Fellowship, Gary

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Calendar Highlights

Aug 4 Yoga Starts! 5 pm

Aug 18th Choir resumes 7-8:30

Aug 28 Picnic

Sept. 11. Homecoming Sunday
and Mingling of the Waters

Sept. 16-18 Fall Frolic

Sept. 25 RE begins



2016 AUUF Community Picnic



Sunday, August 28th

12:30PM~3:00PM

Food! • Games! • Fun!

Live Music! • Fellowship!

For more information, contact Becky More at auufinvolve@pci.net or 907-248-3737 ext. 6

Board President letter for August

What a summer! With strings of warm (hot?!) days and rain falling mostly at night, Anchorage has felt a bit like Camelot this summer. Still, AUUF'ers are balancing time in the mountains, on the water, in gardens, and visiting with far-flung family and friends with work on behalf of the Fellowship.

For the Board, I'm happy to announce that Amanda Mack is taking over as the Treasurer for FY17, and Kelley Hartlieb has volunteered to be the Secretary. Helen Nienhueser and I are continuing as V.P. and president for the last year of our Board terms. This month we continued to review committee and ministry team charters, adopted a policy on Board agendas and minutes that we hope will make the Board's work more transparent, and welcomed new members to the Nominating Committee.

On the financial side, we are excited to report that we finished FY16 in the black. You may remember the difficult decisions made in the FY16 budget, including reducing music program funds. In a spirit of hope, the FY16 included priorities for using additional funds, if we were able to raise money above the budgeted amount within the fiscal year. The priorities were 1) replace funds that had been cut from the music program, 2) increase our PILOT donation, and 3) contribute to the sabbatical fund for our staff. If you've had the pleasure of hearing Marcia Stratman accompany the choir, you know that we were able to restore the music funds. We increased our PILOT donation (and got nice press coverage for it). We have added to the sabbatical fund. In the face of difficult economic times, we went 3 for 3, which reflects the hard work of the Stewardship Committee, and the generosity of AUUF members and friends.

I want to close with appreciation for leadership throughout the Fellowship. As AUUF evolves from a "pastoral church" to a "program church," the need for widespread leadership grows. A wonderful example of this happened for AUUF's participation in the Pride Parade. In the wake of the Orlando shootings, many AUUF members were concerned that we hadn't signed up to participate in the annual parade. Google group messages flew, and some felt it was a failure of the board or staff. Then a leader stepped forward. Jeanna Duryee took on the task of registering AUUF and organizing marchers. Others helped with signs and costumes, and over 40 joined the march. While we want to be sure that important events like the Pride Parade are covered and coordinators are identified in advance in the future, this was also a good example of what can be done when someone steps forward. Thank you, Jeanna.

There are plentiful opportunities for AUUF to do good work in the community. Often it just takes a leader. That could be you! In fellowship, Marty Freeman

Social Justice Committee

By Dennis Arashiro

June 24, 1969. The Stonewall Riots. The single galvanizing moment for the movement to secure LGBT rights. Both the American Psychological Association and the American Psychiatric Association label same sex attraction a mental illness. The law makes same sex activity criminal. In the next year the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly defies the mental health professionals and the general society to call for the end of discrimination against homosexuals and bisexuals. I happen to be in a social studies class at East High School when a classmate introduces an article on the events at Stonewall during current events sharing. He reads haltingly because he is convulsing with derisive laughter. The whole class explodes with laughter. Including the teacher. Including me.

June 24, 2016. President Barack Obama designates the Stonewall National Monument to officially recognize the positive significance of the historic site. Both the American Psychological Association and the American Psychiatric Association no longer label same sex attraction a mental illness. Same sex activity is no longer criminal, and same sex attraction can lead to officially sanctioned marriage. Unitarian Universalists continue their decades of support for LGBT rights. I happen to look at my calendar. Tomorrow, many from our Fellowship will join the Gay Pride Parade downtown. Including me.

Let's continue changing the world and ourselves. Join us when we meet at **12:30 PM on Sunday, August 21, 2016, in Gary's office**. If you cannot attend, share with me your thoughts, questions, and proposals. Call me or email me. Dennis Arashiro at 444-4324 or elvischannel@yahoo.com.

Half Portion for Social Action: The Minister's Discretionary Fund

By Dennis Arashiro

Why the Minister's Discretionary Fund?

Because of the constant need for replenishing. In a year's time Gary gave out \$7076 in short term emergency assistance for rent, utilities, gas for job seekers, urgent and immediate safe housing, diapers, and more. At no point in time do we want our minister to be forced to turn away anyone in need for lack of funds.

Because there is no faster way for the Fellowship to meet larger community and world needs. When South Sudan Medical Relief was in dire need of money to attend to its mission amidst war and political turmoil, Gary wrote a check and sent it out right away.

And because we recognized all of this by making the fund the top choice in the first Fellowship wide vote on the Half Portion this spring. The next step is making that vote count with our contributions at our services this month.

Standing on the Side of Love

On Saturday June 25, AUUF members joined with nearly 10,000 community members for the 2016 Alaska PrideFest Equality Parade on the Delaney Park Strip in Downtown Anchorage. The theme "Many Voices, One Message" resonated throughout the record-breaking crowd. "The Equality Parade has been the staple of Alaska PrideFest for 39 years," said event manager and Identity Board Co-Chair J.J. Harrier. "When you see the LGBT community marching with their signs, in their floats, dancing, decked out and smiling, it shows the community how diverse we really are. It's the rainbow on display."

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship was proud to join by *Standing on the Side of Love*—acknowledging the worth and dignity of all individuals, including gender and sexuality. Harrier added, "Organizations that participate in the Equality Parade are showing Anchorage not only their support for Pride and the LGBT community, but how inclusivity truly spreads to our respective workplaces and offices." Thank you to everyone who participated!

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

First, healing energy from all the Congregation for our beloved minister, Gary Holthaus and our equally beloved Directory of Religious Exploration, Rosene Beachy. May you both continue to heal (Gary from needing a Pacemaker and stints, and Rosene from a fall which broke her wrist bone). They are healing, but Gary still needs a small procedure done with his settings on the pacemaker and also needs more time to heal. You both know how much we appreciate you and value you and wish good things for you. May you be free of pain and discomfort, regain your energy and be fully restored. We, this congregation NEED both of you.

Thrilling to have another Whale Coast UU Tour Group visit Anchorage and AUUF. This is adding many dollars to our financial wellbeing. Thanks to all who host guests, bring food for the Pot Luck we feed them, give transportation, help organize and set up our dinner and a "special thanks" to Dennis Martin who plans the Anchorage visit for us. Also, we do appreciate Dave from Fairbanks UU Fellowship who organizes the whole trip and does such a great job with the whole tour. And another big thank you to Jane Gray and Kalen Saxton for all their work organizing the banquet. The tables were beautiful.

What a busy summer for our children with some special activities this summer: week long summer camp and some special Sunday programs. Looks like our kids are having a great time.

Sorry to hear that member, Kelly Hartlieb's father is now in Hospice and doing very poorly. Kelly's parents are sometimes "snow birds" but when in town, can be seen visiting our congregation. They are the grandparents of Piper and Tatum Hartlieb, the darling twin daughters of Greg and Kelly. I get to call them "darling" because I was their RE teacher a few years ago and enjoyed them so much.

We are grateful for the life of Shirley Randall and also grateful that 10 of her family will be making the trip to Anchorage for her Celebration of Life coming up July 27th at 6 PM, starting with a "Joyful Pot Luck" at her request, then a chance to meet her family and an open mic for them and us to tell our favorite Shirley Randall stories. She was a long time member of this congregation and very supportive of many social justice activities. We will miss her.

Our Minister of nearly Fifty Years Ago

This June, still able to hike unaided, and just after his 97th birthday, Sam Wright died in his sleep here in Alaska. Close to fifty years ago, when the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist's met in a log cabin, The Rev. Sam Wright and his wife, The Rev. Billie Wright, came to us as ministers from the log home they built on a lake, one hundred miles north of the Arctic Circle in the Brook's Range.

At that time Sam spoke at hearings called by the Dept. of Interior as a dissenting voice of the arctic wilderness to the proposed pipeline across the state from the Arctic Ocean to the port of Valdez. He wore his fur-lined parka and spoke for the voiceless of the natural world. 'Let us keep our silent sanctuaries, for in them the eternal perspectives are preserved.' Senancour

Before moving into the Brook's Range Sam was national director of Unitarian and Universalist youth, served three churches, and was on the faculty of Starr King, our theological school in Berkeley, CA, with degrees in biology and epistemology but identified himself as a trapper and writer. The two books about his life in arctic Alaska are: **Edge of Tomorrow: An Arctic Year** and **Koviashuvik: Time and Place of Joy in the Present Moment**.

Sam's wife, Billie, died nearly thirty years ago. She was also a writer. **Four Seasons North: A Journal of Life in the Alaska Wilderness** was her book about their first year in the far north.

In his later years Sam spent 25 years doing interim postings with his wife, Donna Lee. They served eight churches as 'interim minister' returning to their small cabin north of the Arctic Circle each summer.

From 'Edge of Tomorrow' by Sam Wright

The great world has set me in
motion.

Set me adrift,
and I move as a weed in
the river.

The arch of sky
and mightiness of storms
encompass me.

And I am left
trembling with joy.



Yoga @ AUUF!

Peggy Cobey is offering yoga Thursdays in August 5-6 pm. Mark your calendar! Beginning yoga class series offered Thursdays 5-6pm in August. Focus will be on learning good alignment to practice yoga. Slow (vinyasa) flow class. Focus will be on Aug 4: shoulders and arms, Aug 11: core strengthening Aug 18: hips and legs Aug 25: flow and balance. Bring your mat if you have one. Donations will be accepted to support the Fellowship. Yoga classes will be offered again in October. For more information, to let Peggy know you are coming, or to get on her list for updates, email Peggy at peggy@gci.net.

August Birthdays, Best Wishes!

Birthdays are not published in our online version.

Fred Meyer Rewards Card: Supporting the Fellowship beyond your pledge: *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).

Hungry Book Club News

By Shirley Dickens

We had a small gathering for the July Book Club to discuss *Among Wolves*. The Hungry Book Club is taking a Break for August. We will meet in September at the Fellowship (AUUF) on the 13th of Sept. at 2 PM and we will discuss the book originally chosen for August. That would be *"The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society"*. It is available at the Library, Title Wave, Barnes and Nobel Book store, amazon.com Bring a little healthy snack to share and join us for a good discussion. We will be choosing books for October and November. Come with recommendations. We are an open book club and all people who love good books are welcome.

Choir rehearsals resume on Thursdays starting August 18th. 7-8:30 pm. Contact Dr. Tamara McCoy, Music Director, for more information.

The Alliance

by Shirley Dickens, Chair of the Alliance

The Alliance met July 10th to discuss upcoming events. A major event for us is the memorial service for Shirley Randal on July 27th. Shirley had designed her service to be a 'Joyous Potluck'. Ten of her family will be here in Anchorage for this service. The Alliance will be providing the hospitality. As you read this the service will be completed, but we know it will have been a special evening celebrating a special woman. We do hope you were able to attend.

YRUU Schedule

Please Congratulate **Sarah Freeman**, **Sarah Harris** and **Gretchen Mitchell** for their participation in Goldmine, Pacific Northwest District's Youth Leadership Camp. They spent an exciting week, and came back full of fire!

Aug. 13-15—Retreat! Bird Creek Cabins.
September 16-18 Fall Frolic (Alascon)
October 21-23 Fall CON

YRUU RETREAT, BIRD CREEK CABINS—We can design this to be what we want it to be. Biking, hiking, fishing, fireside story-telling, etc. Let me know if you'd like to help plan what we hope will be an annual event!

ALASCON—We will have another wonderful weekend parallel to Fall Frolic. Hopefully, this will be the year that we host people outside of our congregation! Please contact me if you have ideas for events and workshops and/or pranks and stunts.

FALL CON—Will be at Camp Cispus again, and we can go if we get in gear and raise some funds. As long as we keep it all for one, and one for all, we are happy to support going to both CONS. I'd like to start talking about raising funds to assist YRUUs from other Alaskan congregations, and potentially an Alaska Service Trip!

- Eric 907.230.6915



R.E. Notes for July 2016

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

“Peace in our Hearts”, “Peace with Others”, “Peace in the Community”,
“Peace Makers in our World” and “Working Together – Change the World “

The building vibrated with energy and rang last week with singing, drumming, shouts, laughter, and moments of reflective quiet! If you had children in our first ever AUUF Peace camp, or happened to stop by for a meeting, you definitely knew something different was going on!

Thirty children participated in workshops like Peace flags making & Mandala puzzles, Creating Peace hero comics or Conflict resolution skills as well as outdoor games. Walks to Tikishla park, floating twig boats on the stream, juggling and dance and yes even water play on the hottest day of summer via sprinklers and water games on the lawns! Despite a bit of separation anxiety and newness jitters on Monday, and moments of friction necessitating the use of burgeoning conflict resolution skills, smiles abounded! It was such a joy to watch the children become comfortable and blossom in their UU home. Hearing the children’s voices, thoughts and words about peace created a promising vision for the future of our world.

This longtime dream finally came to reality with the help of Annie Belts, Bev Grogan and Elayne Hunter who spent the last 6 months planning, creating and then leading workshops and activities. We had 4 awesome teen counselors: Gretchen Mitchel, Tatum Hartlieb, Piper Hartlieb and Kate Amore. And many wonderful volunteers pitched in, some all week: Shana Butler, Jamie MacClarence, Amanda Mack, Jim Kerr, Silver Hjellen, Laura Greffinius, Deena Mitchell, Willem Meehan, Clarissa Crawford, Kalen Saxton and Staff Goodies Guru TK Kleiner! It truly took a village, and we thank everyone for their participation and are already looking forward to next year!

I hope you have a wonderful last month of summer. And, remember to save a bit of water from those wonderful summer experiences I’m seeing and hearing about, whether in your backyard or far away, for our water ceremony in September. Thanks to all the Summer RE leaders providing fun activities for the children – in our Steampunk Sundays Program -they have been varied and awesome!

Peace,

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Summer Program Schedule

9:00 Service –Now childcare during the summer

11:00 Service - Cross age programs. Childcare for 1-4 yr. olds.

Summer Program Schedule: STEAMPunk Sundays 11 – 12:15 AM (Preschool age 5– 5th grade)

July 31 - Techy Bread with Mary Gregory

August 7 – Sculpting with Oliver Johnson

August 14 – Electricity with Alison Hansen

August 21 – Steampunk Creations with Laura Krip

August 24 - STEAMPunk creations with Cathy Steen

COMING IN SEPTEMBER

Homecoming Sunday and Mingling of the Waters is September 11.

Fall Frolic and Youth Kickoff Con are September 16-18.

RE classes begin September 25th.

RE Sunday Morning Program 2016-17

Registration continues for the Fall RE 11:00 classes. The registration form is at AUUF and on line. NEW - It’s easy to fill out for returning families! But you still have to bring or mail in.

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 3, 17 & 24, 5- 6 pm

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

Next year will be an action packed year with our focus on World Religions, Harry Potter and the UU School of Wisdom and Wizardry, and our Spring theme activities for regular classes.! Volunteer to be part of a class team fall & spring or if you love the magic of the UU Principles and Sources, sign up for Hogwarts – at the downstairs bulletin board!

Many teachers are still 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. Teams of three persons 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, teaches that rotate through the 3 monthly Sundays so you lead one and help one Sunday each month. There will 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 Saturday, August 27, 10-2 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

Sunday – August 28 after the 11:00 service

Elementary OWL – Intermediate level

4th – 5th Parent Information meeting, Monday, September 19th, 7:00–8:30 pm

4th – 5th Parent & Child Kick off Workshop, Saturday, September 24th 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Classes – October 2 – November 20th, 12:30 – 1:30 pm Sunday afternoon

Elementary K-1 will be offered in the winter if we have class leaders.

Jr High School OWL grades 7-9

Parent Orientation – **Wednesday September 7, (7-9 p.m.)**

OWL Kickoff – Saturday, Sept. 10th, 12:30 – 3:00 pm for Participants and parents

Classes – September 11th to November 20, 12:30 am - 3:00 pm

Will include 2 Saturday workshops & 2 fieldtrips on Sunday afternoon, TBA

Sr High School OWL grades 10-12

Parent Orientation – **Thursday September 8, (7-9 p.m.)**

OWL Kickoff – Saturday, Sept. 24th, 12:30 – 3:00 pm for Participants and parents

Classes – September 11th to November 20, 12:30 – 3:00 pm

2 fieldtrips will be offered on Sunday afternoon, TBA

Folks have been asking

When is the AUUF Fall Frolic Weekend Retreat?

September 16 – 18, 2016

At Salvation Army - King's Lake Camp in Wasilla.

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 16th to Sunday afternoon, September 18th. 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 is \$60 adults/\$40 children.
- Or come and enjoy only the day Saturday with meals – A -\$40/ CH -\$25.

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 multi-purpose activities lodge.

What about food?

Meals will be provided on Saturday and Sunday, but we will 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 248-5318 or 441-6815. Or call the church office, 248-3737.

