

The LOG

January 2019



AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

We all know that the start of a new year is symbolic. Any month of the year could signal a new start, but we have chosen January, inspired by the Greek god Janus who looked both backward and forward. January, that time to reflect about the past year, and courageously gaze into the coming year with hope and resolve. It's hard to believe that a year has gone by since I arrived to serve as your Interim Minister. It seems like yesterday that I walked into a chaotic construction zone. And, a year later, so much has been accomplished at AUUF! You are thriving in your newly renovated space that is more accessible, beautiful and user-friendly. It's exciting to participate in your Program Council meetings and feel all the good energy bubbling up about all kinds of ways you are discovering to "do church" even better. And, you are acknowledging and beginning to address challenges like supporting your youth, creating a sustainable budget and finding healthier ways to work through differences. That's a lot of progress in one year!

As we begin Year Two of our interim journey, we will start to shift focus—looking more toward the future to help you prepare for searching and calling a new settled minister. Yes, we'll keep on addressing challenges but we'll also seek to gain some clarity about where you see yourselves going in the next few years so you can call a minister who is in alignment with your mission. Educator and wise soul, Parker Palmer, offers some excellent questions that can jump start your thinking, based on this poem by Ann Hillman:

We look with uncertainty
beyond the old choices for
clear-cut answers
to a softer, more permeable aliveness
which is every moment
at the brink of death;
for something new is being born in us
if we but let it.
We stand at the doorway
awaiting that which comes...
daring to be human creatures,
vulnerable to the beauty of existence.
Learning to love.

Palmer asked his questions for individual contemplation, but I have adapted them for your collective reflection about the fellowship as you embark on 2019 with great hope.

- How can we let go of our need for fixed answers in favor of aliveness?
- What is our next challenge in "daring to be human" in personal, relational, and social justice terms?
- How can we open ourselves more fully to the beauty of nature and human nature?
- Who or what do we need to learn to love next? And next? And next?
- What is the new creation that wants to be born in and through us?

As Palmer observes, "Nobody knows what 2019 will hold. But if we wrap our lives around good questions—and try to live our way into good answers every day—the better world we want and need is more likely to come into being."

With anticipation and great hope, Reverend Shelley

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Calendar Highlights

Jan 6 Earthquake Sharing Circle
Jan 8 Hungry Book Club
Jan 11 AFACT Fundraiser
Jan 12 Friendship Dinners
Jan 13 Mid-Year Congregational Meeting
Jan 20 Stories of Race and Racism
Jan 22 Program Council
Jan 23 Project Homeless Connect
Jan 27 Soup Sunday
March 2 One Day Stewardship Drive

President's Letter

How can you tell if a congregation is living its dearly held values? One way is to look at its budget – a declaration of what we value in alignment with our mission. We are heading into “budget season” as we thoughtfully prepare for next year. As we continue in this interim time, one thing we’ve learned is that we are all in this together and we can do better in the process of creating a budget that reflects our values. Check out what we’ve been up to!

Firstly, you are all invited to a mid-year congregational meeting. We will give a status report of our FY19 budget on Sunday, January 13 at 12:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Please plan to attend to ask questions and provide suggestions and input for the remainder of this year and for next year’s planning. Members will also get a chance to hear from the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) bylaw working group on their MSC bylaw changes recommendation at this meeting. The group consists of Mary Ann Eininger, Chair, Ken Winterberger, Sam Cason and Amanda Mack. The congregation will vote on the proposed bylaw change on Sunday, February 17 at 12:30 p.m. Opportunities for further comment will be provided in the month between meetings.

Secondly, we kicked off the budgeting process for FY20 at the December 4th Program Council meeting. Linking our committee and team work to AUUF’s mission were at the very heart of group discussions. Program Council meets every other month to improve communication and coordination between staff, ministry teams and governance committees and is skillfully convened by Marty Freeman. In December, we had a tremendous turn out with twenty-five members plus Rev. Shelley and Rosene representing a total of 30 teams and committees! This energized, lively group got into small groups to share what they want to accomplish in the next 1-2 years and 3-5 years and brainstorm areas where more cross-pollination between groups is possible. Hearing the passion each person has for their particular group helps everyone better understand the many flavors at AUUF and how we can best work together. Committee and team goals and budget requests to achieve them were submitted to the Finance and Stewardship Committee to help them kickstart building the FY20 budget and planning the Stewardship Campaign.

Finally, in another effort to begin budget discussions with the broader congregation, the Board and Finance Committee convened a “Think Tank” of some past and current leaders to share with them our current financial status and brainstorm a path forward under unique circumstances. A quick review of our situation: We finished FY18 in the red due to the perfect storm of unanticipated expenses and loss of income (think ministerial transition and renovation delays) and are in a fiscal year (FY19) where we passed a deficit budget giving ourselves a year to get our feet under us. We looked at our increased staffing costs (Gary was on Medicare, but Shelley isn’t), a new renovation loan we need to incorporate into our operating budget (\$12,000 per year), and unfunded expenses having to do with ministerial search over the next two years (\$12-15K in FY20 and approx. \$20K in FY21). After a thoughtful presentation complete with graphs and hard data, we brainstormed. We considered, what does sustainability look like for AUUF?

Overall, there was a real feeling of optimism at the event. When we talked about what could be done to reduce costs, we found little will to go there from the group. We are all hopeful that we can sustain our programming and staffing levels, finance our building loan, and procure the needed funds for ministerial search. A successful stewardship drive, new energy thrown into generating new revenue streams and lots of creative thinking are needed at this time.

Here are some of the key thoughts from these leaders:

- How can we inspire increased commitment and giving, especially through regular pledging while acknowledging and honoring those who are already giving at their edge? How can we increase the number of people pledging at Fair Share giving levels? How can we educate people about the true costs of operating a great Fellowship?
- How can we channel people’s passions through targeted giving? You will be hearing more about this as we work together to craft a policy that is in touch with the wishes of the congregation and fiscally responsible.
- Consider a Simplicity Sale where members sell one thing of significant value to raise money in a way that supports our UU values and raises needed funds.
- Challenge each other to invite friends and neighbors as well as utilize UUA outreach program materials to bring in new members and therefore increase pledging over time.

How will you be part of the conversation about living our values in the year to come?

In faith and in service, Amanda Mack

January Half Portion: RAIS – Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services

By Kalen Saxton

On December 16th Issa Spatrisano, Alaska Director for Refugee Services at RAIS, spoke at 9am Forum on “Anchorage's Growing Refugee Population” and at the 11am Worship Service on “The Refugee Experience in Anchorage”. Anyone who attended that Sunday become very well informed about who are the refugees in Alaska and the services RAIS provides and coordinates with others to provide.

We learned that RAIS receives a Federal grant to hire staff. Most staff speak the languages of the refugee population served. RAIS staff meet a family arriving in Alaska, and take them directly to an apartment to settle in. It is minimally furnished by donations. Staff arrange with a church or faith-based community to provide enough food for one month on the shelves and in the refrigerator. Staff assist parents to enroll in language classes, children in school, and drive them to get an Alaska ID card and other appointments.

Within three months most refugees have a job. Many refugees come to Alaska because they have family to live with. The majority are in Anchorage and the Mat-Su area. Some go to Fairbanks, Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Kodiak and other places.

Our donations to RAIS supports the services they coordinate and purchases they make like fees for a driver's license, safety shoes for a job, or bus passes. So, give generously to the birch bark baskets this January as they are passed.

If you missed the services on December 16th, do listen to the podcast. We have expressed pain and outrage about what is happening to refugee families at our border. Let's be sure we help the refugees in Alaska.



AUUF 2019 Half Portion Recipient Vote

By Kalen Saxton

November AUUF members voted to select the recipients of the Half-Portion funds. Voting was conducted online for the first time and open to members only. Participation was high, thanks for voting. Ten recipients were selected for the calendar year, January-December 2019.

The selected agencies are:

Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest & Hawaii
Coalition to End Homelessness
Alaska Literacy Program
STAR – Standing Together Against Rape

RAIS – Refugee Assistance & Immigration Program
Food Bank of Alaska
Alaska Innocence Project
Identity, Inc.
Citizens Climate Lobby
Children's Lunchbox

Anchorage Faith and Action Congregations Together (AFACT) and Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) are the additional 2 causes for half portion as per vote at the annual meeting May 2018.

The Half-Portion Team is working with Rev. Shelley, the Worship Associates, the Forum Planning Team, and the recipients, to develop the schedule of months to best fit agencies needs or when a speaker is available to inform us about their issues.



Alternative Gift Fair Generosity!

By Cathy Steen

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Alternative Gift Fair in December. Your contributions totaled \$4,099, and went directly to support the agencies you selected.

Social Action Council

By Dennis Arashiro

"Nonviolence is absolute commitment to the way of love. Love is not emotional bash; it is not empty sentimentalism. It is the active outpouring of one's whole being into the being of another."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Some see many sides to Martin Luther King, Jr. There was the leading figure of the Civil Rights movement, the champion of racial equality. There was the practitioner of nonviolence and opponent of the Vietnam War. There was the proponent of democratic socialism and organizer of the Poor People's Movement. But in all of this, there was really only one side--the side of love. Why did he devote his life to fighting all aspects of racism, violence, and poverty? To side with love.

When we side with love, we are honoring King in the most meaningful way. Consider attending the services and discussion group on racism on January 20. Consider volunteering for Project Homeless Connect on January 23. Consider offerings of funds and items of need such as food, clothing and hygiene supplies every Sunday. Consider honoring King beyond the day devoted to him by confronting racism, violence, and poverty ourselves. To side with love.

Stewardship Save the Date!

This year the Stewardship Committee is doing something a little (ok, a LOT) different! After hearing how much fun and success Fairbanks had with a One Day Stewardship drive, we decided to try this in Anchorage!

On the afternoon/evening of **Saturday March 2nd**, we will gather to "Spark Magic Together". There will be food, fun activities based on the Hogwarts curriculum that the RE youth will finishing, conversations with program teams, fire pits, and more. And yes, you will be able to meet with a Stewardship Team member to complete your pledge form.

Have a great multi-generational idea for an activity? Want to help plan the party aspects so the Stewardship Team can focus on the pledge drive portion? Please contact Wendy Romberg at wendy.romberg@gci.net

Tips for Recycling

By Sid McCausland



Kudos to all who have been collecting your #5 recyclables and bringing them to AUUF.

However, here is my plea for discipline: Every month Judith and David sort through every bag of recycling that you drop off at AUUF in order to not pollute the #5 recycling stream.

This month I did the deed on their behalf. I sorted through nearly 400 pieces of plastic in about an hour. Of the containers only about 15 were not #5's. But of the more than 100 lids, only 12 were #5's. (Most were #2's. Even Kirkland's yogurt lids are mostly #2's, with one size being #5's).

If you are not going to take the time to look for the symbol, please do not drop it off for Judith and David because it makes their job doubly difficult.

"Aspirational recycling" is one of the reasons the Chinese reject our mis-sorted junk. We can do this together! Shalom.

Next #5 recycling dates: January 27, February 24, March 24, and April 21.

Welcome to Our Newest Members!

In October we welcomed 10 folks as voting members of AUUF. Please introduce yourself as we help them become an integral part of this community! Many of them have their photos and bios available at the welcome table for you to learn more. Speaking of that, if you have not yet submitted a photo and biography, please do so! Welcome Emily, Sara H, Fran, Sara K, Janet, Eric, Claudius, Jenna, Terry and Rebekah.



Adult Offerings!

Stories of Race and Racism

"Race and Police Encounters": Discussion Group
Sunday, January 20, 2019, 1:00-3:00pm at AUUF

Please join the AUUF Anti-Racism Action Team for our second bimonthly discussion group about topics related to race and racism. The topic for this session will be "Race and Police Encounters," and we'll focus our discussion around a couple of short videos on the topic. The discussion will be an opportunity to share our feelings, thoughts, and responses, using respectful listening and a Chalice Circle format. If you know you plan to come, please RSVP to Becca Bernard at rbernard.ak@gmail.com, but feel free to join us even without an RSVP. The work of the Anti-Racism Action Team is to facilitate exploration of, education about, and dismantling of racism and white privilege within our congregation, our world, and ourselves as individuals.



Chalice Circles start in January! Chalice Circles, a small group ministry program sponsored by the Adult Programs Committee, will begin in January, Sundays from 4-6 pm at Ravens Roost, and 1st and 3rd Thursdays mornings from 9-11 (starts January 7) near West High School, 2nd and 4th Thursdays 6:30-8:30 at AUUF with Childcare Available. Chalice Circles support our "striving to listen deeply and speak with one another and to our larger community with consideration and respect." These groups are designed to bring members, friends, and community members closer to one another by cultivating deeper connections. If you are interested in participating in a

Chalice Circle please contact Andee Cordano (AndeeCordano@gmail.com; 907-277-7734) or Deena Mitchell (DeenaMitchell1978@gmail.com, 847-997-8357)

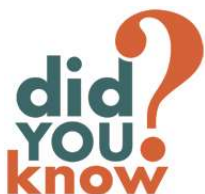
Friendship Dinners Continue to build Community. Get to know more folks in our Fellowship by sharing meals together. Whether you are brand new or have been coming for decades, this is a fun, social way to connect, or reconnect! There are still two dates for these dinners for eight, in private homes: Saturday 1/12/19, and Saturday 3/30/19. Feel free to join one or both! Each time you will be with a new group of UUs, and if you are able, you can host one of the evenings. Everyone helps with food/drink. Look for information in the Fellowship social room, or contact Andee Cordano (AndeeCordano@gmail.com; 907-277-7734) or Deena Mitchell (DeenaMitchell1978@gmail.com, 847-997-8357) for more information or to join.

Quake Sharing Circle It's been about a month since our 7.0. Some things have settled back into place in our lives, and, for some, life may still be unsettled. Our Quake Sharing Circle welcomes all who would like a warm loving space to share about how you're doing these days. Gather with us in Room 8 downstairs at 12:30 after worship on Sunday, January 6.

Yoga for Every Body classes are in hiatus until February. Then they will resume Wednesdays 6-7:15 pm. Freewill offering (half to AUUF). Instructor: Paula Saylor. 907-297-9184.

Hungry Book Club December's "Christmas luncheon" (where we exchanged a book wrapped that wanted to be given away) was a lovely event. There were 10 Book Clubbers present. Thank you, Carol Harris, for checking out places to meet. We have chosen our next read, a novel, "A Place for Us" by Fatima Faheen Mirza. We will meet Tuesday, January 8th at 2 PM at AUUF in the Social Hall. Join us! Call Shirley Dickens 563-4499 for more details.

Freethinkers is a weekly Humanist discussion group. Newcomers and drop-ins are always welcome. We meet downstairs room 7 at the Fellowship from noon to 1:30 p.m. each Friday. Contact George Bryson at gfbryson@gmail.com.



Do you know what is special about Sunday, January 13, at 12:30? The Ministerial Search Bylaw Committee will be presenting their recommended changes, and the Finance Committee will be presenting a 6-month status update on our FY19 budget and answering your questions. Please plan on attending.

Living in Beloved Community,

By Erik Hill Presented 12/9/18



As a mostly-shy person, I am more comfortable behind a camera than a podium, so I am embracing this as a growth opportunity.

We first began attending 12 or 13 years ago. We immediately recognized lots of friends and neighbors including the Zimmers, Marty Freeman, John Blaine and several others. Before too long, joining **FOR US** felt like **THE RIGHT THING TO DO**.

And before too long, we ended up volunteering. At some point AUUF asked me to help out. As a journalist perennially worried about conflicts of interest, I hemmed and hawed about stepping forward. Robin finally said **YES, YOU WILL**, because **FOR US**, it was **THE RIGHT THING TO DO!**

I served on the Board for over 5 years. It was wonderful, it was difficult. We dealt with fun things, tough things and sometimes even bad things. Some issues were simple, many were complicated. Overall, the experience was extremely rewarding. I got to work alongside amazing people, and our accomplishments included calling a new minister and moving into this new building!

I've also volunteered by taking photos and serving as cheap labor on our remodel. Volunteering time and energy is a great way to connect with members and friends of AUUF. It is a great way to create community and work toward achieving our mission and goals. It is also a great way to learn new skills: Don Crandall and I can now use an oscillating saw (if that's what it's called!), and I now own a carpenter's pencil!

I also understand the complex task of building a budget based on pledging. Did I mention I am currently on the Stewardship Committee?

Robin and I gave what we thought we could as we paid college tuitions for our two daughters over the course of 8 years. That wrapped up a year ago ... as I was covering bankruptcy hearings for my own employer ... and when the time for layoffs came, I volunteered to retire. Robin's job provided us with health insurance, and other senior colleagues likely to be laid off would have gone without. So, again, **FOR ME, FOR US**, it was **THE RIGHT THING TO DO**.

So now we have less income than before, but we also need and want less, and we know where our priorities are. Our girls benefitted from RE, OWL, Coming of Age and the overall amazing program Rosene oversees. We've enjoyed small groups, voluntary simplicity, and the Northwest Earth Institute courses Cathy Steen has brought to our attention. We appreciate Dennis Arashiro's hard work on social justice, and Marty Herriot's group healing skills as we've faced life's ups and downs, especially since the 2016 election. We treasured the poignant poetry of now-retired minister Gary Holthaus' life.

This room is full of role models, and we are grateful our girls grew up inspired by Sylvia Short, Shirley Dickens, Helen Nienhueser, Mary Ann Eininger, Heather Flynn, Sharon Cissna, Berta Gardner and others. And so we will consider upping our pledge again, as we did last year. When we attended the Women's March, UUs were there. When we walk the Pride Parade, it's because UUs are there. When we recently drove to the Fairview Rec Center to make clothing donations to displaced Karluk Manor residents, other UUs were there volunteering and donating.

If we make it to a Monday movie at the Beartooth, well, UUs own the place. And when the newspaper brought me out of retirement recently for an evening photo presentation honoring my career, many friendly UU faces were there, helping put me at ease. Community is where you find it, and most often we find it here. This church belongs to each of us. And **FOR OUR FAMILY**, supporting and building this community is **THE RIGHT THING TO DO**.

Religious Exploration Notes for January 2019, Happy New Year!

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Our Program

January 6th- Feb. 24 –Hogwarts UU School of Wisdom and Wizardry begins for K-5th grade. Preschool and Youth programs continue from the Fall.

All RE Kids, K-5th grade, We are pleased to inform you that you have been accepted at Hogwarts UU School of Wisdom and Wizardry. Our 2019 School of Wisdom and Wizardry will commence on January 6th and continue for 8 weeks until February 24th.



Students shall report to the Chamber of Reception (RE Library) upon arrival on January 6th at 11:00 am. You will then proceed thru the entrance at the train station to the Great Hall (Gathering room) to be sorted into House groups by the Sorting Hat. You will be sorted into one of our houses to which you will go upon arrival each week to meet with your Prefects and House Professor. Then your group will come into the Great Hall for our Chalice lesson of the day.

During the 8 weeks, in January and February, our Chalice Circles will address stories of UU principles and values as experienced at Hogwarts.

You will attend 2 classes each week with your House group led by our Professors on different topics such as Potions, Care of Magical Creatures, Transfiguration, Flying and Charms. Your House group will receive a schedule of your weekly classes on sorting day so that you know when to bring a broom and outdoor gear for Flying Class! You are welcome to wear whatever magical regalia that you have. The last week will be a Tri-Wizard Tournament.

We very much look forward to receiving you as a part of the new generation of Hogwarts students.

Sincerely Professor Dumbledore

Our Whole Lives (Our Whole Lives Sexuality curriculum)

Jr High (8th grade OWL) January 12 – March 31 -

Workshop sessions 12:30 – 3pm

January 9th Wednesday -7-9 pm Parent information night for Jr High OWL.

Come to the parent night to learn about the program.

January 12th –Jr High Kick off - Saturday, 10 am – 12:30, Parents & Teens

OWL AERIE - High School OWL January 27 – March 2, 12:30 – 3pm

January 23, Wed. 7-9 pm Parent information night for Sr High OWL Aerie

January 26th – OWL Aerie Kick off -Saturday 10am – 12:30. Parents & teens



Thank You's:

. . . to all who participated in the Mitten Tree event, 80 warm hats, gloves, scarves, boots and socks were donated to Airport Heights Elementary School.

. . . Winterfest directors and elves Deena Mitchell, Dianna Polese and all their elves who organized and led a wonderful Sunday afternoon event this year. Many beautiful ornaments were created!

. . . to our **Elementary, OWL facilitators**; Bethany Buchanan, and Abigail Kean

. . to our **Jr and Sr High OWL facilitators**; Sam Cason, Kelley Hartlieb, Katherine Huffman, Ken Winterberger, Laura Greffinius, Teresa Zimmer, Doug Eby, Sarah Taygan, and Meghan Hughes Bundtzen.

From the Fellowship office

Do you have the gift of hospitality? Starting about this point in the year, the office gets calls looking for UU homestays typically for the summer season. These are UUs traveling to our great state who would like to support our congregation and save some money also. If you would like to open your home to UUs in addition to our summer Whalecoast tours, contact the office and we will put you on our list.

Got Miles? We can use the donation of your excess miles to defray travel costs. 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.

Deadlines: The LOG deadline is the third Sunday of each month. Early entries are greatly appreciated. Tuesday is the deadline for announcements to be printed in the Order of Service.

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.) Thanks for your continued routine giving. Want to change your automatic giving to your checking account? It is easy and saves the Fellowship 3% bank fees. Just drop a voided check in the black lock box in the workroom. I'll take care of it from there.

Fred Meyer Rewards Card: Beyond our pledge and automated giving you can help your Fellowship by linking your rewards card to us for their community giving program. www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. You can search for us by our full name or by our number (84435).

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



hosts

Many People, Many Voices, One Harmony

Date: Friday, January 11th

Time: 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Place: St. Mary's Episcopal Church

2222 E Tudor Road

(corner of Lake Otis & Tudor)

Cost: Suggested donation of \$5-\$20+

Come and join us as we celebrate Anchorage's diversity and raise money for AFACT! There will be food, a silent auction, and performances by the St. Anthony Samoan Youth Choir, the St. Mary's Praise Singers, and more! *For more information, please email dan@anchoragefact.org*

The Alliance

by Kalen Saxton

Our Holiday Bazaar brought in over \$2,000, thank you! The 2019 Holiday Bazaar will be the first two Sundays in December with setup the afternoons before.

Marge Carter and Joann Anderson again purchased and delivered the Poinsettias from The Alliance to AUUF staff to thank them and bring holiday cheer. We also gifted three elder members, Bill Stilling in the Pioneer Home, Sol Gerstenfeld in his cabin in Mt. View and Sherri Hadley in Assisted Living.

We voted to pay for an ad in the Anchorage Daily News for six months, January through June, for \$1170. We not only want to inform the community about what is taking place here, we want to support the Anchorage Daily News.

Our 2018 Spring Rummage Sale on Saturday May 11th with set-up on the Friday afternoon the day before. We hope to get as many people to set up and pack up this Sale, our help will be greatly appreciated.

January Birthdays!

Birthdays are not published in our online version.



Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Office phone: 907-248-3737 www.anchorageuuf.org

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

Staff Contacts

- Rev. Shelley Page, Interim Minister, (907) 248-3737 x 2; revshelleyauuf@gmail.com
- Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration, 441-6815, rbeachy@alaskalife.net
- Megan Webb, Music Director, auufmusic@gmail.com or 248-3737 x6
- Amy Lundell, Congregational Administrator, 248-3737 x 3 or auuf@gci.net

Board of Directors and Other Points of Contacts are Available on our Website.

About Our Speakers and Services (see back page)

Tuckerman Babcock is Alaska Gov. Mike Dunleavy's chief of staff. Prior to his appointment in November, Babcock served two years as chairman of the Alaska Republican Party. A former student at Steller Alternative School in Anchorage, he earned a BA degree in Government at Wesleyan University. He's been a legislative aide for several lawmakers, executive director of the state reapportionment board, assistant manager for the Matanuska Electric Association, a commissioner at the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission and consultant to several successful Republican political campaigns. He and his wife Kristi Babcock have eight children and currently live in Soldotna.

Dr. Zeynep Kilic is an associate professor and chair of the Department of Sociology at the University of Alaska Anchorage, where she currently teaches a course on the Sociology of Race and Ethnicity. Born and raised in Turkey, Dr. Kilic earned her bachelor of science degree in Economics in Ankara and her masters and doctorate degrees in Sociology at Arizona State University. She moved to Alaska in 2008 to begin teaching at UAA, where in 2013 she received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in University Diversity for enhancing diversity in all its aspects on campus. She's also a passionate cook and has produced a film on Turkish cuisine.

Katherine Gottlieb is the president and CEO of the Southcentral Foundation, the Alaskan Native healthcare organization. Born and raised in Old Harbor off Kodiak Island -- and self-described as a "short, cute Aleut" -- she attended college at Alaska Pacific University, earning BA and MA degrees in business administration as well as an honorary doctorate. Accepting a job at Southcentral in 1987, she soon became one of its administrative leaders and has served at its helm for 27 years -- a period in which SCF grew from 24 to over 2,000 employees. In 2004 Gottlieb was honored as the first Native recipient of the MacArthur "genius" award.

Don Antrobus is manager of the Denali Commission's statewide Village Infrastructure Protection program, serving as lead engineer for federal efforts to relocate the northwestern Alaska village of Newtok due to climate change. Earlier he worked as the engineering manager of the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and chief engineer of the Guam Waterworks Authority. He received his Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering at the University of Notre Dame and a Master's degree in Engineering Management at UAA. An active member of the Fellowship, Don also served as a volunteer planner for the AUUF remodeling project.

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February 2019

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Wow! I love the Anchorage Folk Festival! What a wonderful Anchorage tradition! I loved hearing the local talent as well as the headliners in the comfortable mainstage UAA venue filled with a friendly and appreciative crowd. And, I was interested to discover that the festival is run by a whole lot of dedicated volunteers and donations from those who enjoy the festival.

Hmmm...sounds a lot like the Fellowship! The Folk Festival and Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship are both voluntary associations of people who gather together for a good purpose. They both run on the passion of people who see a good thing and want to keep it going. All levels of participation and giving are encouraged and deeply appreciated. The Folk Festival warmly welcomes all from those who simply show up and drop a bill into the donation box to the volunteer stage hands and myriad behind-the-scenes people who give many hours, and those who make a commitment to join the Festival as a member and buy raffle tickets and Festival merchandise (I love my "Moose-ician" T-Shirt!). It's the participation of all that makes the Festival happen.

AUUF also warmly welcomes all who simply show up on Sundays and other days. Your participation makes it happen! Your free will giving supports its operations and vital organizations that promote love and justice through our Half Portion giving. This is the most basic level of participation, much like being in the audience at the Folk Festival. We're glad to see you on Sundays and beyond! And, just like the Festival, the Fellowship depends on the deeper commitment of its participants—those who choose to become members, those who actively volunteer and those who make an annual financial pledge.

Soon you'll be asked to consider your own level of commitment to supporting the mission of the Fellowship and keeping it going strong not only for the coming year but for generations to come. It is a wonderful spiritual practice to step back once a year and reflect on your giving. Am I volunteering? In what ways can I offer my talents, my energy and my time to the Fellowship? What works well in my life for volunteering right now? Can I do more? Shall I step back or shift my volunteering to a different team? All good questions to ask yourself as you reflect on the importance of this Fellowship in your life

and the lives of so many others, including people you don't know who are enriched and supported by AUUF.

And, yes, it is also a vital spiritual practice to consider your financial commitment. It is the commitment of each of you, giving at levels that strongly support the Fellowship that collectively make it possible for AUUF to do all it does now and what it hopes to do in the coming year. I suggest using February as the month for your reflection about total giving—time, talent and treasure. And then come to the *Sparkling Magic, Together* gathering on March 2 to formally make that commitment amidst great fun and fanfare with Harry Potter-themed magic all around you!

With gratitude for all you do, Reverend Shelley

Under Construction!



Welcome to the first digital Log! Please know that we are experimenting with formatting that will make the digital Log easy and enjoyable to read. We look forward to working with the newly re- convened

Communications Team to help us optimize the layout and content. Stay tuned as we make the Log even better!

Calendar Highlights

Feb 2 Friends and Family Social
Justice Fun Night

Feb 5 Finding Your Way into
Fellowship begins

Feb 10 Sugihara Movie

Feb 17 Congregational Meeting

Feb 24 Soup Sunday & Recycling

March 2 Sparking Magic, Together

March 22-23 Women's Retreat

April 6 Fellowship to The Future,
Brainstorming Event

July 8- 12 AUUF Summer Camp

We will recognize the importance of self-care and balance.”

– An excerpt from the AUUF Board Covenant

Dear AUUF community,

After serving for the past 3 and a half years on the AUUF Board of Directors and as President for the last year and a half, I have made the decision to step down because of my desire to be more available for my ailing father and family back in North Dakota. I am too distracted to hold the vision for AUUF at this important time in our history. I want to assure you that the organization is in highly capable hands. Vice President Wendy Romberg, who is in her second year on the Board and is a long-time member, has agreed to serve as President. Anyone who has worked with Wendy knows she is dedicated to AUUF's values, brings a sense of humor to all she does, and exercises a lot of common sense in decision making. She understands the Ministerial Search selection process, has a strong grounding in financial management, and really knows how to get things done. Furthermore, the Board will work with the Nominating Committee to identify a candidate to fill the remaining 2 and a half years of the term I am vacating.

I want to thank AUUF for allowing me the opportunity to serve during the transition time between ministers. What a gift it was to know and celebrate Gary, manage the search for an interim minister, and then welcome and work with Rev. Shelley. I got to learn first-hand what amazing humans these two ministers are! Being part of each phase of the renovation from raising the funds to project completion was also a highlight. I feel thankful for the professional development and personal growth opportunities these experiences gave to me. Perhaps most of all, I have loved working with and learning from so many of you in service of the Fellowship. It's been a great honor.

In closing, I would like to share with you a lesson learned in my time in leadership: it is much easier to take something apart than it is to build it. One example of this was in choosing to suspend the functioning of the Committee on Shared Ministry. It was one of the items on a long to do list to prepare for the arrival of a new interim minister in UUA's Transitional Ministry Handbook. The interim minister search committee completed that task too hastily without enough consideration. Looking back over the past year, the

Board has concluded along with many of you that doing so was not in the best interest of AUUF. I am/we are very sorry for the suffering it has caused in that one of its vital functions was to help manage conflicts that arise at the Fellowship. Both Rev. Shelley and the Board reported our concerns about that recommendation to the UUA Transitions Office. Furthermore, to address that gap, the Healthier Congregation Team was formed. It is in its infant stages and has been tasked with creating a conflict resolution procedure for AUUF to use in times of need. I hope you will accept our apology. And, please lend your support to this important new team. Many thanks to those who served on the Committee on Shared Ministry over time and to those of you who have stepped in to help manage and move through our conflicts over the past year. Your service is vital to the healthy functioning of our AUUF home.

In faith and service, Amanda Mack

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Message from the VP

By Wendy Romberg

Amanda Mack generally writes the President's message for the Log. She has been tending to her father in his declining health and requested that I share a portion of the opening words from the mid-year check in meeting that was held on Jan 13th, 2019.

I'd like to congratulate all of you, all of US on reaching the 1-year mark of Interim Ministry. This is an accomplishment to be celebrated! At the same time, I want to acknowledge that there have been feelings of unrest, uneasiness and general messiness. This is to be expected! The Board is also aware of this and during our recent session to complete the 1-year Interim Process Appraisal, we explored this feeling in depth. One example that caused real pain was the disbanding of our Committee on Shared Ministry. Yes, it was one of the recommended steps for transitioning into Interim, however, our Committee on Shared Ministry team was functioning in a very different capacity than other teams across the country with similar names. We are human. We are learning from our mistakes. A new Healthier Congregations Team has been formed to take up the very good and important work that was happening. We have also had our share of successes! Our renovations continued, we made our building strong and, in the process, made our community stronger. The earthquake, with its lack of major structural damage, and the resulting hastily thrown together, but expertly executed Earthquake Camp are shining examples. The recent solstice service moved people through the space in ways that they may not have done before.

In the days leading up to the Jan 13th Mid-year Check in Meeting, the question of paper or electronic versions of the Log arose on Google Group. The Log is our long standing and beloved communication. As I have listened to people this week, I have come to understand that it is more than a line item on the budget. For some, it is their emotional connection to the Fellowship. It is their monthly touchstone. For me, it is the last monthly correspondence that I get by paper instead of electronically. I would prefer to get it by email because I would at least be able to find it again. Others have mentioned wanting to get it electronically as part of their part to be a little greener in their life. So, take a minute and think. Are you someone who sits with their coffee and reads cover to cover and then refers back to it throughout the month? Great, please call or email Amy directly – not the Google Group and request a paper copy. Are you someone who is willing to give this a try? Great! Read the electronic version in Feb and give

the newly formed Communications Team some constructive feedback if you have it. Or are you in the 3rd category? Are you feeling like there really has just been a lot of change recently and this is just one too many? If that is you, I would gently ask that you wait 1 month before asking Amy for a paper copy. Hold the uncomfortableness in your heart and look at it carefully. Are you really concerned about getting something electronically instead of by paper? Or are you really just afraid of change in your beloved community?

In addition to Peggy Robinson's update from the Finance Committee on the current state of the budget, MaryAnn Eninger presented the proposed Bylaw changes regarding the creation of the Ministerial Search Team. In case you missed it, there will be 2 more information sessions before the Congregational Vote which is scheduled to take place on Feb 17th at 12:30pm. We must have a quorum to conduct business, so please plan to attend. Information sessions: **Sunday, Feb 3rd 10:15, Sunday, Feb 3rd 12:30**

Sparkling Magic Together An Evening of "Hogwartsian" Fun! Saturday March 2nd 4-8 pm

You are cordially invited to join the Stewardship Team in discovering the magic of the AUUF Hogwarts School of Wisdom and Wizardry! As we go through this time of transition, it is important that we explore beyond our traditional well-trod paths of activity and learn, as the children have discovered how to Spark Magic Together.

The Stewardship Team, along with many other committees will be hosting this UUnique 1 day Stewardship campaign in the form of an exploratory party. This will be a multi-generational event, so come join us! Come sit by the firepit and roast marshmallows, participate in a treasure hunt, work on a puzzle, dress up in the photo booth, or just listen and learn what it is that really excites your fellow AUUFers. Chili, baked potatoes and butter-beer provided. Bring a favorite topping if you have one. Costumes encouraged.