Registration forms will be available at the Fellowship.

Camp Registration forms will be in the September LOG, online available downstairs.

Payment can be made on line on the AUUF website.

About our Speakers and Services (see back page)

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

Consul Makoto Izakura has been the Consul for Japan in Anchorage since 2015. Born in Nigata City Japan in 1953, he entered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1979. He holds a Degree in Russian Literature and has been stationed in Budapest Hungary, Tokyo, Atlanta, Edmonton, and Slovenia representing Japan. Consul Izakura is married and has one son and two daughters.

George Bryson has been attending AUUF for nearly a decade. He currently leads the Forum Planning Ministry Team, which recruits speakers for the 9:00 a.m. Sunday service; as well as the Free Thinkers Adult Religious Exploration Group, which meets at noon each Friday to discuss a wide variety of thought-provoking topics. George is well-suited to these investigative endeavors, given a 30-year journalism career as a reporter for the Anchorage Daily News, (1979 – 2009). In 1988, George earned a master of fine arts (MFA) degree in literary non-fiction and creative writing and from the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Erik and Robin Hill are long-time members of the Fellowship who were raised to enjoy an adventure. Together they've traveled the former Soviet Union and Latvia, Europe, the Middle East and Japan. Their recent visit to Cuba was inspired by Robin's mother, who has traveled extensively around the world and declared Cuba one of her all-time favorite destinations. It did not disappoint!

Don Mitchell is an attorney and the author of *Sold American: The Story of Alaska Natives and Their Land* and *Take My Land Take My Life: The Story of Congress's Historic Settlement of Alaska Native Land Claims*. He is a recognized expert on federal Indian law on Capitol Hill.

Dr. Deena Paramo is the superintendent of the Anchorage School District and has been an Alaska educator since 1991. Prior to being selected to lead Alaska's largest school district, she is proud to have served as a teacher, an assistant principal, a principal, an assistant superintendent and the superintendent of the Mat-Su Borough School District. Dr. Paramo holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Education with a specialization in Bilingual Education, a Master of Education degree in Administration, and a Doctor of Education degree in Learning Assessment and System Performance. Most recently she graduated from the American Association of School Administrators National Superintendents Certification two-year program. Dr. Paramo's focus on student achievement and success is backed by her experiences in teaching and educational leadership. She is firmly committed to the Anchorage School District's vision to have every child prepared for the work force or post-secondary education after high school. Dr. Paramo is active in several local and civic organizations including the Education Commission of the States, Alaska Superintendents' Association, 90% by 2020 Partnership, Anchorage and Chugiak-Eagle River Chambers of Commerce, East Anchorage Rotary, Foraker Group, and United Way. She serves on several non-profit boards and enjoys spending time with her family, snow and water skiing, running, and interior decorating. Dr. Paramo has two college-age daughters, one of whom is proud to attend UAA.

Emily Blahous, long time Anchorage School district teacher, has been teaching video and radio news and piano keyboarding at Mirror Lake Middle School since it opened 18 years ago. For the last 2 years, she has concentrated solely on her piano keyboarding classes. These classes incorporate much more than just teaching students how to play the piano. They include: technology, history, appreciation, composing, improvising, listening, performing, theory, audience etiquette, manners and learning how to play the piano. Grants partially support buses for evening field trips to free performances. Student fees are donations to the local food bank. The ultimate goal: Music enriches everyone's life. The Fine Arts are important and must always be a part of our curriculum.

Rabbi Michael Oblath has served Congregation Beth Shalom since 2007. He was attracted to Alaska for both personal and professional reasons. The state's natural beauty and outdoor sports were a draw. The professional opportunity comes from Anchorage's two universities, allowing his academic pursuits. He writes and lectures often on biblical history, geography and literature. His focus, however, is his congregation. "From the moment of our first interview..." he said, "I have found the congregation to be one of integrity, with caring concern for all aspects of life." He has a bachelor's degree in Physiology from the University of California, master's (rabbinical degree) in Hebrew Letters from Hebrew Union College and doctorates in Near East Religions from the University of California and Graduate Theological Union.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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Anchorage, AK 99508-3303

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AUUF SERVICES –August 2016

Sunday, August 7

9 am George Bryson, 'American Experience: The Boys of '36'

11 am Consul Makoto Izakura,
"A Nuclear Free World"

Sunday, August 14

9 am Eric and Robin Hill, 'What We Saw in Cuba'

11 am Emily Blahaus, "Music Enriches Everyone"

Tuesday Evening Services are suspended
for summer. They will resume in the fall.

Sunday, August 21

9 am Author Don Mitchell, 'Are Tribal Casinos on Alaska's Horizon?'

11 am 'Rabbi Michael Oblath, 'Righteous Among the Nations: Courage in the Face of Evil'

Sunday, August 28 Picnic Sunday!

9 am New ASD Superintendent Deena Paramo,
'Ready for the Challenge'

11 am Gary Holthaus

Picnic follows!

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- August 2016

Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare

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

The LOG

September 2016

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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



From Gary

Signs of Fall: in some places the sign of approaching fall is the withering of berries or deciduous leaves changing color. For some of us, we mark the change of seasons by holidays. Thus, Labor Day is a marker for autumn.

Most September Sundays are markers of the new season at AUUF.

“Homecoming Sunday” is (Sept. 11). It means that our church year is renewed, shifting from fishing, hiking, camping, to a full slate of activities from Religious Exploration (RE) programs to renewed regular meetings of various committees and ministries. “Fall Frolic,” a weekend of family fun at Birchwood Camp follows immediately (Sept. 18), and we dedicate our RE teachers and celebrate our first “Soup Sunday” September 25. October features our “Animal Blessing Sunday” (October 2), and two nights of conversation about Unitarian Universalism for any who wish to learn more or are thinking about joining AUUF. We are calling those, “Considering Membership” this year and they are on October 6 and 13. After that (it seems like huckledee buck) we are into Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Come join the rush! Gary

R.E. Thoughts

The last few weeks of increasing rainy days reminded us that our hot and glorious summer is coming to an end. The Wheel of the Year has turned again and it’s time for Gathering In, returning to the home fires that ground us and make us who we are. Homecoming Sunday and Fall Frolic bring us back again each year to renew our connection to our beloved community. We look forward to a new year of learning and growing together.

To further deepen this experience of learning together, this year we will have monthly Multigenerational services that families can experience together, welcoming the children into our UU style of worship. Other Sundays will find the children downstairs in their classes for our fall explorations of world religions.

Calendar Highlights

Aug 28 Picnic!

Sept. 5, Labor Day

Sept. 11. Homecoming Sunday
and Mingling of the Waters

Sept. 13 Tuesday Evening Services
Resume, 7 pm

Sept. 16-18 Fall Frolic

Sept. 20 Defying the Nazis, PBS

Sept. 25 RE begins, Soup Sunday,
Find Your Fit Fair

Oct 2 Animal Blessing

At our summer “Peace Camp”, we sang songs, created art and explored ways of creating peace with each other and the world. In this multicultural, many hued country we live in, the way forward, the way of peace is through our connections, our acceptance, and our understanding of others. Our RE theme this year, “We are the World, We are the Children” will address ways of understanding and living our principles to bring peace into our relationships and to the world. We invite you to join us in our joyful explorations both upstairs and downstairs!

In Peace, Rosene Beachy, DLRE

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2016 AUUF Community Picnic



Sunday, August 28th

12:30PM~3:00PM

Food! • Games! • Fun!

Live Music! • Fellowship!

For more information, contact Becky More at auufinvolve@gei.net or 907-248-3737 ext. 6

Board President Letter for September

Monthly board meetings begin with a chalice lighting and a check-in with members, staff, and others present. This month several people mentioned berry picking. Waiting in line at the farmer's market, I heard the same conversations about successful picking days or plans to get out and pick one more time. I can vouch for 2016's bumper crop of berries. What struck me from these chats was the sense of place. It's August, it's soggy, and lots of us have been out berrying. Like salmon fishing, long summer evenings, and barbecues that end by donning fleece jackets and scooching closer to the charcoal, berries are part of summer in AK.

It has started me thinking about what it means to be the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. What forms our sense of place? How do we engage in this place, this community? How do we support our mission to create a just, safe, and caring community? My list of community connections starts with the Forum because of the opportunities to hear and talk with people from so many corners of this city. Added to that are strong representation from AUUF at Project Homeless Connect and the Pride Parade, the forum on the Alaska budget crisis, Peace Camp kids walking to the park to float their boats in Chester Creek, running into UUs at movies, on the trails, and at concerts around town, and participating in AFACT.

Our current location and building have given us some new opportunities to put the "A" in AUUF – we've got potato beds from the Airport Heights Elementary School, the garden is sprucing up our corner of the neighborhood, we hosted the community council last year, and this year our church will be a site for OLE classes. If we can do this with our existing facility...

...just think what we can do with some improvements that make our building more flexible and more accessible for our Fellowship and the wider community. And that brings me to the capital campaign. At the annual meeting, the Capital Campaign Committee received strong support from the congregation to proceed with capital campaign planning, with the understanding that the committee would check in with the Board for a go/no-go vote at the end of the summer after more planning, working with our consultant, and conducting reality checks on fund-raising. The committee brought their report to the Board on August 10. We remain impressed by the thorough, responsible, and creative work done by this dedicated group, and the Board unanimously voted to proceed with a capital campaign. The campaign will occur this fall – look for more news soon, welcome the chance to help build AUUF's presence in Anchorage, and thank a committee member.

In fellowship, Marty Freeman

It is time!!! Capital Campaign about to launch!!

By Doug Eby and Frank Mitchell, Chairs Capital Campaign

The Capital Campaign has been approved and is ready to move forward. Dinners will happen! Individual discussions will occur! Generosity will abound! The materials will be sent out electronically and provided on paper in person. These materials will describe three levels of accomplishment - \$750,000 is the grand total optimistically hoped for. At this level about ten of the priority projects can be accomplished – South Entry, Handicapped and mobility assisted improvements, Dedicated Meditation Room, Kitchen development, moving offices, RE improvements, Choir/music space, Social Room improvements, etc. At \$500,000 the Entry project gets some simplification, Several RE projects drop off, and the office/music/kitchen projects get eliminated or greatly simplified. At \$350,000 some tough choices need to be made. Probably the social room connectivity and the south entry are what are left at that level.

So, we are very hopeful that we can at least get to the \$500,000 level and dream of \$750K. The informal checking in with people would suggest that getting to \$500K is going to be a challenge and the entire membership will have to dig a bit deeper than many are planning for so far. To get to the \$750,000 level would likely take some major gifts from one or two donors – something like the Louise Gallop estate gift – and at present we do not know of any such gift. We are going to need a number of individual gifts in the 50, 40K, 30K, 20K level....so think long and hard about how high you can go... The idea is that you have three years to pay off this one-time gift – while continuing your annual pledge as well....(the budget for staff and other costs does not go down...!!).

Invitations will go out for group dinners....so please say YES! when invited...! These dinners will allow for describing the work that can be accomplished at the various levels of total giving, providing the visual depictions of the work, and time for questions and discussion. By doing dinners we are hoping to be able to provide lots of information, get some group excitement going about our future, and a sense of being in this all together! We will also make ourselves available to any individuals or households who want a more personal time.

We hope to have finished the entire campaign by the Annual Dinner in early November...so the next weeks and months will be busy ones for those doing the work. Many people have agreed to fill many roles as the campaign gets fully organized. We are grateful for all of the supportive work! Now let's make this facility fabulous!!!!

Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War, Ken Burns Documentary

PBS press release excerpt

Defying the Nazis: The Sharp's War, a new documentary co-directed by Ken Burns and Artemis Joukowsky about a little-known but important mission by an American minister and his wife to rescue refugees and dissidents before and after the start of World War II, will air on September 20 at 9 PM (check local listings) on PBS.

The 90 minute film tells the story of Waitstill and Martha Sharp, a Unitarian minister and his wife from Wellesley, Massachusetts, who left their children behind in the care of their parish and boldly committed to multiple life-threatening missions in Europe. Over two dangerous years they helped save hundreds of imperiled political dissidents and Jewish refugees fleeing the Nazi occupation across Europe.

"The story of Waitstill and Martha Sharp is one of the most incredible tales of compassion, sacrifice and heroism that I have ever heard," said Ken Burns. Nearly three years before America as a nation became involved in the Second World War, these two unassuming, so-called 'ordinary' Americans gave up everything they knew and loved and risked their lives to become involved in a war 4000 miles away because they knew there were people in grave danger who needed help."



Social Justice Committee

By Dennis Arashiro

"I am opposing a social order in which it is possible for one man who does absolutely nothing that is useful to amass a fortune of hundreds of millions of dollars, while millions of men and women who work all the days of their lives secure barely enough for a wretched existence."

- Eugene Debs

If Debs were alive to observe Labor Day this month, my guess is that he would be saying the same thing except to speak of billions of dollars. As for doing absolutely nothing that is useful to amass such a fortune, he need only look at a certain presidential candidate, unless you think building and bankrupting casinos is useful. As for the millions of men and women who labor in desperation, he need only look at the challenges facing organizations like the Food Bank of Alaska, the Alaska Workers Association, and others in trying to meet the shortfalls of poor wages. He need only look at the demand for policy changes in creating fairer taxes, a living wage, and truly universal healthcare. He need only look to Ted Kennedy's call, "The work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives and the dreams shall never die."

The Social Justice Committee is our vehicle for confronting the issues of inequality. Join us when we meet at **12:30 PM on Sunday, September 18, 2016, in Gary's office**. We welcome your questions, suggestions, and proposals. If you cannot attend, please call or email me your contribution to our discussions and actions. Dennis Arashiro at 444-4324 or elvischannel@yahoo.com.

Half Portion for Social Action: Alaska Food Bank

By Karla Jutzi, Director of Development & Communications, Food Bank Alaska

A New Way of Thinking About Hunger...More and more, caring Americans are recognizing that hunger is really a public health issue.

One in seven Alaskans lives with food insecurity, the lack of consistent access to enough nutritious food for an active, healthy life. Food insecurity puts people at higher risk for diet-related diseases such as Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease and obesity. Often struggling families cope by buying cheaper high-calorie food rather than healthy but more expensive fresh vegetables and fruit and healthy protein.

While this strategy may work in the short-term, a poor diet, along with the stress of financial insecurity, can increase people's risk for diet-related disease and undermine management of chronic health conditions. As a result, people struggling with hunger may experience more health crises which drain the household budget, leaving less for essential nutrition and medical care. And the cycle continues, making it difficult for families caught in it to muster the health and energy to build self-sufficient lives.

With your help, Food Bank of Alaska breaks this cycle by acquiring and distributing food through 300 partners statewide to fill plates and nourish communities where families can thrive. Your support for feeding Alaskans in need means more of your neighbors will have the health and vitality to achieve their goals for a better life.

General Assembly 2017

June 21-25, New Orleans, LA

Have you considered going? Planning has begun for General Assembly New Orleans is one of the world's most fascinating cities – it's home to a truly unique melting pot of culture, food and music. Come down and experience New Orleans, one of America's most culturally and historically-rich destinations. Registration and housing opens March 1.

Friendly Recycling Tip: A friend asked for her newspaper to be delivered without the plastic sleeve, as she has a box. She loves not having to collect and recycle the sleeves.

Recycling Plastics: Sept. 11, Nov. 20, and Jan. 15 @ AUUF. Mark your calendar! Number 5's.



Draw the Circle Wide and Fill Our House!

Plan to Attend the Annual Dinner-Auction Saturday, November 5

Plans are underway for this year's Annual Dinner - Auction gala gathering and fund-raiser slated for 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. Saturday, November 5, at our AUUF facility. Let us again *Draw the Circle Wide and Fill Our House* with members, friends and guests who will find something to enjoy:

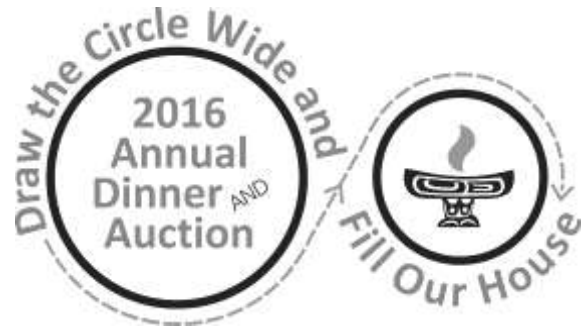
- delicious share-a-dish banquet spread featuring prized recipes
- fun and fabulous door prizes
- great items to browse in our silent and live auctions
- Families can enjoy a downstairs children's auction and activities

Child care will be available on-site for ages 1-12. 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 circulating during church services. Questions? Contact Dinner Menu Co-Coordinator 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. Look for the Dessert Auction sign-up sheet circulating during church services.
- **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, kalensaxton@gmail.com or Cathy Steen, 440-6540, csteen@gci.net.
- **Volunteer!** Success takes a village. Look for the Volunteer sign-up sheet during church services.

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.