Members of the Stewardship, Finance and Connections committees will be on hand to answer pledging, budget and membership questions!

From Your Transition Team...

Recently Shelley asked us to read some excerpts from a book titled *In the Interim* by Barbara Child and Keith Kron. This publication is intended as a road map for congregations in transition. We found reading it helpful and wanted to bring this resource to your attention in the case that you would like more information and perspective about the transition process and interim ministry. We want to share with you some of our thoughts and reactions to the reading. Perhaps it will pique your interest.

Theresa B: *While I was reading, what struck me was the number of times I thought "oh, yes that happened here," or "yes, that is happening right now!" or "I could see how that might happen, I wonder if that will happen with us?" The writers of this book have been involved in interim processes in a number of fellowships and have valuable insights and guidance to offer about its challenges and its joys. I also learned for the first time about "appreciative inquiry" (google it!) and wondered why I had not heard of it before. We plan to use this collaborative approach, involving as many of you as possible, to help clarify and shape who we are now and to what we aspire going forward. I am excited to help plan and participate in the application of appreciative inquiry.*

Dennis: *I am often so busy making another pot of coffee, dealing with one committee's business, or thinking about the upcoming service, that I don't give myself the time to pause and reflect on the larger picture of who we are as a congregation. Reading "In the Interim" brought forth the need to create the time and space to ask ourselves some pointed questions. For example: "Do most members see themselves as part of a larger faith community, or does their identity with Unitarian Universalism actually end at the church's property line?" What is our answer? Is it the answer we want for ourselves? Focusing on such questions is the work of transition.*

If you have questions or are interested in obtaining a copy of the book, please contact any one of us or Shelley for assistance. We hope for our process move forward productively stay tuned for more specific information about a special brainstorming Summit April 6 and your involvement. Stay tuned!

~Dennis Arashiro, Theresa Bartoldus, George Bryson, Marty Freeman, Alison Hanson, Teresa Zimmer

Congregational Meeting



AUUF Congregational Meeting to Vote on Search Committee Bylaws Sunday, February 17, 2019; 12:30 – 1:30

Please Come! To create a Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) by Spring 2019 and ensure a new settled minister placement by August 2020, a congregational vote is needed to advise AUUF on how we will go about selecting MSC members. We decided to postpone the vote at the May 6, 2018, annual meeting to allow for further consideration by the congregation. Since then, we have had three services dedicated to the search, learned more about the effectiveness of the proposed process for selecting our search committee from the Fairbanks UU, and convened an ad hoc committee to draft a new proposed bylaw change taking into consideration member concerns and the above input.

Informational sessions on the proposed bylaw changes will also be held before the membership meeting on Sunday, February 3 at 10:15 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Come with your questions.

If you are a member do attend! If fewer than **53** voting members attend, no business can be conducted. To be eligible to vote at the meeting, you must have been a member of AUUF for 30 days before the meeting.

Save The Date!
Fellowship to The Future!
A Brainstorming Summit:
Expanding the Good,
Imagining the Great
Saturday, April 6 9 am-3 pm
All are invited and encouraged to
participate!

February Half Portion: AFACT – Anchorage Faith & Action – Congregations Together

By Kalen Saxton

The mission of AFACT is to work from the faith principles and values of the member congregations, apply those values to community issues, and take democratic action to impact existing social structures for the common good of all citizens, particularly the poor.

AUUF AFACT representatives Marie Rozak, Don Crandall Johanna Grasso, Sophie Tidler and others are meeting with St. Mary's AFACT representatives Karol Libby, Travis Montgomery and others to research together a future community action on mitigating the effects of climate change. They have been interviewing community and state-wide leaders on the topic and will be planning a community action/event.

In the FY2016-2017 Annual Report, AFACT sponsored seven community actions/events and there were 16-member churches and ministries participating. Our members and friends attended most of these events. Remember the Candlelight Gathering at Central Lutheran?

At the May 2018 annual meeting we voted for \$1000 of our Operating Budget to support AFACT. This month we will use our Half-Portion to support the work of AFACT and our members actively planning a community action related to the impact of climate change.

Will you be a Buddy?

Are you excited about AUUF? Do you have a few minutes to share? We are looking for folks to be a "buddy" for newer folks to AUUF. Being a buddy means meeting your new buddy/family initially for coffee/tea/walk, etc. to get to know them and then meet them at AUUF and introduce them to folks and invite them to events, etc.

Please contact Theresa Bartoldus (907-836-7003; tbartoldus@yahoo.com) or Rebekah Weicht ((605)595-2676, rebekah.weicht@gmail.com) or sign up at the Welcome Table if you are willing to help out. Thank you for your help in welcoming!

From the Fellowship office

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

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



Social Action Council

By Dennis Arashiro

"I had to do something. A young man came into my home for protection. Is he dangerous? No. Is he a spy? No. Is he a traitor? No. He's just a Jewish teenager who wants to leave."

- Chiune Sugihara

As a diplomat stationed in Lithuania, Chiune Sugihara, known by many as "Japan's Schindler," issued transit visas without official approval to save as many as 6000 Jewish lives in the midst of World War II. Recognized by Yad Vashem, Israel's official Holocaust memorial, as one of the Righteous Among the Nations, Sugihara represents more than a Japanese story or a Jewish story. Because it is a story for all humanity, our Fellowship supports the Alaska chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League in honoring him in observing this year's February 19 Day of Remembrance.

Come to the Fellowship at **5 PM on Sunday, February 10, 2019**, for the PBS documentary film, **Sugihara: Conspiracy of Kindness**. The Japanese American Citizens League will be providing Japanese and Jewish themed refreshments.

Come to the Loussac Library at **5 PM on Tuesday, February 19**, for the 2017 documentary **Sugihara Survivors: Jewish and Japanese, Past and Future** and the opening the **Visas for Life Foundation Exhibit of the Life of Chiune Sugihara**, which presents a photographic history of one man's acts of conscience in a challenging time.

Recycling

Next #5 recycling dates: February 24, March 24, and April 21.



Religious Exploration Notes for February 2019

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Hogwarts UU School of Wisdom and Wizardry has returned and continues through February, along with our Magical Professors, Hogwarts Houses & classes, Muggles, Quidditch, Hall of Prophecies, a Potter museum and lots of imagination! Each week, the Hogwarts students will sing songs, light candles, share their ideas, and engage in thoughtful and magical activities. They will reflect on the 7 UU Principles as they encounter ideas and projects in their various classes. Come and visit, take a tour, volunteer to spend a day in your favorite "House" helping the House with their class tasks!

All ages will have an opportunity to live out their Principles with some fun "Hands On Social Justice" projects at the CYRE activity night on February 2nd. And the magic continues... If you want to learn to know a few of our fabulous RE kids a little better, please sign up to be a Mystery Pal. This has been a wonderful relationship builder for many folks with connections maintained as the kids and adults all grow older!! Create some magic in your life with our upcoming RE activities!

~Love to all, Dumbledora (aka Rosene Beachy, DLRE)

Our Program February 3, 10, 17, 24

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

11:00 Activities

11:00 Service –
Hogwarts for
Elementary classes,
Jr High World Religions
continues, HS Values
topics

February 3 - February

17 – Hogwarts classes

February 26 – Last day of Hogwarts School. Tri Wizard tournament – bring outdoor gear for Quidditch games

Announcements

RE Reminder – In January and February, Children are encouraged to come early to gather in their house group to get ready to go to the "Great Hall at 11:00. 10:45 is perfect. House Professors and Prefects will arrive at 10:30.



Childcare Persons Needed – There are many events at the fellowship including the 9:00 Forum service, member meetings, adult programs - such as choir and "Finding Your Way", small groups, etc. In order to support families' participation in the activities of the church, one of our missions is to provide childcare for families. We currently have a very few dedicated youth who cover many of our events, but are not able to meet the growing demand for events coverage. If you are available and interested in helping to provide childcare for events, please contact Rosene Beachy, DLRE. Pay is \$10/hour.

CYRE Family & Friends Winter Fun Night

"Hands On Social Justice" Saturday, February 2, 5:30 P.M.-8:00 P.M.

Does your family like to think of ways to help the world? Join the group on February 2nd to "Hands on Social Justice".

There will be a simple soup meal provided. You are welcome to bring salad, bread or treats to accompany the meal.

There will be a variety of activities for all ages, from making doggie biscuits to fleece tied blankets, to creating college care packages and more. If you have an idea you would like to set up or share, contact Rosene Beachy, DLRE rbeachy@alaskalife.net.

Mystery Pals in March

Recruiting Adult Mystery Pals! Mystery Pals will take place during March, even if you are gone for a bit, you can still participate via mail or (email with parents). Adult and child sign up forms will be available in the social room or downstairs during February. We hope all parents of participating children will also consider being a pal to another child. This is a really fun activity for the kids to receive notes at church or in the mail at home. It's a great way to learn to know someone new. Children should write back to their pal as well.

Those notes can be placed on the Bulletin Board or mailboxes which will be located downstairs. Adult Pals will be given their mystery pal name on March 3. For more information contact Dianna Polese, dmpmercury@hotmail.com, (602-7448).

The Mystery Pal Revealing Party for participant pals will be Sunday, April 7, 12:30 – 2:30

RE & Social Justice

Soup Sundays - Soup Sundays give each class a chance to choose a project to learn about and donate money too. They are passionate about their choices and also love to help with Soup Sunday.

Our Fall Soup Sundays were sent to
Friends of Pets - \$289.00 from the Star Gazer class
SPCA - \$309.00 from the Planet Keeper class
The Children's Lunchbox - \$243.79 from the Fire Keeper class

Coming Soup Sundays:

February 24 – YRUU Soup Sunday

March 24 – Moon Spinners Soup Sunday

Pennies for Peace – RE will be gathering pennies for Peace during our Hogwarts school, through February. Children can bring your pennies and place in the caldron in the Hogwarts Great Hall! We will hope to collect enough buy a food card to donate to refugee families!

AUUF Summer Camp – July 8 – 12!!

As you start making summer plans for your child who has completed K – 5th grade, mark your calendar for our AUUF summer camp. This year's "Peace Camp" will be full of UU summer fun with friends. New and different activities and workshops! We will need several paid teen Camp Counselors, and also Parent volunteers.



We Are Hiring! Coordinator of Youth Programming

Do you enjoy seeing High School age youth develop intellectually, socially and spiritually?

Would you like to help foster and support this growth? AUUF is hiring a Coordinator of Youth Programming responsible for working with advisors and the Director of Religious Exploration to implement Sunday morning and other programs.

For more information, and to apply see our posting on [Craigslist](#) or [Indeed](#). Applications will be reviewed beginning Monday, February 4, 2019.

~Rosene Beachy, DLRE

The Alliance

by Kalen Saxton

The Alliance did not meet the second Sunday in January. Members were encouraged to attend the Congregational Meeting with a report from the Board, a half-year report from the Treasurer, and a report from the committee on the proposed Ministerial Search Bylaw change. Alliance members are encouraged to attend the Congregational Meeting on Feb. 17th, to vote on the proposed Bylaw changes.

We have purchased the weekly Anchorage Daily News ad, January through June. It runs in Friday newspaper announcing the speakers and topics for the 9am Forum and the 11am Service and any other special events at the Fellowship.

Our next meeting is Sunday, February 10th in The Library.

From the Fellowship office

2018 calendar year giving statements have been sent email, for those households that have asked for statements by email, and by traditional mail for the rest. Second quarter pledging statements were sent for those who pledge.

If these statements do not match your records, if you find them confusing, or if you would like to setup automatic giving please contact Amy Lundell in the office 248-3737 x3 or auuf@gci.net.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2824 E. 18th Ave, Anchorage AK 99508

Office phone: 907-248-3737 www.anchorageuuf.org

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

Staff Contacts

- Rev. Shelley Page, Interim Minister, (907) 248-3737 x 2; revshelleyauuf@gmail.com; Emergency pastoral care 907-868-3737
- Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration, 441-6815, rbeachy@alaskalife.net
- Megan Webb, Music Director, auufmusic@gmail.com or 248-3737 x6
- Amy Lundell, Congregational Administrator, 248-3737 x 3 or auuf@gci.net

Board of Directors and Other Points of Contacts are Available on our Website.

Adult Offerings!

Chalice Circles continue! Chalice Circles, a small group ministry program sponsored by the Adult Programs Committee, will begin in January, Sundays from 4-6 pm at Ravens Roost, and 1st and 3rd Thursdays mornings from 9—11 near West High School. Chalice Circles support our “striving to listen deeply and speak with one another and to our larger community with consideration and respect.” These groups are designed to bring members, friends, and community members closer to one another by cultivating deeper connections. If you are interested in participating in a Chalice Circle please contact Andee Cordano (AndeeCordano@gmail.com; 907-277-7734) or Deena Mitchell (DeenaMitchell1978@gmail.com, 847-997-8357)

Friendship Dinners Continue to Build Community.

Get to know more folks in our Fellowship by sharing meals together. Whether you are brand new or have been coming for decades, this is a fun, social way to connect, or reconnect! One date remains this year: Saturday 3/30/19. Everyone helps with food/drink. Look for information in the Fellowship social room, or contact Andee Cordano (AndeeCordano@gmail.com; 907-277-7734) or Deena Mitchell (DeenaMitchell1978@gmail.com, 847-997-8357) to host or join.

Yoga for Every Body classes Wednesdays 6-7:15 pm. Freewill offering (half to AUUF). Instructor: Paula Sayler. 907-297-9184.

Hungry Book Club We met January 8th to discuss “A Place for Me”. We all enjoyed that book and highly recommend it. We have chosen a book for February and March. Feb. book is “Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann (which leads to the FBI being formed). March’s book is “The Poet and the Murderer” by Simon Worrall, it is also a true story of Literacy Crime and the art of forgery. We will be meeting the second Tuesday of the month at AUUF at 2 PM. Bring a snack to share, coffee, tea and cocoa will be provided. ~ Shirley 563-4499.

Freethinkers is a weekly Humanist discussion group. Newcomers and drop-ins are always welcome. We meet downstairs room 7 at the Fellowship from noon to 1:30 p.m. each Friday. Contact George Bryson at gbryson@gmail.com.



Save the Date! Women's Retreat March 22-23

For women ages high school and up! Join us for a Friday night movie and social hour. Saturday breakfast, lunch, and dinner plus workshops and lots of fun. Planning is just beginning. If you would like to help email Elayne Hunter (ech2123@gmail.com). Join us for an organizational meeting Feb 3rd 12:30 in the choir area of the sanctuary.

Finding your Way into Fellowship Would you like to know a lot more about UU and/or AUUF? Would you like to find out how your own faith journey intersects with AUUF? Are you thinking about becoming a member in the next few months? Rev. Shelley will be leading our 3 session class on Tuesdays Feb 5, 12, and 19th from 6-8pm.

For questions or to sign up, please contact Judy at judyrae427@yahoo.com or Amy in the office at auuf@gci.net or 248-3737.



Help Needed!

Are you a Consensus Builder? Good Communicator? Strategist? Team Builder? or Visionary? The Nominating Committee is seeking self-referrals from people who have skills for service on the Stewardship, Finance, Human Resources or Nominating Committees.

Please call or text Stephanie Koonz 744-2428 or Kalen Saxton 244-8221. Today.

Living in Beloved Community,

By Sid McCausland, Presented January 13, 2019

Hey, I'm soon to be 79 and I'm aging gratefully. And that's thanks to AUUF.

I've always been a religious person, just not quite able to embrace the alchemy of faith. So awhile back, when I was stripped of everything I thought I was living for, the resulting anguish was unbearable. But thanks to friends and AUUF I moved beyond the dark place and, much like a Japanese broken kintsugi bowl, find myself filled with joy.

As a humanist I believe it is up to us to solve the problems that surround us. If we don't, there will be no savior on a white charger or escalator to a better life. It's up to us. It's now or never.

So, these days I volunteer all over town. And my point is, everywhere I show up, AUUF folks are there with their shoulder to the wheel.

AUUF is now my home—my family, my passion. It's almost like James and Stefanie are mom and dad, always with chores for me to do. Peggy's the boss encouraging me to get off my butt. DonC's the brother who I tell all my woes. Kalen's the sister always ready to help & quick to scold whenever necessary. Wray supplies me with a bottomless well of chuckles. Mary Ann reminds me constantly of my progressive roots. Even Megan—Megan lets me believe I can warble my way into your hearts. Then there's the kids—those fabulous kids whose energy fills my heart with joy.

I don't have a lot of money to share, but I donate as much of my so-called talents as the Fellowship can possibly bear just about every week—That's all we ask.

As we plan for the coming year, I hope each of you will look into your heart and commit as much of yourself as you can so that we—together—can make AUUF all that we can be.

This plaque hangs on my living room wall: "In the end all that remains of us is the difference we make in the lives of others". Shalom. Amen



We Need Your Help to Create a Culture of Hospitality

Simple ways for you to help:

1. Say "hello" to someone you don't know
2. Hand out Orders of Service with a smile and a "Good Morning"
3. Offer help to someone who is looking around
4. Bring food (preferably not too sugary) to share or put money in the snack jar for our staples of hummus, fruit, gluten-free chips
5. Wash dishes - if able, please take your turn with this and follow sanitation guidelines - or just put in dishwasher.)

A detailed instruction book will tell you how to do all these things. Come to our next **Hospitality Training, date to be announced**, for a fun learning experience to make you feel even more comfortable with welcoming people.

Contact Judy at judyrae427@yahoo.com if you are willing to join the Sunday morning greeters who welcome folks at the doors. We have an easy electronic signup each week with the intent of only needing folks to help once a month.

Thank you for your help in creating a culture of hospitality at AUUF!

Attention UU Seniors!!

The Salvation Army Americorp program is reaching out to UU seniors offering a free disaster preparedness program. They are willing to meet with seniors in a group setting or individually. Their goals are to 1) Inform seniors on the disasters that occur in the state 2) Help develop a disaster plan and educate seniors on how to use the plan at the time of crisis 3) Give seniors a go-to kit with enough emergency supplies to last three days.

The program is free of charge to seniors or those with functional access problems. They are available to set appointments, chat with seniors for an hour and give them a kit. They are willing to meet seniors in the homes as well. If you are interested in this free service, please call or text Bethany Buchanan, with the Safer Congregations Committee, at 350-2140 or email bethanyvayle@gmail.com with your name and contact information.



Services – February 2019

Sunday February 3

9 am Rabbi Michael Oblath, 'Recognizing the Signs – a Holocaust Remembrance'

11 am Stephanie Koonz,

"Something There is That Doesn't Love a Wall"

Gleanings from Robert Frost globally and locally. Also an opportunity to hear from Dan Gibney, Executive Director AFACT.

Sunday February 10

9 am Suzanne Ishii-Regan, 'Why the Seizure of Japanese-Americans Still Matters'

11 am Rev. Shelley Page, Namaste

Let's explore the historic and current connections between Unitarian Universalism and Hinduism. Perhaps you'll discover that we're more Hindu than you knew.

Sunday February 17

9 am Ryan Binkley, 'Glimpsing the Future of Alaska's Largest Newspaper'

11 am Rev Shelley Page & AUUF Choir, 'Climb Every Mountain'

Join us for an insightful look at the spiritual messages embedded in Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical theatre songs. Enjoy some of your favorites and perhaps some lesser known gems in special musical performances and sing-alongs.

Sunday February 24

9 am Ann Hanus, 'Micro-financing the Poor around the World'

11 am Sparking Magic, Together! Rev Shelley Page
There's magic when we gather together! Discover some secrets of creating magic in community including a special appearance by our young wizards from the Hogwarts School of UU Wisdom and Wizardry.

About Our Speakers

Rabbi Michael Oblath has served as the leader of Congregation Beth Shalom in Anchorage for 12 years. As the oldest and largest Jewish congregation in Alaska, Congregation Beth Shalom supports one of the most primary missions of Judaism, the practice of Tikkun Olam (repair of the world). Born and raised in California, Oblath earned his doctorate degree in Ancient Near Eastern Religions from the Graduate Theological Union and the University of California at Berkeley in 2001. The father of two adult children, he retired as rabbi at Beth Shalom last month.

Suzanne Ishii-Regan has served as an attorney in Anchorage for 27 years. She earned her bachelor's degree in English Literature from the University of San Diego and her law degree from Willamette University College of Law. A third generation Japanese American, she is a founding member of the Alaska chapter of the Japanese American

Citizens League and is currently its co-president with her son Patrick. Her father and his family were held at Canal Camp in Gila, Arizona, during World War II as part of the Japanese internment.

Ryan Binkley is President and CEO of the Binkley Company, which publishes the Anchorage Daily News. He and his siblings bought the paper out of bankruptcy in 2017 when it was called Alaska Dispatch. Born in Fairbanks, Ryan spent parts of his childhood in Bethel and Juneau. At 18, he earned a 100-ton Masters License and began work as a Captain of The Riverboat Discovery, his family's business, of which he is now president. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Petroleum Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines, and held engineering positions with both Arco and Veco. He and his wife Sabrina have two young sons.

Ann Hanus worked for the State of Oregon for 23 years in a variety of high-level positions, including State Economist, Assistant State Forester for Resource Policy, Budget Administrator, Director of the Department of State Lands, and Community Development Manager. Since 2008 she has chaired the Salem Microfinance Committee for her Unitarian Universalist congregation. She currently lives in Salem with her husband, Dave, a retired South Salem High School science teacher. She also serves as president of Salem's oldest and largest outdoor club, the Chemeketans, and enjoys spending her leisure time traveling, reading, hiking, skiing and playing with her new granddaughter.

Dan Gibney is the executive director of AFACT, an organization that helps empower and mobilize local faith communities to address quality of life issues. Through his work with AFACT, Dan organizes with several congregations and faith communities in Anchorage, including the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Originally from the Bronx, NY, Dan spent time working in NYC schools before relocating to Anchorage in 2016.

Stephanie Koonz, a life-long UU, has been a member of AUUF since 2015. She joined after moving from Duxbury, Vermont where she had been Assistant Town Clerk, Innkeeper at the Historic Round Barn Farm, and Justice of the Peace all the while living for 22 years off the grid. Previously, Stephanie spend many active years in leadership positions in the UUA: Co-coordinator and youth advisor of First Parish (Unitarian) in Northfield, MA., President of Connecticut Valley District, CVD Liberal Religious Youth advisor, member of the UUA Commission on Appraisal. She spends her time now, here at AUUF, as a member of Worship Associates, Nominating Committee, Pastoral Care, Volunteer Construction Team and President of the Alliance.

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

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AUUF Services and Events – January 2019

Sunday January 6

9 am Tuckerman Babcock, 'The Dunleavy Plan for 2019'

11 am Rev Shelley Page, Fail Better

We start the New Year with great intentions, and sometimes fail along the way. Let's explore how to "fail better" through the lens of Buddhist leader, Pema Chodron.

Sunday January 13

9 am Don Antrobus, 'Climate Change Challenges in Alaska'

11 am Rev Shelley Page, Trusting One Another

Trust offers a firm foundation for our lives, deeply rooted in love and compassion. What does it really mean to trust one another? And how do we restore trust if it has been broken?

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- January 2019

Sunday 11 am ~ Classes for toddlers through 12th

Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare ages 1-10

Sunday January 20

9 am Zeynep Kilic,

'The Year I Became Brown (Is Racism Still a Thing?)'

11 am Reverend Shelley Page and AUUF members, Color Brave
Gather with us to honor Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday as we share our insights from courageous participation in the recent Color Brave workshops and AUUF's new Anti-Racism team. Stay after the service for more participatory learning.

Sunday January 27

9 am Katherine Gottlieb,

'Healing Humankind the Southcentral Way'

11 am Reverend Shelley Page, Holocaust Not Denied

We will join millions across the globe in lifting up International Holocaust Remembrance Day, which feels all too relevant in today's world. May we remember and resolve to never go there again.

IMPORTANT NOTICE! THE LOG IS GOING DIGITAL!

This is the last edition of *The Log* to be mailed. This shift saves money and reflects the way most of us get our news. Starting in February, *The Log* will be sent via email in a user -friendly format, and will continue to be available at anchorageuuf.org. If you currently receive our weekly email blast, *This Week at Your Fellowship*, you will automatically receive *The Log*. Let Amy know if you do not get *This Week at Your Fellowship*. We will be happy to mail paper copies to those who are not online. Please call Amy at 248-3737 x 3 if you need a mailed copy.

The LOG

March 2019

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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



On the Journey

As you read this, I will be exploring the Alaska winter with dear friends who are visiting from Oregon. We'll be taking in the festivities at Fur Rondy and the Iditarod start as well as road tripping to the Kenai and other places. Awe, wonder, beauty, fun and warm connection are on the table along with generous portions of moose chili and Alaskan seafood. Spending time with dear friends I have known for over forty years is one of the sweetest things in life.

I'm telling you all about my vacation plans because, right now, taking care of ourselves is becoming more important than ever. So much is happening in our lives! Some of you are caring for aging parents, whether here or Outside. Some of you are dealing with your own health challenges including that nasty virus that has hit hard. Some of you are juggling work, raising children and all manner of other responsibilities. Some of you are carrying heavy burdens of grief, sorrow and worry. And then we add Governor Dunleavy's proposed draconian budget cuts, adding the specter of job loss and great disruption in the life of all Alaskans. Let alone climate change, anything happening (or not happening) in Washington, DC, concerns about the rise in hate in our culture and more. Yeah, we ALL need a vacation!

We each tend our well-being in our own ways. What I suggest to you is that you DO tend to your well-being. We are all handling a lot of stress right now. Our ability to gracefully journey through these challenging times will depend on taking care and re-filling our cups of awe, wonder, beauty, rest and reconnection. So, in the midst of all we are carrying, please, take some time to refresh your spirit. Of course, getting outdoors is a pleasure for so many of us, or reading a good book, or going to Monday night films at the Beartooth. And, let your participation at AUUF be a part of the mix. Gather with us on Sundays, enjoy the Forum and cup of coffee. Stay for worship and let the peace of the hour or so touch your heart. Bring your children to Religious Exploration. Check out a Chalice Circle small group ministry experience—they always leave an open chair. Come here and have some fun at the Sparking Magic Together gathering on March 2. Let this be a place of

peace, enjoyment, enlightenment and good energy in your life.

I look forward to seeing you—after my vacation adventure!

Blessings, Reverend Shelley

Calendar Highlights

March 2 Sparking Magic, Together

March 22-23 Women's Retreat

April 6 Fellowship to The Future,
Brainstorming Event

July 8- 12 AUUF Summer Camp

June 8, 9 & 12 Whalecoast tour 1

July 10-11 Whalecoast tour 2

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Ministerial Search Committee – Next Steps

By Wendy Romberg, President

We have reached a huge bench mark in Interim Ministry! We are actively seeking nominations for the Ministerial Search Committee! I think this is something to be celebrated tremendously. I wanted to take a minute and share what the process will be looking like.

As you are reading this edition of the LOG, members of the Board and Nominating Committee are hard at work reaching out to every member of the Fellowship. Calls, coffee dates and emails are happening all over town. The topic of conversation is who would you trust to be on the Search Committee? These conversations will happen through mid-March.

By the middle of March, the Board will have a list of potential people for the Ballot. Conversations need to happen with every potential nominee to ensure that they understand the magnitude of the commitment and that they want to serve.

In the Call to Meeting packet that will be mailed in April for our May 5th Annual Meeting, there will be bios of every person on the ballot. Four of the seven members will be selected from the ballot at the Annual Meeting. The remaining three will be selected from the ballot by the Board to reflect a balance of AUUF demographics and representation of congregational values.

The full committee will be announced at a service in May and will jump right into work!

The *Mysterious* Budget Development Process

By Wendy Romberg

While sitting in the Annual Meeting have you found yourself wondering just how the budget is developed? Where do all the numbers come from? What values do they represent? Who gets input and who gets to make decisions? These are all great questions!

AUUF operates on a fiscal cycle that runs from July 1st through June 30th. We start planning the budget for the next year in November! The Program Council has become more involved in the process each of the last few years. Now that they have been through this cycle I think the committee chairs/representatives know a little better what to expect. Additionally, they have spent time at each of the last few meetings considering the budget and long range finances. Committee chairs are very engaged in the process thus far. The proposed

budget will be presented at the March 26th Program Council meeting allowing plenty of time for discussion.

Not on the Program Council and want to know where you can learn more? Attend one of the Budget Information Sessions in April!

Sunday 4/14 10:15 am

Thursday 4/25 6:30 pm

Sunday 4/28 12:30 pm

Remember, while the Finance Committee recommends and the Board approves a proposed budget, it is the members of the Fellowship who actually vote on it! Plan to attend the May 5th Annual Meeting.

Sparking Magic Together – Stewardship Festival Saturday March 2nd 4-8 pm

Your presence on Saturday at the Stewardship Festival is humbly requested by the Stewardship Committee and all the event's contributors (thank you Program Council, teams and committees for pitching in!). Your seven challenges await. Plus, we think this all-



fellowship party will be one of the best of the year! Music, games, food, prizes, surprises, and a renewed presence in our community. Plus, there is one collective puzzle that needs each of us to solve. We will sorely miss you if you are not able to make it! Stay the whole time, or just as long as you like, 4-8pm, March 2nd. Magical gear is optional but adds to the fun. There is still room to sign up for 15 minute entertainment slots (all ages encouraged!). Low stress opportunity to perform music, magic, jokes, circus tricks, etc... Email AUUFGoblins@gmail.com with questions, a preferred time range, or just come Saturday and sign up when you get there!



New AUUF Playground Sign

By David O'Brien, Safer Congregation Team

We have a pretty nice playground. Our UU children like playing in it, and our UU parents like that we have a nice place for their children to play. It has come to our attention that some neighborhood children like to play in it too. But what would happen if a neighborhood child got injured? So, in consultation with Cindy Kinard (who is working on the AUUF Master Plan) and Rosene Beachy (our wonderful Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration), the Safer Congregation Team developed a safety sign for our playground, which is now posted at the playground entrance. It lays out some basic safety rules (good to know for UUs and non-UUs alike), the hours of operation (so that neighbors aren't disturbed late at night), and states our name on the sign to make it clear it is not a community park. We want to be a good community neighbor, and we want everyone to be happy and safe when they are using our playground.

Save The Date!

Fellowship to The Future!

A Brainstorming Summit:

Expanding the Good, Imagining the Great

Saturday, April 6th 9 am-3 pm

All are invited and encouraged to participate

Calling All Actors!

Fun Readers Theatre at AUUF on March 17!



We'll be celebrating the Jewish festival of Purim on Sunday, March 17 at the 11:00 All Ages worship service with a special

readers theatre play that recounts the famous story of Queen Esther and how she saved her people. There are spoken parts for people age ten and up, and everyone will have fun with the "audience participation" parts. We'll need someone to take the role of Queen Esther but also the King, the villain Haman, the kind uncle Mordecai, a Narrator/Storyteller, a Decree Reader and a Royal Page. You will receive the script in advance so you can practice your lines. We'll have only one rehearsal on Sunday, March 17 at 9:30 am. No need to memorize lines because it is a readers theatre style play with the script right in your hands. And, of course, costumes are encouraged. Sound like fun? If you'd like to be one of our AUUF Players for this play, please contact Reverend Shelley at revshelleyauuf@gmail.com.

Under Construction!

Welcome to our digital Log! Please know that we are experimenting with formatting that will make the digital Log easy and enjoyable to read. We look forward to working with the newly re- convened Communications Team to help us optimize the layout and content. Stay tuned as we make the Log even better!



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.



Whalecoast Alaska 2019 Hosts Needed

**Save The Dates: June
8, 9 & 12 and July 10-
11**

Whalecoast is one of
AUUF's biggest
fundraisers, besides it's
Fun! Once again, Dave

Frey and his assistant, from UUF Fairbanks will be organizing and leading 2 groups of people on separate tours this summer. These are UUs from all over the U.S. and Canada. If you have room in your home to house guests for one or both of the tours, put the dates on your calendar today! Guests will be in Anchorage for at least 3 nights for the June National Parks tour. Early stay options are offered in June, so some could arrive June 6 or 7. Different guests will be coming for 2 nights only for the July All-Alaska tour. Our Fellowship earns \$81 per person per night, plus stipend for two banquets, so it is well worth our collective efforts to provide accommodations. Besides, it is **fun!** (Ask anyone who has been a host!)

Denise Martin is again coordinating housing. We need many volunteers to house all these visitors for the specified nights.

In addition, AUUF will provide a banquet for each of the tours on June 9 and July 11. Plus, drivers are needed to help move guests around for parts of each tour, as hosts often cannot handle all the driving duties. So, there are lots of ways to volunteer in this fun and rewarding Fellowship activity.

Please mark the dates on your calendar and fill out the Volunteer form below:

[2019 Schedule](#)
[Whalecoast FAQ](#)
[Whalecoast Volunteer Form](#)

To learn more about the statewide tour schedules, visit www.whalecoastak.org.

Contact Denise 317-6134 if you have further questions.



Recycling

Next #5 plastic recycling dates: March 24, and April 21.

March Half Portion: PILOT – Payment in Lieu of Taxes

By Kalen Saxton

In most years since our founding in 1955, The Fellowship has presented a check to the Anchorage City Council, first the Greater Anchorage Area Brough Assembly, then the Municipality of Anchorage Assembly. We made this payment in lieu of taxes as our affirmation of the separation of church and state, which protects religious freedom in America, and in keeping with the fifth UU principle, "The right of conscience and the use of democratic process within our congregations and the society at large."

In 2017 Marty Freeman, the President of our Board, presented a check for \$3,850 to the Chair of the Assembly. Because of a budget shortfall the next year, the Board reduced the PILOT payment to \$1000. Last June, the Sunday prior to presenting the check to the Assembly, the collection baskets were passed a second time for those who wanted to supplement the payment to the city. Additional funds made the check presented \$2400.

At the last Annual Meeting, we voted to approve the FY19 Operating Budget, which showed a payment of \$1000 for PILOT. In November, we voted for the recipients of Half-Portion funds for calendar year 2019. We voted for PILOT to receive Half-Portion funds. Generous contributions during the month of March will insure we provide more than the check presented last year.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2824 E. 18th Ave, Anchorage AK 99508

Office phone: 907-248-3737 www.anchorageuuf.org

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

Staff Contacts

- Rev. Shelley Page, Interim Minister, (907) 248-3737 x 2; revshelleyauuf@gmail.com; Emergency pastoral care 907-868-3737
- Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration, 441-6815, rbeachy@alaskalife.net
- Megan Webb, Music Director, auufmusic@gmail.com or 248-3737 x6
- Amy Lundell, Congregational Administrator, 248-3737 x 3 or auuf@gci.net

Board of Directors and Other Points of Contacts are Available on our Website.