Hungry Book Club News

By Shirley Dickens

The Hungry Book Club has chosen NOT to meet in August, but we will meet in September at AUUF, Sept. 13th in the social room at 2 PM to discuss "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society" by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. This charming book has been around for several years and can be found at Title Wave, Barnes and Noble, the public library, Amazon.com or borrowed from several of us book club members. In September we will refill our jar of book titles to choose from and discuss meeting back at the condo at 9th and M Street or some other facility. So, please come with written suggestions of books you would like to read.

This is an open book club and we welcome newcomers. If you chose to join us, bring a little something to share in the way of a semi healthy snack food. Call 563-4499 for more information.

The Alliance

by Shirley Dickens, Chair of the Alliance

The Alliance met July 10th to discuss upcoming events. Our discussions covered our helping hands for Shirley Randal's Joyous Potluck and Memorial service held on the 27th of July. If you were not able to attend, you should know that the event went well and Shirley's life was truly honored by a turnout of friends from this community and out of state family. The combined service and potluck was held in the sanctuary and we are so thankful for all the extra AUUF folk who lent a hand in setting up for the service.

At our July meeting we also discussed the Fellowship picnic and how the Alliance would help with that effort. Hope to see you all at the picnic!

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

What a surprise for me and I am truly grateful...I was so worried about the "Joyful Pot Luck Memorial" for our Shirley Randal on July 27th, but my three worries, "not enough people, not enough food, not enough help to set up everything in the Sanctuary," were totally not the case. We had lots of lovely help, lots of lovely people, and plenty of delicious food. Thank you to all who helped, all who brought food and all who were so friendly and supportive of the 10 relatives who came from the East Coast to be part of the service. This congregation was (and is) wonderful.

Thankful for the great programs and the two committees and their chairs who have jumped in to fill several Sundays while Gary was on medical leave, then his vacation. We have had some outstanding services, both at the 9 AM Forum and at the 11 AM Worship service. And the rest of August sounds wonderful too. Well done, everyone!

Grateful for our gardeners, not only are our yards and grounds looking nice but we are even growing some vegetables (like zucchini and herbs). I was thrilled when Kathy Steen made some of that zucchini into a lovely bread and turned some of it into "pickled" zucchini and brought it to Shirley Randal's service. How fitting for us to grow something on our grounds and use it for one of our own. Kathy tells me that there are herbs in pots at the front of our Fellowship that need someone picking them when they need parsley, thyme, rosemary or basil for cooking. Please join me in snipping some now and then for home use.

Grateful for Becky More, our new hire to help with activities and making connections. I met with her recently and she has some great ideas for happenings for us all, including the picnic this August. She has lots of energy and seems like a lovely fit for us. Join me in extending a very warm WELCOME to Becky.

Very grateful for my recent week (with daughter, Ruth Greenwood) at Elliot Institute summer camp at Seabeck, WA. Being around 250 other UUs, who were most welcoming, at a gorgeous high camp was a wonderful treat. Sorry it's so far for most of us to take advantage of this intergenerational gathering. Sacred time for me and I came back restored and refreshed.

We would like to congratulate our 3 teen leaders, Sarah Harris, Sarah Freeman and Gretchen Mitchell, who completed a week of leadership training this summer at Goldmine Youth Leadership School. Goldmine is an intense leadership school for youth focusing on self-reflection and leadership skills. Youth learn concrete leadership skills, learn to lead a worship in a wide variety of youth worship styles, and work to articulate the faith based grounding for their values and leadership.

May you all feel well and come back fully rested and restored from your summer adventures.

September Birthdays, Best Wishes!

(Birthdays are not published in our online version.)



Your Credit Card for Recurring

Donations When your credit card number or expiration date changes please notify the office. (Call or leave an updated contribution form in the black secured box in the office.) *Frustrated with*

changing numbers? We can setup automatic donations from your checking. Thank you for your financial support of the Fellowship!

Choir Schedule

Thursday, September 1, 2016 7:00-8:30pm
Thursday, September 8, 2016 7:00-8:30pm
Sunday, Sept 11th Homecoming, 9:45-10:30am
Thursday, September 15, 2016 7:00-8:30pm
Thursday, September 22, 2016 7:00-8:30pm
Sunday, Sept 25th, 9:45-10:30am
Thursday, September 29, 2016 7:00-8:30pm
Sunday, Oct 2th Animal Sunday, 9:45-10:30am



R.E. Notes for September 2016

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Our Program

What a great summer of STEAMPunk explorations for RE Kids. Many fabulous Program leaders led super fun themes on everything from Math and Widgets to Sculpture and baking! We want to thank all of our wonderful leaders who spent time preparing and leading great activities: Jeanne Duryee, Melanie Baker, Kalen Saxton, Stephenie Wheeler, George Baker, James Dryden, Marty Freeman, Stacey Mansfield, Mary Gregory, Oliver Johnson, Alison Hansen, Laura Krip, and Cathy Steen.

If you didn't get a chance to help out this summer, several classes still need volunteer teachers this fall: Toddlers, Preschool (3 & 4 yr. olds), and Jr youth. Contact Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Let's dispel some myths about RE that people may have.

1. **The commitment is too big -Not really!** Working with a team of three or four, you will spend half of your year upstairs. Downstairs you will lead (the given curriculum) one Sunday a month, and support another leader in your team as helper, a 2nd Sunday.
2. **If I spend time with the kids, my adult relationships will suffer – Not so!** Many of our teachers actually improve their adult relationships at the Fellowship, as working with others will build relationships. The adults get to know the children, the parents of the children, and their fellow teachers. RE is a great way to get involved and be in contact with the Fellowship.
3. **I'm not good with kids – Not true!** Everyone has experience with children--even if it was being one! Most of our teachers are parents with children in RE. We would like to expand that pool of passionate adults willing to share their gifts with the youth of tomorrow. You can give the greatest gift as well, the gift of your time, your spirit, yourself.

We Need You!

"Homecoming Sunday", on September 11th.

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. **Registration is happening for the next few Sundays in the upstairs social room. We appreciate your registrations before Homecoming Sunday.**

Our Activities

Coming in **September – 16-18th 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. (*Application on the website.*)

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!

OWL classes will be held this fall for 4-5th Elementary OWL and our 2 youth programs – 7-8th Jr High, and 11-12th Sr High.

There will be a **Childcare Orientation** on **Sunday, September 25**, from 9:00 – 10:00 am in the, Jr High room. This is for youth 13 and up interested in being on the childcare call list for 9 am services and other RE and Fellowship events. Please fill out the application form available at the Parent Info Spot!

Our first **Soup Sunday will be on September 25th 12:15**. The CYRE committee will be sponsoring this to raise funds for Scholarships for RE activities like OWL, COA and Youth travel and Summer Camp. If you aren't an RE parent, now is your chance. Call Annie Belts, CYRE chair, 440-6393 to volunteer your favorite soup!

YRUU Schedule 2016-17

Sept. 11--Homecoming Multigenerational Service
Sept. 16-18—ALASCON
Oct. 2--Animal Blessing Multigenerational Service
Oct. 21-23—FALL CON
Oct. 30--All Souls Multigenerational Service

Nov. 13--Fall Youth Worship
Nov. 20--Thanksgiving Multigenerational Service
Dec. 18--Solstice Multigenerational Service
Feb. 12--Spring Youth Service

Details

Alascon We will have another wonderful weekend parallel to Fall Frolic. Hopefully, this will be the year that we host people outside of our congregation! Please contact me if you have ideas for events and workshops and/or pranks and stunts.

Fall Con Will be at Camp Cispus again, and we can go if we get in gear and raise some funds. As long as we keep it all for one, and one for all, we are happy to support going to both CONS. I'd like to start talking about raising funds to assist YRUUs from other Alaskan congregations, and potentially an Alaska Service Trip!

Eric McCoy auufcyp@gmail.com, 907 230 6915

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 x7

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 – Vacant

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 – Sid Atwood / Sharon Cissna

Human Resources – Jackie Cason / Peggy Robinson

Interior Design – Irene O'Brien / Cindy Kinard

Membership / Member Services – Vacant

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 – Judy Engh

UUSC Coordinator – Vacant

Welcoming / Hospitality – Vacant

Whalecoast – Denise Martin

Worship Associates – Marilyn Lee

Young Adults (the aurora) – Eric McCoy

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.



About our September Speakers (see back page)

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

Barbara Sarantitis is the Operations Manager and founding organizer of Alaska Workers Association. She launched AWA in September 2000 when she returned to Alaska after a 10-year absence and recognized the significant shift to service and contract work available to Alaskans and the reduced wages associated with those jobs. Barbara has been a professional volunteer organizer since 1988.

Ryan Hall is the Administrative Assistant of Alaska Workers Association where his responsibilities include recruiting and training volunteers to coordinate AWA's programs as well as running the day-to-day activities of the organization. Ryan began volunteering with AWA while a student at UAA. Through his participation he learned that the organization's goal of eliminating the material conditions of poverty coincided with his life goals and saw through practice that AWA's method of Systemic Organizing would allow him to be part of achieving that goal. He has been a full-time professional volunteer organizer since May of 2015.

Lael Morgan is an author with 16 published books, such as *Good Time Girls of the Alaska Yukon Gold Rush*, which won her the title of Historian of the Year in 1998 from the Alaska Historical Society. Her other forays into Alaska studies include *And the Land Provides: Alaska Natives in a Year of Transition* (1974), *The Aleutians* (1980), *Art and Eskimo Power: The Life and Times of Alaskan Howard Rock* (1988) and *Eskimo Star: From Tundra to Tinseltown: the Ray Mala Story* (2011).

Jean Pollard is a retired Anchorage educator whose research and group leadership in documenting the important role that African-American troops performed in building the Al-Can (Alaska Highway) during World War II has helped to correct the historic record.

Dave Kuiper moved to Alaska in 1974 with his wife, Darlene, and worked in construction for more than 24 years. He served 14 years as senior pastor for Crosspoint Community Church and has been director of Alaska Medical Missions, a Faith-Based Community Initiatives Liaison, and a Certified Pastoral Counselor and Life Coach. Dave serves on the board of the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness. He joins us today to discuss his work with the Safe Shelter program that offers a safe place for homeless Anchorage families to sleep during the cold months.

The Honorable Dana Fabe retired in June after serving two decades as Associate Justice and Chief Justice of the Alaska Supreme Court. Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1951, she grew up there and attended The Seven Hills School. Earning a BA from Cornell University and JD from Northeastern University, she began her career as an attorney in Alaska in 1974. From 1976 to 1988, she served as a clerk for the Alaska Supreme Court, an attorney in the Alaska Public Defender Agency and Chief Public Defender before her appointment as Superior Court Judge in Anchorage in 1988. She then served as Training Judge and Deputy Presiding Judge for the Third Judicial District from 1992 to 1995. In January 1996 Governor Tony Knowles appointed her to the Supreme Court, making her the first woman to serve there.

The Rev. Ruth Greenwood has been involved with the AUUF since the late 70s as a child/teen and the early 90s as an adult. She attended Meadville/Lombard seminary in Chicago and was ordained to the UU ministry by the AUUF in 2012.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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AUUF SERVICES –September 2016

Sunday, August 28 Picnic Sunday!

9 am New ASD Superintendent Deena Paramo,
'Ready for the Challenge'
11 am Gary Holthaus, "A Sense of Urgency"

Picnic follows!

Sunday, September 4

9 am Ryan Hall and Barbara Sarantitus,
'Ending Poverty for Low Income Workers'
11 am Gary Holthaus, "The Labor of Eugene Debs"

Sunday, September 11

9 am Lael Morgan and Jean Pollard,
"When Black Troops Built the Al-Can"
11 am Homecoming Service

Sunday, September 18

9 am David Kuiper,
'Opening Our Doors to the Homeless'
11 am Ruth Greenwood, 'The Eleusinian Mysteries'

Sunday, September 25

9 am The Honorable Dana Fabe,
'A Lifetime in Pursuit of Justice'
11 am Gary Holthaus

<u>Tuesday Evening Services Resume Sept 13th.</u> Join Gary for an informal service at 7pm.
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CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- September 2016

Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare

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

The LOG

October 2016

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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



From Gary

A couple months back I said that it felt like fall and that things were picking up at AUUF. Today I'd have to confess that I had no idea how things were moving. The descriptors of our schedule then might have been "crowded," or "rushed."

This week I might say we are "inundated," or "flooded," or perhaps even "overwhelmed!"

Our Religious Exploration program for children and youth is in full fall time programming. Our OWL classes are filled to capacity. Our Choir is at full strength, and sounds great. Our committees (I noted in my last talk at the Sunday 11:00 o'clock that we have "scads of committees") and our "Ministry Teams" like Pastoral Care, our Worship Associates, and Safer Congregation teams are meeting regularly again.

Our community collaborators such as Anchorage Faith and Congregations Together (AFACT) are also gearing up. At our last meeting the AFACT members unanimously agreed to host a "Hope for Anchorage: A Prayer Vigil for Peace and Healing" to help our larger community deal with the pain of violence which has been upsetting our city as well other communities around the country. A couple of hundred folks showed up to stand on the side of hope and peace. *See page 3 for more details.*

Calendar Highlights

Oct 1 RE Family and Friends
Spaghetti and Games 6-8

Oct 2 Animal Blessing

Oct 2 1st Sunday RE Breakfast

Oct 6 & 13 Considering
Membership, UU History and
Thought

Oct 10th Voluntary Simplicity
begins

Oct 12 6:15 Board Meeting

Oct 20 & 27; Nov 3 & 10
Considering a Spiritual Life For Our
Time

Oct 23 Soup Sunday

Nov 5 Annual Dinner

And our new adult offerings are starting up again, October 6th begins a two Thursday evening conversations about UU history and faith for those interested in knowing more about our denomination. That class will be followed by four Thursday nights of conversation, "Considering: A Spiritual Life for our time." Stephanie Koontz will be leading that group with me as we think about creating our own theology, rather than adopting someone else's. These meetings will be 6:30-8:00 beginning Thursday, October 20 in Gary's office at UUF. Cookies, coffee, or tea of course.

A course on Voluntary Simplicity is beginning in October, and small groups (a cornerstone of UU congregations) are forming for the season. *See page 3 for all the details on New Adult Programs.*

On second thought, all those adjectives above like overwhelmed and inundated are wrong. "Engaged," "involved," "thinking," and "learning," and "having fun" are closer to the way I feel.

So get engaged. See you Sunday, Gary

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Board President Letter for October

Creating a “just, safe, and caring community” isn’t all work and no play. I’m just back from Fall Frolic along with a record number of AUUF’ers. I’m a little tired from a busy weekend, but also relaxed and refreshed thanks to walks in the woods, a moonlight canoe ride, and basking in lovely live music around the candlelit labyrinth. There was time to catch up with old friends, meet new ones, and welcome our fellow MatSu UUs.

Back in Anchorage, things are humming. By the time you read this...

- The Capital Campaign will be in full swing. You can be part of making this building a haven for our own community and a practical and welcoming place for outreach into the greater Anchorage community. Please sign up to join old and unmet friends for an October dinner, brunch, or wine tasting to learn more about the campaign and figure out how you can contribute. Questions? Contact Doug Eby, Frank Mitchell, or Wendy Romberg.
- The AUUF Program Council will have convened for the first time, beginning the work of expanding leadership, strengthening interchange among our committees and ministry teams, identifying program priorities, and building our FY18 budget. Ideas? Contact Sam Cason.
- The Board will have had its annual retreat. It is our chance, together with our minister, to focus on the future, evaluate our progress, and identify our priorities for the next one to two years rather than addressing month-to-month business. Input? Contact me – I’d love to hear from you.
- The AUUF Local Organizing Ministry that works with AFACT is continuing one-on-one conversations with members, neighbors, and friends of the Fellowship. They are listening to concerns and interests, and learning where there may be opportunities for AUUF to help. Want to know more? Talk to Don Crandall, Marie Rozak, or Dennis Arashiro.

All it takes to become woven into the fabric of AUUF is a chat after services, a phone call, or e-mail to a Board member, committee chair, or staffer. Jump in!

In fellowship, Marty Freeman

Capital Campaign is Underway!!

By Doug Eby and Frank Mitchell, Chairs Capital Campaign

After many months of work and preparation the capital campaign is underway! We all know that right now is a little bit uncertain time in Alaska, but after lots of input and discussion, AUUF is moving ahead with this project. It is VERY exciting and we have those fabulous plans most of you have seen for greatly improving the access and functionality of our facility!! Better access for all, better flow, better welcoming, better safety, and a lot more natural light flowing into all of our important spaces....

We have set up thresholds for various levels of project funding. The master plan for the entire facility and grounds totals just over one million dollars; a level of project funding that is probably not within our current reach unless we get some unexpected very large gifts. Officially we are aiming for \$700K, but we have three levels of project definition - \$350K, 500K, \$700K, and one million. Any of these levels will be a success and provide a project that we can be happy with, but the real impacts happen at \$500K and above. Early discussions and meetings show us likely to raise money at the lower end of this spectrum, with everyone being ‘safe’ in their giving, so we are going to need to encourage each other to be a little bit more generous than our first thought and really try to get to that \$500K total giving. Give some thought to gifts to AUUF that are beyond cash – investments, portions of sales of homes or other assets, and gifts that can be given in one or two years. This is a three year giving window. Of course, all giving needs to be one time giving above the annual giving that keeps the operations of AUUF going.