Adult Offerings!

“White Fragility”: Let’s Talk About Racism

Sunday, March 24th, 1-3 pm at AUUF.

The AUUF Anti-Racism Action Team is hosting a series of bimonthly discussion groups about topics related to race and racism. We invite you to join us for our third discussion session, in which we will explore the concept of “white fragility” and talk about why it’s difficult for white people to talk about racism. The discussion will center around a short video featuring Robin Diangelo, author of *White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*, and will use respectful listening and a Chalice Circle format. Please RSVP to Becca Bernard at rbernard.ak@gmail.com, or just show up.

If you're intrigued by the discussion on March 24 and you have time to read the book, *White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*, by Robin Diangelo, please join the AUUF Anti-Racism Action Team for a “Common Read” discussion Sunday, April 14th, 1-3 at AUUF.

Chalice Circles continue! Chalice Circles, a small group ministry program sponsored by the Adult Programs Committee, will begin in January, Sundays from 4-6 pm at Ravens Roost, and 1st and 3rd Thursdays mornings from 9—11 near West High School. Chalice Circles support our “striving to listen deeply and speak with one another and to our larger community with consideration and respect.” These groups are designed to bring members, friends, and community members closer to one another by cultivating deeper connections. If you are interested in participating in a Chalice Circle please contact Andee Cordano (AndeeCordano@gmail.com; 907-277-7734) or Deena Mitchell (DeenaMitchell1978@gmail.com, 847-997-8357)

Friendship Dinners Continue to Build Community.

Get to know more folks in our Fellowship by sharing meals together. Whether you are brand new or have been coming for decades, this is a fun, social way to connect, or reconnect! One date remains this year: Saturday 3/30/19. Everyone helps with food/drink. Look for information in the Fellowship social room, or contact Andee Cordano (AndeeCordano@gmail.com; 907-277-7734) to host or join.



Inspiring Ourselves – 2019 Women's Retreat

Lunch will be catered by Fellowship member, Chef Amanda Cash. Can she top last year’s delicious, healthy choices? Light supper on Friday night, breakfast and light supper on Saturday will also be available.

Friday night – connecting, relaxing, light supper, movie together, discussion. On Saturday a range of workshops and self-care activities are planned from ERA to Move to Amend, walks, writing, poetry, music, singing, yoga, massage, and meditation.

Child care is available on Friday night and Saturday. Sign up to reserve your time. (Registration forms will be available March 6th at AUUF and in This Week at Your Fellowship.)

March 22nd 5:30-8. March 23rd 8:30 am-7:30 pm.

Yoga for Every Body classes Wednesdays 6-7:15 pm. Freewill offering (half to AUUF). Instructor: Paula Saylor. 907-297-9184.

Hungry Book Club Our February meeting was small but enthusiastic to discuss “Killers of the Flower Moon” (and the forming of the FBI). Most of us had not known of the many crimes committed against the Osage Native Americans in Oklahoma. Our next read for March 12th at 2 pm in the social hall will be “The Poet and the Murderer” by Simon Worrall. It is a true story of Literary Crime and the art of Forgery. Call Shirley 563-4499 for more details.

Freethinkers is a weekly Humanist discussion group. Newcomers and drop-ins are always welcome. We meet downstairs room 7 at the Fellowship from noon to 1:30 p.m. each Friday. Contact George Bryson at gfbryson@gmail.com.

The Alliance

by Kalen Saxton

We had several guests at our meeting on Feb. 10th. David O'Brien, with the Safer Congregation Team gave a presentation on a program called Safe Seniors Disaster Preparedness. This program is **Free** to seniors or those with functional access problems. The Alliance members showed a lot of interest and signed up to receive information about a workshop on Safety Preparedness to be held at the Fellowship. David will let us know the date.

Dennis Arashiro came from the Forum Planning Committee to ask for recommendations of people who could talk about the history of PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) payments from AUUF. Do attend when Sylvia Short and John Blaine will participate in both services on March 10th.

George Bryson came from the Transition Team to tell us about the April 6 Fellowship to the Future – A Brainstorming Summit. This is planned as a positive event for **everyone** to talk about where we would like the Fellowship to go. Save the date.

George also thanked the Alliance for purchasing the January through June, Friday ads in the ADN to let readers know who will be presenting each Sunday. We are happy to support our local paper.

There was a proposal from James Dryden to repair five wooden Sanctuary chair frames. New seat cushions need to be ordered. The Alliance decided to pay for the needed materials. This will provide the Fellowship with five additional chairs at less than half the cost of new ones.

The Alliance members are now again offering the purchase of individual brass plaques for the sanctuary chairs, engraved how you wish. This is a successful project that began at Turnagain. So far, 106 chairs have plaques and 56 chairs remain. The cost of each engraved plaque is \$200. Contact Stephanie Koonz, President 907-744-2428 or Kalen Saxton, Vice-President 907-244-8221 to order.

Thoughts from a Member

By Dennis Arashiro

"You can go about it as cultural appreciation or cultural appropriation. You have to be very careful. Some things are really sacred and important to other cultures, so you have to be aware, politically, about those things before you just adopt them. I urge people to take the extra step of knowledge and learn about things." - Zendaya

Our logo. The chalice with the Southeast Alaskan Native inspired design. The horizontal band similarly drawn. My full awareness didn't come until I took the Color Brave workshop organized by the Quakers and the NAACP as a member of our Anti-Racism Action Team. Was our logo Tlingit? Haida? Tsimshian? Kwakiutl? Did it signify something sacred? Comic? Tragic? Nothing? If we are identifying ourselves with Alaska Natives, why aren't we using art inspired by the Dena'ina, on whose land we reside? If we are not identifying ourselves with Alaska Natives, in what spirit did we adopt our logo?

The questions I raise are meant to spark thorough research, thoughtful discussion and mindful action. Too often institutions ranging from Hollywood film studios to college and professional sports teams have used Native American cultures in the most disrespectful ways. We don't need to be part of the problem. That is why we should support our Communication Team as it begins its study of the logo. If you have any questions, thoughts, or proposals to share on that, please contact Ken Winterberger at 860-287-1566 or kwinterberger@gmail.com.



Curious About General Assembly in Spokane This June?

This is the closest that General Assembly will be to Alaska in many years. Your golden opportunity! Check out [details here](#).

From the Fellowship office

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

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

Your 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.) Thanks for your continued routine giving.

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

Services – March 2019

Sunday March 3

9 am Tim Troll, 'One Hundred Years Ago:
A Devastating Alaska Flu Pandemic'

11 am Youth Sunday Service - Curiosity

'The future belongs to the curious. The ones who are not afraid to try it, explore it, poke at it, question it, and turn it inside out'
Join us for a stimulating morning exploring how curiosity impacts intelligence, knowledge, gender and sexuality, spirituality, happiness, and religion.

Sunday March 10

9 am Sylvia Short, John Blaine and Rev. Shelley Page,
'Why We Give the City a 'Payment in Lieu of Taxes'

11 am Reverend Shelley Page, John Blaine and Sylvia Short, 'Taxes, Church and State?'

Learn more about AUUF's commitment to Payment-In-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILOT) and some interesting UU perspective on church and taxes.

Sunday March 17

9 am Dr. Jay Butler, 'Understanding and Addressing Anchorage's Opioid Epidemic'

11 am Reverend Shelley Page and AUUF Players, 'A Purim Play! An All Ages Service'

Discover the story of brave Queen Esther from the Jewish tradition with a special readers theatre play and fun for all ages!

Sunday March 24

9 am Fran Ulmer, 'Societal Risks of Slashing Alaska School Budgets'

11 am George Bryson, "Mary Oliver's Lessons on Writing and Spring"

Come celebrate the vernal equinox (and Poetry Month) through the work and wisdom of the late Pulitzer Prize-winning poet -- and perhaps learn a few things about writing well.

Sunday March 31

9 am Sen. Bill Wielechowski, 'The News from Juneau (or, How Bad Is It?)'

11 am Reverend Shelley Page, Rosene Beachy, Katherine Huffman and Ken Winterberger, 'Becoming a Sexually Safer Congregation'

What does it mean to be a sexually safer congregation? We'll explore sexual health in the context of faith communities and how we strive to live it here. Learn more after the service at a listening circle, and three age-appropriate workshops for adults and children.



About Our Speakers

Tim Troll is a lawyer and executive director of the Bristol Bay Heritage Land Trust, an organization dedicated to preserving the wildlife habitat, culture and history of the Bristol Bay region. Having earned a law degree at Washburn University, Tim moved to Alaska in 1978 to work as a VISTA volunteer in Bethel and later served as city administrator for the western Alaska villages of St. Mary's and Sand Point. In the meantime, he earned a Master's in Public Administration at the University of Pennsylvania and worked as the conservation program director for The Nature Conservancy. An active member of AUUF, Tim and his wife Leanne live in Anchorage.

Sylvia Short and John Blaine are longtime members of the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and early supporters of PILOT, the AUUF tradition of delivering a "Payment In Lieu Of Taxes" to the Municipality of Anchorage each year. **Rev. Shelley Page** currently serves as AUUF's interim minister.

Dr. Jay Butler was appointed director of the Alaska Division of Public Health by Gov. Bill Walker in December 2014, as well as chief medical officer for the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS). A graduate of the University of North Carolina Medical School, he maintains clinical board certifications in infectious diseases, internal medicine, and pediatrics and has authored or co-authored over 100 scientific papers and medical textbook chapters on infectious diseases and emergency preparedness. He is an affiliate professor of medicine at the University of Alaska Anchorage and currently co-hosts "Line One: Your Health Connection" on Alaska Public Radio.

Fran Ulmer served as lieutenant governor of Alaska from 1994 to 2002, becoming the first female ever elected to statewide office in Alaska. Born in Madison, Wisconsin, she earned her law degree from the University of Wisconsin and began serving as a legislative staffer in Juneau in 1973. She was elected mayor of Juneau in 1983 and later served six terms in the Alaska House of Representatives. In 2002 Ulmer won the nomination of the Democratic Party for the office of governor, but lost the election to then-U.S. Sen. Frank Murkowski. She subsequently served as Chancellor of the University of Alaska Anchorage and special advisor on arctic issues to the U.S. State Department.

(more)

About Our Speakers (cont.)

Sen. Bill Wielechowski has served as a state senator representing Anchorage since 2007. Born in New Jersey, he earned his undergraduate degree in business management and finance at Seton Hall University and later a law degree at Seton Hall. After moving to Anchorage, he became a volunteer in the Mountain View community council and a member of the Anchorage Planning & Zoning Commission. In 1999 he was designated chair of the Alaska Workers' Compensation Board and in 2004 associate general counsel for the local electrical workers union. During his tenure as a state senator, Wielechowski has become a leading advocate of making the oil industry pay its fair share in state taxes.

George Bryson is a career journalist and sometimes-educator. Over three decades at the Anchorage Daily News, he worked as a general assignment reporter, a Washington correspondent, a Sunday magazine writer and editor of *We Alaskans*. He holds an MFA degree in creative writing and has taught courses in journalism and literary nonfiction at both UAA and UAF. George and his wife Ann are the parents of three grown daughters and live happily in the foothills of southeast Anchorage.

The LOG

April 2019

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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



From The Minister



On the Journey

We are the democracy people. It's a deeply embedded value of our faith going all the way back to the days of the founding of our country when several influential leaders were Unitarian or Universalist (think Adams, Jefferson,

Rush and others). We value participation in the process of decision making. We show up at town hall and Assembly meetings. We connect with our elected officials. We vote. We work for the common good, a world where love and justice guide our policies. We hold these acts as sacred expressions of our values.

I lift up democracy now for two reasons. First, Alaska needs you to step up. Express your concerns about the Dunleavy budget to your legislators and the governor. Demonstrate. Write more letters to the editor. This is a time to live your values out loud. So many Alaskans will be hurt in so many ways by the proposed draconian cuts. This is the time to side with love and speak truth to power. And Anchorage needs you to step up, too. Voting for Assembly and School Board members is vitally important. There are some very clear choices out there. And our homeless neighbors can be helped in more effective ways with the passage of the proposed alcohol tax. Your votes matter!

The other reason I mention democracy is that it also touches your journey as a congregation right now. In the coming weeks, you have the opportunity to be a part of important discussions about where the congregation will be headed. The Fellowship to the Future event on April 6 will help set a course for your journey together as you head into ministerial search and beyond. Your voice and

energy will be a vital part of creating a collective vision. Hope to see you there!

The other opportunity involves your thoughtful participation in the budget review process. Budgets reflect the values of a congregation. I encourage to review the budget proposals and to consider your values and whether your financial support reflects your values. Perhaps you will want to increase your pledge to ensure the congregation's health. If you haven't pledged yet this year, you can review the proposals and decide how you will help support the community. There will be various ways you can offer your input. Be there. Be part of the conversation and be sure to participate in the Annual Meeting on May 3 when members will vote on the budget, elect new leaders and select the Ministerial Search Committee. A big year for voting!

I urge you to live your values. Participate. Vote. Be an active part of creating the future, rooted in love, justice and all the things you cherish about AUUF.

Blessings, Reverend Shelley

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Auuf Teams

Fellowship to the future!
A brainstorming summit:
Identifying the good, Imagining the great
Saturday April 6th 9 am to 3 pm



All are invited!

On April 6th, we plan to engage as many AUUF members and friends as possible for a summit that will help us clarify and shape both who we are today, and to what we aspire in the future. Sounds ambitious? The collaborative approach of appreciative inquiry, a process of questioning designed to create a vision of our Fellowship from our highest aspirations and deepest reflections, should be unifying and affirming. This exploration of who we are and want to become is not just for our self-knowledge but to inform prospective ministers who may wish to join us in our transformation. This work will assist the search team once their work is underway.

Our facilitator will be Hayden Nevill from the Fairbanks Unitarian Fellowship. We are lucky to have Hayden to spend the day with us; he has relevant experience and an engaging style. He was a member of the most recent UUFF search team and came to speak with us about this a few months ago ([you can listen to the podcast here](#)) and is familiar with the activities that surround and support successful transition and search. Child care will be provided. RSVPs appreciated, please check your inbox for a personal invitation with a link to RSVP.

Any member of the transition team would be happy to address any questions or concerns, so please let us know. We hope to see you there!

~Theresa Bartoldus 917.836.7003

Calendar Highlights

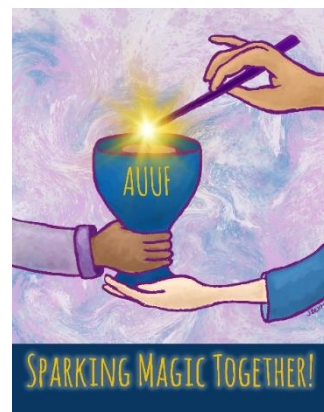
April 6 Fellowship to the Future, A Brainstorming Summit
April 13 Family & Friends Spring Fun Night with Tacos and Folk Dancing
April 20 6-8 Seder
April 28 Choir Concert
April 21 Recycling, bring your #5 plastics
May 5 Annual Meeting
May 11 Alliance Rummage Sale
July 8- 12 Peace Camp
June 8, 9 & 12 and July 10-11 Whalecoast
Sept 20-22 Fall Frolic

Stewardship Status and Next Year – Feedback Requested!

As of 3/18/2019, we've received pledge forms or pledge intent from 52% of Members and Pledging Friends, representing \$231,000. Our current year budget includes \$310,000 in pledges, so we still have a ways to go! I am heartened by the fact that **more than half** of the pledges received

so far are either new or increased. And, heartened that people facing uncertain financial future have pledged, knowing (as I hope you all do) that if your financial situation changes during the course of the year you are always welcome to adjust your pledge as needed. If you haven't had a chance to check in on your pledge yet, I would so appreciate hearing from you April first! The congregation will be asked to move forward into the year beginning in July based on a sustainable budget. Your pledge is so very important to that! Thank you to all those households who have committed to support our congregation already by providing their pledge intent.

The Stewardship Committee is also really interested in knowing what you thought about this year's Stewardship Festival approach to stewardship. We had so much fun planning it, and really enjoyed sharing the evening with those who came and took on parts of the fun (couldn't have done it without you!), and the feedback from the event itself was overwhelmingly positive! But, knowing that not everyone could come, and not all pledges were submitted on or before that date (even from those who are regular pledgers), we wonder if it just takes time to "catch on" and we should try the approach again... or move on to a



new (or old) approach. What do you think? Email auufgoblins@gmail.com, or let any of the Stewardship Committee know your thoughts. We'll let it stew a bit before making a decision. We'd love to hear from you.

Word Find - if you have submitted a pledge and would like to help us solve the Word Search in the hallway upstairs, help yourself to a key (one key per household pledge, and you can keep it!) in the lobby upstairs, and find it in the word search! When all the words are found, a magical message will be revealed.

And, finally! We had trouble making the fillable pledge form remain fillable in .pdf or word, but have better luck emailing it to people directly. So, if you would like a fillable pledge form (or you have any other questions about stewardship or pledges), please contact the AUUF Goblins or Carma Reed at auufgoblins@gmail.com or carmaandjiri@qci.net.

Stewardship Committee: Lisa Boyles, Carol Harris, Erik Hill, Marilyn Lee, Carma Reed, and Wendy Romberg.

Social Action Council

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world, indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead

Aurora's previous life: born in a city dump, drinking polluted water, no school, gathering recyclables with 13 brothers and sisters to survive. Her present life: moved out of the dump, building a recycling business with employees and a pickup truck. The improvements were made possible by micro loans from the NEO Fund. Speaking to a Forum audience in February, Ann Hanus, one of the founders of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem (Oregon) Microfinance Project described the decade's long work of her congregation's microfinance committee to provide funds to build better lives in Laos, Nicaragua, Peru, and Kenya with partners like the NEO Fund.

The success of the Salem UU's global efforts comes from the sustained dedication of just a few individuals. You can make it happen within our own Fellowship by forming an action team. Find a co-chair willing to be your partner to insure continuity. Come to the Social Action Council for approval and support. Recruit volunteers for specific tasks. Engage the entire Fellowship in your work. To get us involved in microfinance or any other worthy project, call or email me. Dennis Arashiro at 444-4324 or elvischannel@yahoo.com.

Religious Exploration Notes

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Introducing our new Coordinator of Youth Programming - Nicholas Moore!



Nicholas came to Alaska last summer from California bringing the Camp Fire experience to rural youth. He continued as a site director for a school-age Camp fire program in Anchorage. Nicholas has a wealth of experience working with children and youth;

He has an English Language learner degree from Ashford University, certification in Peace/Conflict resolution and Youth Mental health first aid.

He has taught guitar, been a "Mad Scientist" Instructor, and can now say he survived his first winter in Alaska. We are pleased to welcome Nicholas to the RE team and hope you get a chance to give him a hearty welcome sometime soon.

The Mystery Pal Revealing Party

What an awesome job everyone is doing! Notes and little gifts are going back and forth between 27 little pals and their adult pals. What a playful way to knit an intergenerational web in our community. The Big Reveal Party for all Mystery Pal participants is **Sunday, April 7th, 12:30 – 2:30** at the Fellowship.

Pals should look for an email that will tell them what canned food item to bring (for our ongoing food collection) to enable you to find your pal. Each pair will have a different food item!

There will be a potluck lunch - more information on the email.

Our Program

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

11:00 Services – We have 2 special services this month, **April 7 and 14** will be regular classes

April 21 (Easter Sunday) will be “Spring Fling” downstairs, a Cross Age celebration including an egg hunt, crafts, and basket making. We will also be making our traditional baskets for local shelters. We need lots of wrapped candy, tiny toys, crafts, bubbles or trinkets for young ages. We usually fill 50-100 bags!

We would love a chocolate bunny for each bag. And lots of plastic eggs! So, when you are buying treats for Easter baskets for your favorite people, please think about buying a few extra bags for RE!

Please drop off items in the RE office by April 14th so we know what we can count on.

We will also need non-dyed, hard-boiled eggs brought on April 21.

*****Needed** – several volunteer helpers for activity tables. Contact Rosene.

April 28th is an Earth Day themed Multigenerational service. There will be a variety of special participatory activities for all ages.

CYRE Family & Friends Spring Fun Night

Saturday, April 13th 5:30 – 8:00 - Tacos and Folk Dance Event Join Mary Schallert, Jim Kerr and Denise Martin for an evening of music and dancing! And, you don't need to have a child to attend. You can participate by watching or dancing. CYRE - will provide tacos and drinks! YOU - Please bring toppings, salads, munchies or desserts to round out the meal. This will be a festive evening for ANYONE - Friends and Family are welcome!!

Elementary OWL Training – April 12 - 14

We have the wonderful opportunity to have a 15-hour training led by 2 trainers from the Pacific Northwest. And we have 10 people signed up to receive the training, though we could still use a few more male leaders to balance our future teaching teams.

We would love to have a few folks who like to cook help with providing some meals during the weekend for the participants. Please email [Rosene Beachy](#), DLRE, if you would like to help out with a dish.



AUUF Summer Camp – July 8-12!!

As you start making summer plans for your child who has completed K – 5th grade, mark your calendar for our AUUF summer camp. This year's “Peace Camp” will

be full of UU summer fun with friends. New and different activities and workshops! *July 8-12, 8:30 am – 4:30. Additional childcare is available 8-8:30 am and 4:30 – 5:00 pm.*

Cost will be \$200, Early Bird special \$150 before May 1st!

Teen Camp Counselors (paid) & Group activity leaders needed. (Child's scholarship available for Parent volunteers.) If you have some time to spend with us this week, please contact Rosene Beachy, DLRE, for details.

Sign up list and registration forms are available online and at the Parent Info Spot downstairs.

Coming of Age

Tuesday, April 9th – 7 – 8:30
Info meeting

Rites of Passage traditionally are rituals that mark a person's passage from one stage of life to another. The AUUF Coming of Age program has been adapted from UU programs around the country. It has been designed specifically for our Alaskan Unitarian Universalist youth. The purpose of this program is to build awareness that all life is a journey replete with transitions in which one can consciously participate. The program seeks to validate the important struggles that can take place during this phase of life, and to provide support and affirmation of the journey. It also provides an opportunity to discover new strengths and self-awareness through activities, retreats and a mentoring relationship with an AUUF adult.

We would like to invite 8th and 9th graders to participate in next year's Coming of Age program. The program will run August – May 2019-20, with a monthly meeting and a monthly activity or retreat. There will be an informational meeting about the program for interested youth and their parents at 7 pm on Tuesday, April 9th in room 7. Please email [Rosene Beachy](#), DLRE for more info.

Adult Offerings!

Friendship Dinners Get to know more folks in our Fellowship by sharing meals together. Whether you are brand new or have been coming for decades, this is a fun, social way to connect, or reconnect! One date remains this year: Saturday 3/30/19. Everyone helps with food/drink. Look for information in the Fellowship social room, or contact Andee Cordano (AndeeCordano@gmail.com; 907-277-7734) to host or join.

Common Read: The Adult Programs Committee is sponsoring a congregational read and discussion of the 2018 book "White Fragility" by Robin DiAngelo. Books have arrived, so you can purchase your copy to read before our community discussion, which will be held on a Sunday in May after the 11 am service, date to be determined. Books available at the Welcome Table Sundays.

Finding Your Way into Fellowship These classes (3 sessions) are for those who want to learn a whole lot more about UU and AUUF and for those planning to become members of AUUF. The first session we share some of our own faith journeys. The second session is learning about UU thought and history. The 3rd session is learning specifically about AUUF and meeting some team leaders who will share how to get more involved. Whether you are brand new or have been a "friend of AUUF" for years, everyone is welcome! We had much interest in the next Finding Your Way into Fellowship class, but we had some scheduling difficulties. Please email Judy (judyrae427@yahoo.com) if you are wanting to be a part of the next class so we can look at dates that could work for folks. Also, please indicate if you need childcare.

Yoga for Every Body no classes in April.

Hungry Book Club In March we discussed, "The Poet and the Murderer". Most of us found it very interesting (about forgery). We have chosen April's read which will be "The Lizard Cage" by Karen Connolly. We will meet again (in the Library at AUUF) April 9th at 2. Join us! Call Shirley 563-4499 for more details.

Freethinkers is a weekly Humanist discussion group. Newcomers and drop-ins are always welcome. We meet downstairs room 7 at the Fellowship from noon to 1:30 p.m. each Friday. Contact George Bryson at gfbryson@gmail.com.

General News

Family Friendly Seder Dinner at the Fellowship April 20th 6-8



Join us for a multi-generational potluck at 6 pm. 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 led by Susan Orlansky. Do you know what is on the Seder plate and why? Do you know what the 10 famous plagues are? And just how does this relate to Social Justice?

We can all be inspired by Exodus, one of the most famous stories from the Old Testament, or Torah. As we celebrate with food and 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!

Recycling News

David and I will be moving to Lacey, Washington in mid-May. We have appreciated and enjoyed being members of the AUUF over the last 8 years. Rest assured that we have already explored the Lacey area and found the Olympia UU Church. (They also have an interim and are looking for a new minister!)

We have been responsible for gathering Number 5 plastics over the last few years and taking them to the Valley Center for Recycling Solutions for recycling. Our last pickup will be on April 21. Sid McCausland has said he would be willing to work on future pickups but wanted us to put out an invitation to see if others would be interested in working on this effort as well.

If you are interested in being involved no.5 plastic recycling, please email Sid McCausland.

~ Judith Anderegg and Dave Peltó

Whalecoast Update Hosts Needed!

June 8, 9 & 12 and July 10-11

Be a host to one or more of these UU tourists from all over the U.S. when they come through Anchorage! Our Fellowship earns money for the home stays, and for providing a banquet in our building for each of the tours. It's Fun!

Great News! Both tours are about sold out, each will have 42 guests including tour directors that we need to house.

It's a Good Challenge! We need more hosts! Currently we have 7 hosts signed up for June, and 10 hosts for July.

Most guests are couples. There are several requests for 2 guests in separate rooms or beds. You got older kids who are traveling or can go stay at a friend's house? You might be able to help! Please put the dates on your calendar, and contact me even if you're tentatively interested, Denise Martin dulcimer.diva@gmail.com.



April Half Portion: Anchorage Chapter, Citizens Climate Lobby

by Kalen Saxton

Citizens Climate Lobby is a nonprofit, nonpartisan grassroots advocacy organization empowering people to experience breakthroughs exercising their personal and political power.

The Anchorage Chapter meets every month for an international conference call. Next call is April 9, 2019. They are expecting the MOA Assembly to vote to support the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. They meet the second Saturday each month from 8:30-10:30am in Room 220, Rasmussen Hall at UAA. (George Donart, AUUF member, is active with this organization.)

Curious About General Assembly in Spokane This June?

This is the closest that General Assembly will be to Alaska in many years. Your golden opportunity! Check out [details here](#).

Unitarian Universalist Association Endorses the Bipartisan Energy Innovation & Carbon Dividend Act!

This is the bill that Citizens' Climate Lobby, and our very own George Donart, has been working toward for many years. The Green Sanctuary Committee joined an online call celebrating this affirmation. We are very excited about UUA's support. Find out more about this powerful new legislation at CitizensClimate.org or EnergyInnovationAct.org.

Statement from the Unitarian Universalist Association:

'The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act incentivizes fossil fuel reduction, supports alternative energies, and sends money back into households. These are all excellent strategies for combatting climate change. This legislation is supported by Unitarian Universalists across the country who are working hard to get it passed.

The Unitarian Universalist Association also understands and specifically supports movement(s) for a Just Transition, responding to and collaborating with the leadership and demands of front-line communities. We must support the communities most impacted by climate change and dependent for their livelihood upon the fossil fuel economy.

UUA President Rev Susan Frederick-Gray states: "May our love of this blue green earth feed our souls to act on its behalf. Whether we choose to put our bodies in front of a pipeline or throw our considerable energies into legislation for just energy transitions, may we do so centering the margins."

It will take all of us and many strategies to create climate justice, including passage by the 116th Congress of the EICDA.'

~ Anchorage Chapter of the Citizens Climate Lobby

Under Construction!

Please know that we are experimenting with formatting that will make the Log easy and enjoyable to read in digital format. We look forward to working with the newly re- convened Communications Team to help us optimize the layout and content. Stay tuned as we make the Log even better!



The Alliance

by Kalen Saxton

The Alliance is offering brass plaques for the sanctuary chairs, engraved the way you wish. This is a successful project that began at Turnagain. So far, 106 chairs have plaques and 56 chairs remain. The cost of each engraved plaque is \$200. As in the past, half of your purchase goes to the Alliance and half to AUUF. Email [Stephanie Koonz](mailto:Stephanie.Koonz) to place your order.

Remember our Rummage Sale is Saturday May 11th. Clean slightly used household goods and clothing can be donated the week before.



New Bookcases in Our Library

A big **Thank You** to Carol Harris for her recent furniture donation. Carol donated three tall and one short pecan wooden bookcase, as well as a nice oak credenza to the upstairs Library on March 16. The bookcases are a wonderful addition to the space.

A number of volunteers assisted with the moving of books and furniture. Thank you to: Carol Harris and her handyman Nick Harmon; Bruce Roberts; James Dryden; Annie Lauri Belts, Shayne and Bella Afolahi; Marie Lundquist; Mary Ann Eininger; and David and Irene O'Brien. The three tall bookcases were properly anchored to the wall for earthquake-safety after they were set in place.

Our Fellowship Librarians Mary Ann Eininger and Marie Lundquist have been hard at work sorting and organizing our book collection, and the new bookcases will give the room a much more polished look.

Thank you Carol and the Library team!
~Irene O'Brien, Aesthetics Team

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2824 E. 18th Ave, Anchorage AK 99508

Office phone: 907-248-3737 www.anchorageuuf.org

Staff Contacts

- Rev. Shelley Page, Interim Minister, (907) 248-3737 x 2; revshelleyauuf@gmail.com; Emergency pastoral care 907-868-3737
- Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration, 441-6815, rbeachy@alaskalife.net
- Megan Webb, Music Director, auufmusic@gmail.com or 248-3737 x6
- Amy Lundell, Congregational Administrator, 248-3737 x 3 or auuf@gci.net
- Nicholas Moore, Coordinator of Youth Programming

Board of Directors and Other Points of Contacts are Available on our Website.

Services – April 2019

Sunday April 7

9 am Hayden Nevill,
'Supporting LGBTQ Rights in Fairbanks & Beyond'

11 am Hayden Nevill and Rev. Shelley Page,
'Embracing Our Future: Next Level LGBTQ Allyship'
Unitarian Universalists have a strong history of advocating for LGBTQ civil rights. Marriage equality has been achieved, and despite recent events in Fairbanks, equal protections may not be far behind. Is that the end of the story, or is there more work for us to do to achieve a fully inclusive society?

Sunday April 14

9 am Lori Townsend and Nellie Moore,
'Empowering Native Journalists Throughout Alaska'

11 am AUUF Transition Team, Fellowship to the Future!
How will AUUF be living into its mission? What directions emerged from the Fellowship to the Future gathering on April 6? Gather with us to learn more and get inspired by AUUF's energy and vision.

Sunday April 21 Easter Sunday

9 am George Gee with Sen. Tom Begich,
'The Art and Remarkable Life of a Downtown Barista'

11 am Rev Shelley Page, 'We Shall Rise'
Celebrate Easter with story, song and ritual, recounting the ancient stories about Jesus of Nazareth and how they continue to touch our lives today.

Sunday April 28 Earth Day Sunday

9 am Dermot Cole,
'Why Alaska Needs More Investigative Reporters'

11 am Green Sanctuary Team, Rosene Beachy and Rev Shelley Page, 'Earth Day Live! A Special All Ages Service!'
Celebrate Earth Day with a joyful family-friendly service. We'll start in the sanctuary together and then disperse throughout the building and outdoors to engage our heads, hearts and hands. If you loved our Winter Solstice Live! service, you'll love this honoring of the Earth.

About Our Speakers

Hayden Nevill is former president of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fairbanks as well as a former president of the UUA Pacific Northwest District. He is the founder of Gender Pioneers, Fairbanks's transgender support and advocacy group. A career veterinarian, Nevill was a key advocate of a proposed ordinance to protect the Fairbanks LGBTQ population from discrimination – an initiative that was recently approved by the Fairbanks Assembly but then vetoed by the Fairbanks mayor. Today he'll share the next steps in fighting those opposed to LGBTQ rights and what it means to be a committed Unitarian Universalist ally.

Lori Townsend is the News Director for the Alaska Public Radio Network. She got her start in broadcasting at the age of 11 as the park announcer of the fast pitch baseball games in Deer Park, Wisconsin and has worked in print and broadcast journalism for more than 18 years. Radio brought her to Alaska, where she worked as a broadcast trainer for Native fellowship students at Koahnic Broadcasting and later helped co-found the non-profit Native Voice Communications.

Nellie Moore is the former host and producer of National Native News and has been involved in Alaska journalism for nearly four decades. An Inupiaq Eskimo born in Kotzebue, she's the recipient of numerous journalism honors, including the 2001 Wassaja Award, the highest honor awarded by the Native American Journalists Association, for "extraordinary service to Native Journalism."

George Gee is an artist, author, barista – and co-owner of Side Street Espresso in Downtown Anchorage. As a teenager in Texas, he was sentenced to 16 months in prison for resisting the draft. After his release, he attended college in Texas for a while, earned a graduate degree in economics at the University of Washington, then worked as an economic consultant in Alaska for 22 years. A few decades ago, Gee and his wife Deborah Seaton purchased their coffee shop on G Street – where he's worked ever since, serving up lattes, befriending the homeless and finding an hour each day to draw an original portrait.

Sen. Tom Begich is a Democratic member of the Alaska State Senate, an accomplished musician – and a good friend to Side Street Espresso owner George Gee. He has represented District J since January 2017.

Dermot Cole has worked as a newspaper reporter, columnist and author in Alaska for more than 40

years. For two decades he wrote a daily column for the Fairbanks Daily News Miner while also penning several history books. More recently he served as a political reporter and columnist at the Alaska Dispatch News. Since the paper was sold, he's continued working as a journalist through his political blog, "Reporting from Alaska" – where he's broken several exclusive and important stories regarding the Dunleavy administration.

The LOG

May 2019

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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



FROM THE MINISTER



On the Journey

I am a four-season person but I give the edge to spring as my favorite season. It is the season of noticing, watching carefully for those signs of fresh green vitality bursting forth. My senses buzz with visual delight, fragrances found only in

spring, warmth on my skin, the taste of tender fiddleheads and the music of birds returning or passing through on their way to create the next generation. It's ever so much fun to see what is popping up next—it's a season where awe and wonder command our attention on a daily basis (truth be told, that's just about every day in Alaska!).

And so it is with Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship! I am noticing all kinds of fresh green vitality at the Fellowship these days. Just this past Sunday, the house was full for Dermot Cole at the Forum, lots of joyful celebration and learning at the Earth Day Live all ages worship, and a fabulous concert with the AUUF Choir! What a wonderful embodiment of our values and affirmation of community! AUUF buzzed with energy!

What else am I noticing?

- Overwhelmingly positive response to the proposed Summer Lunch Program as a way to serve the Airport Heights neighborhood and get to know your neighbors
- Enthusiastic participation in the Fellowship to the Future gathering where you collectively identified some core values and intriguing possibilities for your future together
- Increased generosity to more fully fund our vital programs and staffing via the House Challenge initiative from the Stewardship Team
- Energetic youth group activities

- Ever growing preschooler class as more young families get involved
- Deepened interest in anti-racism work with the White Fragility Common Read and an anti-racism lens increasingly used to address many aspects of Fellowship life and programming
- Openhearted response to the Anchorage Friends (Quakers) who will soon be renting our space on Sunday afternoons and exploring how to partner with us for social justice work
- Inviting new spaces being created as you continue to “nest” in your Fellowship home—like the reading nook just outside the library and the comfy downstairs gathering space

That's just what I'm noticing in the past few weeks. What are you noticing these days at AUUF? I invite you to look at the Fellowship with your spring senses fully open. Fresh green vitality is popping up all over the place.

Delighted for AUUF and Spring,
Reverend Shelley

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From the Board

The opportunity to write a regular letter to this Fellowship has made me so much more aware of what an awesome and inspiring community we have. In the last month alone I have been amazed by the ways in which we, as a Fellowship, have stepped up and gotten things done!

Supporting our Fellowship Financially – The Program Council with all its committee chairs led the charge in saying that staffing cuts are not the way we want to balance the budget. We have seen some creativity in the form of a House Challenge tied to the original Hogwarts Stewardship theme, a fun song reminder and most importantly each of YOU responding! Whether you are someone who pledged for the first time, someone who saw the need and raised their pledge, or someone who participated in the 9 ¾ challenge during the original drive, we appreciate you. Numbers are still coming in and will be counted right up until May 5th when we vote on the final budget, but as of today it looks very promising.

Supporting our Staff as Family – In early April, our Congregational Administrator Amy Lundell made a request for an extended leave of absence to focus some short term energy on her family. Not only were we able to approve that leave, but within a week of that request being granted, members stepped up to fill vital roles to ensure that the day to day operations of the Fellowship continue during her leave. How amazing that we can offer that level of support!

Supporting our Fellowship into the Future – After several months of planning, our Transitions Team with the assistance of Hayden Nevill hosted an Appreciative Inquiry event on April 6th. Despite the glorious spring weather over 50 members gathered for a day of visioning about the future image of our Fellowship. To see all of these dedicated people gathered in community doing the hard work of ensuring that our community continues to grow and thrive was beautiful. I can't wait to see where this level of commitment takes us in the coming years.

Supporting our Neighborhood Community – On Easter, Reverend Shelley shared that The Children's Lunchbox approached us regarding becoming a summer lunch distribution site. This valuable program provides lunch to children who, during the school year, receive free lunch at school.

Calendar Highlights

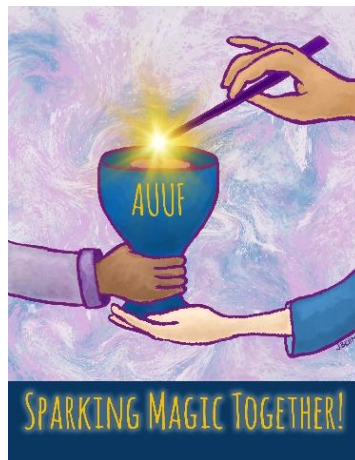
May 5 Annual Meeting
May 12 Youth Bridging Service, Summer Lunchbox Volunteer Information Meeting
May 18 Alliance Rummage Sale
May 19 Celebration Sunday, Flower Communion. **LOG deadline**
July 8- 12 Peace Camp
June 8, 9 & 12 and July 10-11 Whalecoast
Sept 20-22 Fall Frolic

Many of these children were walking over 30 minutes to get lunch in other neighborhoods. The original thought was that we could probably make it work if at least 25 people showed interest in volunteering – a staggering 52 people said "Count me in".

What an amazing community we have created.

Wendy Romberg
AUUF Board President

AUUF Teams and Committees



Stewardship Update

by Carma Reed

On April 2, the \$33,000 budget gap was shared. Since then, the generosity, forethought and good old-fashioned competition has resulted in raising more than \$25,000. I am so thankful for the 56 households that

have pitched in since April 2, many for the second time, and some for the third, to shrink that budget gap so considerably. So thankful for the spontaneous efforts in each House to spread the word to pitch in. So thankful for the 170 households that have pledged anything at all for FY20. There is a real chance we can close the gap all the way... also a chance that we won't. If you have not upped your pledge, even by what you may think is a small amount, please consider doing so and be part of this tremendous effort. This is it folks, the home stretch, don't hold back now! Thank you for your stalwart, generous support of our community.

Communications

The Communications Committee is working to assess the Anchorage UUF Fellowship (AUUF) website use and redesign. A multi-page site was created in 2015 with member/friend input. We need your input about our site —



<http://www.anchorageuuf.org> — and what you would like to see in a re-design. We start with a few questions about you, to help us determine how the site is used among various fellowship demographics, including age and level of fellowship participation. **Please submit your completed paper survey to the AUUF office.** Better yet, take the survey online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/27ZVTFP> (or use your smart phone to access the survey by reading the QR code above) Online survey completion helps the team compile results more quickly.

Social Action Council

Dennis Arashiro

The Municipal Assembly passes a human rights ordinance to recognize the rights of a persecuted community, but the Mayor vetoes it. It happened in Anchorage more than forty years ago. It happened in Fairbanks just two months ago. Supporting its LGBT community, Fairbanks social justice advocates displayed hearts emblazoned with the word "CommUNITY." In merging "community" with "unity" they were sending out a strong message of resolve that portends ultimate attainment of full human rights for all.

When Hayden Neville of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fairbanks came to us on the weekend of April 6 and 7, he gave us leadership in our Fellowship to the Future Summit and illumination at Sunday services on the Fairbanks situation and the transgender community. In return we gave him the gift of another kind of community and unity. We delivered to him signed banners showing our love for Fairbanks and a folder with notes and letters of support. On the cover of the folder was a heart with the word "CommUNITY." He'll deliver the message to Fairbanks that their fight is our fight, too. Because our justice will be their justice and justice for all.

The Children's Lunchbox Summer Lunch Program

Dennis Arashiro

The Children's Lunchbox approached the Fellowship recently about having us as an open site for their summer lunch program. This would mean that youth

up to the age of 18 in the Airport Heights neighborhood will be able to enjoy a free, nutritious lunch on a regular basis from the time school ends in May until school begins in August. This means no long walks or crossing busy intersections to other sites for children in need. Knowing the substantial number of volunteers needed to staff such a full summer program, we gave no answer initially and decided to see how many volunteers we could round up. More than 50 responded on one Sunday!

We now are committed to working with The Children's Lunchbox this summer. We need at least two card-carrying, qualified food handlers for every weekday lunch. How about team of hosts every day to warmly greet the children? Perhaps a team of volunteers each day to provide enrichment activities? We welcome more volunteers to join us in this effort. If this means you, please see me at the Social Action Table at the Fellowship on Sunday or contact me by phone or email: 444-4324 or elvischannel@yahoo.com.

May Half-Portion – Alaska Innocence Project

by Kalen Saxton

This Alaska-based non-profit corporation, provides legal, educational and charitable services to identify and exonerate individuals who have been wrongly convicted in the state of Alaska, and to provide educational opportunities that foster a culture that



champions the defense of the innocent. It was founded in 2006.

On Saturday, May 11th from 11am-1pm, they will hold an Exoneration Celebration and Fundraiser at the Church of Love, 3502 Spenard Rd. Guest speakers will be Ohio exonerees Laurese Glover and Christopher Miller and Ohio Innocence Project Co-founder Mark Godsey.

Tickets are \$100. This is a Fundraiser for the Alaska Innocence Project to help free the wrongly convicted. Contact: www.alaskainnocence.org

For the four Sundays in May we will donate half of the offering basket collection to the project. Please give generously at the ANNUAL MEETING Sunday May 5th, as well as May 12, 19 and 26. If you are going out of town for the Memorial Day Weekend you can send a check or donate on line.

Transitions Team – What We Want

by George Bryson

Here's a fast summary of a whole lot of congregational brain-storming about who we are and what we want – all of which emerged during last month's highly successful "Fellowship to the Future" workshop spear-headed by the AUUF Transition Team.

About 50 willing participants were asked to remember what initially attracted them to the Fellowship, then consider what they particularly value about AUUF today, then imagine how we could be even better in the future.

After about six hours of prodding by facilitator and former Fairbanks UU President Hayden Nevill, about a dozen dominant themes emerged -- ideas ranging from the practical and concrete to the idealistic and spiritual.

Here's some of those aspirations in no particular order of priority:

- We value and wish to enhance all three major sectors of our Fellowship -- the 11 o'clock Service, the 9 o'clock Forum and the Religious Exploration (R.E.) Program.
- We particularly treasure our friendships in the congregation and would like to see our membership grow.
- We would love our annual budget to achieve the positive cash flow status of a self-sustaining and fiscal crisis-free congregation.
- We aspire to finding (and calling) a wise, ethical and highly skilled settled-minister who can inspire not just our congregation but the community at large.
- We want our Fellowship to truly live up to the Seven UU Principles.
- We want all three spheres of our congregation – Forum, R.E., 11 o'clock – to merge closer together in a synergistic bond.
- We want to bump up our social justice game with even greater civic engagement.
- We would like our membership to grow more culturally and racially diverse
- We want AUUF to be an always-welcome sanctuary for those in need of a "safe place."
- We want to continue to "grow good people" through our youth-nourishing R.E. program.
- We want to continue to prepare our older youths for the challenges of adulthood through OWL.
- Finally we admit that, essentially, we're a "messy" congregation, full of members with varied points of view -- but we both celebrate and embrace those differences as the manifestation of free minds thriving in a free church.

Religious Exploration Notes

Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifetime Religious Exploration (DLRE)

The Children & Youth Religious Exploration (CYRE) Committee would like to give a great big **Shout Out** to all the teachers, helpers and volunteers who have helped out this year. Thanks!

Water Skippers – Annie Belts, Kalen Saxton
Wind Walkers 3 & 4 yr olds - Mary Gregory, Amy Reyess, Cady Lynn O'Brien
Sun Catchers –K , 1st , 2nd grade - Marie Hildebrandt, Ann Randolph, Amber Kreis
Fire Keepers - 3rd / 4th grade - Monica Perez Verdia, Jacqueline Adelman, Stephenie Wheeler,
Star Gazers - 5th grade - Michelle Wasson, Carma Reed, Jaime Olson
Jr. Youth - 6th, 7th, 8th - Alison Hansen, Jeanne Duryee, Suzann Speckman, Sheilagh Menck
YRUU - High School – Kristina Gwynn Dobler, Doug Eby, Andee Cordano, Nicholas Moore, CYP

And thanks to our dedicated CYRE, Children & Youth Religious Exploration Committee who have worked hard to support our teachers and the program and organize fun events; Angie Harris, Elayne Hunter, Laura Krip, Dianna Polese, Katherine Huffman & Andee Cordano.

Our Program

9:00 Forum Childcare ages 2-10,

11:00 Service

May 5- Annual meeting 10 – 12 . Pancake breakfast, Cross Age program downstairs and "Sweep the streets" cleaning up the sidewalks in the neighborhood. Looking for non member teachers or parents to help with the class groups, Contact Rosene Beachy, DLRE to volunteer.

May 12- Last day of Regular classes. Jr & Sr Youth in the Service for the High School Bridging Recognition.

May 19 - Celebration Sunday Multigenerational service to end the program year - Teacher recognition, Baby & Child Dedication and our annual tradition - Flower Communion: **Please bring a flower 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 community.

May 26 - Memorial Day - No RE

June 2 - Summer RE Begins – "**Kids Quest**"

Summer Program - June 2 to August 25

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!

We are looking for many enthusiastic leaders to bring some fun ideas for our summer “Kids Quest” program at the 11:00 service.

Pick a Sunday - “Let’s Play”, Let’s Help”, Let’s Meet a Challenge”, Let’s Explore Science”

Ideas are available for each theme, like - make doggie biscuits, or boats, explore rockets, or make a volcano, puzzles, or a park day, or turn your ideas into a wonderful UU hour!

Talk to Elayne Hunter or Rosene Beachy. Sign up downstairs at the RE Info Spot! **Don’t hesitate!! Sign up now for this very fun opportunity to be a summer leader.**

Children & Youth Religious Exploration Committee (CYRE)

The Committee is excited to be planning for a new RE Year, 2019-2020.

Volunteer as a class leader for next year 2018-19!

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!*

Sunday morning Classroom teacher – Yes - YOU Can Teach! Participate on a team of folks for our Fall/Winter classes with a focus on our heritage - Jewish and Christian roots . We will be using some great UU curriculums. Winter and Spring will return to Workshop Rotational themes and activities.

We need 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!

CYRE Team - We also need 2 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.

Sign up sheets will be available each Sunday in May in the Social hall.

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



AUUF Summer Peace Camp!!!

July 8–12, 9:00am – 4:30.

Additional childcare available 8:30 – 9 am and 4:30 –5:00 pm

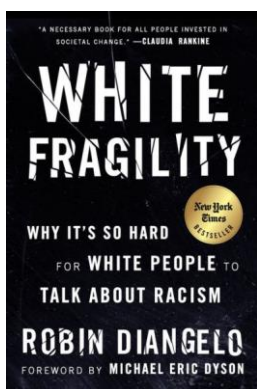
Imagine a summer experience that will plant seeds for participants to enjoy a satisfied life and can contribute to a more peaceful community. Campers have opportunity to grow socially and emotionally through music, the arts, outdoor adventures and social justice activities. During the week of July 8– 12, this year’s “Peace Camp” will be full of UU summer fun with friends, exploring peace ideas through movement & song, bicycle repair & social justice! Contact Rosene , DLRE (rbeachy@alaskalife.net) for more information .

Group leaders needed. Teens and adults welcome to apply. If you have some time to spend with us this week. Registration and Application forms at the RE Info Spot or on the RE Facebook group page.

Mail, email or bring completed forms to the fellowship.

Cost: \$200, Scholarships available \$10 hr after care

Adult Offerings!



AUUF Common Read: As part of AUUF's anti-racism work, the Adult Programs Committee and the Anti-Racism Team are sponsoring a congregational read and discussion of the 2018 book "White Fragility" by respected anti-racism teacher Robin DiAngelo. The community discussion will be held on Sunday, May 19, 1-3 pm, so

please purchase your book and start reading! Copies are available at the Welcome Table Sundays, and you can purchase a copy for \$16 by placing cash or a check (with a note about what you are purchasing) in the secure black box in the workroom. Envelopes are located on the green cart near the black box..

Yoga for Every Body has resumed Wednesdays, 6pm on Wednesdays downstairs in room 5.

Hungry Book Club Ten of us "book lovers" met April 9th to discuss "The Lizard Cage", a most disturbing novel (being so violent about Burma in the 1900's.)

We will meet again May 14th in our Library at AUUF to discuss May's read, "The Obsession" by Nora Roberts, a mystery with a happy ending.

We also chose a book for June, "Blond Indian" by Ernestine Hayes. Both these books should be easy to find, the Loussac Library, Title Wave, Barnes and Noble, [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). Visitors are welcome. Call Shirley at 563-4499 for more information.

Freethinkers is a weekly Humanist discussion group. Newcomers and drop-ins are always welcome. We meet downstairs room 7 at the Fellowship from noon to 1:30 p.m. each Friday. Contact George Bryson at gfbryson@gmail.com.

General News

32 Attend Seder Dinner at AUUF

By Kalen Saxton

On Saturday, April 20th, from 6-8pm, a family-friendly potluck dinner was held. Seder is a Jewish ritual service and communal dinner for the first or second night of Passover. Susan Orlansky, a long-time member of the Fellowship who has helped organize Seder dinners for many years, did the following: 1. She provided most of the food in the

ritual Seder bowls. 2. She provided a brief history for first time participants as it has been celebrated historically and how it would be celebrated this night, and 3. she led the reading of the Haggadah with everyone taking turns reading.

Others who contributed: George Donart and Sid McCausland set up the tables and chairs. Kalen Saxton bought extra food and boxes of Matzo. Jim and Susan peeled three dozen eggs. Ginger and her mother Ann Randolph, Noah Dunning and Theresa Zimmer assisted with the ritual hand-washing. Elayne Hunter, Helen Peters, Fran Iverson and Kalen Saxton did dishes, put food in bags. Bruce Roberts, Sid McCausland and others put away chairs and tables.

Rosene Beachy printed the Haggadah for adults and provided a version for children, gathered chalices for each table, and provided a box of small toys for the children that found the afikomen.

Rev Shelley sent an email last month asking who was doing what to make this happen.

More than 16 people helped to make this event happen. Passover starts on Thursday, April 9, 2020. Perhaps we will have a Seder on Friday next year.



Whalecoast Update Hosts Needed!

**June 8, 9 & 12 and
July 10-11**

We still need a few more hosts for both of these sold-out tours. Many thanks to those who have signed on

to open their homes to these UU guests from all over the U.S., and help them have a great experience while they're in Anchorage. June hosts will soon be contacted for confirmation and specific guest information. Our Fellowship earns a big chunk of our operating budget from the tours.

If you're not able to provide a home stay, you can help with driving, or with the 2 banquets. The June 9th Banquet will be coordinated by Kalen Saxton, and the July 11th Banquet by Jane Gray.

Please put the dates on your calendar, and contact Denise Martin dulcimer.diva@gmail.com to be a host or to help with driving. And a big shout out to **Heather Flynn** for helping Denise with housing logistics!

Recycling News

Sid McCausland is collecting #5 plastics on the 4th Sunday of each month. Please sort, and check every piece you bring for a 5 stamp upon it, and only bring #5s.



We are grateful to Judy Anderegg for having been a collector of the plastics at AUUF for a number of years.

If you are interested in helping recycle at AUUF, please email Sid McCausland.

Curious About General Assembly in Spokane This June?

This is the closest that General Assembly will be to Alaska in many years. Your golden opportunity! Check out [details here](#).

Online LOG Readers: Pro-Tips!

Some of you may have noticed that you can navigate through the LOG content by clicking on items listed on the table of contents, and return to the menu by clicking on "Home" at the bottom of each page. We've discovered that on some devices, it may be necessary to download the pdf first before this feature works. As time permits, we will get better at improving the look and functionality of our newsletter and other communications. Your feedback is welcome and appreciated. Contact Denise Martin, auuf@gci.net



Office Communications

Amy Lundell, our Congregational Administrator is on leave of absence until early September. Send all emails to auuf@gci.net, including articles for This Week at Your Fellowship weekly emails and the LOG. Timely delivery of these important communication venues is dependent on honoring the deadlines. Thanks for your patience and understanding in this time of transition. And a big THANK YOU to the volunteers who have stepped up to help!!

The Alliance

by Kalen Saxton

At the 2020 Budget Information Session on Sunday, April 28, Carol Harris reported that The Alliance had voted at its March meeting to pay for the AUUF ad in the Anchorage Daily News for the FY20 fiscal year starting in July. This year we paid for six months. Alliance Members feel strongly about supporting this one way of communicating about Sunday speakers and programs and we feel strongly about supporting our Anchorage newspaper with advertising dollars.

It was also reported that the Alliance had received \$1600 towards purchase of name plaques to go on the backs of sanctuary chairs. The Alliance has collected \$800 in funds for AUUF as income for FY19 and is donating \$800 to add to the Half-portion funds for the check for PILOT, Payment In Lieu of Taxes. The Board will present the PILOT check to the Assembly in May.

At our June 9th meeting, 12:30-1:30pm we will have a presentation by the Americorp Volunteers working through the Salvation Army on **Safe Seniors Disaster Preparedness**. They will inform us about the kinds of disasters we can prepare for, help us to develop individual disaster plans and give us the start of a go-to kit. This program is free of charge to Seniors (anyone over 55 years) and to those with functional access problems.

Spring Rummage Sale

Saturday, May 18, 2019 is the date for the Alliance Spring Rummage Sale from 8am-3pm In the Social Room at AUUF.



We will be setting up for the sale on Friday May 17 from 3-7pm. Please bring your clean, gently used clothing and household items for us to sell starting on Sunday, May 12th or on Friday May 17th, 3-7pm.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2824 E. 18th Ave, Anchorage AK 99508

Office phone: 907-248-3737

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Staff Contacts

- Rev. Shelley Page, Interim Minister, (907) 248-3737 x 2; revshelleyauuf@gmail.com; Emergency pastoral care 907-868-3737
- Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration, 441-6815, rbeachy@alaskalife.net
- Megan Webb, Music Director, auufmusic@gmail.com or 248-3737 x6
- AUUF Office 248-3737 x 3 or auuf@gci.net
- Nicholas Moore, Coordinator of Youth Programming

Board of Directors and Other Points of Contacts are Available on our Website.

About Our Speakers

Maria and Christopher Crawford are small business owners, proud Fairview residents, and Alaska-region supporters of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. Their organization is a non-partisan, grassroots movement demanding common-sense solutions to the gun violence that endangers the nation's families and communities. Its membership supports the Second Amendment and emphasizes that such support goes hand-in-hand with common-sense gun laws and a culture of gun safety. "We are not anti-gun," Maria says. "We are anti-gun violence and pro-gun safety."

Jim Jager is the Port of Alaska's external affairs director. He also works on special projects for Anchorage Mayor Ethan Berkowitz's administration. He earned a Bachelor of Science at the University of Wisconsin —Madison, a Master of Arts at the University of Missouri School of Journalism and a Juris Doctor at the University of Missouri School of Law. He worked for Agence-France Presse, the Associated Press, the Anchorage Daily News and the Redding (California) Record Searchlight. He taught journalism, was CIRI corporate communications director and worked on development projects at The Boutet Company before joining the Berkowitz administration.

Justin Zagorski is an activist, educator and social justice consultant who specializes in conducting anti-oppression workshops. After graduating from Alaska Pacific University in 2012, he earned his Masters of Arts degree at Seattle University with a focus on how white male college administrators engage with social justice movements. Currently Justin partners with Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest to facilitate monthly anti-racism dialogues. Previously he facilitated city-wide inclusion work as the Social Justice Program Manager at YWCA Alaska. To date, he's implemented over 100 social-justice training sessions for college students.



Services – May 2019

Sunday May 5

AUUF Annual Congregational Business Meeting:
9 am pre-meeting breakfast, 10 am meeting begins
Plan for children: 10-12 Pancake breakfast, Cross-Age program downstairs and "Sweep the Streets" cleaning up the sidewalks in the neighborhood.

Sunday May 12 Mother's Day

9 am Maria & Chris Crawford, 'Alaska Moms for Sensible Gun Control'

11 am Bridging to the Future
Rosene and Graduating Seniors

Gather for the annual tradition of celebrating AUUF seniors as they bridge into young adulthood.

Sunday May 19

9 am Jim Jager,
'Pursuing A Plan to Save our Port'

11 am Rev Shelley Page and Rosene Beachy
Celebrate this church year together with recognition of Religious Exploration teachers and other volunteers, child dedication, the annual Flower Communion and more!
Bring flowers to share!

Sunday May 26

9 am Justin Zagorski,
'Why White Americans Fail to See Racism'

11 am This Hallowed Ground
Reverend Shelley Page

Honor Memorial Day with reflections on the Gettysburg Address and contemporary perspective from the war in Afghanistan.

The LOG

June 2019

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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



From the Minister



On the Journey

Is there ever a good time to talk about racism?

That's a question that gets asked these days. The spring gathering of interim ministers from around the country asked the question in relation to all the other kinds of "work" that goes

on during a congregation's interim journey. And, no surprise, the answer is YES! Interim ministry is actually a great time to address racism because it touches so many aspects of a congregation's life.

And so, I am observing that AUUF is addressing racism in a variety of ways. That is a good thing! We are called to broaden and deepen our understandings about racism and the impact of white supremacy culture, as part of living our Unitarian Universalist values in the 21st century. This is work of the entire congregation, not only the Anti-Racism Team who is dedicated to leading this vital commitment. Let's take a look at some of meaningful ways AUUF has already been engaging with these challenges.

- **Worship Team**—working on creating a land acknowledgement to incorporate in our Sunday and other gatherings
- **Forum Team**—continuing to offer speakers addressing racism topics
- **White Fragility** by Robin DiAngelo—both the Anti-racism team and Freethinkers engaged in meaningful common read book discussions, with interest expressed to continue unpacking this important book
- **Religious Exploration for Children & Youth**—building the RE Library with new children's books featuring more diverse stories and representations

- **Anti-Racism Workshops**—offered *Color Brave* workshop last fall and plans are underway for another workshop in the fall with Unitarian Universalist Association regional staff
- **Communications**—studying the AUUF logo through the lens of cultural appropriation
- **Ministerial Search Committee**—reading *Centering Navigating Race, Authenticity and Power in Ministry* by the Committee for Antiracism, Anti-oppression and Multiculturalism of the UU Ministers Association, and planning a Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop for the fall

What nice momentum for the congregation! Over the next year, we'll be reviewing *all* the different ways that AUUF can more deeply engage. Stay tuned for ways to continue your journey with this very important work of the soul.

On the journey with you,
Reverend Shelley

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From the Board

Ceremony for Municipal Day of Prayer Designation

David O'Brien, AUUF Board Vice President

On April 23, the Anchorage Assembly's meeting included a ceremony to designate May 2 as a Municipal Day of Prayer. Our Fellowship, and other local houses of worship attended, at the invitation of Assemblyman John Weddleton. May 2 is also the National Day of Prayer, an annual observance when Americans across the country are encouraged to give thanks, meditate peacefully, or take time out of the day to visit their church,



synagogue, or mosque and pray to the deity of their choice. David O'Brien, AUUF Board Vice President, attended the ceremony along with 10 other municipal congregational representatives. Mr. Weddleton presented each representative with a copy of the resolution and each representative had an opportunity to address the Assembly. David thanked the Assembly members on behalf of the AUUF congregation.

Online readers can view the resolution, AR 2019-132, [here](#). (Muni website)

Calendar Highlights

June 8, 9 & 12 Whalecoast June Tour in Anchorage
June 19-23 UU General Assembly in Spokane
June 29 PrideFest
July 8- 12 Peace Camp
July 10-11 Whalecoast July Tour in Anchorage



AUUF Teams and Committees

Endowments De-Mystified

by Wray Kinard



Sooo . . . AUUF has a Cool Endowment Fund . . . Say WHAT?!!

Well, here's the Real Deal:

1. **Are you a part of it already?** The answer is yes, if . . .
 - a. You've given money or other assets to AUUF for an endowment.
 - b. You have named AUUF in your will.
 - c. You have named AUUF as a beneficiary for an IRA, insurance policy, or other such item.
 - d. **What it's for?** It's to create a perpetual source of funds for AUUF – Like a PFD for the Fellowship. (If you look around at successful churches of any denomination anywhere, you'll see they all have large endowment funds. Dreams of major improvements to the physical church, lovely landscaping, state-of-the-art equipment, large playground safety changes, or other "big budget" items, may not be otherwise affordable. Successful churches rely on endowments for help).
2. **How's it work?** It starts working once the fund reaches \$250,000--the "PFD" dispersal is to be withdrawn in incremental annual amounts—for special projects or emergency needs (not for filling in gaps in annual budgets!!).
3. **Where is it?** It is held at the Boston UU HQ in a diverse (UU principled, natch) investment portfolio, and currently amounts to \$138,000. (We have a ways to go before we can get our "PFD" check!)
4. **Who deals with it?** The UU elected Endowment Fund Committee consists of five AUUF members: Wray Kinard, Heather Flynn, Stephenie Wheeler, and David Mack, with Frank Mitchell retiring and Jim Wanamaker joining in July. They work to:
 - a. Encourage folks to put AUUF in their wills, etc.
 - b. Ensure AUUF policies and procedures are followed for receiving, investing, and (eventually) distributing the money.

Do you want to know more!? Please feel free to *contact anyone on the committee*, or check out the endowment brochure (in the social room's card rack) for easy ideas you can use!

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Staff Contacts

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- Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration, 441-6815, rbeachy@alaskalife.net
- Megan Webb, Music Director, auufmusic@gmail.com or 248-3737 x6
- AUUF Office 248-3737 x 3 or auuf@gci.net
- Nicholas Moore, Coordinator of Youth Programming, thenasm@gmail.com

Board of Directors and Other Points of Contacts are available on our Website, <http://www.anchorageuuf.org/>

Social Action Council

Dennis Arashiro

"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." - Jane Goodall

When the Children's Lunchbox approached us on April 15 about setting up an open site summer lunch program at AUUF, we had no idea if we had



enough volunteers to staff such a program. All doubts about that were erased when sixty of us stepped forward. The Board of Directors approved our

involvement in the program, giving us a signed agreement on April 25. Two organizational meetings were held, and more than two dozen volunteers have obtained required food handler certification. Flyers are being distributed to Airport Heights children. The lunch program is being scheduled and staffed from May 28 to August 16.

We have no idea how many children are in need of a free summer lunch program at Airport Heights, nor what greater needs they have beyond the lunches. We have no idea of how our success will be defined. This can also be a tremendous beginning of deeper relationships with these children and families in need and with each other. Sign up for the challenge at the Social Action Table in the Social Room on Sundays or contact me. Dennis Arashiro at 444-4324 or elvischannel@yahoo.com.

June Half-Portion – Identity, Inc.



Each Sunday, AUUF contributes half of its collection basket offering to a designated social justice recipient.

June's half-portion recipient is Identity, Inc. Identity envisions a world where all people are free to express and be proud of their gender identity and sexual orientation.

One of Identity Inc.'s programs is Anchorage PrideFest, the annual celebration of Alaska's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) communities. This year's PrideFest is June 22-29, 2019 and celebrates the 50th Anniversary of Stonewall.

Identity also sponsors Youth programs, SAGE Alaska, the Gender Identity video project, and more.

Be a Part of PrideFest 2019

By Yolanda Meza

AUUF has signed up to participate in the PrideFest on June 29; please mark your calendar. We'll need walkers carrying signs, chanting, singing or drumming in the parade.

We'll also have an informational booth at the Park Strip, and will need volunteers to hand out stickers, 7-principle cards and other materials that help promote AUUF and our UU values.



The planning committee invites you to a poster signing gathering after the 11am service on June 23rd at 12:30. Please come with creative ideas. Drinks and snacks will be provided. I'll have a signup sheet ~ Yolanda Meza, 907 338-2380.

The Spiritual Practice of Hospitality

From [David Rynick](#) | UU World Magazine 6/18/2007

Practicing hospitality expresses our belief in the inherent worth and dignity of each person. Through our actions of hospitality, we move towards creating a world in which we are all treated with justice, equality, and compassion.

**You are the ambassadors of the congregation.
We have something important here that you help those who come here find.**

Religious Exploration Notes

Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifetime Religious Exploration (DLRE)

11:00 Service

June 2 - Summer RE Begins – “Kids Quest” For K-5th grade

Childcare for ages 1-4

No summer childcare for the 9:00 service.

Summer Program – June 2 to August 25 –

Enthusiastic Leaders needed for many Sundays.

Sign up at the RE Info Spot downstairs.

June 2 – Rosene Beachy

June 9 – Renee Frost

June 16 – ??

June 23 – Stephenie Wheeler

Children & Youth Religious Exploration Committee



The committee is excited to be planning for a new RE Year, 2019-2020. Volunteer as a class leader for the next year 2019-2020! Your signing up means we don't have to spend time making many calls this summer!!

This is a large cooperative volunteer program and we welcome participation from all families in some way!

Please register your children and youth for next year's program. Follow the online link in the email that went out to this year's registered RE families. **Registration and volunteer forms** will also be available in the Social room downstairs at the RE info Spot, at our AUUF website



AUUF Summer Peace Camp!!!

July 8–12, 9:00am – 4:30.
Additional childcare available 8:30 – 9 am and 4:30 –5:00 pm

Imagine a summer experience that will plant seeds for participants to enjoy a satisfied life and can contribute to a more peaceful community. Campers have opportunity to grow socially and emotionally through music, the arts, outdoor

adventures and social justice activities.

During the week of July 8– 12, this year's "Peace Camp" will be full of UU summer fun with friends, exploring peace ideas through movement & song, bicycle repair & social justice! Contact Rosene , DLRE (rbeachy@alaskalife.net) for more information .

On line registration for Peace Camp is available for RE families. You will get an email with a link.

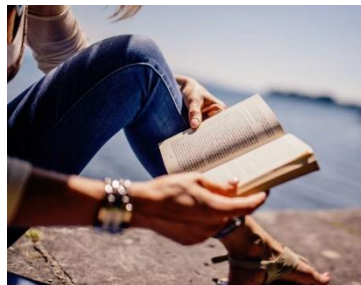
Registration forms also available at the RE Info Spot or on the RE Facebook group page.

Cost: \$200, Scholarships available
\$10 hr after care

Adult Offerings!

Freethinkers is a weekly Humanist discussion group. Newcomers and drop-ins are always welcome. We meet downstairs room 7 at the Fellowship from noon to 1:30 p.m. each Friday. Contact George Bryson at gfbryson@gmail.com.

News from the Hungry Book Club



The Hungry Book Club met Tuesday, May 14th to discuss our read for the month, "The Obsession" by Nora Roberts. All 11 of us had read it and all but one really enjoyed it. We did

have a guest (Ruth Sheridan's daughter from California visiting her mother). Great discussion. We will read "Blond Indian" by Earnestine Hayes, a local person who has spoken at our Forum. We also chose July's book, "A Train in Winter" by Caroline Moorehead.