During the next six weeks there will be many gatherings in homes, and many individual visits and discussions – all aimed at providing detailed information and creating excitement and momentum around these fabulous improvements that can really make a big difference in the facility and our highly valued community that uses it. Keep your eyes open for invitations to events and jump at the opportunity to join one!! There is a lot to learn by attending, listening, and discussing with your fellow members of our wonderful AUUF community. Full speed ahead to an improved future!!

Adult Programs (beginning this month)

Considering Membership? (2 sessions) An introduction to UU History, UU Thought and UU Engagement led by Gary Holthaus. Thursday October 6th & 13th, 6:30 – 8:00 in Gary's office.

Considering: A Spiritual Life For Our Time, A 4-session class discussing and creating our own theology. Led by Gary Holthaus and Stephanie Koonz - The group will meet in Gary's office on Oct. 20, Oct 27, Nov. 3, 10, 6:30 – 8:00

Parents Discussion Group Deep listening and sharing in a small group format. Opportunity for Jr/Sr High parents to come together and talk honestly in a confidential, non-competitive setting about the joys and challenges of raising children. Sunday afternoons during OWL classes. 12:30 – 2:00, Meet every 2-4 weeks. September 25 – November. Meets in downstairs classroom #3, 'Gathering Room'. Facilitated by Ann Larabee.

Voluntary Simplicity Our decisions on how we live and consume are not made in a vacuum. We are affected by the consumer culture and society around us. **Voluntary Simplicity** helps participants examine how modern society can interfere with caring for the planet. Together, you explore how consumption patterns have an impact on you and your relationships, as well as the environment. Discover ways to slow down and live simply. This course was written by the Earth Institute. Five sessions after the first organizing session on October 10th. Meeting times TBD by group, possibly it will stay on Mondays at 7:00 pm. Call Cathy Steen for more information, 440-6540.

Yoga for Adults and Teens Yoga basics will be held in the downstairs Gathering room at the fellowship in October 13, 20, 27 Thursdays from 5 to 6. This yoga basics class will focus on form of beginning level. Poses, build strength in students, and facilitate relaxation at the end of each class. Bring your own yoga mat! Led by Peggy Cobey. Open to ages 14 and up.

Small Groups are groups of about 10 people who commit to get together once every two weeks for approximately 10 or 12 times. They pick a topic each week for the next time, and they come together to share their thoughts and to listen to others. We use a format called "active listening" Groups meet twice a month on a topic of mutual interest. For questions or to indicate interest contact Susan 222-7117 days, 248-1141 eve or weekend, email susano@reevesasmodio.com. Joining a small group is a great way to build community. You'll enjoy seeing familiar faces across the sanctuary on Sunday and learning more about people you've known casually for years. Small groups are good for newcomers and oldtimers.

AUUF Local Organizing Ministry/AFACT

Marie Rozak

AFACT is sponsoring a Candidates' Forum for Alaska's two U.S. Congressional seats currently held by Sen. Lisa Murkowski and Rep. Don Young. The forum will be held October 24, 7:00 PM, at First Covenant Church, 1145 C St. All candidates have been invited.

At the September City-wide Meeting, AFACT welcomed Anna Bryant, newly hired Executive Director, as well as the announcement of three new interns recently chosen for a 3-month long program. The internship provides individuals with training and learning experiences related to faith-based organizing, understanding community systems, and fostering personal growth.

The city-wide meeting also included a discussion that opened with the phrase, "What I Love about AFACT". Responses included: 'It is faith based', 'Relationship building', 'It gives voice to people who are normally voiceless', and 'AFACT works toward systemic change rather than a Band-Aid effect'.

AUUF's Local Organizing Ministry continues to meet in 1:1's with members of the congregation as well as residents in the Airport Heights neighborhood.

Social Justice Committee

By Dennis Arashiro

When I first spoke with the volunteer coordinator at the Food Bank of Alaska, she mentioned a Valley farmer bringing in a truckload of produce unexpectedly and the immediate need for hands to sort and distribute it. That led me to put together an emergency squad to provide the immediate help in such situations. So far, so good. When Roy's Health Foods closed and donated inventory to the Food Bank, we were there to help clear shelves. When more hands were called for on Volunteer Saturday in August to assemble food boxes for needy seniors, we were there.

We need more of us to be available when there is an urgent call for volunteers. Those on board now may not be in a position to help at a particular time for a specific challenge. You may be the one person who can answer the call. Contact me if you want to be on the email list of the AUUF Social Justice Emergency Squad. Dennis Arashiro at 444-4324 or elvischannel@yahoo.com.

Half Portion for Social Action: Brother Francis Shelter

"To leave the world a bit better...to know that one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded." Ralph Waldo Emerson

What is the impact of our half-portion donation for the Brother Francis Shelter? Your donation, be it food, clothing, your volunteer service, or money, helps the shelter provide the multitude of services needed to support the homeless.

Brother Francis Shelter is not just a place to sleep for the homeless. Your gifts to Brother Francis Shelter make this possible:

- 240 homeless men and women sheltered each night, and an additional 124 men and women at our overflow facility.
- Supply food, clothing, shower and laundry facilities and other essential services.
- Provide case management to men and women 7 days a week.
- Relieve the fear of sleeping outside in the cold.

Thank you for being part of a caring community that works together to break the cycle of homelessness.

You're Invited!

Stepping Stones at BFS & Feast of St. Francis

Sunday, October 2, 2016 6:00 – 7:00PM
Brother Francis Shelter 1021 E. 3rd Avenue
Extra Parking at 3rd Ave & Post Rd



JOIN US!

- To honor Brothers Bob Eaton and Dave Sifferman for helping found Brother Francis Shelter.
- To acknowledge the work of BFS this year
- To celebrate Feast of St. Francis (namesake of BFS)
- We are also accepting donations of wool socks to help create hope one step at a time for BFS guests.

Treasurer's Report

By Amanda Mack

Stepping into the role of treasurer, I am happy to report, has gone so much better than expected! The work of those who came before me have made this possible. A few that come to mind are past treasurer Carma Reed, former board president Sam Cason, stewardship committee chair Judy Engh, and current board president Marty Freeman. Many thanks to these and so many others who have worked hard to create sound, sustainable bylaws and finance policies and resulting initiatives that provide a clear path for AUUF leadership to follow.

To begin with there is the monthly work of "supervising the maintenance of [AUUF's] financial and accounting records." I work with Amy Lundell, our congregational administrator, and our accountant Kelley Landers to make sure that adjustments are made that reflect board decisions and congregational intent and look for any discrepancies in the numbers. I have really enjoyed this process and am thankful that we have such a competent team in place to manage AUUF's finances.

Other duties of the treasurer are to "maintain adequate control of corporate funds; maintain timely reporting of financial conditions and activity to the board of directors and the congregation at regularly scheduled meetings; and make recommendations to the board regarding emerging financial conditions." This kind of reporting can be seen in the posted minutes from each board meeting. A recent example is that in fiscal year '16, we raised more money than we spent. How great is that! As a result, we adjusted the FY '16 financial statements because we were able to meet the three priorities approved by the congregation in the off chance that this happened. We provided \$4,000 for the Choir/Music Program, we increased our PILOT contribution to \$3,200, and put \$3,200 into the Minister and DLRE sabbatical fund.

Furthermore, according to the bylaws, the treasurer is to serve on the Finance Committee which meets quarterly. In June 2016, the Finance Committee and Board adopted a 7-page finance policy that "governs the fiscal operations of AUUF, all its committees, and affiliate organizations which use the financial accounts and record keeping services of AUUF." It provides guidelines for things like investment and risk strategy of our assets and for realistic budgeting practices. It also gives our minister authority to make budgetary adjustments within approved categories, but makes a requirement that any adjustment exceeding 10% needs board approval.

The finance policies also created guidelines for a collaborative budget process which served as the impetus for launching the program council that met for the first time in September. The intent of the program council is to discuss and identify specific plans and ideas to move the congregation ahead during the next two to three years. The resulting proposals are submitted to the finance committee in early January for consideration as an integral part of the next fiscal year's budget process.

As you can see, the members of AUUF are in good hands. This is a great example of how we are moving from a pastoral church to a program church. The minister, the staff, the board, committee chairs and members all have important roles to play as we work together toward our desired future. These ideals dovetail beautifully with AUUF's mission statement: 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.

The Alliance

by Shirley Dickens, Chair of the Alliance

The Alliance did not meet in September, but we will meet second Sunday in October, the 9th, 12:30 p.m. in the Wiggle Room upstairs. We will be collecting annual dues (\$20) and electing officers for the year. Please plan to attend.

Hungry Book Club News

By Shirley Dickens

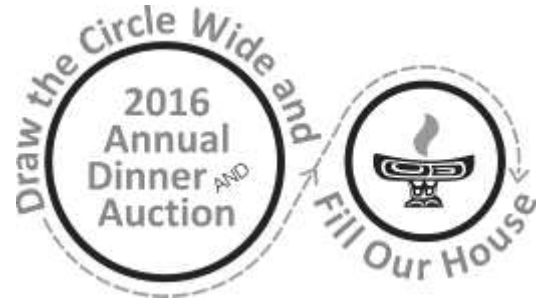
We will meet on Oct. 11th at 2 PM at 836 M St in a social room. We will be discussing a new book by an Alaskan author; Eowyn Ivey called "To The Bright Edge of The World" which has received "rave reviews". This is an historical Alaskan story written in a novel style. Bring a healthy snack to share and join us even if you haven't read the book. We are an open book club, join us!

Friendly Recycling Tip: Carry your own 'to go' cup.

AUUF's Annual Dinner-Auction is Fun for All

Food, Fun and Fund-raising activities for everyone

REMINDER: Mark your calendar to attend our 2016 Annual Dinner - Auction gala gathering and fund-raiser slated for 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. Saturday, November 5, at the fellowship. Please sign-up to volunteer, bring a dish or dessert, or to donate an auction item. Sign-up sheets are in the foyer outside the sanctuary. Everyone who contributes in any way will be included in the evening's raffle for a fine prize. For more information, here are key contacts:



- **Share-a-Dish-Buffer!** Look for the Dinner Menu sign-up sheet and the Dessert Auction sign-up sheet. Contact Menu Co-Coordinator Amy Westfall (632-1630, amywremote@gmail.com) or Dennis Arashiro (277-7377, elvischannel@gci.net)
- **Auction Donations!** Consider offering new adventures, themed dinners and gatherings, skilled services, great gift baskets and more. Auction proceeds are an important part of the revenues that keep our doors open and the lights on. Auction coordinators are Kalen Saxton, 244-8221, kalensaxton@gmail.com or Cathy Steen, 440-6540, csteen@gci.net.
- **Pie-Per-Month Auction Item.** Deena Mitchell (847-997-8357, deenamitchell1978@gmail.com) is coordinating contributions to this popular auction item.
- **Volunteer!** Several volunteers are still needed. Please sign-up!

There's truly something for everyone... a delicious meal, fun games, great door prizes, exciting auction items, plus several family-friendly activities, including a children's auction (see separate story). Child care will be available on-site for ages 1-12. Sign up with Rosene Beachy, 248-5318, rbeachy@alaskalife.net. Teenaged youth are welcome to join in the dinner!

If you have any questions or suggestions, or would like to volunteer, contact event Co-Chairs Ron Devon at 301-1601 or Stephenie Wheeler at 382-3327, msgmaker@gci.net.

Gathering features Children's Auction, Activities

No-money Silent Auction, Games and Prizes for AUUF's youngsters

The Annual Dinner-Auction will include a fun silent auction, games and prizes just for children. Set up downstairs, these kid-friendly activities will take place 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and will be incorporated into the child care activities and schedule.

If you have gently-used and like-new toys, please bring them in by October 30. They'll become part of a fun set up that allows each participating child to "bid" with \$10 in funny money. Children can earn extra Children's auction money through RE class attendance during October. Each Sunday counts for an extra children's auction bid "dollar."

We're looking for a couple of people to oversee and monitor the children's auction and activities. The plans and materials are already developed, so planning is nearly complete. We just need someone to execute and have some creative fun.

Please contact Stephenie (907) 382-3327 or msgmaker@gci.net to make this fun activity happen!

October 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 x 3
auuf@alaska.com.

Choir Schedule

Sunday, Oct 2th Animal Sunday, 9:45-10:30am

Thursday, October 6, 2016 7:00-8:30pm

Thursday, October 13, 2016 7:00-8:30pm

Sunday, Oct 16th, 9:45-10:30am

Thursday, October 20, 2016 7:00-8:30pm

Thursday, October 27, 2016 7:00-8:30pm

Sunday, Oct 30th All Souls, 9:45-10:30am

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Grateful for the outstanding annual picnic in late August coordinated by Becky More, our new Involvement Coordinator and especially grateful for the stunning warm perfect picnic weather. It was almost hot that afternoon. Also grateful for all the volunteer labor to set up and clean up and cook burgers and hot dogs and bring all those condiments and side dishes. A wonderful turn out, even some neighbors who don't attend services yet. A good time was had by all and the music was lovely (especially the children's choir from the Peace Camp.) Well done Becky! Rumor has it that Becky wants to coordinate a Thanksgiving dinner here on Thanksgiving day. Stay tuned.....

Grateful for all the wonderful volunteers who have assisted and helped make Sherri Hadley's life so much better with bringing her to church services and taking her all kinds of places from her assisted living home. Sherri was a member of this congregation, then moved but started coming again when she moved back to Anchorage. I believe Denise Martin was the first one to reach out to her and began giving her rides, but now there are many people helping to make Sherri's "quality of life" so much more than it would be without their involvement, including a recent "Celebration of Life" service that Sherri requested *before* she passes that was called "Sherri's Old Time Music Jam" at Koots Swing Bar in Spenard. Michele Champion started the "share the care" for Sherri and now many musicians who knew Sherri have jumped in to take her different places. Sherri is a fiddler herself who loves Appalachian music. What a wonderful way to Celebrate a Life.

Rev. Richard R Gay (Dick) is now in a retirement home in Bend Oregon. His address is Stone Lodge Retirement Home, 1360 N.E. 27th St., Room 206, Bend OR 97701. And you can reach him by cell: (541) 797 7665. His youngest daughter lives fairly close. Apparently Dick is very happy there, loves the food, the activities and the interesting people. The Home has a once a week chance to eat out as a group at restaurants in Bend which he is enjoying a lot. He feels well and is now 96.

What a wonderful service on Sept. 11. It was our "Home Coming" service with a fabulous choir, outstanding music, wonderful words from Gary Holthaus and Rosene Beachy, a full house with the children upstairs for the full program, Mingling of the Waters from near and far (one of my favorite things we do all year), an incredible series of photographs all about drops of water while Tamara McCoy played wonderful music. I think I speak for nearly everyone there, that this was a terrific way to start off our Fall program.

Fall Frolic was spectacular at King's Lake with 130 attending, our highest number yet. Many new families and old AUUFers were trying the annual retreat for the first time. If you haven't made one of these, make a point next year for the 20th year anniversary. This is a wonderful start for our new season.

And while I am talking about our children, much gratitude to 40 volunteer teachers, RE Committee, and our staff Rosene and Eric to teach our children and plan activities. We have a very full and exceptional children's RE program from toddlers to young adults. Thank you for all the hours and energy spent on their behalf. This is truly a gift to us all here at AUUF. I am so proud of the work all of you do. And Rosene tells us, for the first time in her experience here as RE Director, she had enough volunteer teachers who willingly came forth this year before the classes started! Bless every one of you.

Be Well Dear People, Sending Healing Thoughts to several of you....

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.

R.E. Notes for October 2016

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.



A record 22 Polar Bear plungers, both adults and children, took to the lake Saturday and Sunday mornings! Shane, Cash, Riley, Delaney, Keena, Iona, Hannah, Makayla, Levi, Amei, Jim, Ron, Teddy, Veronika, Emma, Ben, Nora, Katherine, Kristin, Ethan, Charlie, Grace. All were rewarded with a big Polar Bear kiss!

A record number of Frolikers spent a lovely, non-rainy fall weekend at Kings Lake Camp, enjoying the many workshops, crafts, boating and playing with family and friends. New friends were discovered, and clusters of kids formed bonds that happen more easily outdoors than in a short hour of Sunday mornings.

I still hear from young adults who reminisce about the annual pilgrimage to our Fall Frolic camp; Powerful and meaningful memories of community and friendships, The reoccurring ritual of camp that embodies the turning of the seasons and our coming back together. I always feel that the fall doesn't start for me until we've gone to Fall Frolic. This gathering of my people always fills my heart!

Thank you to everyone who participated in some way whether preparing food, hosting workshops, attending lakefront duty or sharing the Sunday morning group labyrinth walk.

Thank you for coming.

We're coming home to the spirit in our soul,
We're coming home and the healing makes us whole;
Like rivers running to the Sea.
We're coming home, we're coming home.

In faith, Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Our Program

October 2nd 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 , Preschoolers – K-1st will go to their classes during the latter part of the service.

October 30 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 on.

There are many events happening this year for you to learn to know about the Fellowship, meet new friends and have fun.