We'll meet again Tuesday, June 11th at 2 PM in AUUF's Library. All are welcome. Call 563-4499 for more information. ~ Shirley Dickens

Interested in Chalice Circles?

Chalice Circles are a small group ministry program sponsored by the Adult Programs Committee. Chalice Circles support our "striving to listen deeply and speak with one another and to our larger community with consideration and respect." These groups are designed to bring members, friends, and community members closer to one another by cultivating deeper connections. If you are interested in participating in a summer Chalice Circle please contact [Meghan Bundtzen](#)

General News

Whalecoast Update

First Tour June 8-12th ... Second Tour July 10-11



Twenty hosts from our AUUF congregation are gearing up to house 42 guests arriving by June 8 -- these are UUs from all over the U.S. (and Canada) who will begin their Alaskan tour in Anchorage on June 9. Thanks to

everyone who signed up!

You can still be involved by helping with **transportation** (contact Denise Martin 317-6134) or with the **June 9th evening banquet for Whalecoast guests** (contact Kalen Saxton 244-8221). If you're new to AUUF, volunteering for this annual fundraiser is a great way to meet other UUs! **We are still recruiting July home-stay hosts!** Pickup up information and a form at the Welcome Table on Sunday.

Sunday June 9th will be a busy place at AUUF, as guests gather for 8 am orientation downstairs where they will all be meeting each other for the first time. They will be attending the 11am worship service, followed by a catered lunch. They will then take a chartered bus to the Alaska Native Heritage Center for the afternoon. In the evening, they will return by bus to AUUF for a wonderful banquet with entertainment, prepared by volunteers from our congregation, and organized by Kalen Saxton.

Big Thank You to Whalecoast June hosts!

by Denise Martin

The following members and friends are hosting Whalecoast guests in their homes this month: Ed & Aggie Bostrom, Kalen Saxton, Carol Harris, Paula Saylor, Heather Flynn, Peggy Cobey, Debra Addie, Shirley Dickens, James Dryden & Stephanie Koonz, Koala Vandruuff, Rev. Shelley Page, Diane Smith, Jane Gray, Terry & Don Antrobus, Jeanna Duryee, Amanda Mack, Theresa Bartoldus, Berta Gardner, Frank & Deena Mitchell, Judy Eng and backups Sylvia Short & Meghan Bundtzen. The housing has been tight this year, and I'm very grateful for some hosts who are taking up to 4, and even 5 guests! Thanks also to Heather Flynn who has been helping me with recruiting via phone calls, emails and more.

Thanks also to those who are signing up to help drive, and minimize the burden for some of the hosts who are managing busy summer schedules.



Safe Senior Disaster Preparedness From the Alliance

by Kalen Saxton

At our June 9th meeting, 12:30-1:30pm we will have a presentation by the Americorp Volunteers working through the Salvation Army on **Safe Seniors Disaster Preparedness**. They will inform us about the kinds of disasters we can prepare for, help us to develop individual disaster plans and give us the start of a go-to kit. This program is free of charge to Seniors (anyone over 55 years) and to those with functional access problems.

Gather Water for Homecoming in September



Summer is here! A wonderful time to reconnect more deeply with Mother Earth and all her wonders. As you explore nature, whether in your own neighborhood or up in the Brooks Range, remember to gather some water for the annual Water Communion ritual at the September 8 Homecoming service. We'll be mingling our waters from near and far as we recommit ourselves at the start of the new church year. So remember to bring home a bit of water from a place sacred to you.

Climate Action

Since the Anchorage Assembly adopted the [Climate Action Plan](#) on 5/21, you may want to check out the plan online, ahead of the June 2nd Forum (on the Muni website).

Services – June 2019

Sunday June 2

9 am Libby Roderick, 'Our Anchorage Climate Action Plan and You'

11am Rev. Ruth Greenwood & Megan Webb, 'Answering the Call'

Our hymnals are full of music that celebrate and amplify our 7 UU Principles. Join us for worship that will inspire you to live out your UU values with song in your heart!

Sunday June 9

9 am Mayor Ethan Berkowitz, 'Moving Forward: Doing Things the Anchorage Way'

11 am Reverend Shelley Page
'Trees of Life'

Let's celebrate and reflect on our spiritual connection with trees as we welcome our Whalecoast guests. We'll feature your tree photos at this service—send them to matsusid@gmail.com by June 6 so we can include them in the power point.

Sunday June 16

9 am William Hall,
'How Alaska Produces Salmon for Profit & Pleasure'

11 am Reverend Shelley Page
'Out of the Flames'

We take our freethinking for granted these days. But our ancestors were martyred for their questioning of doctrines. Gather round to discover the extraordinary life and death of Michael Servetus.

Sunday June 23

9 am E.B. Galloway,
'Living One's Gender in the Non-Binary Present'

11 am Bill Sherwonit
'Different Ways of Knowing Our Wild World: The Dragonfly Incident'

Sunday June 30

9 am Petra Page-Mann,
'Transforming the World with Organic Seeds'

11 am Reverend Shelley Page and Petra Page-Mann
'What Gives Us Hope Now?'

What gives us hope beyond optimism? A baby boomer mother and millennial daughter offer their perspectives on what gives us hope now as UUs.



About Our Speakers

Libby Roderick is an internationally recognized singer-songwriter who currently serves as director of the Difficult Dialogues Initiative and associate director of the faculty-teaching center at the University of Alaska Anchorage. She works with faculty members across the U.S. and South Africa to assist them in conducting difficult dialogues and to apply Indigenous ways of teaching and learning in the classroom. An Alaska Woman of Achievement and long-time activist, Libby is currently helping guide a partnership between the university and the municipality to establish a Climate Action Plan (CAP) for Anchorage.

Ethan Berkowitz is the current mayor of Anchorage. From 1997 to 2007 he was the Alaska State Representative for District 26 in Anchorage, serving as the Democratic Party Minority Leader in Juneau for all four terms. He was the Democratic nominee for lieutenant governor in 2006, for Alaska's at-large congressional district in 2008 and for governor in 2010. He was elected mayor of Anchorage in 2015, and reelected to a second term in 2018.

Bill Hall is a life-long Alaskan, a 30-year commercial salmon fisherman, and former mayor of Cordova. He's served as the executive director of Governor Sheffield's Fishery Policy Task Force, on the boards of the Cordova Aquatic Marketing Association and the United Fishermen of Alaska. After helping to establish aquaculture in Prince William Sound, he worked as a legislative aide to Sen. Jalmar Kerttula, writing the legislation that created the state salmon hatchery program.

E.B. Galloway is an accomplished poet-activist who identifies as a non-binary human with a fluid sexual orientation. In recognition of Anchorage's annual PrideFest week, Galloway will discuss the conceptual distinctions between sex, gender and orientation. This Forum will be an opportunity for us to open our hearts and minds, to reframe our understanding of human relationships, and to openly discuss questions we might never have imagined asking in earlier times.

Petra Page-Mann is owner of an organic farm located in Naples, New York, and co-founder of Fruition Seeds, which sells organic seeds worldwide. Growing up in her father's garden in the Finger Lakes region, she developed an early passion for fresh food, an interest that led her all over the world studying other food-cultures. In 2012 she and her partner founded Fruition Seeds to share the seeds, knowledge and inspiration gardeners need to be more successful in the Northeast. If she's not farming she is singing, skiing, snuggling her dogs, hunting mushrooms or sharing a feast with a friend.



From the Minister



On the Journey

The annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists at General Assembly (GA) often provides much food for thought and fresh perspectives. This year proved to be all that and much more as 12 of us from AUUF traveled to Spokane (Rosene Beachy, Michele Champion, Shirley Dickens,

George Donart, Ruth Greenwood, Shelley Page, Wendy Romberg, Peggy Robinson, Paula Smith and Ken Winterberger, plus the pleasure of two AUUF young adults who now live in Montana, Ari Romberg and Bryn Winterberger). What a wonderful delegation of dedicated and enthusiastic UUs!

Like all things UU, GA is a work-in-progress, constantly updated and reconfigured to meet our ever-evolving faith. This year's theme was The Power of We, inviting us to explore how we can create Beloved Community within and, importantly, beyond our fellowship walls. How do we address oppressions of racism, heteropatriarchy, ableism, the demise of our democracy *and* the existential threat of climate emergency? Wow! That's the challenge we are all facing, *together*.

Your GA team will be gathering when we're all back in town as the summer progresses. We plan to compare notes, offer reflections and then share them with all of you. Watch for some more articles in the Log and This Week at Your Fellowship and plan to join us on August 11 for the 11:00 worship service. And, beyond these more obvious ways of communicating, watch for some new ways of collaborating, sharing and inspiring one another in the time to come.

In the meanwhile, we'll be sharing the Sunday morning GA worship with you on Sunday, July 7. We did this last year as well, and AUUF folks appreciated it. This year's GA service was a soulful examination of how white supremacy culture lives within our UU movement with a powerful sermon by Reverend Marta Valentin. She directly addresses the experiences of people with marginalized identities in UU congregations. The service also featured great music, readings and

meditations that will touch your heart. Our own George Donart sang in the choir! Here's a link to this service in case you cannot be there on July 7.

<https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2019/worship/sunday>

We will offer opportunities for unpacking this service and the feelings that it may bring up.

You also may be very inspired by this year's fantastic Ware Lecture with Richard Blanco who reads his poetry and talks about the experience of being an American with a complex immigrant identity and as a gay man. <https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2019/ware> Enjoy!!

Always learning, Reverend Shelley

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Calendar Highlights

July 8- 12 Peace Camp

July 10-11 2nd Whalecoast Tour in Anchorage

July 11 Whalecoast Banquet

Aug 24 RE Teacher Orientation

Aug 25 Coming of Age Kickoff; AUUF Picnic

Sept. 20-22 Fall Frolic

From the Board



Summer in Alaska is that time when the daylight never ends, there are so many fish to be caught and trails that beg to be hiked. There is boundless and contagious energy that radiates in the community. It is that time when many of even the most regular attendees during the other months suddenly find their spiritual renewal not in the

building, but in the mountains, lakes and streams that this state offers us. This is a good and valid renewal. We know we will see you again in the Fall and stories will be shared and community grown through overlapping experiences.

Life in the building does not stop, however. Evidence of nature's bounty has frequently found its way inside in the form of abundant fresh cut flowers.

Now that we are a host site for The Children's LunchBox, the sound of children's laughter echoes as they eat a meal and play games.

The Ministerial Search Committee has started their training and by the time you read this will have had their kick off retreat and gotten to work on gathering our Fellowship paperwork.

The Whalecoast volunteers have finished one tour and are hard at work preparing for the second. Our visitors have been warmly welcomed with meals, housing and transportation while they get to experience the unique beauty of our State.

Others are attending General Assembly in Spokane to bring back the wisdom, knowledge and spirit that our friends in the larger UU fellowship seek to share.

Whether you are staying close or traveling far and wide, keep AUUF in your heart this summer. Collect your water for the Homecoming ceremony in a meaningful way. And when we all gather together in the Fall, let's commit to working together and following the guidance of our Ministerial Search Committee as we finish our last year of interim and move towards finding a new settled minister.

In peace,
Wendy Romberg, AUUF Board President



AUUF Teams and Committees

Sparkling Magic Together

By Carol Harris, Stewardship Committee

When the AUUF Stewardship Committee convened to plan the launch of its first-ever one-day Pledge Event, it was hoped that the event itself would "spark" the drive to fulfill AUUF's 2020 budget. Since RE was finishing its biennial School of Wizardry at Hogwarts, it was decided to build onto its messaging and décor, to design an event featuring fun for the whole family.

The slogan, "**Sparkling Magic Together**" is appropriately self-explanatory to our community. A special Wizardry Invitation was mailed to all Members & Friends and the event itself came together wonderfully with much creativity and imagination. Along with the fun activities, there was a specific challenge for those pledging to increase previous pledging by **9¾%**. **Julie Behm** designed the artwork for the puzzle and stickers that were handed out at the event and during the weeks that followed.

The pledge campaign kicked off on March 2nd and concluded at the AUUF Annual Meeting on May 5th as different "Hogwart's houses" competed to fulfill the final push for a fully-funded budget (**Go Slytherins!**). The puzzle was made from Julie's original artwork and became an ongoing fun activity in the Social Room for many weeks — it took an additional month to finish!

Note from Aesthetics Team

By Irene O'Brien



The **Wizarding World** was on our side. I was able to find a 20"x30" frame on sale to frame the puzzle artwork designed by Julie Behm. There were a few hiccups and an incident with a goblin attempting to snatch pieces away when framing the puzzle, but the good of Hogwarts prevailed! **Sparkling**

Magic Together looks lovely hanging in the south hallway to the Library.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Staff Contacts

- Rev. Shelley Page, Interim Minister, 248-3737 x 2; revshelleyauf@gmail.com; Emergency pastoral care 868-3737
- Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration, 441-6815, rbeachy@alaskalife.net
- Megan Webb, Music Director, 248-3737 ext. 6 or auufmusic@gmail.com
- AUUF Office 248-3737 x 3 or auuf@gci.net
- Nicholas Moore, Coordinator of Youth Programming, 248-3737 x 5 or auufyouth@gmail.com

Board of Directors and Other Points of Contact are available at anchorageuuf.org

Social Action Council

By Dennis Arashiro

"We, the people, declare today that the most evident of truths--that all of us are created equal--is the star that guides us still; just as it guided our forebears through Seneca Falls, and Selma, and Stonewall." -- Barack Obama

Fifty years ago, homosexuality was criminalized in most states and pathologized by the American Psychological Association and American Psychiatric Association. The federal government prohibited the hiring of gay men and lesbians and labeled them a threat to national security. It was in the midst of all this that the oppressed erupted in open resistance to police brutality at the Stonewall Inn in New York City. Much has changed since then. We gained professional recognition of same sex attraction and transgender identity as differences, not deviances. We gained decriminalization, marriage equality, protection from discrimination expanding through local ordinance and state law -- all due to those who bravely stayed true to themselves.

Much still needs to be done. We must resist measures that disguise LGBT discrimination as religious freedom. We must fight the military transgender ban in court, end the open slurs, hate crimes and murders, extend full human rights protections to the entire nation, and work for the full embrace of everyone's humanity by all. And so, we honor those brave forebears by continuing the fight for all to stay true to themselves. On this golden anniversary of Stonewall, may we all stay gold.

July Half-Portion for Social Action

By Kalen Saxton

Members of AUUF have supported Standing Together Against Rape since its inception 40 years ago. It has been a social justice recipient since we began deciding which non-profits would receive a Half-Portion of the offering baskets each month.



STAR's mission is to provide the best quality of crisis intervention, prevention, education and advocacy services to victims of sexual trauma, their families and our community.

STAR offers a state-wide crisis line which is staffed 24 hours a day, including weekends and holidays. In addition, STAR Advocates provide crisis intervention with medical and law enforcement agencies in response to reports of sexual assault.

You can get 40 hours of training to volunteer on STAR's Crisis line on nights and weekends 3 times a month. You can also volunteer to host awareness activities, events, fundraising, educational booths, or provide office assistance. Go online to download a Volunteer Application at star@staralaska.org. or call 907 276-7279.

AUUF Annual PILOT Presentation



On June 18th, several members of AUUF attended our presentation to the Anchorage Assembly of our annual PILOT* check. This year's check, \$2,258.12, was well received

with much applause and appreciation. One of the Assemblymen went so far as to note the distinct lack of other churches and organizations in line behind us. Thanks to everyone who has pushed to keep this tradition alive in our Fellowship. ~ Wendy Romberg

Recycling Reminder

Sid McCausland is collecting #5 plastics on **June 30th** and **July 28th**. (the last Sunday of each month). Please sort, and check every piece you bring for a 5 stamp on it, and only bring #5s – (no lids, please). If you are interested in helping recycle at AUUF, please email Sid: matusid@gmail.com.



Religious Exploration Notes

Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration (DLRE)



Our Summer Program

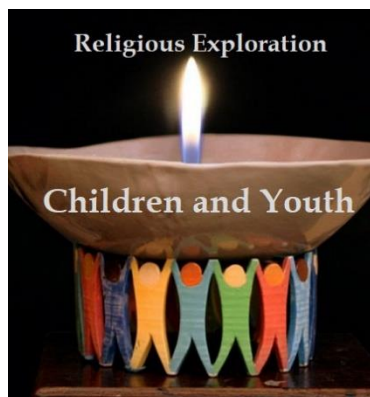
11:00 Service – Cross age program
**June 2 to August 25 - Kids Quest
For K-5th grade
Childcare for ages 1-4**

July 7 – Russ Baker, Orienteering /Mapping 101
July 14 – Kristin Nygren, Science Experiments
July 21 – Koala Vandruff, Tibetan Prayer Wheels
July 28 – Stephenie Wheeler, Hogwart's Too Experiments
August 4 – Mary Gregory, Junk Trunk Show
August 11 – Laura Krip, A Sewing Social Service Project
August 18 – TBA
August 25 – Rosene Beachy, Rockets to the Sun

Recruiting RE Teachers for 2019-20!

Sign up downstairs at the Family Info Spot to volunteer on a class team. For the Fall, we will use interactive, fun curriculums on the theme of our 4th Source, Jewish and Christian Teachings. Winter/Spring will be Workshop Rotational format with congregational themes.

We will have teams of 3 that rotate through the Sundays. With our Cross Age or Multigenerational services each month, that means you usually prepare 1 lesson and help with 1 lesson a month.



Learn to know children and their families, gain some new insights and new friends. Call Rosene today 441-6815 or sign up downstairs by the kitchen!

Sign up list and applications for new teachers available at the Parent Info Spot.

Please register your children and youth for next year's program. Follow the online link in the email that is being sent to this years' registered RE families.

Registration and volunteer forms will also be available in the Social room downstairs at the RE info Spot, and on our AUUF website.

Fall Frolic Event is Coming! Sept. 20-22, 2019

Join AUUF for our annual
Fall Frolic Weekend Retreat

For all ages at King's Lake Camp in Wasilla.

Spend time with your family, make new friends, enjoy a last "Fall Hurrah."

Learn something new, walk the candlelit AUUF labyrinth, celebrate in community.

Registration and information available at the Parent Info Spot Downstairs.

**There will be 2 Fall Frolic Planning meetings:
Monday, August 12 and Thursday, Sept. 5, 7 pm.**



Please let me know if you will be at the planning meeting and can help out at camp this year.

Bring or email me

your new workshop ideas for all ages, specific ages or fun large group activities.

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 to our "Gathering of the Waters" Ceremony during the **Homecoming Service on September 8**, when we return for our Fall program.

In peace,
Rosene Beachy

Adult Offerings

News from the Hungry Book Club

The Hungry Book Club met June 22 to discuss our June read, "Blonde Indian" by Earnestine Hayes. There were 8 of us and we had all read the book. We decided it was an important look into an Alaska Natives experience coming to terms with the author's history living in the Juneau area and then in California. We will meet again **July 9th at 2:00** in the AUUF library to discuss "A Train in Winter" by Caroline Moorehead. I got my copy (paperback) at Title Wave, but the Loussac Library has it, and Barnes & Noble probably has it. Come join up if you are interested. ~ Shirley Dickens

Freethinkers -- New Book

By Kalen Saxton

We just finished five weeks of discussion on Michael Pollan's latest book, *How to Change Your Mind - What the New Science of Psychedelics Teaches Us About Consciousness, Dying, Addiction, Depression and Transcendence*.

On June 21st we began discussions of David Brooks new book, *The Second Mountain - The Quest for a Moral Life*, April, 2019. David Brooks appears regularly on PBS NewsHour and Meet the Press and is an op-ed columnist for *The New York Times*.

According to Brooks, on the second mountain life moves from self-centered to other-centered. He describes how people on the second mountain are deeply rooted and deeply committed. They have made maximal commitments to others on one or all of these four things: a vocation, a spouse and family, a philosophy or faith and a community. We will probably be discussing this book and our reactions to it, until the end of July.

Freethinkers is a weekly Humanist discussion group. Newcomers and drop-ins are always welcome. We meet downstairs room 7 at the Fellowship from noon to 1:30 p.m. each Friday. Contact Kalen Saxton at saxtonkalen@gmail.com.

General News

Alliance – Safe Seniors

By Kalen Saxton, Vice President, The Alliance

On June 9th the Alliance hosted an excellent training presented by two Americorps Volunteers. The fifteen people who took the one-hour training each received a **Safe Seniors Disaster Preparedness packet** with nine kinds of information including a 61-page booklet, [Get Ready! Alaska's Emergency Preparedness Toolkit for people with Disabilities](#). (available on State of Alaska website)

In addition, we each got a **Safe Seniors Disaster Kit**. This is a red knapsack with a drawstring that can be worn as a backpack. Inside is a laminated sign for use after a disaster like the Nov 30th earthquake. One side says "I'm SAFE" the other side says, "HELP ME" to put on the door or a window. The knapsack also has a flashlight, hand warmers, hand sanitizer and a number of other emergency items.

This is the beginning of a GoTo bag that we each will personalize with our emergency contacts, copies of cards like driver's license and Medicare card, food for pets, etc. As someone who sometimes uses a cane or a walker, I found the information on extra steps for preparedness with mobility issues very helpful.

WhaleCoast Update

One down, one more to go!
Second Tour July 10-11



Our June WhaleCoast tour was a big success, with AUUF home hosts and banquet helpers earning over \$12,000 for AUUF! Kalen Saxton coordinated the Sunday night banquet, which included a number of delicious items

from volunteers. The UU tourists enjoyed entertainment from Megan Webb, Ben Fischer and Bill Sherwonit. Volunteer drivers also stepped up to transport guests during their stay in Anchorage, and a couple of AUUF hikers joined guests for a hike at the Eagle River Nature Center. Kudos to all!

Another group of UU tourists comes through Anchorage in July for only 2 nights, and the following hosts are gearing up to welcome them into their homes: James Dryden & Stephanie Koonz, Debra Addie, Jane Gray, Jeanne Fisher, Carol Harris, Kalen Saxton, Teresa Zimmer, Diane Smith, Renee Tatusko, Cassie Thomas, Bev Grogan, Heather Flynn, Paula Sayler, Teresa Zimmer, Elayne Hunter, John Blaine, Ann Larabee and Helen Neinhauser. Backup hosts are also standing by. Big thanks to Jane Gray who will coordinate the July 11th banquet – please contact her if you would like to help with set-up, food, or clean-up: 980-7721, or email janeellengray@gmail.com

I'm very grateful that tour director Dave Frey from Fairbanks, and his assistant Cynthia Bethune continue to offer this wonderful opportunity every summer to UU congregations in Alaska. If you're curious about what the entire WhaleCoast tours offer UU guests, visit <https://whalecoastak.org/> ~ Denise Martin

Scout's Eagle Project: A Fire Pit for AUUF!

By Benjamin Fischer, member of AUUF Youth Program

Hello, my name is Benjamin Fischer, a life scout working on my Eagle Rank. For my Eagle Project, I will be building a fire pit for the enjoyment of the whole congregation. I chose this project because I think it would be an excellent addition to the AUUF grounds and would be fun for people of all ages. I have received a green light from the AUUF Board, and am proceeding with my fundraising efforts. If you are interested in supporting this project financially visit my GoFundMe site: <https://www.gofundme.com/ben039s-auuf-eagle-scout-project> Thank you!

AUUF Gardening Group

by James Dryden

The gardening group has been busy this spring. Bruce Roberts and George Baker swept the traction sand from walks and pavement and tidied up the bushes along the alleys. Marion Vichary has revived the planter boxes near the north entrance by weeding



and bringing back the dahlia roots overwintered by Emily Becker. We are grateful for the annual contribution of the geranium baskets at the north entrance made again by Helen and Gayle Nienhauser. Bruce Roberts and Tom Choate continue to improve the east side perennial gardens. Many individuals have contributed flowers to the whiskey barrels and the hanging baskets on the fences, currently being planted.



Koala Vandruff obtained a variety of perennials last year and planted them around the south entrances. These have survived the winter well. Bruce and Koala have restarted the south end planter boxes

with strawberries and peas. Many of the strawberries will be transplanted to the west side of the building along the alley. Koala, Marion, Bruce, and others are dividing the watering and weeding as the summer proceeds. Please contact Koala Vandruff koalaak@hotmail.com to volunteer.

Grounds Master Planning Happening!

Thanks to all who shared hopes, dreams and great ideas about how AUUF grounds can reflect and live into our UU values. This summer will be a time of deepening the exploration of the proposed grounds master plans and starting to develop actionable steps to make our dreams come true. Thanks to Cindy Kinard and Job Bernier for their wonderful leadership on this project!

Weekly Wednesday Summer Potluck Dinners

Take some time from your busy summer to enjoy a weekly evening potluck dinner, hosted by YOU or one of your fellow congregants at home! For those of us who are out of town on weekends – or not, this is a nice way to stay connected. Join one dinner, or come to all, **every Wednesday evening** at 6 pm, **through August 14** (except July 3 and July 10). Host sign-up sheets available between Sunday services, or contact Deena Mitchell (DeenaMitchell1978@gmail.com ; 847-997-8357) or Andee Cordano (AndeeCordano@gmail.com ; 350-6361) to be a host.

Rev. Shelley Out of the Office July 1 – July 15

I will be spending precious time with my daughter, Petra, traveling around Alaska. We'll be off having adventures together and I will return to you on July 16. If a pastoral care emergency arises while I'm gone, please contact Rev. Ruth Greenwood at (907) 317-8047.



About Our July Speakers



Rev. Marta I. Valentín is a minister in a shared ministry with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford, MA. Her former shared ministries were with the First Church Unitarian in Littleton, MA, and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, VA. Her first settled shared ministry was at First Unitarian Universalist Church in New Orleans where she arrived two weeks before Hurricane Katrina. She also brings experience from a number of other Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) wide positions: the New England Regional Staff, the UUA's former staff group, Identity-based Ministries, Public Information Office and Beacon Press. She has shared her gifts as well with the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association's (UUMA) CENTER continuing education team. She is a published poet and percussionist.

[more](#)



Kyle Hopkins is special projects editor of the Anchorage Daily News and former investigative reporter for KTUU-Channel 2. He is currently working with ProPublica on a yearlong project. Kyle was born in Sitka and earned a

journalism degree from University of Alaska Fairbanks. Recent awards include the Investigative Reporters & Editors Award for an investigation of criminals hired as police officers, National Headliners award for coverage of Anchorage car thefts, Society of Professional Journalists public service award for reporting on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, and a national Edward R. Murrow Award. Kyle and his wife, journalist Rebecca Palsha, have two daughters, Alice and Poppy.



Homer resident **Nancy Lord** is a widely published writer, naturalist, and historian. The author of three short fiction collections and five books of literary nonfiction, Nancy was Alaska's writer laureate from 2008-2010, and serves on the faculty of UAA's Creative Writing and Literary Arts MFA program and the graduate

science writing program at Johns Hopkins University. She is a graduate of Hampshire College, with an M.F.A. from Vermont College of Fine Arts, and has a well-rounded Alaska résumé including years of commercial fishing, berry picking, and bird and wildlife watching.



Laurie Wolf is President and CEO of The Foraker Group, a nonpartisan nonprofit organization providing training, support and advocacy services for

Alaska non-profits. She has served on boards and volunteered in arts, environmental and human services organizations. Born and raised in Anchorage, Laurie earned a BA degree from Scripps College, a Masters in Not-for-Profit Leadership from Seattle University, and is a Certified Fund Raising Under 40 (2005) and Outstanding Professional in Philanthropy in (2006), and in 2016 was recognized by the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce and inducted into the ATHENA Society.

Services – July 2019

Sunday July 7

9 am Bill Hess, "Kivgiq: Heartbeat of the Arctic Revived!"

11am Rev. Marta Valentin, "General Assembly Worship: In This Delicate Turning"

Here's your chance to experience the inspiring Sunday worship from this year's General Assembly in Spokane. A lively combination of video and live worship at AUUF.

Sunday July 14

9 am Kyle Hopkins, "Reporting on Sexual Violence in Alaska"

11 am Koala Vandruff, "Spirituality of Travel"

Travel expands our spirits as we discover new sacred grounds and learn more about ourselves.

Sunday July 21

9 am Nancy Lord, "What Does Earth Ask of Us?"

11 am Reverend Shelley Page, "U and U and UU"

Families are complicated! Learn more about Unitarianism and Universalism and what happened when they joined together as Unitarian Universalists almost sixty years ago. What's the implication for us today as UUs?

Sunday July 28

9 am Laurie Wolf,

"Why We Must Care About the 2020 Census"

11 am Reverend Shelley Page

'Blessing Our Bodies'

We'll explore our sacred embodied nature with all its gifts and challenges.



Bill Hess is an award-winning photographer and writer whose stories and images have appeared in National Geographic, the New York Times and Time-Life Books. Born in Utah, he met his wife doing Mormon mission work among the Lakota then moved to her White Mountain Apache reservation in Arizona, where he produced the

tribal newspaper for three years. In 1981 he drove a VW with his family to Alaska and has worked here ever since as a publisher, photographer and writer. His book, "Gift of the Whale: The Inupiat Bowhead Hunt, A Sacred Tradition" was published in 1999.



Koala Vandruff has been a member of AUUF since 2015. She came to Alaska for a summer camp job in 1974. She was hooked on the place and has made it home since then. She works as a nurse at Alaska Native Medical Center, but makes lots of time for travel

and enjoying summers in Alaska.



From the Minister



On the Journey

Dear Ones, our hearts are broken with the needless suffering inflicted on Alaska right now. We are all touched by the draconian cuts. Anxiety hangs in the air along with smoke. Sometimes, UUs are reticent to ask for help, or feel

confused about when it is appropriate to call the minister. Here's a list of life circumstances when you may find it helpful to call me:

- You just want to talk.
- When you don't know me, but would like to.
- When your child doesn't know me, but would like to or you would like them to.
- When your family doesn't know me, but would like to.
- When you are looking for a way to deepen your spiritual life.
- When your children have questions of faith and you would like me to visit with them.
- When you have religious or spiritual questions.
- When you are celebrating one of life's joys and want to share the good news.
- When your child has joys and accomplishments to share with their minister.
- When you or your child are feeling sad or lonely, lost or anxious.
- When you have lost your job, found a new job, been promoted or demoted.
- When you or a family member is ill.
- When you are going to the hospital or know of someone else in the congregation who is.
- When someone close to you has died or is critically ill or you're dealing with a significant loss of some kind
- When you would like to make plans for a memorial service. When you would like to make plans for your memorial service.
- When you are planning to be married. When you are challenged by the demands of marriage. When you are separated or planning to get a divorce.
- When you are pregnant and glad you are or wish you weren't, also if you want to be pregnant but aren't.
- When you would like your child dedicated.
- When you are challenged by life's daily happenings.
- When you want to share your experience of or appreciation for our beloved community. When you have concerns about the fellowship.
- When you have a good story to share.

It can also be helpful to share in small groups. I am considering offering an opportunity that I'm calling "Alaska Circle" as a way for you to share about how this Alaska situation is touching your life. If that sounds helpful to you, please contact me and we'll set up a group time to meet.

How to best contact me? Email revshelleyauf@gmail.com Call 248-3737 x 2. Or for emergency pastoral care call 868-3737. Let's talk!

Here for you, Reverend Shelley

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Calendar Highlights

Aug 13 Hungry Book Club
 Aug 24 RE Teacher Orientation
 Aug 25 Coming of Age Kickoff; AUUF Picnic
 Sept. 8 Homecoming Sunday
 Sept. 20-22 Fall Frolic

From the UUA International Office



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
PARTNER CHURCH COUNCIL

Engage Globally: 2020 UU Partner Church Council Pilgrimages

NE India and Khasi Hills

March 12 - 22, 2020

Experience first-hand this unique outpost of Unitarianism and enjoy the gracious hospitality of the Khasi people.

Roots 2020

July 13 - 20, 2020

This amazing experience brings together members from Unitarian churches in Transylvania with North American UUs to explore our shared religious heritage through activities and discussions.

Wales (Inaugural Trip!)

July 30 - August 8, 2020

Connect with Welsh Unitarians and explore significant Unitarian churches and landmarks.

Transylvania Thanksgiving

September 21 - October 3, 2020

Begin in Kolozsvár/Cluj visiting Unitarian Church Headquarters and the region's most significant Unitarian holy places. Experience a Transylvanian Thanksgiving in a partner village as you connect with partners in faith.

Register with UUPCC:

<https://uupcc.org/pilgrimages/pilgrimage-opportunities>

From the Board

The Board is excited to welcome several new faces to our team as we enter a new Fiscal Year.

Alison Hansen was elected during the Annual Meeting this spring. Alison has been involved in the Religious Exploration program for many years and will bring that passion to her Board service.

Silver Hjellen has also joined the Board. When Sid McCausland was elected to the Ministerial Search Team, he needed to step down from Board service. Thank you Silver, for being willing to step into that role and fill out the remainder of his term.

Finally, Frank Mitchell has stepped down from the Board. We are grateful to new member, but long time UU'er Tanya Dumas for jumping right in. We look forward to getting some fresh perspectives and viewpoints from her prior UU experience.

Please thank these folks when you see them. ~ Wendy Romberg

AUUF Committees and Teams

Attention Newcomers AND "Old-timers"!

By Judy Engh, Connections Team

Interested in joining or learning a whole lot more about AUUF OR willing to meet and get to know newcomers on a much deeper level? Our new and improved "Finding Your Way into Fellowship" class starts Thursday, September 5th. We are re-vamping this class to be more of a small group experience including everyone from brand new folks to seasoned UUs. It will be from 6-8pm the 4 Thursdays in September.



We do expect this class to fill quickly, so if you for sure plan to attend the class, please let us know right away. Please also let us know of other times you might have available as we are considering adding a class or two on a Tuesday or Wednesday or perhaps subsequent Thursdays. For questions, or to sign up, contact Judy Engh at judyrae427@yahoo.com or the office 248-3737. Sign-up sheets will also be available at the Welcome Table on Sunday mornings.

Social Action Council

Dennis Arashiro

"We have a saying in the Legislature: 'Don't tell me what your values are--show me what your budget is, and I'll tell you what your values are.'" -- Sen. Bill Wielechowski

The same could be said of Governor Dunleavy's line item vetoes. His values are clear in every one of them. As disturbing as all of them are, what I find most ominous is his veto of \$334,700 for the appellate courts and his following reason for it:

"The Legislative and Executive Branch are opposed to State funded abortions; the only branch of government that insists on State funded abortions is the Supreme Court. The annual cost of elective abortions is reflected by this decision. The Federal Government also prohibits any federal funds paying for elective abortions."

Without the independence of the courts, there can be no protection of our Constitutional rights. Without that, there can be no social justice. This is where Dunleavy's values would lead us and what we must reject. This is more than a budget battle; this is a moral conflict. This means the dust doesn't settle until we win.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Emergency pastoral care 868-3737
- Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan
Religious Exploration,
441-6815, rbeachy@alaskalife.net
- Megan Webb, Music Director,
248-3737 ext. 6 or auufmusic@gmail.com
- AUUF Office 248-3737 x 3 or auuf@gci.net
- Nicholas Moore, Coordinator of Youth
Programming,
248-3737 x 5 or auufyouth@gmail.com

Board of Directors and Other Points of Contact are available at anchorageuuf.org

Report from the Ministerial Search Team

By George Bryson

So the search for a new settled minister is ... *on!*

Appointed in late spring, the seven-member AUUF search team consists – as you may already know -- of Sam Cason, Mary Ann Eininger, Mara Hill, Katherine Huffman, Sid McCausland, Yolanda Meza and myself, George Bryson.

We began our work on June 28 with a kickoff-weekend retreat in Wasilla led by UUA Transitions Coach Tracy Springberry of Portland, Oregon.

After adopting a search-team covenant and ground rules, we agreed to meet weekly (every Wednesday evening) from July 10 until our job is done.

Here's our "Big Picture Timetable": Phase 1: Building the Search Structure (June-Nov); Phase 2: Launching the Search Publicly (mid-Nov-mid-Dec); Phase 3: Reviewing Applicants, Hosting Visits, Selecting a Candidate (Jan-March); Phase 4: Finalizing an Offer, Announcing Candidate (April); Phase 5: Launching New Ministry (Apr 26-Aug 1).

Right now, of course, we're in Phase 1, and to get things started we signed up for 15 individual tasks.

Four of those are organizational: Sam and Mary Ann will serve as the co-chairs of our meetings; Sid will be treasurer; Katherine, our secretary -- and I'll be responsible for monthly communications to the Fellowship (hence this first in a series of monthly Log updates).

Six more assignments need to be addressed immediately and completed by this fall, including: an All-Fellowship Survey to determine our AUUF values and priorities (Katherine and Mary Ann); Congregational Focus Groups (also Katherine and Mary Ann); an AUUF "Beyond Categorical Thinking" Workshop (Sid); a complete Document Packet (Sid); a "Congregational Record" (Mara); Website Content and Redesign (George).

Five more assignments will involve work to be conducted this coming winter, including: Negotiating Team Duties (Sam and Mary Ann); Interview Set-Up (Katherine); Reference Checks (Mara/George); Candidate Hospitality & Neutral Pulpit Arrangements (Yolanda); "Candidating Week" Logistics (Yolanda).

To date we've held three weekly meetings at our various homes, and the consensus of the team so far is: We're making good weekly progress toward completing our summer goals. For which we're grateful!

August Half-Portion for Social Action



Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and the Hawaiian Islands

Each month, half of AUUF's non-designated Sunday collection basket money goes to a

different social action organization. August's recipient is Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and the Hawaiian Islands (PPGNIH). This organization is a leader in reproductive health care, rights, and education in Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, and western Washington. They provide high-quality, affordable sexual and reproductive health care for women, men, and teens. Many of their patients have no other health care available to them.

In partnership with local communities, Planned Parenthood advocates, educates, and provides health care to support sexual health and wellness for all. Learn more about Planned Parenthood and how you can help by visiting their [website](http://www.plannedparenthood.org).

In case you wondered, the other half of the Sunday collection cash goes to AUUF's operating budget. If you intend for it to go toward your annual pledge, please specify this on your check or envelope.

AUUF Recycling of #5s Has Ended

#5 plastic will no longer be collected at AUUF. Please be diligent when sorting your recycling. Entire shipping containers can be rejected when found to contain poorly sorted items. We do collect paper and many other materials at AUUF – look for the blue recycle bins and read their signs. ~ Sid McCausland.

Religious Exploration Notes

Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration (DLRE)

If you popped during July's Peace Camp, you will have noticed some very busy and enthusiastic children adjusting bikes, singing, discovering the properties of sound, and learning about "Kindness" in our words and actions and touch!

Our peace theme was "Kindness" which we talked about each morning and throughout the day as we listened to each other and helped each other in many small ways. A biking adventure every day improved our biking skills and enabled us to ride far away to Horizon House, where we showed kindness by singing and interacting with the residents at lunch. We saw many faces perk up at our presence as the elders sang and clapped along.

Thanks to our wonderful teen counselors; Makayla, Amei, Chantelle, Ruth, Noah, Workshop leaders; Bev Grogan, Elayne Hunter, Kalen Saxton, Jim Kerr, Jim Mayers, Lily Flesher, Laura Krip and AUUF community volunteers Ann, Annie, Silver, Diane, Andrea, Jaime and Andee. We had a wonderful week because of you!

"Kids Quest" continues on Summer Sunday mornings for a few more weeks, but we are planning for Fall. Look for your age group OWL class (Our Whole Lives Sexuality Curriculum) registration form in the mail. All registration forms are also available on the RE Facebook group, and the AUUF website. We are also recruiting for class leaders for our very interesting and fun classes. Please save us some calls and call me before I call you to volunteer to lead one of our RE classes. All age groups, including our youth group need volunteers.

Don't forget to save some water from your favorite places or activities to bring to Homecoming on September 8th. And fill out your Fall Frolic registration forms to join in our Family & Friends Retreat on September 20 -22.

Peace, Rosene Beach, DLRE

RE Sunday Morning Program 2019-20

Registration continues for the Fall RE 11:00 classes. The registration and other RE forms are at AUUF and [online](#). Last year's participants will receive by email. **Please fill it out TODAY!** Also fill out the volunteer page as we need many hands to create this program. Jr High and HS youth have additional necessary permission forms in the RE office.

Our Summer Program

11:00 Service –Cross age program, ages 4-11 - **"Summer Kids' Quest"**. Childcare for ages 1-4

July 28 – Stephenie Wheeler, Hogwarts's Too Experiments

August 4 – Mary Gregory, Junk Trunk Show

August 11 - Laura Krip, A sewing Social Service project

August 18 – Kathleen Dunning, Nature Activities

August 25 - Rosene Beachy, Rockets to the Sun

Planning Team Volunteers Needed

Children & Youth Religious Exploration Planning Team for this Fall – If you can't teach on Sunday's but would like to be involved, consider joining our Planning team. We meet monthly to coordinate program and activities to build community among families and children. Contact Elayne Hunter 223-6507, or Rosene Beachy, 441-6815.

Sunday Morning Class Leaders -- Join a Team



Teachers are still needed at all age groups Toddler through Jr. High! Our focus this Fall will be on Jewish and Christian stories. Come experience our new classroom spaces!

If you have children in the program, please volunteer, as this is a cooperative group effort. Team teaching is how we give our teachers an opportunity to participate in the upstairs services, about half the Sundays, and still be involved in the excitement downstairs.

Great, easy to use curriculums, teams of 3-4 that rotate through the Sundays so you lead one and help one Sunday each month. There will generally be one 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 24, 3-7 pm.

AUUF Fall Frolic Weekend Retreat Sept. 20-22, 2019

For all ages at Salvation Army - King's Lake
Camp in Wasilla.



Spend time with your family, make new friends, enjoy a last "Fall Hurrah."

Learn something new, walk the candlelit AUUF

labyrinth, celebrate in community.

Registration and information is included on a separate insert of the newsletter received via mail. Online readers can view or print these pdf files:

[Fall Frolic FAQ](#) | [Registration Form](#)

We need your help and ideas to keep Fall Frolic alive and continuing to provide a wonderful weekend each year for our Fellowship!

**There will be 2 Fall Frolic Planning meetings:
Monday, August 12 and Thursday, Sept 5, 7 pm.**

Please let me know if you will be at the planning meeting and can help out at camp this year. Bring or email me your ideas for new workshops for all ages or specific ages or fun large group activities.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Programs Start in 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 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12. *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.

NOTE: Initial LOG publication had some incorrect dates for OWL. Apologies for any inconvenience.

Here is the CORRECT information:

Elementary OWL – Intermediate level

5th - 6th grade Parent Information meeting,
Monday, September 9, 7–8:30 pm

5th – 6th grade Parent & Child Kick off Workshop,
Saturday, September 28, 10:00 – 12:00 noon

Classes – September 29 – November 24, 12:30 – 1:45 pm Sunday afternoon

(Elementary K-1 OWL will be offered in the winter if we have class leaders)

Jr High School OWL – Grades 7-9

Jr High OWL Parent Orientation – Wednesday, August 28, 7-9 pm

Jr. High OWL Kickoff – Saturday, September 7th, 12:00-3 pm for participants and parents.

Classes – September 15th to November 24, 12:30-3 pm. Classes will include Saturday workshops and fieldtrips, to be announced.

Adult Offerings

News from the Hungry Book Club

Seven of us met July 9th (second Tuesday) to discuss our July book, "The Winter Train" by Carolyn Morehead. Although well-written, it was very depressing to read. We have chosen a very different kind of book for August, "The Art of Racing in the Rain" told in the voice of the dog. While we were choosing, we also chose September's book, "The Islands of Sea Women" by Lisa See. We will meet August 13th in the Library at 2pm. Come and join us.
~ Shirley Dickens

Weekly Wednesday Summer Potluck Dinners

There's still time to attend one of our Wednesday evening potluck dinners hosted by one of your fellow congregants at home. For those who are out of town on weekends – or not, this is a nice way to stay connected. They will start at 6 pm; please RSVP the upcoming hosts:

July 31 Meghan Buntzen 's 907-223-8140
Aug. 7 at Tanya & Kiley Dumas' 206-940-6336
Aug. 14 at Loren & Marie Hildebrant's 907-306-5264

Thank you to our previous potluck hosts: Judy Engh, Terry & Don Antrobus, and Gwen Crawford.

Chalice Circles

Summer Session Chalice Circle came together to participate in community activism by attending the Save Our State rally. These groups typically provide a service both to the fellowship and the community during their six-month sessions. However, this group meets over just two months and still is managing to participate in two projects! Representing AUUF at the SOS rally and then again early August we will be volunteering at the Food Bank of Alaska.

Small group ministry is an essential part of our thriving community and we will be starting new groups in the fall. If you would like more information about participating and please consider facilitating then contact [Meghan Bundtzen](#). We are looking for locations to host groups, as well as members to facilitate groups. You need not provide a space of your own in order to facilitate. Small group ministry comes in many styles with the overarching goal of support for our "striving to listen deeply and speak with one another and to our larger community with consideration and respect." These groups are designed to bring members, friends, and community members closer to one another by cultivating deeper connections. ~ Meghan Bundtzen

General News

Alert! New Traffic / Parking Patterns

By Marty Freeman



An enthusiastic work party wrestled heavy concrete wheel stops into new places on Saturday, July 13! These create a safer walkway between the building and the parking lot

between the two doors on the east side. They also complete the east boundary of our Plaza. More wheel stops may be available to do the same for the west side of the Plaza.

Please note that the parking spaces adjacent to the east side of the building are marked for either handicap use or compact cars. Please respect these signs – longer cars narrow the safe driving space in the alley. And speaking of safe driving...are you aware that we have one-way entry and exit patterns from 18th Avenue to and from our parking area? Enter from the north/18th Ave on the western side of the building and exit to the north/18th Ave on the east.

The municipality has had one-way/no entry signs in place for years to help create a safer flow on the alleyways, which we share with our neighbors. Let's be great neighbors and respect the one-way routes.

WhaleCoast July Tour



Thank you to the following hosts who welcomed our July Whalecoast visitors into their homes for 2 nights: James Dryden & Stephanie Koonz, Debra Addie, Jane Gray, Jeanne Fisher, Carol Harris, Kalen Saxton, Teresa Zimmer, Diane

Smith, Renee Tatusko, Cassie Thomas, Bev Grogan, Heather Flynn, Paula Saylor, Teresa Zimmer, Elayne Hunter, John Blaine, Ann Larabee, Melanie Baker, and Susan Orlansky.

Thank you also to the volunteer drivers and thanks to Jane Gray who coordinated the July 11th banquet.

Everyone enjoyed entertainment by the fabulous Dolly PartUU, featuring Diane Smith, Diane Hall Pendergrast, Jane Gray and Deb Addie! AUUF earned over \$20,000 from both of the Whalecoast tours (June and July). You should know that besides the homestays, part of our earnings from Whalecoast come from the banquets and driving help. In gratitude, Denise Martin



AUUF Annual Picnic August 25

By Kalen Saxton



In July, the Program Council selected the last Sunday in August for the Annual Picnic. The

majority of those voting wanted the picnic after school started, though a date in late August increases the chance of rain.

Two years ago, the picnic was held at Takishla Park since there was construction going on outside the south side of the building. It was a gloriously sunny day and was well attended. The teens in the Coming of Age program joined us after they had met for the first time. They helped get the tables and chairs into a trailer and cars at the end of the picnic. This year's group will be meeting for the first time on Sunday, August 25th. Maybe they can help again.

Last year the weather report said "chance of rain". By 10am on Sunday morning it was pouring buckets of rain. We cooked hamburgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers on the stove and sat at tables in the Social Room. There were good conversations.

[more](#)

The Board agreed at their 7/17/19 meeting that we could meet at Takishla Park again. I am asking cohort groups of new members to help with the planning and staffing of the 2019 Picnic. Last year 53 people brought food. Please text, or email, or call me with what you can bring. Kalen Saxton 907-244-8221, saxtonkalen@gmail.com

Kudos for the Landscaping Work Party Crew!

by Wendy Romberg

Check out what is fresh and clean around the Fellowship grounds! Bruce Roberts recently started painting the rest of the building to match the newly renovated south side. The east wall is done and looks so spectacularly "right" that many who joined in on the work party didn't even notice it! Thanks for the significant progress made, Bruce.



On Saturday July 13th, the front Mayday trees came down. Maydays are an invasive species in AK that are bad for both moose and the streams. Bill Sherwonit came and offered a blessing for the trees prior to the work starting. Don & Logan Antrobus, Bill & Ethan Romberg made quick work of the chainsaw, loading brush on the trailers and getting it over to the wood lot.

More gratitude to Bruce Roberts, Marty Freeman, Wendy Romberg, Jenna & Terry Way, Bill Sherwonit, Theresa Bartoldus, Jaime, Brick & Scarlett Olson, Sara Hannon, and Erik & Robin Hill. Weeds were pulled, old wheel stops adjusted and new ones installed to establish a safe walkway in front of parked cars, parking signs were mounted. All in all, a productive day.



Finally, deep appreciation to Cindy Kinard and Jobe Bernier for taking the time to talk with so many people and groups at the Fellowship and developing a masterplan that will help us create a meaningful and beautiful space.

New Shelves Grace the Minister's Office Thanks to Eagle Scout Project

By Sebastian Reed



I just finished my Eagle Scout project for AUUF. I began this project last fall, when Reverend Shelley suggested I construct new and safe shelves for the minister's office. I agreed to do this, and thought I could finish in a month, instead it took almost a full year. I raised over \$1000 (thanks to AUUF members who contributed!), and spent over 100 hours myself on the project. I designed the shelves, bought materials, sanded some of the wood, pre-stained, stained, finished, assembled, and, finally, brought the shelves to the church. In mid-February, I led 7 other Scouts and 2 adults in sanding the wood for three out of four of the shelves. Over the course of three hours I taught all of them how to sand and led them as they sanded 30 boards. In total, these scouts, my parents, and other adults who helped me added another 70 or so service hours to the project. When I finally installed the shelves in late June, I added braces to the tall ones so they will not fall down if we experience another large earthquake. The project as a whole turned out to be an enormous undertaking, but I could not be more proud and happy with the final product. The shelves will serve the minister's office for decades to come. Thank you, Reverend Shelley, and all AUUF, for providing such a rewarding project!

Hjellen Wins Log Rolling Blue Ribbon

Silver Hjellen has been scanning numerous issues of our AUUF monthly "LOG" newsletters into a computerized archive so we can have a snap shot peek into our past. You ask, "How many logs did she scan?" The incredible answer: 468! Silver has been amazed to see so many familiar names pop up through the decades, names of folks whose dedication to AUUF has gifted us with the heart, soul and sinew that has brought us to this day.

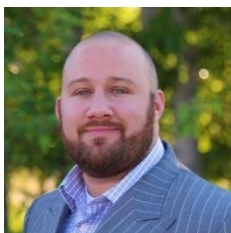
Thank you Silver, and thank you stalwart members.
~ Sid McCausland

About Our August Speakers



Bodil Kjelstrup is a Norwegian museum administrator who is serving as guest curator of the Anchorage Museum's "SEED Lab" (Solutions for Energy and Equity through Design). Art and music have always played a formative role in her life. After 20

years on the southwest coast of Norway her longing for the north brought her back to Tromsø. Through a circumpolar network of art institutions she visited Anchorage five years ago, which led to fruitful collaborations between the Anchorage Museum and Bodil's Norwegian base: Northern Norway Art Museum. Until October next year Bodil will help establish SEED Lab as a place for envisioning a positive future.



Jeff Landfield is editor of the Alaska Landmine, a political blog he describes as delivering "non-partisan Alaska news and gossip that other media outlets won't report... And in a fun, entertaining and high-energy way!" He started it in 2017 after

spending a year in Australia. Since 2018, he has created over a hundred Landmine Radio podcasts interviewing Alaskans in public life. Jeff moved to Alaska from New Mexico in 2004, and graduated from UAA in 2009 with a BA in History and minor in Economics. He worked in the IT and telecom industry for seven years, and has run twice as a Republican for a seat in the Alaska State Senate.



Dale Gardner worked 25 years for the Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation in the Division of Spill Prevention and Response. He was integrally involved in DEC's oversight of significant spills beginning with the Exxon-

Valdez, creation of the state's first comprehensive oil spill and hazardous substance response plans, and development of protection strategies for sensitive habitats—which gave him the much-appreciated chance to do field work in remote regions of the state. Since his retirement in 2014, travel adventures and volunteer work have included two stints working with refugees on the Greek Isle of Samos, home of Pythagoras and Epicurus



Jessica Cler serves as the Alaska State Director for Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii, and directs organizing, advocacy, and electoral efforts to promote, protect, and advance access to sexual health, education, and reproductive rights in Alaska. She has fought against repeal of the Affordable Care Act, attempts to defund Planned Parenthood, and efforts to ban Planned Parenthood educators from providing sex ed in schools. She has served on the steering committees for Alaska Women Ascend, which trains women to run for office, and Fair Anchorage, a coalition that helped defeat the anti-transgender ballot initiative in 2018. Raised in Wasilla, Jessica graduated from UAA with a BA in Political Science and Environmental Studies, and spent seven years working in the conservation movement.

Services – August 2019

Sunday August 4

9 am Bodil Kjelstrup, "Bloomberg's \$1M SEEDs Climate, Civic Art"

11am AUUF Members, "Celebrating Lammas"

Join us for a service to celebrate Lammas, the First Harvest in the Wheel of the Year of earth-based spirituality.

Sunday August 11

9 am Jeff Landfield, "Blogging State Politics"

11 am Rev. Shelley Page, "Courage of the Chalice"

Discover the rich history and meaning of our Flaming Chalice, a story rooted in courage and freedom.

Sunday August 18

9 am Dale Gardner, "Working With Refugees On Ancient Greek Isle of Samos"

11 am Reverend Shelley Page and General Assembly Participants, "The Power/Possibility/Struggle/Joy of We"

Gather with us to hear what we learned at this year's General Assembly in Spokane--and what it means to AUUF.

Sunday August 25

9 am Jessica Cler, "Planned Parenthood Fights On!"

11 am Reverend Shelley Page & Jessica Cler, 'Protecting Reproductive Justice'

We'll explore what's happening with reproductive justice in Alaska and what we can do to promote and protect it.

Watch for an invitation to a special multicultural learning opportunity @ AUUF!

The LOG

AUUF monthly newsletter

September, 2019

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

Jump to: [Sept. Sunday Service Info](#) ||| [Contacts](#)



Welcome to the month of Expectation

From the Minister On the Journey ~ Rev. Shelley Page



And so the Fellowship year begins! It's September! What does Interim Ministry look like for this year? What can we *expect*? Glad you asked! As you will recall, the interim journey includes experimentation and the cultivation of curiosity about fresh possibilities for "doing church." This year we'll be trying out theme-based ministry—an approach to congregational life that offers a common focus for us each month. Our monthly themes are not just interesting topics but rather they focus us on a spiritual value that our Unitarian Universalist faith has historically honored and calls all of us to embody in our lives. Each month we ask a question: "What does it mean to be a people of _____?" We talk about being a people of faith, not just a person of faith, because, for UUs, spirituality is not a solo journey. It is something that emerges in the context of covenanted community. And so, we'll explore the monthly theme in worship, small groups, social media, religious exploration for children and youth, chalice lighting/opening words for team and committee meetings and more. In other words, we'll be unpacking the theme in a variety of ways as the month progresses.

Why do this? Theme-based ministry offers points of deeper connection for the entire congregation. Check it for yourself this month as we kick things off with the theme of Expectation. My guess is that you'll be finding new ways to talk one another as you find intriguing connections regarding this theme. It's all about spiritual deepening and community building. Theme-based ministry is being widely used across UU congregations these days. We'll be using the Soul Matters approach which puts us in connection with over 300 other congregations using wonderfully curated materials every month. There's even a Spotify Playlist (simply search for Soul Matters September)!

So get curious! May your expectation of the coming year be filled with joy and fresh possibilities!

Blessings, Reverend Shelley

Calendar Highlights

Sept. 5 Finding Your Way to Fellowship classes begin

Sept. 8 Homecoming Sunday

Sept. 20-22 Fall Frolic

Sept. 27 Labyrinth Walk

Oct. 5 Multicultural Transformation Day

Oct. 26 Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop

Nov. 2 Annual Dinner / Auction

From the Board -- President's Report ~ Wendy Romberg



Summer is coming to a close. Students are preparing to go back to school. Vacations are wrapping up. Freezers are filling with berries, fish, game meat – whatever sustains us through the winter. For many of us that means that we are just starting to return to regular Sunday morning attendance.

Whether you have been coming through the summer or are just returning from summer travels, there are a few things to take special note of:

- The building got a paint job
- Several invasive trees have been removed from the north side of the building
- The parking lot has new wheel stops and designated compact car spaces
- A fire pit is under construction
- What other changes can you spy?

Other teams have been busy as well! **Team Amy** did a remarkable job of keeping the office open and the place running smoothly while our fearless administrator took a much needed summer respite. The **Anti-Racism team** finalized plans to host a Multi-cultural Transformation Day on Oct 5th. The **Ministerial Search Committee** has been meeting weekly and has started assembling the Congregational Record. Watch for details on surveys, small gatherings and workshops from them! The **Auction team** has met and is planning another fantastic event.

And so many more... This is all the work that builds community and sustains us through the year. Thank you to everyone who has played a role in making our beloved community stronger. As part of our Interim work and in preparation for the Ministerial Search, the Ministerial Search Committee has asked the Board to pursue the UUA Accessibility & Inclusiveness Certification for our Fellowship. The Board has unanimously endorsed this effort.

Accessibility & Inclusion Ministry

The UUA Accessibility Guidelines call for us to identify the needs and proposed solutions to reducing physical, communication and attitudinal barriers that impede the opportunity for people with disabilities to participate in congregational life, including such things as mobility, visual, hearing, mental health, chemical sensitivity, developmental and addictions. The Inclusion/Integration Guidelines call for the elimination of barriers that impede the integration of people of all ages with disabilities at every level of congregational life - in worship, in programs, in committees, in religious education (RE) programs and in social activities.

If you would like to help us create a team to come up with recommendations, please contact Kalen Saxton saxtonkalen@gmail.com as soon as possible so we can get started.



Fall Frolic (Event for All Ages!) Sept. 20-22, 2019

Join our annual, much loved, fall camp weekend at Kings Lake Camp in Wasilla. **Please register for Fall Frolic by Sunday, September 8th.**

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, outdoors activities and games, campfires, a labyrinth and great food are a few of the things you can expect! 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! **Next Fall Frolic planning meeting is Thursday, September 5th.**

To learn more about Fall Frolic, visit the Parent Info spot downstairs at AUUF, or email Rosene Beachy rbeachy@alaskalife.net

AUUF Teams & Committees

Submit your Recommendations for 2020 Half-Portion Recipients ~ Kalen Saxton

The Sunday service collection plate is traditionally divided, with half of the collected unpledged, unrestricted money supporting the fellowship and half going to one of a dozen charitable organizations that tackle a myriad of pressing issues and needs. Last year, we initiated a process for selecting Half-Portion monthly recipients for a calendar year and voted online. The Social Action Committee manages this process.

The list of proposed recipients is to be compiled from:

- * Organizations AUUF has supported in the past
- * New organizations proposed from the congregation
- * Minister's Sharing Fund request
- * Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Last fall, information was gathered and communicated to congregants in a number of ways, and a vote for the top ten recipients emerged. We added PILOT* and AFACT** as recipients in 2019 because they were reduced in the FY19 Operating Budget. Watch for a 2020 Nomination form for a Half Portion recipient you want to recommend.

* PILOT stands for "Payment in Lieu of Taxes" that AUUF pays to The Municipality of Anchorage

**AFACT stands for Anchorage Faith and Action Congregations Together <https://www.anchoragefact.org>

September's Half Portion for Social Action: Food Bank of Alaska ~ Kalen Saxton

The Food Bank of Alaska is being asked to help feed a rapidly increasing number of people. For those who have lost income to cover housing or medicine the Alaska 211 program, operated by United Way of Anchorage, is recommending getting free food at food banks. The funds that have been spent on food can then be used for medicine or housing.

We encourage you to increase your donations this month to support the system of food delivery that Food Bank of Alaska has built over the years. The check AUUF sends at the end of September, for half of all the non-pledge money collected in our offering baskets, enables the Food Bank to buy in bulk getting more food than is possible with canned food drives. Also to buy food that is healthier.

With the increased requests for food the Food Bank can also use more volunteers. Not only with packing the Senior boxes each month, or sorting outdated food from donations, but also help with the mobile food pantries that provide fresh food like vegetables, dairy products and bread. This perishable food must be distributed as soon as the Food Bank receives it.

To volunteer as an individual, go online to foodbankofalaska.org and sign up. To volunteer with a group, contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Andy Gilg at agilg@foodbankofalaska.org. It is not too early to volunteer with the huge food distribution at Thanksgiving Blessing held in the days before Thanksgiving.



Big Changes Underway from Communications Team ~ Denise Martin

You've already noticed the first big change -- the monthly LOG is now displayed here through our Constant Contact email system. If you have submitted an article that's more than about 250 words, you might notice a "Read More" link so that the entire LOG content is easier to browse through. A print-friendly version with complete information will still be offered for those who prefer that. (see link at top of this email -- you will get used to seeing it there!), and printed copies will still be sent by regular mail to those who request it.

The second big change is our website, which is being trimmed down and given a fresh new design by Stephenie Wheeler. Content is being updated by Irene O'Brien and others on the Communications Team. You can help us out by letting us know what web content updates are in order for *your* team or committee. Review the site here: <https://www.anchorageuuf.org/> Email your recommendations to Stephenie: msgmaker@gci.net

Social Action Council ~ Dennis Arashiro

Captain Andrew Gray of the Alaska Army National Guard and member of our Fellowship is now serving a year in Kosovo on UN peace keeping mission. Many of us have sent our notes of support to him on this vital work. I think, too, of his spouse Jay and his son Waylon as they keep the home fires burning. Because those at home also serve. Which led me to think of those who serve at home in so many ways. So, let me recognize them all.

Those who served children at The Children's Lunchbox open site this summer at our Fellowship. Those who serve the homeless in so many ways--providing socks and towels, working on policy, meeting them at

their campsites. Those volunteering to keep Clare House in operation during the day. Those who spend hours gathering signatures on the current recall petition. Those on Fellowship action teams and committees that serve our community. Those who demonstrate every Friday at noon at the offices of our US Senators to protest the treatment of refugees at the southern border. Those who serve with their dollars as well as their time and effort. Those who serve in ways too many to mention.

It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the challenges we face to promote social justice--especially when those in power actively oppose us. But, whether it is peace keeping abroad or peace expanding at home, we have each other to keep us doing what needs doing.

Help Us Select a New Minister ~ George Bryson, Ministerial Search Team

What kind of new minister do you want?

Someone who's ethical? Wise? Inspiring? Good-humored? Someone who's an excellent story-teller? Someone who'll value all three features of our Sunday Fellowship schedule -- from R.E. programs, to the Forum, to the 11 o'clock service? In short, someone who'll grow our numbers?

And beyond serving just us, would you like our new pastor to also minister to those in need beyond our doors? Perhaps even serve as a leader in the community, keeping current with social justice issues, speaking truth to power?

Or maybe you would like all of the above.

If so, there'll be an excellent opportunity to weigh in on those and dozens of other important minister-search considerations when an All-Fellowship Survey goes online soon.

Your seven-member Ministerial Search Team is hoping each of you will take the time to respond thoughtfully to the survey -- either online, or in person at the Fellowship -- when it "goes live" on Sept. 5 for three weeks.

Your responses will help build AUUF's all-important "Congregational Record" -- a sprawling compendium of our history, demographics, priorities and aspirations -- due to be shared with prospective ministerial candidates in mid-November. (Your individual responses will be held strictly confidential; however, the sum-total of responses will be compiled in a report to be shared with the Fellowship.)

Apart from attracting candidates, the survey will also help guide the selection process when it comes time in January for the Ministerial Search Team to choose the most ideal prospects. Anyone with questions or concerns about the survey, please feel free to contact MST member Katherine Huffman at 907-342-9890 -- or by email at katherinelynnhuffman@gmail.com.

Audio-Visual Support Team Needs Help

Looking for a way to volunteer with a limited amount of time? Want to build some new technology skills? The Audio-Visual Support Team is looking for volunteers to help with Sunday services and special events. Providing audio-visual support helps everyone access the services and events here at AUUF. It is a great way to get to know a small group of other people at the fellowship, while also learning some new skills with hardware and software. You don't need any prior experience, just an interest in learning and problem solving. We will train and support you until you feel confident to fly solo. If you would like more information, please contact Alix McKee at alix@alaskan.com.



Multicultural Transformation Day

Registration Deadline is August 30

Anti-Racism Team ~ Becca Bernard

If you haven't yet registered for Multicultural Transformation Day -- which is happening on Saturday, October 5 -- you have until this Friday, **August 30**, to register! Here is the link to register, which you can either click on or copy and paste into your browser:

<https://www.cognitofirms.com/PacificWesternRegionUUA/MulticulturalTransformationDayAnchorage>

If you have already registered, thank you! You'll receive a email soon that explains the light homework assignments that you'll need to complete before the workshop on October 5. Here's a sneak preview: (1) you'll receive a link to an online assessment tool that takes 15-30 minutes to complete, and (2) you'll receive information about watching a series of short videos about cultural conflict and multiculturalism. In addition, you're encouraged, but not required, to read the book *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo.

Hoping to see you on October 5! If you have any questions, please call or email me at 907-244-3988, rbernard.ak@gmail.com.

Connections Team Offers Sunday Hospitality Training ~ Judy Engh

The next Hospitality Training will be Monday, Sept 9th from 6-7:30pm. We are still recruiting folks to join the Sunday morning Hospitality Teams who do everything from greeting folks, to setting out food, to doing the dishes! If you are willing to help with ANY of those things once a month, sign up for the training so you can feel comfortable in those roles. AND it is FUN! Contact auuf@gci.net or 248-3737 to sign up!

Rev. Shelley Thanks "Team Amy" for their Summer Support! ~ Denise Martin

In mid-August, Rev. Shelley and Rosene Beachy presented "Paper Plate Awards" to those who have been managing AUUF office work while our Administrator (Amy Lundell) has been on leave over the summer. The team includes Carma Reed, Denise Martin, Jenna Way, John Blaine, Peggy Robinson, Sid McCausland and Silver Hjellen. Be sure to thank these folks when you see them!



Rev. Shelley treated us to food from Amanda Cash's Maggie Catering truck, parked right at AUUF!

And thank you Katherine Huffman, for your artistic touches to the whimsical plates!

Religious Exploration (RE) Notes

~ Rosene Beachy, Director

The 2019-'20 Program Year has begun! Recently a group of 15 enthusiastic Jr Youth, (6th – 8th grade) traveled to Yukon Island retreat center by car and boat. We spent 2 lovely days getting to know each other, focusing on who we are - with UU themed activities, exploring the beach, and eating great food. A great start to the year!

There are almost 50 teens in our Jr and Sr youth programs. This is a very large program by local standards and by UU church standards. The Our Whole Lives (OWL) sexuality programs reach out to again that many youth in the greater Anchorage community. Our UU Youth programs are important to the teens and their families in this community. They strengthen personal values, create powerful friendships, and provide support that youth need through their teen years.



September: A Month of Expectation

What can our children expect to learn about this year?

We'll be focusing on Jewish & Christian Teachings

Adult Offerings

Hungry Book Club ~ Shirley Dickens

The Hungry Book Club met August 10th and there were 9 of us. All had read "The Art of Racing in the Rain" by Garth Stein and 4 of us had seen the movie and loved both the book and the movie. We recommend it to everyone. We have chosen a much different book for September 10th at 2pm in the AUUF Library and it is "The Island of the Sea Women" by Lisa See. If interested come and join us as we are an open book club and anyone from the congregation is welcome. While we were at it, we chose October's book too: "Out of the Flames" by Lawrence and Nancy Gladstone. It's about about Sevetus one of our UU heroes, burned at the stake. Call me for more details about the Hungry Book Club: Shirley Dickens 563-4499.

Yoga for Every Body

Donation-based, supporting local non-profit addiction treatment programs, is meeting at AUUF on Wednesdays, 6-7:15 pm, September 11, 18, & 25. For more information, contact Paula Saylor saylor.paula@gmail.com

Chalice Circles are WHAT???

Curious to learn what a Chalice Circle is without making a huge time commitment? Excellent! We have 3 opportunities for you to experience a little bit of the power of small group ministry to see if you want to be a part of a group this year. After Sunday services on Sept 15th and 22nd (12:30-1:30) AND at Fall Frolic on Sept 21st, we'll have a partial Chalice Circle for you to experience the deep listening and sharing that is small group ministry. Come try it out!