The first monthly event will be the **RE Breakfast – Meet, Eat, And Greet!** It will be held the first Sunday of the month from 10 – 10:45 in a room downstairs. Each month will have a brief focus presenter and a variety of breakfast snacks.

October 2 – Gary Holthaus will talk about Adult programs offered (Rm 1)

November 6 – Eric McCoy, Coordinator of Youth Programming will talk about youth programs (youth room)

December 11 – Rosene Beachy will talk about the philosophy behind the RE program (Gathering room)

Our Classes

9:00 Service

Toddlers and School age children have childcare with our fun and lively childcare team. Jr and Sr youth are welcome to join the **“Early Birds”** group hanging out in the teen room.

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. Teachers will be trying to finish the class activities with a cohesive class ritual. 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! Teachers will be sending letters home via email to keep you updated on what the class topic and activities were, so if you missed a Sunday, you can still share those interesting activities with your kids.

Our Whole Lives

What a lot of OWL is happening this Fall! 3 different age groups, all full at 12 or 15 participants. A cadre of 14 trained class leaders are leading these classes. About half of each group are participants from the community.

The **Elementary 4-6th OWL** will meet every Sunday afternoon 12:30 – 1:30 through November downstairs in room #1.

The **Jr High OWL** class will meet most Sundays and some Saturdays in the Jr Youth room at 12:30, following the 11:00 service through November.

The **Sr High OWL** class will meet most Sundays in the Sr Youth room at 12:30, following the 11:00 service through November.

We are looking for volunteers who share an interest in sexuality education to participate in an Elementary OWL training. We can send you outside, or if we get enough interest, we can bring trainers to Alaska for a special training. Please email rbeachy@alaskalife.net if you would like to participate in this training. We need at least 10 to host! But we need 2 to hold a K-1 class this winter.

Our Activities

Soup Sunday October 23rd Soup Sunday will be hosted by the Fire Keepers (2nd grade) class. Proceeds will go to an organization TBA chosen by the class.

There will be a **Childcare Orientation** on Sunday, October 9, from 9:00 – 10:00, Junior High Room. This is for youth 7th grade and older and adults interested in being on the childcare call list for 9 am services and other RE and Fellowship events. Please bring calendar information for scheduling and a Babysitting or /CPR certificate if you have one. Applications are available in the RE office! We have many events that need childcare, but most regularly are Thursday evening 6:45 – 8:45 and Sunday mornings 8:45-10:45. \$10 /hour. Contact Rosene Beachy, rbeachy@alaskalife.net

Family & Friends Spaghetti & Game Night Oct. 1st - 5:00-8:00. The CYRE committee is kicking off the new RE year with a fun party on Saturday, Oct. 1st, Spaghetti & Games. The fun starts in the upstairs social room at 5 p.m. Bring a salad, side, sauce or desserts and get to know some folks. 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! For further info, please call Rosene (441- 6815).

Our Teaching Volunteers

Water Skippers – 1-2 Yr Olds - Kalen Saxton, Kate Lehn, Gwen Perry Crawford, Kaely Payne

Wind Walkers – 3 & 4 yr. olds – Bonnie Moore, Terry Antrobus, Bev Grogan, Beth McKay

Sun Catchers – K & 1st - Marie Hildebrandt, Monica Perez-Verdia, Stacey Mansfield. Jacqueline Adelman

Fire Keepers - 2nd Grade – Jaime Olson. Dianna Polese, Christina Gheen

Planet Keepers – 3rd Grade - Kristin Nygren, James Dryden, Michelle Wasson

Star Gazers – 4th-5th – Laura Krip, Judy Engh, Angie Harris

Moon Spinners – Middle School Youth, 6,7,8, - Ron Devon, Carma Reed, Laura Syron

World Makers – H.S. 14 And Up, Advisors – Mara Hill, Kristi Taylor Bond,

Support Sponsors – Jeanne Fischer, TK Kleiner

Jr High Owl Team – Shannon Bell, Laura Greffinius, Katherine Huffman, Eric McCoy

Sr. High OWL Team - Sarah Taygen, Kelley Hartlieb, Doug Eby, Ken Winterberger, Sam Cason, Teresa Zimmer

Elementary OWL K-1st /4th-5th Team - – Bethany Buchanan, Abigail Kean

YRUU

This month, I'd like to take a moment to explain some of the events that are happening at the district level.

GOLDMINE—is a week-long UU leadership camp. It is an opportunity for youth to deepen their faith and to strengthen their capacity to lead. Goldmine is regional and will move from district to district each year, while still open to ALL PWR youth. This coming summer it is in Golden, CO. As I said last month, we are very fortunate to have four recent graduates from Goldmine: Sarah Harris, Sarah Freeman, Charlotte Mitchell, and Gretchen Mitchell have all had this wonderful experience. Chris Jenkins and Ella Hitchcock were several years ago.

All participants return as strong leaders in a group of wonderful youth. Evidence of the transformative value: our two bridging seniors have positions at the District level. Sarah Harris is this Fall's CON artist, responsible for nearly all of the graphic design, and Charlotte Mitchell is the leader of YES (Youth Empowerment Services).

Currently, district travel, besides our CON tickets, is out of pocket, and for some youth, this means the money they earn themselves. Youth also donate their earnings to the CON travel fund, knowing it will be divided among many, and that they will only see a fraction of it themselves. This is a significant level of commitment to our shared values, which seeks to include everyone, regardless of wealth. Offering money (and miles tickets, and companion fares) for youth travel is a valuable social justice cause. The youth will be fundraising with their annual Letters of Love fundraiser in January (feel free to donate anytime). I can't think of a better way to future-proof Unitarian-Universalism.

ALASCON—We had another wonderful weekend parallel to Fall Frolic. Hopefully, next year we will host people outside of our congregation! Please contact me if you have ideas for events and workshops and/or pranks and stunts. Someday, we hope to have attendees from the lower 48.

FALL CON—Will be at Camp Cispus again, and we can go if we get in gear and raise some funds. As long as we keep it all for one, and one for all, we are happy to support going to both CONS. I'd like to start talking about raising funds to assist YRUUs from other Alaskan congregations, and potentially an Alaska Service Trip!

SPAG CON— SPAG is University Unitarian Church's Social and Political Activism Group. Every year the youth at Seattle's University Unitarian Church host a con focusing on social justice issues. I'm hoping our youth get a chance to attend.

QUEST—is a Unitarian Universalist summer camp, all the adventure and fun, plus worship and service. QUEST (and SPIRIT QUEST for middle school age youth) is hosted by the Mountain Desert District, and takes place in Black Forest, CO.

As always, please contact me with any questions, concerns, comments and/or congratulations!

Eric McCoy auufcyp@gmail.com, 907 230 6915

YRUU Schedule 2016-17

Oct. 2--Animal Blessing Multigenerational Service
Oct. 21-23—FALL CON
Oct. 30--All Souls Multigenerational Service
Nov. 13--Fall Youth Worship
Nov. 20--Thanksgiving Multigenerational Service
Dec. 18--Solstice Multigenerational Service
Feb. 12--Spring Youth Service
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 Multigenerational Service
May 14--Bridging
May 21--Celebration Sunday Multigenerational Service
July 2-8 QUEST (YRUU) / SPIRIT QUEST (Moonspinners) Youth Camp at La Foret Camp and Conference Center, Black Forest, CO
July 23-29 GOLDMINE Youth Leadership School at Jefferson Unitarian Church, Golden, CO.

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 x7

AUUF Board of Directors and Other Contacts are available on our website.

About our September Speakers (see back page)

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

Cliff Groh is a lifelong Alaskan, a lawyer, and a writer. He is also Chair of Alaska Common Ground. He has been on the board of Alaska Common Ground for more than 20 years. Cliff has worked on oil tax legislation while serving as Special Assistant to the Commissioner of Revenue (1987--1990) He was also a principal legislative assistant on the legislation creating the Permanent Fund Dividend in 1982. He was an invited participant to the Walker-Mallot administration's forum on Alaska's future--held in June 2015 at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Dr. Stephen Haycox is professor emeritus at the University of Alaska Anchorage. He earned a BA (summa cum laude at Seattle University), an MA and a PhD (University of Oregon) in History. His honors include the Distinguished Teaching Award from the UAA Alumni Association in 1989, the Edith R. Bullock Prize for Excellence from the University of Alaska in 2002, and the Alaska Governor's Humanities Award in 2003. The Alaska Historical Society recognized him as Alaska Historian of the Year in 2003. He regularly contributes commentary for the Alaska Dispatch News, as he did previously for the Anchorage Daily News.

Deborah Bock received a B.A. in psychology and an MSW from the University of California at Berkeley. She worked as a bilingual (Spanish-English) school social worker for ten years in New York and California before moving to Alaska. Currently Deborah teaches Spanish at UAA, she volunteers as a mentor for refugees arriving from Africa, and she is actively involved in the movement to bring trauma-sensitive practices to schools. Deborah has been a friend of AUUF since 2000 and a member since 2005.

Dave Kuiper moved to Alaska in 1974 with his wife, Darlene, and worked in construction for more than 24 years. He served 14 years as senior pastor for Crosspoint Community Church and has been director of Alaska Medical Missions, a Faith-Based Community Initiatives Liaison, and Certified Pastoral Counselor and Life Coach. Dave serves on the board of the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness. He joins us today to discuss his work with the Safe Shelter program that offers a safe place for homeless Anchorage families to sleep during the cold months.

Hilary A. Morgan is the CEO of the YWCA Alaska. She is nationally recognized as a leader in the fields of homelessness, housing, diversity and women's issues. No stranger to the for-profit world Morgan spent her younger years on Wall Street and founded Resourceful Results, LLC, a program and systems architecture company specializing in transformational solutions to persistent social justice challenges with clients in New York, Washington, DC and Alaska.

From the Fellowship office:

Got Miles? We recently received a donation of miles and boy did they help! Five youth tickets were purchased for Youthcon and Gary's Fall Minister Conference was covered also. If you have miles you won't be using consider donating putting them to use at AUUF.

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

~~ Amy, Congregational Administrator 248-3737 x3 auuf@alaska.com.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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Anchorage, AK 99508-3303

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AUUF SERVICES –October 2016

Sunday, October 2

9 am Cliff Groh,
‘The Policy and Politics of Alaska's Fiscal Gap’
11 am Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 9

9 am Dr. Stephen Haycox,
‘Fighting Federal Power in Alaska’
11 am Gary Holthaus

Sunday, October 16

9 am Deborah Bock,
‘Saving Lives with Trauma Sensitive Schools’
11 am Gary Holthaus

Sunday, October 23 Soup Sunday

9 am David Kuiper,
‘Opening Our Doors to the Homeless’
11 am Gary Holthaus

Sunday, October 30

9 am Hilary Morgan,
‘The Struggle for Gender Pay Equity’
11 am All Souls

Tuesday Evening Services are on hiatus.

CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS- October 2016

Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare

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

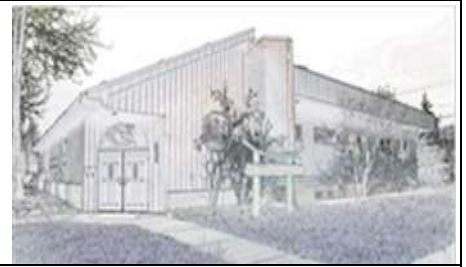
The LOG

November 2016

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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



From Gary

See you Sunday, Gary

Calendar Highlights

Oct 23 Soup Sunday

Nov 5 Annual Dinner

Nov 6 First Sunday RE Breakfast

Nov 12 CYRE Family and Friends
Social Justice Evening

Nov 13 Newcomers' lunch

Nov 19 Mental Health First Aid for
Adolescents

Nov 20 Soup Sunday

Nov 24 Thanksgiving Dinner

Nov 27 Alliance Christmas Sale

Nov 27 10 am Service, 'Defying the
Nazis: the Sharps' War'

Dec 4 Winterfest

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Board President Letter for November

It has been a busy month for AUUF leadership. The AUUF Program Council met for the first time in October. Leaders of most of the Fellowship's committees and ministry teams gathered with Board members to talk about program priorities for the coming year. The Council will meet staff in December to further hone their ideas. Their work will feed into the Finance Committee to help direct how we build our draft budget for the next fiscal year.

Some of the big ideas that came out of the council were a desire to

- Emphasize welcoming and creating connections throughout the year and throughout our programs. This extends from first time visitors through engaged membership. It involves worship services, the Forum, membership, welcoming, communications, CYRE, Adult RE, and other programs.
- Expand opportunities for OWL programs (sexuality education) for the greater community
- Develop leadership capacity through training and mentoring so that people can move into leadership positions.

Expanding leadership is important for fully becoming a program church and sustaining a vibrant fellowship.

Last week, the Board met for its annual retreat. Helen Nienhueser graciously hosted us at her family's cabin above Eagle River, where we could bathe in glorious Alaska scenery while discussing issues on governance and policies, evaluation of our organization, staffing needs, and how to building community life through working beyond ourselves on significant social justice issues.

During a break, we also wrote some AUUF Haikuu – each line written by a different person. I leave you with a sampling, and hopefully a smile...

<u>Inclusive</u>	<u>New church building</u>	<u>Caring Community</u>
Leaving room for all	More space! We can breathe	All come together
May I come in and play with you?	The sun shines on my hymnal	Hurt my shoulder: friends brought soup
New face? Say hello!	Making us a home	Lift us up in love.

In fellowship, Marty Freeman

Parting Thoughts on Stewardship...And a 'Thankyou'

I've been a part of AUUF for over 11 years and part of Stewardship for 10 of the 11. The reason I've been so involved is that I care very deeply about our Fellowship community and our mission. And it all started with my first day at AUUF when Shirley Dickens greeted me and welcomed me in. And shortly thereafter, when she and I canvassed each other and I pledged \$800 to her \$3000 (and we were both employed nurses). I saw how important AUUF was to her, and how committed she was, so I immediately nearly doubled my pledge to \$1500. Since then we got to the point where we are both happily giving \$4800 or more because as Shirley says, "AUUF is my tribe."

If, like me, you have found meaning at AUUF, I hope you will support the mission with your time, talents, and treasures. AND, if you are willing to serve on the stewardship committee, you can encourage others to do the same. Stewardship isn't just "asking people for money". Stewardship is caring for our community. It's not a once a year appeal to get pledges, it's "helping those we love reconnect with the meaning and purpose in their lives" (Peter Henrickson, PNWD).

I want new folks to have the experience that I had being welcomed into AUUF. I am excited to shift my energy to the Membership/Welcoming committee.

Thank you very much to all who give generously and joyfully. Thanks also to all past committee members and to the current Stewardship committee of Mindy Willis, Carma Reed, John Blaine, Kalen Saxton, Marilyn Lee, Wray Kinard, and Deena Mitchell. Thank you ALSO to Gary, Amy, and Don Crandall (Board liaison) for such great support!! These folks are very committed to the financial health of AUUF and bring such positive energy to the hard work that they do! Please say 'Yes' when they call or ask you to join them in asking everyone to contribute to the mission of AUUF.

In Continued Fellowship, Judy Engh (Former Stewardship Chair)

PS: We ask everyone to use the Suggested Fair Share Giving Guide when considering what to contribute financially to AUUF which may mean \$5/month for some or \$2,000/month for others. See how it can apply to you. We are all in this together. THANK YOU!!

Golden Fun at AUUF's Annual Dinner-Auction

Fund-raising activities to fit any budget + family-friendly fun + free stuff

Don't miss our fellowship's gathering of the year from **5:00 - 9:00 p.m. Saturday, November 5**, at AUUF. The 2016 AUUF Dinner-Auction features some new activities and an agenda that is meant for *everyone* to participate.

ANYONE who participates in any way — by donating an auction item, volunteering, or sharing a dinner or dessert item — will receive a raffle ticket. The prize: REAL GOLD from the Louise Gallop Gold Nugget collection!

Our silent auction will include many delightful multi-participant dinner/meal events, adventures and excursions, and all kinds of treasures that would make great holiday gift (like a bundle of restaurant gift cards). Plus, look for some new low-cost fund-raisers that offer chances to win by buying a limited number of tickets. These include: 1) a new "Bag the Gold" game featuring a Louise Gallop gold nugget and a certificate to turn it into a wearable treasure; and 2) a drawing for a fabulous king-size hand-made quilt. During the dinner, expect AUUF President Marty Freeman to recap the year's highlights, and to recognize some truly stellar volunteers. A no-cost door prize drawing and special take-away gifts are planned as well. There many surprises in store, so come one, come all!



- **Share-a-Dish-Buffer and Dessert Dash!** Sign-up on the Dinner Menu sign-up sheet and the Dessert Auction sign-up sheet. Co-Coordinator Amy Westfall (632-1630, amywremote@gmail.com) or Dennis Arashiro (277-7377, elvischannel@gci.net)
- **Auction Donations!** Contribute your cool, appealing items! Auction coordinators are Kalen Saxton, 244-8221, kalensaxton@gmail.com or Cathy Steen, 440-6540, csteen@gci.net.
- **Dessert-Per-Month Auction Item.** Deena Mitchell (847-997-8357, deenamitchell1978@gmail.com) is coordinating contributions to this popular auction item.
- **Volunteer!** Several volunteers are still needed. Please sign-up! Contact event Co-Chairs Ron Devon at 301-1601 or Stephenie at 382-3327, msgmaker@gci.net.
- **Family Friendly!** A Children's Auction and games are planned downstairs 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Please bring your items to share! Child care will be available on-site for ages 1-12. Sign up with Rosene Beachy, 248-5318, rbeachy@alaskalife.net. Teenaged youth are welcome to join in the dinner!