We plan to have groups twice a month from October through early January and then have new groups late January through April. You can participate either or both sessions! We do ask people to commit to all the group meetings as much as possible recognizing that travel may interfere on occasion. The power of Chalice Circles is the connections that are made with other members of the group, and an opportunity to further explore the congregation's monthly theme.

Training of facilitators will be in September and we are still looking for a few more folks willing to co-facilitate a group. Please contact the office at auuf@gci.net or 248-3737 for questions. Stay tuned for specific sign-up information in September!



Labyrinth Walk with Live Music at AUUF Starting Sept. 27, 6-9pm at AUUF & 4th Fridays

Life in Alaska feels pretty stressful these days. That's why we're offering a monthly opportunity for a peaceful contemplative evening, walking the labyrinth in our sanctuary while listening to soul soothing live music. We'll start the evening with a little background on how to walk a labyrinth, followed by three hours of walking, listening and quietly meditating. We'll be doing this every fourth Friday through March. We kick off

this new offering with music from Denise Martin and Jim Kerr, along with some chanting. We welcome adults, youth and junior youth to join us for this special spiritual practice.

AUUF Choir Starts This Week

AUUF Choir meets in the sanctuary from 6:30 - 8 pm on Thursdays. Choir is open to anyone who wishes to join. Participants should plan to commit to Thursday evening rehearsals, and singing 2-3 Sundays per month. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to AUUF Music Director Megan Webb at auufmusic@gmail.com and she'll be happy to fill you in. Hope to see you Thursday evenings!



Save the Date: AUUF Annual Dinner and Auction November 2

Our annual dinner and auction will be held on November 2nd. This is a really fun evening for kids and adults, and we will focus this year on **finding, growing and sharing our Alaska Treasure!** Please consider offering as an auction item sharing your favorite thing to do, in your neighborhood, or anywhere in the state.

Is there a local restaurant, club or shop you'd like to highlight for others? Is there a great walk or experience you can host?

If there are services or experiences you'd like to see others share, email the Auction team with ideas, we'll try to find someone who can offer it!

Here's a challenge - plan to offer at least one service or experience at the auction, AND plan to let us know about one that you would be interested in purchasing! Take a minute to think about it now! (ideas - Bird to Gird bike ride, Ruth Moulton honorary Nancy Lake cabin #4 stay, a guided rafting/fishing trip, canoeing, berry picking, Fairbanks foray, a themed dinner... possibilities are endless!)

Contact Carma carmaandjiri@gci.net or Cathy csteen@gci.net with your questions and ideas.

General News

Catholic Social Services is so grateful to have over 380 potential volunteers fill out applications to keep **Clare House** open during the day! The August and September calendars are full. Anchorage is a wonderful community! Thank you so much for sharing this volunteer opportunity during a very difficult time due to budget cuts! You guys Rock!

Cynthia Lentine
Development Associate, Catholic Social Services



I (might not!) Wanna Hold Your Hand Intent vs. Impact when Sending the Flame

This congregation has a long-standing, well-intentioned practice of *Sending the Flame* by singing a familiar song while holding hands. Many congregants find this to be a comforting practice -- a moment in the service when they experience closeness with others. And, over the past few months, it's become clear that while the **intent** of this practice is to be welcoming and to build community, the **impact** of this practice is that for some it is uncomfortable and alienating. This could be for a variety of reasons -- compromised immune systems, history of trauma, self-consciousness, or simply not wanting to touch someone they don't know well. As your music director, I want to do what I can to help honor all perspectives on this issue so that everyone feels safe and comfortable as they leave this space on Sunday afternoons.

As we explore the theme of "**Expectation**" this month, you may notice that we are going to *Send the Flame* differently each service. Sometimes, I'm going to ask you to use the hymnal. Sometimes, I'm going to ask you to do something with your body that doesn't involve touching others. Each time, I'm going to ask you **NOT** to hold hands, and I hope you will honor that request. I encourage you to consider how you feel after each service with this new way of *Sending the Flame*. Do you miss the hand holding, or are you happy to not do it? Is it something that is meaningful to you spiritually and you don't feel you can worship without it, or is it simply something you **expect** to happen? In what other ways can we reconcile this issue of some people feeling uncomfortable with physical contact when it's meaningful to others? Talk to each other about how it feels, or reach out to me or Reverend Shelley with your thoughts. I look forward to continuing this conversation in the weeks to come.

Musically yours, Megan Webb, AUUF Music Director

Sunday Services Sept. 2019

Sunday September 1

9 am Vince Beltrami, "The Labor Movement in a State in Transition"

11am Mara Hill and Sid McCausland, "Bending Reality to Meet Our Expectations"

These 2 members of our Ministerial Search Team will help us explore reality and expectations in politics, young adulthood, and AUUF's search for a settled minister.

Sunday September 8

9 am Josh Decker, "Protecting Civil Liberties in Alaska—Not Your Parent's ACLU"

11 am Rev. Shelley Page & Homecoming Team, "Homecoming Sunday--An All Ages Celebration!"

Gather with us to joyfully celebrate AUUF and the beginning of the fellowship year with song, story and Water Communion. Remember to bring water from home or a place sacred to you.

Sunday September 15

9 am Darcy Dugan, "Why We Should Care About Ocean Acidification in Alaska"

11 am Reverend Shelley Page & "The Generations"

What's in store for us in this time of climate disruption? We ask folks from various generations to share their perspectives about what lies ahead. We'll also dedicate our Religious Exploration teachers and their classes.

Sunday September 22

9 am Leslie Ridle and Susanne Fleek-Green, "Women Leaders in Traditionally Male Workplaces"

11 am Stephanie Pawlowski, "Maybe So. Maybe Not. We'll See"

An ancient Chinese story holds much wisdom about our expectations and the grace of "we'll see..."

Sunday September 29

9 am Rep. Zack Fields & Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson, "Reflections on First Term Legislators"

11 am Reverend Shelley Page, "Universalism Day"

Celebrate Universalism as you hear the story of how this faith got started in America and what it means now, in honor of the day John Murray washed ashore with his powerful message of universal salvation.

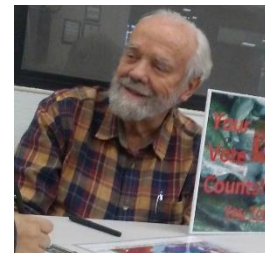
Speaker Bios

Vince Beltrami has served as President of the Alaska AFC-CIO since 2017. Alaska's largest labor organization, the Alaska state federation has more than 50 unions and more than 50,000 union members under its umbrella. Vince was previously the statewide training director of the largest apprenticeship program in Alaska, the Alaska Joint Electrical Apprenticeship & Training Trust (AJEATT). Prior to that, he served as a business representative and organizer for IBEW and as president of the Anchorage Building Trades Council. A journeyman electrician by trade, Vince also holds a bachelor's degree in journalism and communications from the University of Alaska Anchorage.



Mara Hill has been attending AUUF since the beginning of her angst-y teenage phase in 2004. She became an RE volunteer in 2012, filled out her first pledge form after attending an Annual Meeting where the cost of coffee was included in the budget discussion and signed the book to become a member shortly thereafter. Mara has previously assisted in 4 A's luncheons and the Forum Committee, completed elementary OWL training this past April. During the week Mara works with preschool age children and their families as a mental health clinician at Anchorage Community Mental Health Services. She enjoys reading, hiking, and volunteering on whatever political campaigns her friends are running.

Sid McCausland describes himself as a professional boundary-spanner/change agent. His forty-year career included non-civil service assignments under California Governors Reagan, Brown & Deukmejian—assignments that ranged from crafting environmental legislation to CEO of the California Public Employees Retirement System. In Alaska, he assisted with the financing & right-of-way acquisition for the Anchorage sewerage system after the 1964 earthquake and the refinancing of the bankrupt Kenai electric utility. He is recognized currently for his unrelenting advocacy for folks without homes. Sid has adopted AUUF as his second family.





Joshua Decker, Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Alaska since 2014, did three things when he turned eighteen: he registered to vote, joined the Selective Service, and became a card-carrying member of the ACLU. An experienced litigator, Joshua was an attorney at Clifford Chance US LLP in New York City, and before that, a staff attorney at the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee. Joshua earned his law and bachelor's degrees from the University of Chicago. In law school, he helped represent victims of police brutality in a landmark federal civil rights lawsuit, and was executive editor of the Chicago Journal of International Law. In college, he worked for his US Senator and the ACLU of Illinois.

Darcy Dugan is director of the Alaska Ocean Acidification Network. She has worked for the Alaska Ocean Observing System since 2009, collaborating with scientists and stakeholders to fill gaps in ocean monitoring and ensure ocean data and information is available for safe marine operations, environmental stewardship, and decision making. Darcy received her bachelor's degree from Stanford University in the Earth Systems program, and a Masters of Environmental Science at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies where her research focused on coastal vulnerability in western Alaska. She has served as staff for the Alaska Legislature and as a research associate for ISER at UAA. Darcy enjoys exploring the Alaska wilderness with her husband and two young sons.



Leslie Ridle grew up in Douglas and Anchorage. She started as a social studies teacher at Gruening Middle School until she took a year's leave to work in the legislature to learn more about government from the inside. She loved the work and built a career working for the Legislature, for Mayor and Senator Begich, and Governors Knowles and Walker. She also ran several local and statewide political campaigns, and served four years as Commissioner of Administration and Deputy Commissioner. She has started a new chapter in her work life as the CEO of Girl Scouts of Alaska where she loves the mission of raising girls with Courage, Confidence, and Character.

Susanne Fleek-Green currently serves as Superintendent of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, which encompasses over four million acres of wilderness, volcanoes, lakes, rivers and Cook Inlet coastline. Before joining the National Park Service, Susanne served as Mayor Ethan Berkowitz's Chief of Staff and as State Director for U.S. Senator Mark Begich. She also worked for Anchorage's Office of Economic and Community Development, for the United States Senate in Washington, DC, and as a Presidential Management Fellow with the U.S. Department of the Interior. Born and raised in Alaska, Susanne has lived in Yakutat, King Salmon and Anchorage. She is a Sealaska shareholder and member of Central Council of Tlingit Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. Susanne has a B.A. and Masters of Public Policy from UC Berkeley.



Stephanie Pawlowski is a Commissioned Lay Minister with First Unitarian Church in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. From 2003-2013, Stephanie lived in Anchorage and was a member of our Fellowship. She was active as a Worship Assistant during her time here. For her day job, Stephanie is Supervisor/Attorney at KidsVoice, a legal advocacy organization that advocates in court and in the community to ensure a safe and permanent home for nearly 5,000 abused, neglected and at-risk children and youth. She has a BA degree in Religious Studies from Bethany College and a JD from the University of Buffalo Law School, SUNY. Prior to working at KidsVoice, Stephanie worked as a law clerk for the Anchorage, Alaska Superior Court, a

public defender, a family law attorney and a Guardian ad litem. Stephanie is the loving parent of two adopted children, who were born in Anchorage.

Zack Fields represents downtown Anchorage, Fairview, South Addition, Government Hill, and Eastridge in the Alaska House of Representatives. He also works as an organizer for Laborers Local 341 and writes outdoor columns for the Anchorage PRESS. He has previously worked as Workforce Development Coordinator for the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development and as a legislative/policy staffer at the local, state, and federal levels. Zack earned a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Virginia. His family enjoys camping, fishing, skiing, and other outdoor activities.



Elvi Gray-Jackson was elected to the Alaska Senate in 2018. She served on the Anchorage Assembly from 2008 to 2017, including terms as Assembly Chair and Vice-Chair. Elvi began her public service career with the Municipality at the Public Transit Department 36 years ago, and has worked since in a number of positions, including Director of the Alaska Energy Railbelt Authority for ML&P and most recently as Director of the Budget and Legislative Services Office. She's served on the boards of Boys and Girls Club, Woodside East Homeowners Association, and National League of Cities. She is a mentor for young

people, and recipient of the Women of Achievement Award and many other awards. Elvi is a graduate of UAA and has one son, Ramon.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Contacts

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Emergency pastoral care 868-3737

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441-6815, rbeachy@alaskalife.net

Megan Webb, Music Director 248-3737 x6; auufmusic@gmail.com

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Nicholas Moore, Coordinator of Youth Programming
248-3737 x5; auufyouth@gmail.com

The LOG

AUUF monthly newsletter

October, 2019

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

<http://www.anchorageuuf.org/>



October's Theme:

Belonging



Calendar Highlights

Oct. 5 Multicultural Transformation Day

Oct. 19 Wendy Romberg Celebration of Life

Oct. 26 Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop

Oct. 27 Soup Sunday / Games Day

Nov. 2 Annual Dinner / Auction

Nov. 9 AFACT Training

Visit our [website](http://www.anchorageuuf.org/) for full calendar

From the Minister On the Journey ~ Rev. Shelley Page

Belonging. What a quintessential human need. What a wonderful gift that we offer to one another. We'll be exploring Belonging this month as we continue our journey in theme-based ministry. As I contemplate this richly textured concept, my thoughts keep circling back to Wendy Romberg, our beloved leader who died so suddenly and unexpectedly. Belonging is what Wendy was all about. She had a strong sense of community and an ethic of co-creating community in all aspects of her life.

Wendy's way of being in the world offers us inspiration for how we live our Unitarian Universalist faith. She unfailingly welcomed every single soul she met—warmly, sincerely and gently with a full-body smile. She made sure to sit next to folks she did not know and make them feel like they belonged in the room. She was open hearted, offering her full attention as she listened, signaling “you are important and you are part of this community of concern and love.” Wendy also understood the covenantal foundation of congregational life—that belonging also involves good boundaries and holding folks accountable in love when they are out of covenant with their behavior. She modeled loving ways to bring folks back into the fold. Wendy did all this and more, gathering folks around the table, on the hiking trail and in meetings with joy, laughter and a vulnerability that let everyone know that they are welcome to bring their imperfect selves just as they are.

I offer you a challenge this month as we explore Belonging. Consider “What Would Wendy Do?” as you gather on Sundays and all the other ways you show up here at AUUF and in the rest of your life. We would all do well to be like Wendy. Learning from her example is one of the most powerful gifts we can give each other, in tribute to a woman who will live on in our memory and our lives.

Blessings, Reverend Shelley



From the Board ~ David O'Brien

I had known our beloved Wendy Romberg ever since I became a member of the Fellowship 20 years ago when we both had young children in the RE program. I was privileged to serve with her on the Board for the last 2 years and to help her as needed as Board Vice President when she assumed the position of Board President in February. Her sudden loss to AUUF was a shock and painful, especially to those of us who knew her well. But I want to let you know that Board leadership will continue on. I will be moving into the position of Board President and will continue in that role for the next year through the remainder of my 3-year term. All your Board members will be holding the congregation in our hearts and continuing our good work on behalf of everyone of you as Wendy would have wanted us to do.



Remembering and Honoring Wendy Romberg

Many of you have asked how you can be helpful in the wake of Wendy Romberg's death. Here are some specific suggestions for you from her family. They have deeply appreciated your support in this difficult time.

Look through your photos for shots with Wendy at AUUF activities. Bill Romberg is compiling a lovely video for the Celebration of Life and also to keep for family memories. Send your photos directly to him at wromberg@gci.net

Share a story or memory at <https://www.legacyalaska.com/obituaries/Wendy-Romberg/>. Her family very much wants to hear your memories and will treasure them being shared in writing. You can also do this via a note or card via snail mail to 3530 Tanglewood Place, Anchorage, AK 99517.

Donate a gift in Wendy's memory. Suggested organizations are included in her obituary including AUUF. Please know that the AUUF Board will designate all gifts in honor of Wendy to go into a special fund to create the new playground here at the Fellowship. Wendy was excited by all the great energy around the Grounds dreams, especially the ideas for a wonderful new playground that will serve the neighborhood as well as the children in the congregation. The playground will be named for her. Your generous donation would offer a lovely way to honor her!

Listen to each other and be gentle with each other in the days to come. Give your full and loving attention to others who wish to express their grief and their wonderful memories of Wendy. Being there for each other right now is the best gift of all.



A Special Message from Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kwong UUA Congregational Life Staff

We often talk about the seven principles, but how many of us actually know the words that immediately precede them? If you said, "We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote," you're right! There's one word I love about this line and one word I would love to change.

I love the concept of covenant as being central to our faith. It's by invitation that we extend it and by faith that we live into our promises. By being a UU, we are choosing to be part of a living tradition that strives to increase the sum of love and justice in our world. Part of the covenant is to take care of each other's well-being, which is why none of our congregations are out there by themselves. We are part of a larger whole—an association if you will.

This is why I often take issue with the word "the" UUA because it implies we're just a bunch of bureaucrats on the other side of the country (Boston). While it may be true we have a sizable administrative staff to take care of some of the logistics that are crucial to denominational life, our largest staff group is actually "Congregational Life Staff." People out in the field like me—someone who lives in Los Angeles and only visits 24 Farnsworth a couple of times a year. Our work is to support you, including the upcoming Multicultural Transformation Day that over 40 of you signed up for already—wow! You are a crucial part of who we are and our work is made possible because of the covenant you made to support the Annual Program Fund. We exist because of you just like I'd like to think you exist because of us.

We belong to each other, which is what the month of October will explore. That's the core of what a covenant is all about. Come hear my sermon on "Who Belongs Here" on October 6. I look forward to meeting you and journeying with you as a member of OUR UUA.



Ben Fischer Finishes AUUF's Fire Pit Scout Project

... and we scheduled a special dedication on Sept. 29th with lighting of our "fire pit chalice" and marshmallow roast!

Ben is grateful for the generous donations that helped fund this project that will be a wonderful addition to our church grounds, a place for all in the Anchorage UU community to gather, particularly the youth.

Fall Frolic Was Enjoyable Time for All

Beautiful leaf lanterns illuminating King's Lake... Fun activities and sharing... Morning mist on the lake with loons calling... Our Fall Frolic tradition last weekend in Wasilla was an enjoyable time for all. Consider signing up next Fall if you missed it!



Fall Child Dedication Sunday Coming Up October 20

Sometimes, we get the question, "Do Unitarian Universalists baptize children?" We respond that we have a lovely tradition of child dedication, in place of baptism which is a Christian tradition. Child dedication acknowledges the importance of each person as part of their family, the congregation and the wider family of all people. We bless children and their parents, and joyously commit as a community to helping to raise children in a spirit of love, justice and peace. We also offer the opportunity for a naming ritual to celebrate the uniqueness of each child. We are happy to dedicate children of any age, not just infants and toddlers. If you are interested in learning more, please contact either of us and we can fill you in with details.

If you plan to have your child dedicated on Sunday, October 20, please let us know by October 15.

Reverend Shelley and Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration (all contacts are at the end of this newsletter).

AUUF Teams & Committees

Submit your Nomination for 2020 Half-Portion Recipients ~ Kalen Saxton

Our Sunday offering basket is traditionally divided, with half of the collected unpledged, unrestricted money supporting the fellowship and half going to a specified charitable organization. The Social Action Council's Half Portion Team manages this process. We now need your input to choose the monthly recipients for 2020, which will be voted on by the congregation in November.

October 6 is the deadline to receive the nomination forms by email or in the wall pocket in the office, or handed to Kalen Saxton. Information on 20 possible non-profits will be available in the Social Room on three Sundays, **10/13, 10/20, 10/27**. On-line voting by AUUF members in November will select 12 of the non-profits.

If you have questions about the nomination process, please contact Kalen Saxton saxtonkalen@gmail.com or call 907-244-8221.

Pick up a Half Portion recipient you want to recommend in the Social Room on Sunday (also on our website).

Note: on the fifth Sunday of any given month (September 29th being such), the entire offering will be donated to the Minister's Caring Fund.





October's Half Portion for Social Action: Alaska Literacy Program

The mission of the Alaska Literacy Program is to change lives through literacy. Since 1974, ALP has been providing literacy services to Anchorage residents and other parts of the state. ALP recruits, trains, certifies, and supports volunteer teachers and tutors who work one-on-one or in a classroom setting teaching reading, writing and speaking English to adults. ALP supports 7 classrooms and one computer lab on site at 1345 Rudakof Circle #104. ALP provides year-round programs for adults and families with young children, concentrating on those most in need: the beginning learners in reading and English. ALP changes lives and enriches our community by teaching adults literacy skills to increase their self-sufficiency.

Pondering New Ways of Communicating at AUUF ~ Denise Martin

I'm working on the LOG on Thursday morning, 5 days past the deadline, and I've only received **5 articles**. This does not bother me, knowing that much more information will come, as most of it usually does, in time to get sent out before the end of the month. **September's LOG (the newsiest of the year) had 21 articles**, plus calendar and Sunday Services information for the whole month. As an experiment, I sent it out as an email blast instead of creating a traditional newsletter download. I didn't get much feedback, but from the standpoint of saving time in production, I deem the experiment a success. Requests for snail-mailed copies are decreasing -- yay for saving trees!

Yesterday, **"This Week At Your Fellowship" included 20 articles**, plus calendar stuff. Roughly half of those items were updates/repeats of the previous week. One quarter of the items I gathered or wrote myself, and one quarter of the items (**5**) were submitted as new items. Mind you, this is not a complaint, but if you let this sink it, I'm wondering if sending out a monthly newsletter makes any sense, when we have the capacity to reach just about everyone once a week?

I'd love to hear suggestions from our LOG readers. Is it better to offer shorter but more frequent email blasts? What if we sent longer items (RE information, minister's message) in a separate monthly email, and kept everything else coming weekly? I hope you'll contact me soon: email auuf@gci.net or call weekday mornings 248-3737.



Social Action Council ~ Dennis Arashiro

"As I have said, the first thing is to be honest with yourself. You can never have an impact on society if you have not changed yourself..." - Nelson Mandela

This month we have two opportunities to be honest with ourselves. Thanks to our Anti-Racism Action Team, the Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kwong will lead a workshop on Saturday, October 5, and services the following Sunday on multicultural transformation. We will have the opportunity to look at how truly welcoming we are of people and cultures beyond our own. Do we know where we are in the journey to becoming an fully inclusive Fellowship? Do we know the next steps to take in our journey? Do we know where we are headed?

Thanks to the Ministerial Search Team, Eddy Carroll of the First Unitarian Society of Denver will lead a workshop on Saturday, October 26, and services the following Sunday on going beyond categorical thinking. We will have the opportunity to look past the imaginary boxes that limit our views in choosing our next minister and in choosing how we conduct our lives. Do we check the boxes in ministerial candidates to keep us in our comfortable boxes or to take leaps to escape them? Do we scale our own personal boxes to see what lies outside? Do we dare to even go where there are no boxes? Being honest with ourselves. Changing ourselves to change society. Nelson Mandela lived it. So can we.

Ministerial Search Update ~ George Bryson & Sid McCausland

Preliminary Survey Results

The single most important priority in hiring a new settled minister will be to find a candidate who values all three major facets of our Fellowship -- the 9 a.m. Forum, the 11 a.m. Service, and the Religious Exploration (R.E.) program -- according to a nearly completed survey of AUUF members and friends.

Other top priorities mentioned by a majority of the 125 respondents who had completed the survey as of Friday include finding someone who'll be:

- An inspirational minister ...
- A social justice advocate ...
- A model of pastoral care ...
- A catalyst for diversifying the Fellowship.



Labyrinth Walk with Live Music, Sept. 27, 6-9 pm

Soothe your soul with labyrinth walking while listening to contemplative live music. Instruction offered. Appropriate for kids 10 and up. This month's walk will feature Denise Martin on hammered dulcimer and Jim Kerr on guitar.

Three Friendship Dinners Scheduled

Mark your calendars for our 1st Friendship Dinner on **Saturday, November 16**, 6-9 pm. You have lots of time to sign up! In 2020, the dates are **February 8**, and **March 28**. This is a wonderful way to get to know other AUUF folks in a relaxed, intimate setting, and begin lasting friendships. You can sign up to host a small group of people in your home. The host provides the entrée, and the guests bring side dishes. If you would like to participate, please contact

AndeeCordano@gmail.com (350-6361)

Yoga for Every Body

Donation-based, supporting local non-profit addiction treatment programs, is meeting at AUUF on Wednesdays, 6-7:15 pm, October 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. For more information, contact Paula Saylor saylor.paula@gmail.com

Chalice Circles Starting Up in October

We're so excited to have 4 Chalice Circle listening groups starting in October. We still have room for folks, so please sign up TODAY as we are considering some time changes to accommodate as many people as possible. You can use the QR code to go to the sign-up. If none of the times work for you, there is a place to indicate that. Contact the office for more information: auuf@gci.net or stop by the Welcome Table on Sundays.



Save the Date: AUUF Annual Dinner and Auction November 2



What do we treasure, about Alaska, about our city, about our neighborhood, about our Fellowship, about our family and friends? This year's Annual Dinner and Auction is about Treasure: naming it, finding it and sharing it.

Here's what you can do:

Save the date: November 2, 6pm

Team/Committee baskets: What fun experience or basket can your team/committee offer at the Auction? For example, a book group could offer a basket of books they've read over the past few years. A discussion group could offer a group showing of a discussion-worthy movie. The possibilities are endless! I wonder which committee/team

auction item will fetch the highest return?

Consider what YOU would like to bid on at the auction and LET US KNOW! Knowing what you'd like to see offered may help inspire someone to create it. Some suggestions so far have been: after work "how to fish" or packrafting excursion. Beginning knitting. Southcentral wildflower tour. Consider yummy summer harvests, unique experiences, cabins, trips... We'll likely do another "Harvest of the month" offering this year.

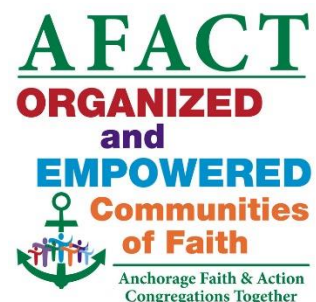
In October, look for opportunities to sign up to bring food, make a few calls, help pick up and deliver donated items, and help with small, specific tasks. We could use your help.

Contact Carma Reed <mailto:carmaandjiri@gci.net> or Cathy Steen csteen@gci.net with your questions and ideas.

General News

AFACT to Offer Free Training on Faith-Based Organizing November 9th

Live the AUUF vision of diverse beliefs, common purpose by joining with other faith communities striving to create a more just, caring and safe community. There will be a free one-day training on faith-based organizing, **Saturday, November 9**, from 9:00am to 4:00pm (lunch included) at First Covenant Church, 1145 C Street. If you plan to attend please RSVP to Dan Gibney at dan@anchoragefact.org or Don Crandall at dhc907@gmail.com.





Nominate an Outstanding UU!

Do you know an outstanding UU in our congregation? Here is your chance to recognize them for all the work they have done on behalf of AUUF! The Board presents two awards during the annual dinner to AUUF members who have contributed substantially to our congregation. The awards are:

Volunteer of the Year: This award is meant to honor a person who has contributed a significant amount of volunteer time to the Fellowship during the last year. Previous awardees are Bruce Roberts (2015), Denise Martin (2016), Kalen Saxton (2017), and the Project Oversight Team that managed our building renovation (2018).

Fred Hillman Distinguished Service Award: This award is named after long-time

AUUF member and former Board president Dr. Fred Hillman, who passed away in 2014. Like its namesake, this award is meant to honor a person who lives the Seven Principles as part of their everyday life. Previous awardees are Shirley Dickens (2015), Sylvia Short (2016), Rod McCoy (2017), and Helen Nienhueser (2018).

To submit a nomination for an award, send a brief statement (no more than one paragraph) on why you feel this person should be recognized to Board member David O'Brien at akdrdata@gmail.com. The deadline for nominations is **October 15**.

Sunday Services October 2019

Sunday October 6

9 am Rev. Jonipher Kwong, "Cultural Conflicts as Opportunities"

11am Rev. Jonipher Kwong, "Who Belongs Here?"

Let's explore the intersections of race, faith, American history and Unitarian Universalist heritage. What can we learn and how do we go from here to build beloved community?

Sunday October 13

9 am UAA Chancellor Cathy Sandeen, "Debunking Myths about UAA"

11 am Rosene Beachy

"People & Animals Belong Together!"

It's time for our annual animal blessing. People of all ages are invited to gather with their well-behaved beloved animal companions for a joyous celebration. Bring photos of pets who have passed on to hold them in memory.

Sunday October 20

9 am Robin Brena, "Oil Prices and a Fair Share for Alaska"

11 am Rev. Shelley Page, "Just Show Up!"

Let's consider how we show up in the world and how that contributes to our sense of belonging.

Sunday October 27

9 am Eddy Carroll, "Thinking and Living Outside the Box"

11 am Eddy Carroll, "A Hopeful Journey to Belonging"

Our Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop facilitator will share his story of growing up gay in a non-welcoming faith, his struggle with AIDS, finding UUism and how its hopeful and inclusive message helps him to continue to overcome life's challenges

Forum Speakers

Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kwong had a pluralistic upbringing in the Philippines, from Evangelical to United Methodist, Episcopalian to Calvary Chapel; he was christened at a Gospel church and baptized as a Chinese Mennonite. In Hawai'i, he joined the Honolulu Mindfulness Community, inspired by Zen Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hahn. He obtained his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Claremont School of Theology, and served as minister to various congregations in Hawai'i and California. Since 2015 Rev. Dr. Kwong has served as Congregational Life Staff in the Unitarian Universalist Association Pacific Western Region. He is also a Program Leader for the UU College of Social Justice. He is the Regional Specialist for Leadership Development and Racial Justice (Multicultural Transformation). He currently resides in Los Angeles with his husband of 21 years and their 10 year old cat Swipher.



Dr. Cathy Sandeen has served since September 2018 as Chancellor of the University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska's largest postsecondary institution. Prior to joining the University of Alaska system, Sandeen was chancellor of the University of Wisconsin Colleges and UW-Extension for four years. As a vice president at the American Council on Education, she led ACE's nationwide effort to increase post-secondary educational attainment. She also held leadership positions in the University of California system including at UCLA, Santa Cruz and San Francisco. Sandeen earned a Ph.D. in communication from the University of Utah and a Master of Business Administration degree from the UCLA Anderson School of Management. She was named an American Council on Education Fellow in 2010-11. A prolific writer and speaker, Sandeen has published and presented widely on the issues surrounding educational innovation and nontraditional students.

Robin Brena served as Chairman of Governor Walker's Transition Subcommittee on Oil and Gas Matters and has given expert testimony on oil and gas related matters to the Alaska Legislature. Mr. Brena is owner and managing attorney of Brena, Bell & Walker, P.C., which he founded in 1988. His practice focuses on oil and gas, pipeline, public utilities, tax assessment, telecommunications, real estate, and commercial litigation issues. Mr. Brena's trial and appellate work in state and federal courts and regulatory agencies includes successfully prosecuting multiple cases in which greater than one billion dollars has been at issue. A life-long Alaskan, he has three graduate degrees in business and law. Mr. Brena is active in the Alaska Bar Association, and has taught Advanced Business Law at UAA and guest lectured at Willamette University College of Law.



Eddy Carroll is a self-proclaimed UU Evangelist, always willing to share our good news with others. He has served 3 UU congregations over the last few decades in almost every leadership role possible including being the President of two congregational boards. He has also been on committees both for the UUA and the MDD. He graduated from the Russell Lockwood Leadership School in 1999 and was on its staff in 2000. Doing BCTs are hands down a joy for him. He is presently a Member of The First Unitarian Society in Denver CO where he is on the Religious Exploration Committee, Chairs the Green Sanctuary Committee, administers the Church's Facebook Page and is known as "The Church Lady". He is an Intake Specialist at The St. Francis Center, a Day Shelter serving the Homeless Community of Denver. He lives in Denver with his husband Glenn. While they have been together for over 32 years, they were finally able to legally marry in Colorado in December of 2014.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Contacts

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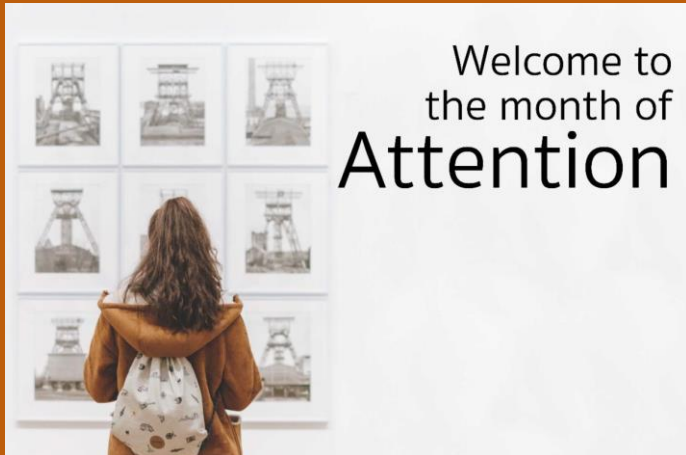
The LOG

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Calendar Highlights

Nov. 2 Annual Dinner / Auction

Nov. 9 AFACT Leadership Training

(Anchorage Faith & Action Congregations Together)

Nov. 12 Hungry Book Club

Nov. 16 Friendship Dinner

Nov. 17 Endowment Brunch

Nov. 20 Board Meeting

Nov. 22 Labyrinth Walk

Nov. 23 CPR/First Aid Training

Nov. 24 Soup Sunday / Stay n Play

Nov. 28 Thanksgiving Dinner Cooperative at AUUF

Attention: Daylight Savings Ends on Nov. 3!

From the Minister On the Journey ~ Rev. Shelley Page



November's spiritual theme of Attention catches our attention! It's a very rich strand of spiritual exploration because how we direct our attention has definite impact on our lives. As your interim minister, a series of questions tumble in my mind about paying attention. In what ways am I paying attention here at AUUF? What is happening here this fall, particularly in the wake of Wendy Romberg's unexpected all-too-soon death? How are folks feeling about the search process as the Ministerial Search Team collects vital input for the packet that will be shared with prospective ministers? Which teams and committees would benefit most from ministerial attention right now? Which individuals and families could use a little extra attention from the minister these days? And more. Paying attention on a daily basis is what I do as your interim minister. And I invite you to pay attention as well. What are you noticing? How does it affect your participation in this community?

I also pay attention on a personal level. So many families live across several time zones these days. Paying attention happens in a long-distance kind of way, often aided by gifts of technology with Skype, Facebook and other on-line ways of connecting. And yet we discover so much more when we actually spend time together in person. We pay attention to the nuances of interactions in ways that technology cannot fully bring to us. I will be gathering in person with my family in New York this month. I have not seen them for a year, except for my daughter Petra who visited Alaska this summer. I will be reconnecting with my daughters and sisters and their families. And with my mother who has been officially diagnosed with dementia since my visit last November. I will be paying attention in new ways to her and to all family members as we help her through this part of her life journey.