Thanksgiving Dinner @ the AUUF!

Thanksgiving Dinner at AUUF is open to everyone in the community. If you don't have a place to spend Thanksgiving, spend it with us! We will serve a traditional hot meal; everyone is welcome! Thursday, November 24, 2016, in the Social Room at AUUF. Meal service will begin at 1pm. If you have any questions or would like to let us know you are coming, please email auufinvolve@gci.net.

Youth Mental Health First Aid

This public education program will be offered November 18th 8:30-4:30 at the Fellowship. It intended for parents or adults who work with youth. The course introduces participants to the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adolescents, builds understanding of the importance of early intervention, and teaches individuals how to help an adolescent in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge. Mental Health First Aid uses role-playing and simulations to demonstrate how to assess a mental health crisis; select interventions and provide initial help; and connect young people to professional, peer, social, and self-help care. Cost: Course is fully funded by Alaska DEED and Project AWARE. A \$35 donation to AUUF provides on-site breakfast and lunch catered by Magpie's. For more information, contact Rosene or Wendi Shackelford at 907-264-6224 or wendis@alaskachd.org.

Adult Programs

Considering: A Spiritual Life For Our Time, A 4-session class discussing and creating our own theology. Led by Gary Holthaus and Stephanie Koonz - The group will meet in Gary's office on Nov. 10, 17 & Dec 1, Dec 8, 6:30 – 8:00. 6:30 – 8:00

Parents Discussion Group Deep listening and sharing in a small group format. Opportunity for Jr/Sr High parents to come together and talk honestly in a confidential, non-competitive setting about the joys and challenges of raising children. Sunday afternoons during OWL classes. 12:30 – 2:00, Meet every 2-4 weeks. September 25 – November. Meets in downstairs classroom #3, 'Gathering Room'. Facilitated by Ann Larabee.

Voluntary Simplicity Our decisions on how we live and consume are not made in a vacuum. We are affected by the consumer culture and society around us. **Voluntary Simplicity** helps participants examine how modern society can interfere with caring for the planet. Together, you explore how consumption patterns have an impact on you and your relationships, as well as the environment. Discover ways to slow down and live simply. This course was written by the Earth Institute. Five sessions after the first organizing session on October 24th. Meeting times TBD by group, possibly it will stay on Mondays at 7:00 pm. Call Cathy Steen for more information, 440-6540.

Yoga for Adults and Teens Yoga basics will be held in the downstairs Gathering room at the fellowship in October 27 Thursdays from 5 to 6. This yoga basics class will focus on form of beginning level. Poses, build strength in students, and facilitate relaxation at the end of each class. Bring your own yoga mat! Led by Peggy Cobey. Open to ages 14 and up.

Small Groups are groups of about 10 people who commit to get together once every two weeks for approximately 10 or 12 times. They pick a topic each week for the next time, and they come together to share their thoughts and to listen to others. We use a format called "active listening" Groups meet twice a month on a topic of mutual interest. For questions or to indicate interest contact Susan 222-7117 days, 248-1141 eve or weekend, email susano@reevesasmodio.com. Joining a small group is a great way to build community. You'll enjoy seeing familiar faces across the sanctuary on Sunday and learning more about people you've known casually for years. Small groups are good for newcomers and old timers.

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Congratulations to Heather Christensen and her partner Liesl Fitzenrider on the birth of their son, Thomas Snow Fitzenrider, born September 20th, 8 pounds, three ounces of sweetness (Heather's words). Heather was a long-time member of AUUF, now a AUU minister who now lives in Washington state. Thomas has a big sister, Willa, maybe 3 years older. We are very happy for this addition to their family.

Congratulations to our own Yana Smith, daughter of our own Diane Smith, who will be attending a United Nations convention on climate change in November representing UU youth. as an "observer delegate". She is currently in Switzerland attending college. The conference will be in Morocco. It's wonderful to watch our young get involved in things to help to make this world a better place. Yana is the 4th generation of UU's in her family. She has been to several UU general assemblies and youth camps and will bring her energy and commitment to this conference. We are SO proud of you.

We are thrilled to hear that the Fairbanks UU church recently called their first ever FULL Time Minister, Rev. Leslie Ahavah Fails who has served them as an extension minister for the past year. Our minister, Gary Holthaus was able to attend this ceremony in Fairbanks. It is wonderful news for all UU Alaskans.

Grateful for all the pets and pet owners who participated in our "Blessing of the Animals" service recently. What energy, what wonderful pets and so well behaved. And the wonderful story about the creation of "dog" and "cat". Nice to have the children up for the whole service now and then. We are a congregation RICH in beautiful children.

If you correspond with Rev. Gay, his address was listed incorrectly in the last Log. Kindly correct your address book: 1460 NE 27th St. Room 206, Bend Oregon 97701-7221.

Social Justice Committee

By Dennis Arashiro

"You know you're privileged when equality feels like oppression." - unknown

Think of what happens when those with privilege feel deserving of it. They will fight to maintain their privilege while believing they are the ones fighting for social justice. They will think about the LGBT struggle for equality and see a demand for "special rights." They will think about the erosion of centuries of Christian privilege and see religious persecution and "The War on Christmas." They will think about progress toward racial and gender equality and see oppression of the white male. They will think about the fight against anti-Semitism and see a conspiracy for Jewish world domination.

This is why the fight for social justice is so hard. The opponents of social justice are so blind to their privilege that they believe they are the true victims of oppression. This gives them the sense of moral purpose to fight furiously to maintain their privilege and deny what is true social justice. We can reflect on this on November 8 when we vote for either a twisted view or a true version of social justice. We can reflect on this on November 24 when we are invited to feel a sense of gratitude instead of a sense of entitlement for what we have.

We can reflect on this on November 27 when we are invited to a special Sunday service. At 10 AM we will view the Ken Burns documentary, 'Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War', the story of a Unitarian minister and his wife and their clandestine effort to help political dissidents and Jewish refugees flee Nazi occupied Europe. Join us for the film and the discussion afterwards, remembering that the worse demons and better angels of our nature continue to fight over the mantle of social justice.

Half Portion for Social Action: Hospice of Anchorage

By Dennis Arashiro

Founded in 1980, Hospice of Anchorage is a community agency with an interdisciplinary team of volunteers, nurses, social service coordinators, bereavement coordinators and chaplains, providing assistance to meet the transition from life to death and to cope with loss and grief. Hospice's services range from one time visits, to ongoing relationships extending for months. All services are free of charge.

Beyond your half portion giving in the month of November, you can give of your time. Volunteers are a critical part of Hospice's services. You can help by being a compassionate companion, supporting the Forget Me Not Grief Groups, or engaging in fundraising events. The agency needs volunteers for Camp Erin, an annual weekend camp offered in late September for children and teens experiencing the loss of someone significant in their lives. They need volunteers in the holiday season for our RemembranceTree fundraisers at the Dimond Center and the Fifth Avenue Mall. If you wish to help, please contact Hospice by calling them at 561-5322 or visiting their website at www.hospiceofanchorage.org.

Christmas Sale coming Up!

We need lots of stuff to sell!

The Alliance will once again sponsor a Christmas Sale on 2 Sundays (after Thanksgiving). The dates are Sunday, November 27th and December 4th and will be in our social room. You can look us over and purchase items before 9 AM service, between the two services or immediately following the 11 AM service on both Sundays. Please help us out by donating any gifts that need to be "recycled", toys that work, Children's books, good clothing, scarfs, jewelry, gloves, house hold items that would make a nice gift, games, Christmas decorations that need a good home, etc. Something that YOU would like as a gift. Please help us with your donations.

November Birthdays, Best Wishes!

Martha	Amore	11/20
Annie Laurie	Belts	11/27
Bill	Hall	11/21
Martha	Herriott	11/18
Tamara	Kleiner	11/27
Michael	Lindeen	11/08
Marie	Lundstrom	11/25
Zackary	Maley	11/02
Diane	McIntyre	11/18
Frank	Mitchell	11/19
Paula	Smith	11/02
Karen	Tschannen	11/29
Paul	Wheeler	11/08



Volunteer Spotlight

Dennis Arashiro



Dennis has been a member of the fellowship for many years. In addition to a variety of previous volunteer roles, Dennis is currently involved as the Chair of the Social Justice Committee, a member of the Forum Planning Committee and a member of The Alliance. He canvases for the Stewardship

Committee, volunteers for RE, works as a sound tech, helps with office tasks, opens and closes the facility for our congregation on Sundays, and so much more! Chances are you can thank Dennis for that hot cup of coffee you are drinking on Sunday morning.

Thank you, Dennis, for everything you do for our fellowship!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

⇒ AUUF Annual Dinner and Auction
Saturday 11/5/16
Set-up, clean-up, logistics, food, and more! Dinner at 1pm.

⇒ Thanksgiving Dinner at AUUF
Thursday 11/24/16
Bring a dish, cook turkey, set-up, clean-up, and welcome guests!

Join a Committee!

We are seeking volunteers for:

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

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.



Hungry Book Club News

By Shirley Dickens

8 of us met Oct. 11th to discuss "To the Bright Edge of the World" by Eowyn Ivey, which we all enjoyed so much. One of our contemporary local Alaskans "second novel" which has received much attention from the literary world. We have chosen a very different novel for November called "The Hotel at the Corner of Bitter and Sweet," by James Ford, published in 2012. It has gotten excellent reviews; a modern Romeo and Juliet take of modern San Francisco.

We will meet again, in November 8th back at the condos at 9th and M Street, 836 M St. We are an "open book club" and all readers are welcome. Bring a healthy snack to share and we meet in the afternoon in a social room on the second floor of these condos. Come and join us. Call 563-4499 for more information.

Next Plastics Recycling (#5s) Nov 20

Friendly Recycling Tip: Make gift bags (or buy at AUUF fund raising events) and stop using paper gift wrap.

The Alliance

by Shirley Dickens, Chair of the Alliance

The Alliance met Oct. 9th and welcomed two new members, Robin Hill and Marilyn Lee. We paid annual dues, elected new officers, or rather, re-elected Shirley Dickens as President (for the last year), Mary Kulawik as treasurer for the 2nd year, Helen Peters to continue on another year as secretary. We also elected Kate Lehn as Vice President with the intention of grooming her for president next year. We also agreed to gift the Annual dinner with \$50.00 worth of wine to sell glass by glass for the annual dinner. And we will contribute to the Thanksgiving dinner here funding for a turkey and a ham as our contribution.

We are also looking at collecting lots of items that need to be "re-gifted", toys, games, Christmas decorations, scarfs, jewelry, house plants, etc. for our Christmas sale.

AUUF Local Organizing Ministry/AFACT

AFACT is sponsoring a Candidates' Forum for Alaska's two U.S. Congressional seats currently held by Sen. Lisa Murkowski and Rep. Don Young. The forum will be held October 24, 7:00 PM, at First Covenant Church, 1145 C St. All candidates have been invited.

R.E. Notes for November 2016

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Our Sunday Classes

October 30 – Multigenerational service for All Souls – A varied and interactive service. Some youth helpers needed, please contact me if you would like to help. 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 6, 13 - Regular age group classes will continue with children beginning downstairs each Sunday. Please check with your child’s teachers as to needed class helpers. We have several very large, and enthusiastic classes this year, with many exciting activities planned which may need extra hands. We hope that each family will sign up to help in a class once a month. A big Thank you to all our volunteers who are helping in the classrooms from toddlers to tweens.

We would like to invite any of our adult members in the Fellowship who don’t have children and don’t [really] know what is happening downstairs to take a break from sitting in a comfortable seat and volunteer in a class for a Sunday to have some fun and learn to know some of our wonderful kids! You may be surprised how much fun it is! Volunteer sign-up sheets for each age group are on the classroom doors. Talk to Rosene or a classroom teacher if you have questions about volunteering!

November 20, the children will be upstairs for a Multigenerational Thanksgiving service. Preschool through first grade will go downstairs later in the service with their teachers.

November 27, will be a joint service between the 9 and 11:00 for this holiday weekend, beginning at 10:00, the service will include a viewing of the Sharps video described elsewhere in the LOG. Children will begin in the Gathering room, and go to regular classes with their teacher from 10:00 – 11:30ish!

November 6 - Our monthly **RE Breakfast – Meet, Eat, And Greet!** (the first Sunday of the month from 10 – 10:45) Each month will be in a different room, so you can see the RE spaces, have a brief focus presenter and a variety of breakfast snacks.

Nov. 6 – Eric McCoy, Coordinator of Youth Programming will talk about youth programs (youth room)

Dec. 11 – Rosene Beachy will talk about the philosophy behind the RE program (Gathering room)

Our Whole Lives

Jr High School OWL and Elementary 4-6 OWL classes continue through November.

CYRE Family & Friends Social Justice Activity Night November 12th- 5:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M.

Does your family like to think of ways to help the world? Join the group on November 12 to “Make Social Justice”. There will be a taco potluck – committee will provide shells, tortillas and meat! There will be a variety of activities for all ages in the family, from making doggie biscuits to fleece tied blankets, to creating Thanksgiving baskets and more. If you have an idea you would like to set up or share, contact Rosene Beachy, DLRE rbeachy@alaskalife.net.

Our Activities

Annual Teacher Retreat October 29, 9am - 2 pm.

Annual Dinner November 5 at the Fellowship 5-9 pm— 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.

The 2016 AUUF Annual Dinner-Auction team is looking for 2-3 people who can help set up and monitor the Children's Auction that will take place 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. downstairs on Saturday, November 5 (while the Dinner-Auction event takes place upstairs).

RE Social Justice

November 20th Soup Sunday will be hosted by the Planet Keepers (3rd grade). Proceeds will go to an organization TBA chosen by the class.

November 20th – 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!

Future Events – Mark Your Calendars!

Hogwarts School of Wisdom and Wizardry is Coming in January! 1st Planning meeting will be November 16th 6:30 pm in the Jr youth room. Be there if you would like to be a professor, get 1st dibs on subject, bring ideas!!

Winterfest - Sunday, December 4th. An Ornament Making party And Alternative Gift Fair for All ages After the 11:00 service, 12:45-3:00 p.m. Mark your calendar now for our annual holiday party for all ages! Catch the holiday spirit and Make a day of it – Have some soup downstairs, and then jingle your way back upstairs to make ornaments, decorate the tree, buy some alternative gifts, peruse the Alliance holiday sale table, and maybe even sing some Christmas carols!

Also - Mitten Tree December 4th Start your knitting (or shopping!) Children will start upstairs briefly for this annual ritual of dressing our tree! 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.

YRUU Schedule 2016-17

Oct. 30--All Souls Multigenerational Service
Nov. 13--Fall Youth Worship
Nov. 20--Thanksgiving Multigenerational Service
Dec. 18--Solstice Multigenerational Service

As always, please contact me with any questions, concerns, comments and/or congratulations!
Eric McCoy auufcyp@gmail.com, 907 230 6915

About Our Speakers (see back page)

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

Cliff Groh is a lifelong Alaskan, a lawyer, and a writer. He is also Chair of Alaska Common Ground. He has been on the board of Alaska Common Ground for more than 20 years. Cliff has worked on oil tax legislation while serving as Special Assistant to the Commissioner of Revenue (1987--1990). He was also a principal legislative assistant on the legislation creating the Permanent Fund Dividend in 1982. He was an invited participant to the Walker-Mallot administration's forum on Alaska's future--held in June 2015 at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Heather Lende is the obituary writer for the Chilkat Valley News in Haines where she has lived with her husband for over 30 years. A Middlebury College graduate with an MFA from UAA, she is a former contributing editor at Woman's Day, a columnist for Alaska Dispatch News, and author of Find the Good: Unexpected Life Lessons from a Small Town Obituary Writer (2015), Take Good Care of the Garden and the Dogs (2010), and NY Times bestseller, If You Lived Here, I'd Know Your Name: The News from Small-town Alaska (2005).

Chancy Croft served in the Alaska Legislature from 1969 through 1979, first for a single term in the House, and after that in the Alaska Senate where he served as Senate president from 1975 to 1979. He was the Democratic nominee for governor in 1978, but was defeated by Jay Hammond. Chancy largely retired from electoral politics after this campaign, but continues to practice law and remains prominent in legal and political circles in Alaska. For decades, he has represented injured workers as a worker's compensation attorney. He served on the University of Alaska Board of Regents from 1995 to 2003, including as term as chair. He was also a charter member of the Alaska Legal Services Corporation, and served its chair from 1971 to 1978. He and his wife of 53 years, Toni, have three children. The family grows grapes and grandchildren of outstanding quality.

Joe Josephson served as Senator E. L. (Bob) Bartlett's legislative assistant. He was Vice-Chair of the Anchorage Home Rule Charter Commission and Co-Chair of the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission. He served in the Alaska House of Representatives, and later in the State Senate, for 14 years, and was also a member of the Anchorage City Council, the Greater Anchorage Area Borough Assembly, and the Anchorage Municipal Assembly. He was appointed by President Kennedy to chair the Alaska Advisory Commission to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights. He has been an adjunct professor at UAA and APU. He has served as a Board member of Planned Parenthood, Out North Theatre, the Child Care Connection, and Southcentral Red Cross. At present, he practices law and serves as the President of Congregation Beth Shalom.

TK Kleiner was an elected delegate for the State of Alaska to the 2016 Democratic National Convention. TK is a longtime member of AUUF.

Choir Schedule

Sunday, Oct 30th All Souls, 9:45-10:30am
Thursday, November 3, 2016 7:00-8:30pm
Thursday, November 10, 2016 7:00-8:30pm
Thursday, November 17, 2016 7:00-8:30pm
Sunday, Nov 20th, 9:45-10:30am

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 AUUFCCYP@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 x7

AUUF Board of Directors and Other Contacts are available on our website.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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AUUF Services and Events –November 2016

Sunday, October 30

9 am Cliff Groh,
‘The Policy and Politics of Alaska's Fiscal Gap’
11 am All Souls Service

Saturday, November 5

Annual Dinner and Auction

Sunday, November 13

9 am Heather Lende, ‘Find the Good’
11 am Youth Service

Tuesday Evening Services are on hiatus.

Sunday, November 6

9 am Chancy Croft and Joe Josephson,
‘Memories and Lessons from Elections Past’
11 am T.K. Kleiner, ‘My Reflections on the
Democratic National Convention’.

Sunday, November 20

9 am Gary Holthaus,
‘Giving Thanks in Perilous Times’
11 am Gary Holthaus, Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 27

10 am Joint Service,
Film ‘Defying the Nazis: the Sharps' War’

CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS- November 2016

Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare

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

The LOG

December 2016

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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



From Gary

An exciting and busy season is ahead this month. Yes, December is always a busy time, but this year's activities include some guest speakers you won't want to miss, a couple of ongoing events you may wish to take part in.

Thursday, December 8 will mark the final session of our "Create Your Own Theology" conversations. The discussions use our Unitarian Universalist Study Guide with readings available before each session. These have been especially appreciated by the participants, and though you may have missed the first meetings, everyone is welcome. Join us from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Stephanie Koontz and I are working together on these programs.

Sunday, December 4th is Mitten Tree Sunday when our kids decorate the Christmas tree with mittens that will be shared with other kids who are without mittens. This Sunday we also have a special guest speaker. Former Interim Minister Beatrice Hitchcock will be speaking at the 11:00 o'clock service. We'll want to give her a special welcome home.

December 11, I will be speaking at the 11:00 a.m. service and we will be recognizing our new members who have recently signed the membership book. (If you have been considering membership, mark your calendars, we will be offering another two-evening program on UU history and belief on Thursday, January 19 and Thursday, January 26, and you can learn more about being an AUUF'er then. Both evenings will be from 5:30-7:00 p.m.).

December 13, we will hold our special "Blue Christmas" evening service at 6:00. There are so many who experience a certain sadness during a time deemed "the holiday season." A quiet time of spoken word and music is for everyone, but is especially appropriate for those who may have lost a loved one during the year, are far from home or family, or are otherwise lonely. The service is followed by a soup supper for all participants. Hospice will be a joint sponsor with AUUF at this service.

Sunday, December 18th, at the 11:00 o'clock service, the Director of Anchorage Hospice will join me and be our guest speaker for this service.

Saturday, December 24, we will celebrate our traditional Christmas Eve service with special music, drama by our Religious Exploration groups, and, of course, a visit from the real Santa.

Sunday, December 25, we will hold a simple Christmas service at 11. Join us for a light breakfast after. New Year's Day join us for a simple service followed by light breakfast at 11 also.

This December is filled with AUUF opportunities for intellectual and spiritual growth during which you may also eat, drink, be merry and thoughtful with friends and family. Join us! You'll be welcome!

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Calendar Highlights

Dec 4 Winterfest & Soup Sunday & Alternative Gift Fair

Dec 11 New Member Recognition & Youth Christmas Wrapping

Dec 13 Blue Christmas

Dec. 17 Ornament Exchange

Dec. 24 Pageant

Dec. 25 Simple Service 11 a.m.

Jan. 1 Simple Service 11 a.m.

Jan 8 Full RE program Resumes

Board president letter for December 2016

The November Board meeting took place on the day after the election, in the middle of a month of highs and lows. We always begin with a chalice-lighting and check-in, which is usually brief. On that day, we took the time to listen to the grief, anger, and fears we shared, and to the determination to work harder, be braver, and be kinder than before. Standing on the Side of Love has never been more urgent.

It was important for me to be with the AUUF community this month and I take courage from the many good things that happened during this same time. Here's what transpired in our fellowship just this morning...

- 9:00 – Gary Holthaus spoke in response to the election, emphasizing that the work we need to do – creating social and environmental justice – was here before Nov. 8, and it is still here. Then author Heather Lende spoke on “Finding the good,” a thoughtful and heartfelt talk and discussion that really is about our first principle: the inherent worth and dignity of *every* person. The house was full.
- 11:00 – Fourteen of our youth led a service – also with a full house -- in which they sang a tribute to Leonard Cohen in recognition of his passing, challenged us to apply the first principle in figuring out how to move forward in the post-election era, and provided a wonderful, collaborative service and discussion on the power and process of apologies.
- 12:30 #1– Three different age groups of students met for OWL classes on sexuality, part of AUUF's effort to provide our children and youth with accurate information, empower them to make good decisions, and build respect for diverse families and genders.
- 12:30 #2 – The Newcomer's Luncheon filled the Social Room. What a joy to meet so many people eager to be part of AUUF.
- 12:30 #3 – The Committee on Shared Ministry facilitated a post-election Listening Circle. Not being able to be two places at once (at least not yet) I couldn't participate in the circle, but I know it was well-attended and appreciated.

If you want to know more details of the Board meeting, minutes are always posted on the bulletin board, including updates on Stewardship, the Capital Campaign, and recently adopted Human Resources policies on benefits and sleep pay. Those are part of the necessary nuts and bolts that sustain the Fellowship. But the Fellowship is also sustained by the people who come, listen, discuss, and go forth energized. This is a time when many are seeking a strong, caring community. That is who we are. Let us welcome all. Let us come together and give each other the faith, hope, and courage to stand together on the side of love wherever love is needed in the community beyond our doors.

In fellowship, Marty Freeman

Welcome New Members – December 11th

We are excited to officially welcome our newest members of AUUF! Those who have joined since our last New Member Sunday are: Justin and Miriam Roberts, Jane Mangus, Brendan Coffin and Laura Syron, and Laura Greffenius. If you would like to join them and be part of our recognition December 11th, please contact our Congregational Involvement Coordinator Becky More 248-3737 x6 or Judy Engh 605-359-5594 by Dec 4th. Welcome again to our newest members! (*We will have another Newcomer's Luncheon in January 15th.*)



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 13th 6pm.**

Sunday, December 4: Ring in the Holiday Season at AUUF!

Alternative Gift Fair - Eager to simplify your gift-giving this season? Feeling a strong desire to support organizations that represent our UU principles? Then please join us from 9:45—12:45, Sunday, Dec. 4, for our annual Alternative Gift Fair. Representatives of seven local organizations will be in the social room for your shopping ease. (You may also make purchases on-line by visiting the AUUF website.) This year's organizations include Anchorage's Emergency Cold Weather Program, Running Free Alaska, Anchorage Community Mental Health Services, The Alaska Literacy Project, Citizen's Climate Education Corp., Planned Parenthood and our own UU Peace Camp. December 4 will be a busy day at The Fellowship, with Soup Sunday, The Alliance holiday sale and the annual ornament-making event. Plan to make a day of it and leave with much of your gift-giving tasks complete. Also, you can let friends and family know that you prefer a donation to one of these organizations in lieu of a gift. If so, ask them to donate online on the AUUF website (giving / donate now button). (They can make a meaningful gift in your honor from the comfort of their home. Happy Holidays!

Soup Sunday - After the 11 am service. Feed your body and soul in the company of friends, and support the social justice efforts of our younger members at the same time! (Served Downstairs!)

Winterfest/Ornament Sunday - From 1 -3 pm the Sanctuary will be the place to create wonderful holiday ornaments, from the very simplest to those that will challenge the craftiest among us! We will play (and sing) holiday music, have holiday treats and even cookies to decorate and enjoy.

And as an added bonus, this is also **the last day of the Alliance Holiday Sale!**

2nd Annual AUUF Awards go to Sylvia Short and Denise Martin

For the second year, AUUF President Marty Freeman presented annual AUUF volunteer awards during the Annual Dinner-Auction event, held this year on Saturday, November 5.

Volunteer of the Year Award

The *2016 Volunteer of the Year* award went to **Denise Martin**, who has led AUUF's Hospitality and Membership teams, coordinated and oversaw AUUF's hosting duties for two Whalecoast tour events, served as a Coming of Age mentor and a Stewardship Canvasser, and provided expert graphics in support of the Stewardship Campaign. After retiring from her Membership & Welcoming team leadership role, she promptly joined the Nominating Committee. Denise and husband Jim Kerr frequently play exceptional music during services, dinners and other special events.

In 2015, **Bruce Roberts** was named *Volunteer of the Year* for his above-and-beyond efforts to help maintain the fellowship's facility, tending repair, and janitorial tasks among many other responsibilities. Every week, many tasks like straightening chairs and hymnals in the sanctuary, cleaning the parking lot, finishing dishes, locking up at the end of events aren't quietly done by elves, but by Bruce.

Fred Hillman Lifetime Service Award

This award was established in honor of long-time member Fred Hillman, who passed away mid-2014. It is given to recognize service to AUUF and for living the UU principles in the broader community.

The *2016 Lifetime Service Award* went to retired attorney **Sylvia Short**, who has been a UU since 1950 and part of AUUF since 1967. A former AUUF President and Board member, she served for years as an Alaska Literacy Program teacher, started the 4A's Luncheon with Fred, was an early supporter of the community's Pride Parade, and helped to establish AUUF's Alliance group. She is a staunch supporter of AUUF's payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) payment to the municipality. Sylvia led AUUF's Social Justice Committee in the 1990s when AUUF managed and furnished a four-plex to provide transitional housing for homeless and/or addicted women. She continues to be active in AUUF's Freethinker's group.

In 2015, **Shirley Dickens** was presented with the *Lifetime Service Award*. An AUUF member since 1977 and a retired registered nurse, Shirley served as the fellowship's parish nurse for many years. She has held multiple leadership positions at AUUF and served as a Worship Associate, a leader of the Alliance, and many other volunteer roles that run the gamut of fellowship functions and programs.

2016 Dinner-Auction Wraps Up as a Success

2016 AUUF Dinner-Auction Co-Chairs, Ron Devon and Stephenie Wheeler report the event was very successful by several measures. Nearly 150 people were present for the gala gathering to enjoy fine food and friendly fellowship, and to support essential fund-raising. We met our goal to raise nearly \$14,000, which will help underwrite facility operations and programs that benefit our neighbors and community.

The event was marked by an outpouring of support and generous helping hands. In the role of emcee, Ron Devon deftly kept the agenda rolling to conclude the evening ahead of schedule. James Denney was simply charming and fun as our guest Auctioneer for a shortened Live Auction. For yet another year, Kalen Saxton and Cathy Steen co-coordinated the Auction portion of the evening, tackling an all-consuming job that is key to the event's financial success. During the evening, Cathy and Kalen were helped by auction volunteers Annie Belts, Becca Bernard, Ingrid Larson, Marie Lundstrom, David Pelto and Helen Peters.

As veterans of many an AUUF hosted dinner, Amy Westfall and Dennis Arashiro co-coordinated the Share-a-Dish Buffet, ensuring a delicious on-time dinner service and speedy post-dinner clean-up. Their helpers included Leslie Adams, Jeanne Fischer, Marty Freeman, Robin Hill, Joyce Laine and Laura Syron, along with several others who jumped in to lend a hand that night. Amy also orchestrated a beautiful table setting by hand-crafting lovely napkin ring sets for each round-table (these were given as a table prize at the end). Amy and Stephanie Koontz helmed the popular Dessert Auction featuring 15 decadent desserts that brought in nearly \$1,500.

Tracking the flurry of financial transactions fell to Carma Reed, who once again led the Bidder Registration / Check-in and Check-out process. It's a big job with many moving parts. She was assisted by volunteers George Baker, Shirley Dickens, Virginia Graham, Joyce Laine and Amanda Mack, and one or two others who lent a hand on-site.

Several other volunteers contributed to the upbeat atmosphere upstairs. Denise Martin and Jim Kerr played wonderful music during the 5-6 p.m. reception. Peggy Cobey, Brendan Coffin, James Dryden, Berta Gardner, Stephanie Koonz and Mary Kulawick manned the adult beverage station (Many thanks to The Alliance, Jim Wanamaker and Paul Wheeler for helping to pay for the wine and beer). John Blaine and Helen Nienhueser jumped in to help sell Bags-of-Gold, making this new fun-fundraiser a complete success netting \$1,000 with \$230 going to the Endowment Fund to repay for the gold nugget prize.

AUUF President Marty Freeman delivered an uplifting report on 2016 accomplishments and upcoming goals and presented two annual volunteer awards (see separate story). Capital Campaign Co-Chair Doug Eby delivered a brief and encouraging report on the campaign status and efforts.

Downstairs, DLRE Rosene Beachy led a fun-filled evening for a couple dozen children who were well cared for by teen providers Amei Gove, Emily Larabee, Gretchen Mitchell and Willem Meehan. The Perez-Verdia family, Staci Mansfield and Marie Hildebrandt helped pull off a very fun Children's Auction and associated activities.

Half Portion for Social Action: Project Homeless Connect

By Dennis Arashiro

Project Homeless Connect is a one day, one stop event to provide housing, services, and hospitality to those in need. The one stop model removes the barriers preventing people from accessing critical services such as Social Security, public assistance, housing assistance, food, medical care, substance abuse treatment, and veterans' services. At last January's event more than half of this year's participants attended for the very first time. We are seeing the reality of homelessness as a new and immediate crisis for many.

This is the sixth year AUUF has participated in Project Homeless connect, both as a half portion recipient and as a hands on social justice activity. Our collection of funds this month is a needed boost in planning and staging the event in January of the coming year. The day invites community volunteers and service providers to respect the inherent worth and dignity of all participants. For some it is a way out of homelessness, for some it's a friendly face. Join those in our Fellowship who look forward to contributing their money in December and contributing their time and effort in making Project Homeless Connect happen January 25th. Contact Dennis Arashiro at 444-4324 or elvischannel@yahoo.com.

Social Justice Committee

By Dennis Arashiro

"Democracy is no easy form of government. Few nations have been able to sustain it. For it requires that we take the chances of freedom; that the liberating play of reason be brought to bear on events filled with passion; that dissent be allowed to make its appeal for acceptance; that men chance error in the search for truth." Robert F. Kennedy

Democracy is embedded in our Fifth Principle. The challenge lies in accepting any and all results, be the stage large or small. In our own modest experiment with democracy, our committee gave the full Fellowship the power to decide on the Half Portion for Social Action for ten of the twelve months of the year. Leaving out two months was a limit on democracy. No getting away from that. We explained that there may be unexpected developments in the coming year and two months should be left open with that in mind.

We now have to make decisions about those open months. Please join us at **12:30 PM on Sunday, December 11, 2016, in Gary's office** to make those choices. Is there a worthy cause or organization you want to propose? Is there an urgent need that has come to the fore? Is there some change you want to see in our democratic process? If you cannot attend, please call or email me with the thoughts you wish to share with the committee. Dennis Arashiro at 444-4324 or elvischannel@yahoo.com.

Capital Campaign Success!! Now to Design and Build...Any Skilled Volunteers?

The Capital Campaign has officially drawn to a close with \$475,000 in commitments! This is a great success and is enough to move forward with the specific design and build of most of the major elements of the proposed renovation/improvements to our facility! While not the full amount needed to do everything, it should be enough to do the majority of the needed improvements to create good access and flow through a new 'face' on the south side that will include a lift, ramp, wider stairs, better entry, and improved flow between the main auditorium and the social room.

The Capital Campaign committee has a bit of work to finish off. There are still several dozen members who have not made a commitment or indicated that they cannot at this time, so some reminders will go out to those individuals. Thank you notes and a plan for managing the flow of money will then complete the work of the committee.

Our timeline moving the actual project forward is very tight if we are to have the renovation/build completed by a year from now. The next step is technical structural, civil, electrical, and mechanical engineering and detailed designs. We plan to contract with an Architectural firm for these services. Then there is permitting, finding the right project Contractor, and then the actual building/renovation work.

If we have members with specific skills and availability to help with some of the technical work – engineering, design, and then during construction - electrical, plumbing, carpentry – please do let us know. It is our hope to use both an architectural firm and Contractor who will allow us to have members contribute skilled labor if we have members willing to do so. So, that brings us to our next point – LET US KNOW if you have technical skills that might be helpful AND have time and flexibility to be able to be of use during the project. There are many variables in play so there may be usefulness to skilled individuals during the building phase from late May through October this coming year – and we could use engineering/design technical help right now through January/February.

So – THANK YOU for the generosity shown in the commitment to the Capital Campaign. Gifts have spanned from \$50 to \$35,000 – each and every one important – and more needed. We hope that enough still comes in to get well past \$500,000. The design work will give us more exact pricing and we will be discussing with the Board the ultimate scope of the project. If it should turn out that a modest loan of \$100-200,000 becomes necessary to 'round out' the financing to do the project that is needed, there would be a congregational meeting to discuss that option. We are hopeful that will not be necessary, but it is on the list of possible end points once we get detailed plans completed. Again, thank you to all who have made commitments and let us know soon if you have technical skills that might prove useful that you are willing to donate to AUUF for this project.... Contact Doug Eby or Jobe Bernier.

AUUF Local Organizing Ministry/AFACT

By Marie Rozak

AFACT'S 2016, Annual Leadership Retreat was held October 29 with approximately fifty members attending. The get-together began with an opening reflection, including a chalice lighting, by AUUF's Don Crandall.

The first presentation was interesting and informative; Exploring AFACT'S Roots, led by Lead Organizer, Courtney Eppler. Questions and comments followed. A slide show of the organization's activities throughout the past year was a warm reminder of positive steps taken, accomplishments, and joy in the success of the serious matter of restructuring the group had gone through. The review of that particular four months or so reminded me of AUUF's concerns, planning, and successful outcome of the move from our previous location.

The second presentation's topic, regarding individual and group values, was thought provoking. AFACT has an exercise that was used in this part of the program. Each table of six was asked to create two lists of one to three word identifiers of "World As It Is" and "World As It Should Be". After each list was completed, the individual tables read their descriptions followed by discussion. Both discussions included expected topics as well as less common ideas. As you may imagine, the word "community" was heard many times. Inter-generational was a great one in the world as it should be list and Don had a wonderful personal story to illustrate what that can look like.

The presenter had opened this exercise by sharing that she, herself, uses this exercise at least once a year. She recommends it, using the phrase, 'taking inventory of your life'.

On November 6, the LOM partnered with the Society of Friends to present author George Lakey speaking on his latest book, Viking Economics. The Quakers sponsored the event with the LOM hosting. Lakey, a lifelong activist, author and professor is a delightful and interesting speaker. The talk, with follow-up questions and comments, wrapped up with refreshments and the opportunity to visit with Lakey and others in the social room.

Thanks to Gayle Nienhueser for stepping in to operate the sound and recording system and for those who helped clean up and take down tables and chairs in the social room. I love this place!

Volunteer Spotlight

Kalen Saxton



Kalen is a warm and welcoming member of our fellowship. She has helped in the office and organized others to make repairs and addition to our playground, has taught in RE and currently helps with the 1-2 year old Water Skippers, and is serving on the Stewardship and Social Justice Committees.

Kalen really stepped up this year and led the charge for reviving the Thanksgiving Dinner at the fellowship. She coordinated, shopped, and cooked for the 37 individuals that attended on Thanksgiving Day. It was a day of expressing gratitude, fellowship, and the comfort of friends.

Thank you, Kalen, for everything you do for our fellowship! We are truly grateful for you!

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.



Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

What a busy place our AUUF has been lately, Eric and TK and several of our teens going off to Washington state for CON and all coming back charged with energy, our yearly Calling of the Rolls and a kid friendly All Souls service, our annual dinner and auction, our communal Thanksgiving dinner here at AUUF, OLE renting our Sanctuary for classes, small groups starting up, special speakers on Sunday afternoons sometimes, the list goes on and on. We have been blessed with many wonderful things happening right here this autumn. Something for everyone.

I did want to comment on the fabulous Annual Dinner, attended by about 130 adults and 20 some children and youth and those attending them downstairs. Wonderful auction items and plenty of good food and the most collected (I think) in one evening, at least \$14,300 (deserts collected at least \$2,000. We enjoyed a great annual report from our Board chairman, Marty Freeman. We are off to a very busy year as we tackle the beginning of the "remodel" plans from our Capital Fund drive. A BIG thank you to all of us for supporting this congregation with our volunteer efforts, monies, time, and commitment. I am so proud of my tribe.

Grateful for the lovely 11 Am Worship Service our teens planned and presented November 13th. The 10 or so who attended CON recently in Washington state did a lovely service and all participated. It was especially well received as the congregation (with the help of our Minister, Gary) spent the day coming to terms with the recent election. Also, we are grateful that the Listening Circle, facilitated by Marty Herriot, gave about 25 people a chance to express their fears and hopes for our divided political system after the same service. Sometimes "serendipity" is a beautiful thing because Heather Lende spoke at the Forum on "Finding the Good". A healing Sunday!

Thankful for the almost 40 who enjoyed a Thanksgiving dinner here at AUUF. Tables were full of food and conversation and some folks from the neighborhood attended. Gratitude for all the hands who brought this tradition back to life.

Wishing all a Happy and Healthy Winter holiday season. No falling on the ice, be careful and safe.

The Alliance

by Shirley Dickens, Chair of the Alliance

The Alliance Met November 13th. Nine of the Alliance met to discuss the upcoming Christmas Sale. As you receive this we will be preparing for the second Sunday Dec. 4. Thank you for all the things YOU (our congregation) have donated for "re-gifting and recycling". Be sure to check us out. We have lots of treasures left. Once again the Alliance will gift AUUF staff with poinsettias. We are also sending Christmas cards to some of our elderly with a note.

PS A big Thank You" to Gwen Perry Crawford for getting the Birthday cakes monthly for the congregation to enjoy.

Recycling Tip: Save Christmas cards received in the mail for various activities - child craft, making special cards for special people, decoupage, etc. Next Plastics Recycle is Jan 15th. 5's only please.



December Birthdays, Best Wishes!

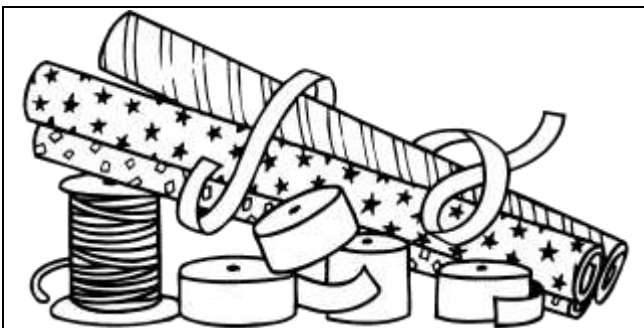
Birthdays are not published in our online version of the newsletter.

Choir Schedule

Thursday, December 1, 2016 7:00-8:30pm
Sunday, Dec 4th, 9:45-10:30am
Thursday, December 8, 2016 7:00-8:30pm
Tuesday, Dec 13th Blue Christmas 5:30pm call
Thursday, December 15, 2016 7:00-8:30pm
Sunday, Dec 18th 9:45-10:30am
Thursday, December 22, 2016 7:00-8:30pm
Saturday, Dec 24th Christmas Eve, 5pm call

Thursday, January 5, 2017 7:00-8:30pm





Need some gift wrapping help? Drop gifts with name tags (which will be available on site) in a box in the social room before the 11am service on **December 11th** and pick them up in the same location after the service OR bring gifts to the social room after the service, before 3pm and watch them be wrapped before your eyes! Donations are appreciated and will support our youth group's attendance at con.

Youth Schedule

Dec. 4--Winter Housekeeping NT
Dec. 11--Christmas Wrapping NT
Dec. 18--Solstice
Dec. 25--For Christ's sake, 10 reasons to love Jesus
Jan. 1--Hindu and Hebrew, two streams for UUs

Please come support several members of the UU as they join in **Anchorage's 70th performance of Handel's Messiah**. Music Director Tamara McCoy will be performing 2 solos in this uplifting community event. The concert will be held at the West High Auditorium on Sunday, December 4th at 2pm. Performed by the Messiah Chorus, Orchestra, and local soloists. Tickets available at the door: ALL Adults \$10 Youth \$5. Families 3-5 \$30; 6-7 \$45; 8-12 \$55.

Thanksgiving Dinner @ AUUF

A resumed tradition was a great success! ! Close to forty attended, including folks from Airport Heights who had not previously been to the Fellowship. Conversation flowed up and down the tables. The spread was amazing. A big thankyou goes out to the Alliance who purchased the turkey, all who brought dishes, set up, cleaned up, and provided laughter. A special thanks to Kalen Saxton for cooking the turkey and all the last minute coordination. Mark your calendar for next November.

Hungry Book Club News

By Shirley Dickens

A small group met November 8th (partly because Shirley got mixed up on the date, my apologies) to discuss Corner of Bitter and Sweet by James Ford. Everyone who read it, liked it a lot. We highly recommend it. We are doing something different for December. As our ritual of recent years, we will meet for a Holiday



luncheon at Doriola's Restaurant on Tudor in a strip mall between C Street and Arctic Blvd. on December 13th (our normal meeting date) for lunch and to do a "book exchange" of a book you enjoyed and would like to share with others. So, if you want to go home with a book, please bring a book. We will have a Chinese auction to decide who gets what book in case there is a lot of demand for one or two. We will meet at 1 PM Dec. 13th in one of the back rooms which is being "reserved". We will finish discussing Corner of Bitter and Sweet, since our numbers were so small for November meeting. We are an open book club and feel free to join us if you are interested.

Our Annual Ornament Exchange!



Come join us as we celebrate the Season with Fellowship friends and family! Bring your smile, a plate of finger food and a wrapped ornament Sat. 12/17 to Doreen's home from 1-4. There's sure to be lots of Ho-Ho-Ho's and Fa-La-La's and you never know what ornament you'll take home (think Chinese auction). For more info. contact Susie: skobierowski@yahoo.com (748-4466) and for directions e-mail Doreen Ransom: ransomdoreen@yahoo.com.



Yoga for Adults and Teens will be held in the downstairs Gathering room at the fellowship in December Thursdays from 5 to 6. This yoga basics class focuses on beginning level poses, and building strength. Relaxation ends each class. Bring your own yoga mat! Led by Peggy Cobey. Open to ages 14 and up. peggy.cobey@gmail.com.

R.E. Notes for December 2016

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Our Program

Children's Regular classes December 4 & 11

December 18 – Cross Age Solstice program Downstairs

December 25th - Happy Holidays! – No RE classes, Children enjoy this service with their parents

January 1st – Happy New Year! Children are welcome to participate in the Worship service!

Childcare for ages 1-4.

Winterfest - Sunday, December 4th

An Ornament Making party And Alternative Gift Fair 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 some soup downstairs, and then jingle your way back upstairs to make ornaments, decorate the tree, and maybe even sing some Christmas carols!



Also - Mitten Tree - December 4th

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!

Christmas Eve Pageant - "Trees of the Dancing Goats"

We are excited about our pageant this year. Classes will each have different parts in this pageant. We need only 4 -Jr/Sr youth for the few character parts, no other speaking parts required. 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 **9:00 am on Dec. 4th** 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 first full pageant practice with staging directions and costuming will be:

Saturday, December 10th, 3:00 – 5:00 **Needed – parent helpers for costuming!**

The Final Dress Rehearsal Will Be Saturday Dec. 17th, 1 – 3 p.m.

Contact Rosene Beachy, DLRE with any questions.

Christmas Eve Service, Saturday Dec. 24th 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Call time 5:00 pm for all participants

Soup Sundays

October Soup Sunday hosted by the Star Gazers, (4-5th grade) made \$293.45 that went to help the animals at the SPCA.

November Soup Sunday hosted by the Planet Keepers (3rd grade) raised \$ 279

December 4th - Soup Sunday – December Soup Sunday will be hosted by the Fire Keepers (2nd grade) Please come and support their class project! Have soup and then party at Winterfest!



Hands On Social Justice Night

These are the things we made and thanks to the folks who helped at the table or delivered the donations: 22 fleece scarves for Clare house (thanks Irene), Flowers and angels for hospice (Thanks Elayne and Alison), Thank you rocks for teachers, a baby quilt for Providence (thanks Laura Krip), 35 Vegetarian Soup Mixes which will be sold at Soup Sunday for Thanksgiving funds for Food Bank (thanks Annie and Alix), 25 Blessing Bags- homeless kits, 20 cards for College kids (Thanks TK and David), 20 Cat toys for AACC, a pile of PB & J sandwiches for Brother Francis (Thanks Suzann)

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. 20th, you can still pick up a box and story booklet at the RE Info Spot downstairs. Please bring them back to the ingathering on January 15th. **Share your Blessings with others!** Remember the **Guest at Your Table** during the holiday season



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 program in December 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 9 Parent Info night 7-8:30 pm

January 21 – Parent & Child Kickoff 1:00 – 3:00 pm

January 22 – March 5 - OWL Workshop sessions 12:45 – 1:45

ALSO Coming in January/February – **Hogwarts school of Wisdom and Wizardry!**

Still looking for some Magical Professors! Do you have a secret wish to be a Magical Professor? Maybe a Professor of Potions? Or Herbology? Or Magical Creatures? Lots of fun lesson plans. Call/email Rosene for details of what is still available. Next organizing meeting December 7, 7 – 8 pm.

"A big Thank You to the Helping Hands of our many volunteers this year who help teachers in their classroom, prepare snack and soup, and help with a myriad of RE activities. Our Religious Exploration ministry happens best with the loving participation and support of all members of our community."

Wishing you peaceful and Enjoyable holidays!

Rosene

About Our December Speakers (see back page)

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

Rosene Beachy has been the AUUF Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration (DLRE) for 17 years providing leadership for the Children and Youth Religious Exploration (CYRE) Committee and the Adult Programs Committee. As DLRE, she also assists and collaborates with various AUUF ministry teams and committees as they carry out fellowship functions and activities. Rosene earned a master's degree in education and was a public school teacher before accepting the AUUF DLRE position. Rosene served on the Pacific Northwest LREDA (Liberal Religious Educators Association) Board and recently served as Chapter Chair for 1 year. She enjoys the privilege of working with children and families, providing joyful opportunities for all ages to learn, explore their values and engage their minds, heart, and hands in working for peace and social justice, both in their community and in the larger world.

Rev. Dennis Morner spent 34 years in pastoral ministry as part of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. In October of 2015, Pastor Dennis changed directions from a congregation to ministry in the broader community through use of his Therapy Dogs and NATIONAL Crisis Response Canines (NCRC). Dennis is currently involved as a volunteer at Hospice of Anchorage as their Volunteer Chaplain and by providing Therapy Dog visits to homes and the grief recovery programs "Forget-Me-Not" and "Camp Erin. Pastor Dennis also spends time on the UAA campus in residence halls and going to classes prior to tests. Weekly, Max, Nyxie and Dennis visit Alaska Regional Hospital to visit staff, visitors, and patients. Dennis & Max and three other certified NCRC teams are part of Courage through Canines, a joint endeavor with Victims for Justice. We visit the District Attorneys and staff, the Municipal Prosecutors, Office of Victims Rights, SVU, and STAR (Stand Together Against Rape). When requested we provide a comforting presence to victims of violent crimes and sexual abuse by joining the victim during interviews and court appearances.

Nancy Meade has been the General Counsel for the Alaska Court System since 2011. She worked with legislators and their aides to ensure that this new criminal justice reform bill could be effectively implemented. She holds a B.A. degree in Classics (Greek and Latin) from Trinity College and is a graduate of the Northeastern University School of Law. She has previously served as an Assistant Attorney General and as the Court Rules Attorney.

Bill Wielechowski has been a Democratic member of the Alaska State Senate since 2006, representing District H, and now serves on the standing committees on Judiciary, Resources, and State Affairs as well as the Special Committee on Federal Overreach and the Joint Committee on Armed Services. He graduated magna cum laude in 1989 with a BS in Business Management and Finance from Seton Hall University and earned a JD in 1992 from Seton Hall University, School of Law. Bill is a member of the fellowship.

Rev. Beatrice Hitchcock has spent over 20 years in UU ministry, serving three congregations in Alaska and two Outside, as intern, organizing, transitional, or interim minister; she was ordained by AUUF in 1997. She lives with her spouse at the base of Sheep Mountain, and is now working with an emerging congregation in the Mat-Su Valley.

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 x7

AUUF Board of Directors and Other Contacts are available on our website.

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AUUF Services and Events –December 2016

Sunday, December 4 Winterfest

9 am Bill Wielechowski,
'An Update on the Permanent Fund Dividend Case'
11 am Beatrice Hitchcock, "Answering Hate from the
Heart of Love."

Sunday, December 11

9 am TBD
11 am Gary Holthaus

Tuesday, December 13th 6pm Blue Christmas

Sunday, December 18

9 am Rosene Beachy,
"Religious Education (Exploration?) at AUUF"
11 am Chaplin Dennis Morner,
"The Spiritual Aspects of Hospice Care"

Saturday December 24 Christmas Eve

6 pm Pageant

Sunday, December 25

11 am Simple Christmas Service with Light Breakfast,
Gary Holthaus

January 1, 2017

11 am Joint New Year's Day Service

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"

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- December 2016

Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare

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