May this month be a meaningful experience of paying attention in your own life.

Blessings for the journey, Reverend Shelley



Reverend Shelley will be away from **November 4-18**, returning to AUUF on November 19. She will be participating in the Ohio River Ministerial Study Group in Cincinnati and then will travel to upstate New York to spend precious time with her family. She will not be checking email or otherwise doing AUUF work on this trip. If a pastoral care emergency arises, please contact Reverend Ruth Greenwood (907-317-8047).

Meet Your New Board Members!

During the October board meeting, two new members were appointed to vacancies on the Board. **John Blaine** accepted the position last held by Wendy Romberg. His term is for 9 months and will expire in June 2020. **Jenna Way** accepted the position last held by Silver Hjellen. Her term is for 1 year 9 months will expire in June 2021. Here are some short biographies of your new board members.



John Blaine -- John and Bernie Blaine joined AUUF in the mid-90s when Art Curtis was our minister. He and Ruth Moulton were in charge of a couple of the early auction fundraisers for the Fellowship, and John also served as an early Stewardship Chair. He served on the Board in the early 2000s, and also served on the Ministerial Search Committee when Fran Dearman was invited to be our minister. John has worked in residential real estate sales for the last 30 years. He came to Alaska with his family in 1980 to work in the Hammond Administration as director of the State Arts Council (recently deceased and then risen from the dead via legislative mandate). He and Bernie have three sons, three daughters-in-law and four amazing, incredible, beautiful (i.e. ordinary) grandchildren.



Jenna Way -- I moved to Anchorage a little over a year ago with my husband, Terry, from the Big Island of Hawaii. I came to AUUF on my first Sunday in town! I've been a UU for nearly 20 years, belonging to congregations in Hawaii and Brooklyn, NY, serving on the boards at both. I have non-profit experience as an executive director of a small performing arts organization and have been on boards of several community non-profits. At AUUF, I serve on the Finance Committee, the Connections Team, "Team Amy," and I co-lead the most recent "Finding Your Way to Fellowship" sessions. I work as a project accountant at an engineering firm. Terry and I have 3 children and a granddaughter. I look forward to deepening my relationship with all of you and AUUF through my work on the Board.

AUUF Chalice Lighter Grant Approved!

Recently many members of the AUUF board, staff, and congregation pitched in to gather information for a grant application and to rally more people to sign up as UUA Chalice Lighters. The team effort paid off -- literally. Not only did the number of signed up and pledging AUUF Chalice Lighters more than double -- from 41 to 95 -- but UUA unanimously approved the grant request! As the only congregation requesting funds for this round of funding, everything that UUA raises in its winter call for donations from all Pacific NW District Chalice Lighters will go to AUUF, an estimated **\$14,000-\$25,000**, for our chancel accessibility remodel project. In a fitting tribute to Wendy Romberg, who had championed the Chalice Lighters project, this good news came on the morning of Wendy's memorial. Thank you to everyone who participated and gave of time and funds to this successful effort!



General News

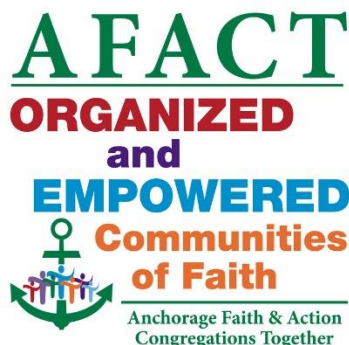
Alaska Treasure Dinner and Auction An AUUF Annual Event November 2, 2019 (not to be missed -- please come!)

A few special opportunities still exist --

- Sign up to be one of the "dessert of the month" sources (you commit to provide the winning bidder a dessert during one of the next 12 months)
- Sign up to be one of the "harvest of the month" sources (you commit to provide the winning bidder with some locally harvested food during one of the next 12 months)
- Bring a fancy dessert on November 2



If you want to be a part of any of those three, please email me your ideas and preferred month. Carma: carmaandjiri@gci.net But mostly, **just come!!!!** There are children's activities downstairs, some great experiences and items coming in, and it's always a good time to just enjoy company, food and conversation. Let me know if you have any questions at all.



AFACT to Offer Free Training on Faith-Based Organizing November 9th

Live the AUUF vision of diverse beliefs, common purpose by joining with other faith communities striving to create a more just, caring and safe community. There will be a free one-day training on faith-based organizing, **Saturday, November 9**, from 9:00am to 4:00pm (lunch included) at First Covenant Church, 1145 C Street. If you plan to attend please RSVP to Dan Gibney at dan@anchoragefact.org or Don Crandall at dhc907@gmail.com.

**Oh Come, All Ye Endowers and
Would-be Endowers! ~ Wray Kinard**

**You're Invited to a Hot Brunch
November 17, 2019, 10:15-11:00 am
Hosted by the AUUF Endowment Committee**

We will be:

Honoring Previous/Current Endowers over yummy breakfast food.

We wish to thank members and friends who have made legacy gifts to the fellowship. Folks have answered the endowment call in several

ways: remembering the AUUF Endowment in their wills, naming the endowment as a beneficiary in IRA or insurance account, and donating directly to the AUUF Endowment Fund, for example. Whatever the vehicle, we want to thank you! **So please plan to attend.**

Informing Endowers-To-Be: Come to the brunch if you're simply curious about how to set up a legacy gift. An informational brochure is yours for the taking, and AUUF Endowment Committee members will be on-hand to offer further information.

The Back Story: The AUUF Endowment Fund is a separate fund established in 2008 to build a foundation for the future. It is *not* designed to balance the annual budget. Rather, it is meant to support important projects or programs that are outside the annual budget, and that are significant to Anchorage, our UU congregation, and to UU principles. Tomorrow's generations will greatly benefit from the legacy gifts you arrange today.

Successful churches across the land, including UU churches, have largely survived — indeed, prospered — due to legacy gifts over the years. You can help ensure AUUF offers Anchorage an alternative liberal religious voice for generations to come!

Meet the Endowment Committee: Heather Flynn, Wray Kinard (Chair), David Mack (Treasurer), Jim Wanamaker and Stephenie Wheeler.

Bon Appetite!



AUUF Teams & Committees

Vote this Month for 2020 Half-Portion Recipients ~ Kalen Saxton

Our Sunday offering basket is traditionally divided, with half of the collected unpledged, unrestricted money supporting the fellowship and half going to a specified charitable organization. The **Social Action Council's Half Portion Team manages this process.** We will be voting this month to choose 12 recipients for 2020. View descriptions in the social room on Sunday.

If you have questions about the nomination process, please contact Kalen Saxton saxtonkalen@gmail.com or call 907-244-8221.



November's Half Portion for Social Action: Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness

ACEH works jointly with the Municipality of Anchorage to design, create, and lead implementation for the Anchorage community plan on homelessness. [Visit the website.](#)



Social Action Council ~ Dennis Arashiro

"...Thought I was so colorblind

Till my eyes began to see

Differences that should be honored..."

-- Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kwong, from his poem, "From ally to advocate"

So where are we in achieving multicultural transformation? As I digest what I learned from the Jonipher Kwong's October 5 workshop and subsequent Sunday services, I see us having taken a few solid steps on a thousand mile journey. We now acknowledge that we are on Dena'ina land at our services; how do we now honor them

beyond our words? We now have an Anti-Racism Action Team; how do we now extend participation to the entire Fellowship?

Many have voiced a desire to see more diversity in our Fellowship. Is it just about numbers? Do we expect to be as we have always been and do as we have always done and have a rainbow of races, ethnicities, and cultures just magically show up? And even if they show up, is that all that matters? What about inclusion in the processes that make and implement decisions? What about inclusion in shaping our present and envisioning our future? Most importantly, what about inclusion in our hearts and minds--true Fellowship.

Ministerial Search Team Update ~ George Bryson

Over 100 AUUF members and friends participated in the "Beyond Categorical Thinking" activities this past weekend – joining a 30-year effort to "prevent unfair discrimination" during a Unitarian Universalist congregation's search for a new minister.

Led by longtime BCT facilitator Eddy Carroll from the First Unitarian Society of Denver, the program to "promote inclusive thinking" in the search process attracted 34 participants to a three-hour workshop on Saturday, 56 to the 9 o'clock Forum on Sunday and 55 to the 11 o'clock worship service that followed (or 111 distinct persons after subtracting those who attended more than one event).

Together they heard Carroll share details of the program's origins in 1988, led by ministers who felt they were over-looked as candidates to new openings, either due to their gender (at a time when few women were found in UU pulpits), race, sexual orientation or physical disability.

While social movements promoting greater acceptance and access have lessened those barriers in recent years – Carroll said a strong majority of UU ministers now are women, and gay and lesbian ministers cite very few difficulties landing a job in a UU congregation – still some problems persist and new ones have emerged.

Today some members object to hiring certain ministers due to their age (whether they're perceived to be too young or too old), or ethnicity (if they have a strong accent), or gender identity (as with Trans individuals) or mental illness.

Carroll urged the participants to openly discuss such issues as a congregation. And he counseled the seven members of the Ministerial Search Team (whom he met with privately on Friday night) to not shy away from asking the most sensitive questions when they interview their top candidates, including questions that would probably never be permitted in a public-sector job interview – "Do you believe in God?" – but are both legal and desirable when churches hire, Carroll said.

That's because *not* asking certain questions up front can either lead to poor matches or unnecessary disqualifications -- if, for example, a nearly all-white congregation is reluctant to hire a person of color because they assume that candidate would feel uncomfortable in a mostly-white setting (when it's much more likely he or she would have long since become accustomed to the UU demographic). Or assuming someone with a history of addiction is incapable of turning his or her life in a new direction.

Carroll has work-shopped hundreds of congregations in search of a new ministers and said he was particularly impressed by all the energy and willingness to ask probing questions he found at AUUF. He noted that Anchorage is one of 35 congregations nationwide currently in search of a new minister – including 10 in the Western states.



Report on the October 20 Fire Drills ~ David O'Brien, Safer Congregations Team

On Sunday October 20 we had our first fire drills in our new building. The drills were sponsored by your Safer Congregation Team (SCT). One drill was at the end of the 9:00 service and one was at the end of the 11:00 service. Bruce even turned on the real alarm so we could hear exactly what it sounded like (and how LOUD it actually was!). Bruce turned the alarm

OUR ACTIVITIES

Annual Dinner November 2, 6-8pm - There will be childcare for Toddlers – 5th grade in 2 age groups.

Also back this year – a Bouncy house, and a Children's auction.

Please email Rosene Beachy, DLRE rbeachy@alaskalife.net to reserve your child (ren) so we have the appropriate number of caregivers.

Teacher Retreat November 2, 9-11am - We are so very grateful to our RE teachers. Thank you for teaching and nurturing those growing young minds and active bodies. We welcome anyone who would like to join our RE team and support this thriving younger generation.

CYRE Meeting Tues. November 5, 5:30 - Our RE committee meetings are open meetings. If there is a concern, topic or idea you would like us to address feel free to ask Rosene to add it to our Agenda. If you have an interest in serving on the RE committee let us know.

Soup Sunday / Stay 'n Play - November 24 - We will be making Thanksgiving food boxes for families in our area. Please bring nonperishable foods or donate money for food donations. Our crafts will be making gift cards and table clothes or runners. Fabric donations would be helpful. We are grateful for what we receive. If it would be helpful for your family to receive a Thanksgiving box please contact Rosene.

Future Events

Mark your calendars FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8th Mitten Tree Collection and WINTERFEST

Start your knitting (or shopping!)

Children will start upstairs briefly for this annual ritual of dressing our tree during the 11:00 service!

Remember to bring NEW mittens, scarves or socks to decorate our Mitten Tree during the 11:00 service! They will be donated to a local family Shelter, so all sizes are welcome. We will also collect gently used items.

WINTERFEST -- An Ornament-Making Party for All Ages

After the 11:00 service , 12:45-3:00 p.m.

Our annual holiday party for all ages! Catch the holiday spirit and Make a day of it – Have some soup and then jingle your way back to the sanctuary to make ornaments, decorate the tree, peruse the Alliance holiday sale table, and maybe even sing some Christmas carols!



DECEMBER 8 SOUP SUNDAY & Stay 'n Play

Yes, there will be a Soup Sunday on **December 8th** (instead of the usual 4th Sunday). It will be hosted by the Fire Keepers – K-2nd grade class.

Adult Offerings

Labyrinth Walk with Live Music, November 22, 6-8 pm

Soothe your soul with labyrinth walking while listening to contemplative live music. Instruction offered. Appropriate for kids 10 and up. You need not arrive exactly at 6, but may drop in to check it out.

Three Friendship Dinners Scheduled

Mark your calendars for our 1st Friendship Dinner on **Saturday, November 16**, 6-9 pm. You have lots of time to sign up! In 2020, the dates are **February 8**, and **March 28**. This is a wonderful way to get to know other AUUF folks in a relaxed, intimate setting, and begin lasting friendships. You can sign up to host a small group of people in your home. The host provides the entrée, and the guests bring side dishes. If you would like to participate, please contact AndeeCordano@gmail.com (350-6361)

Hungry Book Club ~ Shirley Dickens

Several of us met Oct. 8th to discuss "Out of the Flames" by Lawrence and Nancy Gladstone, the life of a UU free thinker who paid with his life for daring to challenge the rite of free thinking and was burned alive at the Stake in 1553. We will meet again, **November 12th at 2 PM** at the AUUF Library to discuss a contemporary book, "Lock Down" by Laurie R King. Come join us, bring a snack to share and your thoughts. call Shirley Dickens 563-4499 for more information.

Yoga for Every Body

Donation-based, supporting local non-profit addiction treatment programs, is meeting at AUUF on Wednesdays, 6-7:15 pm, The next session will be **November 6** is the only scheduled meeting for this month. Stay tuned for updates on meetings in December. For more information, contact Paula Saylor sayler.paula@gmail.com

Sunday Services November 2019

Sunday November 3

9 am Karlin Itchoak, "Protecting Alaska's Wild and Sacred Spaces"

11am Rev. Shelley Page, "Remembrance Sunday"

We pause to remember our dear departed ones as we pay attention our grief journey. You're welcome to bring photos or mementos to place our on Community Altar of Remembrance.

Sunday November 10

9 am Becky Roberts and Tony Gasbarro, "Leading a Life of Service"

11 am Ingrid Larson

"Standing at Attention--the True Cost of War"

We honor Veterans Day by looking at moral injury from the perspective of a veteran.

Sunday November 17

9 am Courtney Alexander, "One Job Should Be Enough—The Truth about Service Jobs in Alaska"

11 am Tony Gasbarro and Becky Roberts, "Paying Attention: Peace Corps Snapshots"

We'll explore how being fully present can open our hearts to a life of service. Two Peace Corps alumni will share their experiences through photos and stories. We'll also distribute the annual Guest at Your Table boxes to support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

Sunday November 24

9 am Doreen Schenkenberger, "Supporting Restorative Justice, Reentry and Alaska's Therapeutic Courts"

11 am Rev. Shelley Page, "Decolonizing Thanksgiving"

On the cusp of the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrim's arrival, let's pay attention to the mythology around Thanksgiving, as well as joyfully welcoming new members and giving thanks for our blessings.

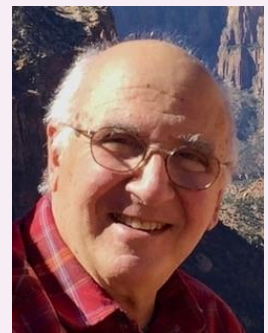
Forum Speakers

Karlin Itchoak is Alaska State Director of The Wilderness Society. He is Inupiat, and grew up in Nome with family from Utqiaqvik and upstate New York. He graduated from UAF, and earned his law degree from Gonzaga University. Professional experience includes working for Ukpeagvik Inupiat Native Corporation, the Institute of the North, and the Berkowitz gubernatorial campaign, clerking for the Chief Justice of the Alaska Supreme Court, and conducting economic development plans for the Bering Strait region. He co-founded a consulting company focused on Arctic business relations, partnerships, and diplomacy. He currently serves on the boards of the Alaska Center and Alaska Institute of Justice, and previously served as elected President of the Nome Eskimo Community Council. Karlin is passionate about defending Native subsistence rights, climate adaptation issues in the Arctic, circumpolar policymaking, and preserving Alaska Native cultures.



Becky Roberts was born and raised in Anchorage in an AUUF family. During her time at Macalester College in Minnesota—a school with a concept of global citizenship—she had the opportunity to visit Uganda with a Somali classmate and later returned there to work on youth empowerment projects. Becky also immersed herself in Anchorage's rich international culture. She volunteered as a family mentor for the Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services and taught English at the Alaska Literacy Program. Later she served four years as a Peace Corps Volunteer teaching environmental education in Mexico, then started the independent collective organization Raíces del Mundo (Roots of the World) to promote cultural and environmental consciousness. In addition to traveling and learning about cultures, she also enjoys hiking, yoga, drawing mandalas, dancing, and music. Together for a better world!

Tony Gasbarro is a professor emeritus in UAF's School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences. He was the state extension forester for the Cooperative Extension Service, and retired in 1996 after 23 years on the faculty. Tony completed two Peace Corps assignments, in El Salvador and the Dominican Republic, spent nearly three years as a project operations officer in Rome with the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization, and served five years as a field forester with the U.S. Forest Service in California and Alaska. After 45 years in Fairbanks, Tony moved to Raven's Roost co-housing in Anchorage. He actively oversees scholarship programs and community development projects for a non-profit helping the poor in rural El Salvador. He has visited El Salvador for three to five weeks annually since finishing his last Peace Corps assignment there in 1998.



Ingrid Larson served three years as a Judge Advocate General in the United States air Force from 2002-2005. Following a medical discharge and son Benjamin's birth, she opened her own Elder law firm has served as a certified professional Guardian, and a veteran service officer for the Disabled American Veteran office, and is an active member of Veterans for Peace. Moving to Anchorage and AUUF in 2011, she joined choir and has played concert harp for us. Ingrid felt called away from law and entered the Journey Program of Iliff School of Theology in Denver. In remission from cancer(!!!), she is working toward a Master of Divinity, and will graduate spring of 2021.



Courtney Alexander is a Yale graduate and long-time researcher and strategist for UNITE HERE, a union representing workers in the hotel, gaming, food service, airport, textile, manufacturing, distribution, laundry, and transportation industries throughout the U.S. and Canada. A Nevada resident, Courtney has served UNITE HERE for over 30 years by unraveling the corporate financial structures of hotel, gaming and culinary industry giants, and understands how corporations influence the hospitality industry all the way to the hourly workers on the front lines. Courtney has delved into the world of commercial real estate, acquisitions and mergers of hotel giants, investment trusts and the resulting dehumanization of workers throughout the hospitality industry. She fights for equality and social justice daily and believes education and advocacy on these issues can make a difference in the lives of working people.

Doreen Schenkenberger is Executive Director of Partners for Progress. She has been active in promoting therapeutic justice throughout the state of Alaska for over 20 years. She is a founding member of the Alaska Therapeutic Court Alumni Group (AKTCA), a statewide peer support group supporting reentry, recovery, and therapeutic courts. An Inupiaq Eskimo born and raised in Nome, Doreen is especially involved in managing program development, financial management, and grant writing to secure funding for reformatory justice programs in rural Alaska. Doreen has a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Management and Accounting from UAA and enjoys volunteering, fishing, traveling, scuba diving, and skiing with her family. She prioritizes fostering a spirit of cooperation among Partners' personnel and cooperating agencies as the key to success in Partners' mission to reduce recidivism.



Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Contacts

Rev. Shelley Page, Interim Minister revshelleyauf@gmail.com

Emergency pastoral care 868-3737

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

Megan Webb, Music Director 248-3737 x6; auufmusic@gmail.com

Ashlee Estell & Denise Martin, AUUF Office 248-3737 x 3 or auuf@gci.net

Nicholas Moore, Coordinator of Youth Programming
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AUUF monthly newsletter

December, 2019

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

www.anchorageuuf.org



Welcome to the month of
Awe!

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service

Dec. 27 Labyrinth Walk

Calendar Highlights

Nov. 26 Program Council

Nov. 28 Thanksgiving Potluck at AUUF

Dec. 1 & 8 Alliance Holiday Sale

Dec. 3 Blue Christmas

Dec. 8 Soup Sunday and Winterfest

Dec. 10 Hungry Book Club

Dec. 15 Earthquake Drill

Dec. 18 Board Meeting

Dec. 22 Solstice Celebration for All Ages

From the Minister On the Journey ~ Rev. Shelley Page

One of the spiritual exercises from this month's Soul Matters theme (Awe) feels like a balm for our December souls. I share an adaptation of it with a special twist at the end.

We most often talk about the giant spiritual transformations that awe causes in us. For instance, that moment viewing a particularly awesome northern lights after which our entire view of God and ourselves was transformed.

These once-in-a-lifetime infusions of awe are great, but most of us wouldn't mind a little daily support. Every single day we get stuck in our heads. Every afternoon we feel more numb than we'd like by day-to-day responsibilities. And every evening it's hard to put our own worries into wider perspective. Who of us wouldn't benefit from a bit of awe every 24 hours?!

So this month, let's all give ourselves the gift of a *daily* dose of awe. Think of it as taking a regular "Awe Break." Put everything down for just a few minutes and let awe soak in.

To make it easy for you, we've put together 31 online doses of awe. One awe-filled YouTube video for each day of the 31 days of December. It's a lot like those advent calendars some of us had as kids. We'd peel back the cardboard door, discover some magical new gift and our entire day would be transformed. Here's the link to the YouTube playlist that contains all 31 of the videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvXOKgQQYP7ZpFA1YKzco1SkOZHkn7v>

If you're having a particularly hard day, feel free to cheat and watch a couple of them. The goal is to see if these daily doses really change your days. We bet they do!

And, for those on Facebook, I challenge you to post something awe-inspiring from each of your days in December. Join me online for 31 days of AWE!

Blessings for the journey, Reverend Shelley



From the Board

~ David O'Brien, AUUF Board President

Do you have a great idea? A better way of doing something? Or something that you wanted to bring to the Board's attention? You can make a presentation to the Board! Your Board has a meeting on the third Wednesday of each month at AUUF at 6:30 PM. One of the standing items on the agenda is "Persons to be Heard". If you would like to be on the agenda, please come talk to me during a Sunday service or call me on the phone. I would love to hear what you have on your mind! Maybe you noticed a sign is coming loose, or the soups on Soup Sunday are too spicy (or not spicy enough), or are concerned about credit card finance charges eating too much into the AUUF annual budget. The Board's primary focus is policy and finance, with other subjects handled by our dedicated volunteers on our committees/teams. After I have a better idea of your concern, I might be able to steer you to an appropriate committee/team and save you the time of talking to the Board first. This is your congregation and we all can benefit from each other's ideas. If you want to be heard and share an idea, come let me know!



General News

Enjoy Thanksgiving Dinner at AUUF

November 28 ~ Kalen Saxton

Those who haven't planned a Thanksgiving dinner with family or friends can come join others for dinner at AUUF. Shirley Dickens began this tradition years ago, bringing the turkey herself. Others now volunteer to roast turkey, and all guests bring some food to share. 2019 Thanksgiving Dinner is Thursday, November 28th.

Bring your food; hot foods will be kept hot and cold foods cold. **Gather with us for appetizers and conversation from 12noon to 1pm. Dinner is from 1pm-2:30pm** with time for second helpings and dessert...twice.

Clean-up starts at 2:30 Please sign up to help with set-up of tables and chairs, clean-up of food, dishes and tables and chairs OR roast a turkey. Call, text or email Kalen Saxton 907 244-8221

saxtonkalen@gmail.com.



AK CHILD & FAMILY is hosting this year's Interfaith Council of Anchorage's **Thanksgiving Eve Gathering**. Join them in offering gratitude through readings, music & fellowship. AUUF Music Director, Megan Webb, will be conducting the Interfaith Choir which will include some AUUF choir members, and Rev. Shelley will offer some words.

Wednesday, Nov. 27, 7-8:30 PM
4600 Abbott Rd. Benson Center Gym

Please bring a dessert to share with ingredients listed.

Questions: Call 346-2101

akchild.org

We're So Happy to Welcome 14 New Members to AUUF!

Please reach out and welcome Erin, Earl, Julie, Sarah, Becky, Beck, Jaime, Marilyn, Mariah, Nick, Drea, Greg, Kathleen, and Will! See their photos and bios at the Welcome Table, and in upcoming This Week At Your Fellowship emails. Shown in photo is the 11-24 New Member Ceremony.





Blue Christmas Service at AUUF Tuesday December 3, 6pm

Everyone is welcome to our traditionally-held annual quiet church service especially for anyone who might not be feeling so jolly during the Christmas season, perhaps due to grief, depression and the complicated feelings this season brings. Gather with us for readings, meditation, music and candles. A simple supper of soup and bread follows the service. Please plan to join us.

Alliance Holiday Bazaar at AUUF December 1st and 8th 9am to 1pm ~ Kalen Saxton

The Alliance Holiday Bazaar is **Sunday, December 1st, 9am-1pm** and **Sunday, December 8th, 9am-3pm**. We will be open during the 12/8 Soup Sunday and Play n Stay until 3pm.

Shop for excellent gifts for friends and family. We have holiday decorations for Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza or Solstice.

Funds raised go towards paying for such things as the AUUF ad each Friday in the ADN, the "coveted cobalt cups of conversation" gifts for Forum speakers, and food for the Thanksgiving Dinner and the Annual Picnic.

The Alliance supports and promotes values and events at AUUF and the community through service and financial support.



Guest At Your Table Program -- Now Through January

This annual collection by the National Unitarian Universalist Service Committee aids women and children's projects throughout the world. Boxes for each AUUF family are available downstairs or in the social room if you missed getting one on Sunday November 17th.

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.

After Christmas, count the coins with your family 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 back to AUUF by mid-January.

Please visit the [UUSC quest list](#), promoting Women Leaders / Strong Communities!

WhaleCoast Alaska -- New Tour Director Sought

WhaleCoast Alaska, a summer tour program involving UU congregations in Alaska, is looking for a new tour director. Dave Frey of Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fairbanks, who has directed the program for the last 10 years, has decided that it's time to pass the torch. The new director will "learn the ropes" in 2020, then plan and direct the 2021 WhaleCoast Alaska tour program. This is not a volunteer. The new tour director can earn income from future successful tours. Dave is looking for someone who...

- Wants to be an entrepreneur and make a financial investment
- Is dedicated to customer-service
- Has proven ability to lead and manage large groups
- Is friendly, tactful, assertive, resourceful, and detail oriented
- Makes good decisions under pressure
- Is willing to make a long term commitment to manage WhaleCoast Alaska
- Technology skills including creating spreadsheets, using Word documents, creating slideshows, managing Facebook, etc.
- Commitment to support Alaska UU congregations and be guided by UU principles

If you have a genuine interest in being the next WhaleCoast Alaska director, please contact Dave Frey at dfrey@WhaleCoastAK.org.



AUUF Teams & Committees

Members: Plan to Vote Starting December 2-8 for 2020 Half-Portion Recipients

~ Kalen Saxton

Below is the list of proposed Half-Portion Recipient organizations for 2020. A special email will go out **December 2** with instructions for online voting.

- Alaska Public Media (to offset State budget cuts)
- ProPublica/ADN, (to support year-long series)
- Green Sanctuary (to purchase Fair Trade Coffee for AUUF)
- RAIS (Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services)
- AFACT (Anchorage Faith & Action - Congregations Together)
- PILOT (AUUF's Payment in Lieu of Taxes)
- Citizens Climate Lobby (support Anchorage student group organizing)
- Alaska Innocence Project (think release of Fairbanks Four)
- Identity, Inc.
- STAR (Standing Together Against Rape)
- Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest
- Food Bank of Alaska
- Alaska Literacy Program
- Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness
- Children's Lunchbox



Our Sunday offering basket is traditionally divided, with half of the collected unpledged, unrestricted money supporting the fellowship and half going to a specified charitable organization. The **Social Action Council's Half Portion Team** manages this process.

If you have questions about the nomination process, please contact Kalen Saxton saxtonkalen@gmail.com or call 907-244-8221.

View Voters Guide Here

(Printed copies also available in the Social Room at AUUF)



December's Half Portion for Social Action: Children's Lunchbox

The Children's Lunchbox feeds hungry kids in safe community environments. A child nutrition program which offers meals and snacks to 17 community programs, including dinner from scratch at two after-school programs. Additionally, they provide bags of weekend meals to every child at seven Title I elementary schools in Anchorage. They provide over 9,000 meals a week. They are able to provide meals even when school is out for the summer.

This summer AUUF joined a number of community partners in the Summer Food Site Program. These meals are FREE to those 18 year of age and younger.

Social Action Council ~ Dennis Arashiro

"If you can learn a simple trick, Scout, you'll get along better with all kinds of folks. You'll never understand a person until you consider things from his point of view, until you climb inside of his skin and walk around in it." - Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

A simple trick? Really? Maybe for Atticus Finch. But the rest of us aren't idealized fictional constructions; we are real human beings with real flaws. A major one being categorical thinking--a mental shortcut of denying human complexity and reducing people to simple categories of gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and so on. This distorts the truth about people by assuming some people are more alike because of a label, exaggerating the differences of people labeled differently, and perceiving people as static and unchanging. Not very helpful in employing Atticus's simple trick.

In the Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop on October 26, facilitator Eddy Carroll had us employ categorical thinking in a way that illuminated its power and danger. We were asked to imagine the courses of our lives if we were of a different gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and the



like. Sharing our imagined lives was just one small step in getting a handle on Atticus's simple trick-- empathy. This doesn't mean denying commonalities and emphasizing differences, or denying differences and emphasizing commonalities. This means being mindful of both. It's going to be quite a journey developing that empathy. Social justice depends on it.



Three Strategies to Save Taxes by Making Gifts to Charity

Even Under the New Tax Environment ~ Carma Reed and the Stewardship Committee

Earlier this decade, the year-end often saw me and my husband making last minute gifts to a smattering of organizations that we cared about most. Since the Tax and

Jobs Act became effective in 2018, we weren't sure if the tax benefit of that exercise would continue. Sound familiar? By now, you probably have some sense of how the tax reform is affecting you, as have we. We discovered that giving to charity can still reduce our tax liability, even if we don't itemize every year. Here are three strategies we found that you might also use to help maximize tax savings with charitable giving:

1) Giving appreciated assets (such as stocks) is the most tax efficient method of giving, whether or not you itemize. If you do itemize, giving an appreciated asset you've owned for more than a year results in two tax benefits: 1) a charitable deduction for the market value of the asset, and 2) no tax on the capital gain. If you do not itemize, you still receive the benefit of no tax on the capital gain. Even if you would like to maintain ownership of a certain appreciated stock, you can re-purchase it using cash that you would have otherwise donated, essentially resetting the initial value for purposes of calculating future capital gains. Transferring stock can sometimes takes time, though, so if this is a strategy that could benefit you, start soon to ensure it is complete by the end of the tax year.

2) Make a charitable distribution directly from your IRA. Here's one I'm looking forward to in the future - If you are over the age of 70 ½ and have IRA assets that you aren't using for living expenses, a gift directly from your IRA may be even more beneficial to you after tax reform. Tell your administrator to make a direct transfer from your IRA to AUUF (or other charity). The amount you transfer (which cannot exceed \$100,000 annually) will count towards your mandatory distribution and is not included in your taxable income. You receive this benefit even if you take the standard deduction.

3) If you don't think you can itemize deductions, time your gifts and double-up. As a result of tax reform, it is possible that the standard deduction will be larger than all of your itemized deductions combined. However, by doubling your gifts in one calendar year and taking the next year "off", you may still see tax savings – alternating yearly between itemizing and not itemizing. Since a single calendar year spans two AUUF fiscal years, this is a convenient strategy even without special instruction. But if you would like a gift to be attributed to a future fiscal year pledge to AUUF, just let us know. This information cannot replace the advice of a tax professional to address your specific tax situation. If you have any questions about giving to AUUF, email me at carmaandjiri@gci.net.



Earthquake Drill Planned for the December 15 Services

~ David O'Brien, Safer Congregation Team

Earthquakes are a fact of life living here in the Last Frontier. Most of us have felt them. Most of them are relatively small, but occasionally there is a big one. Imagine you are at AUUF in the sanctuary attending the 9 AM Forum or the 11 AM service with the room filled to almost capacity and you feel the building shake, not just a little, but a LOT, maybe even close to The Big One of November 2018. Would you know what to do?

With the success of our October fire drill, the Safer Congregation Team is sponsoring AUUF's first earthquake drill. It is planned for Sunday December 15 to be held at the end of both services. If you are in a sanctuary, auditorium, stadium, or theater, the steps are the same:

- **Drop:** Drop to your hands and knees. If there is not enough room between seats or you cannot get down on the ground, bend over as far as possible. Those who are wheelchair users should lock their wheels and bend over as far as possible.
- **Cover:** Cover your head and neck with your arms
- **Hold on:** Grab a chair leg until the shaking stops. Do not run outside until the shaking stops to avoid being hit by falling debris. Close your eyes and mouth to protect against dust and debris.

December's Sunday RE programs

December 1, 8 & 15 - Regular programming
December 22 - Epic participatory Solstice Celebration for all ages

December 29 – HAPPY NEW YEAR! Cross Age activities for Children
Childcare for ages 1-4

Youth Programs

The Coming of Age group and their mentors have been having some interesting Sunday afternoon discussions on values. The youth also just had their 2nd retreat revolving around "The Journey". The Lord of the Rings" theme led to discussions on who are - our allies and detractors, what to do about bullying and what goals and purpose do we have in life. Plus, the scavenger hunt downtown and the fresh snow made for an invigorating weekend.

In peace, Rosene Beachy, DLRE

SPECIAL EVENTS

Share your Blessings with others!

Remember the **Guest at Your Table** during the holiday season
(read the UUSC article above for more information)

The annual Mitten Tree collection will be set up to collect mittens in December and will be going to Airport Heights school. And speaking of the school, about 20 bags of cans were collected from our Thanksgiving food collection and taken to the school this week. Also collected was \$400 to be used to buy turkeys. The school secretary, Debra, was just amazed at the outpouring of support from AUUF! They plan to make 20 or more boxes for families in the community. Thank you everyone!



WINTERFEST - Sunday, December 8th An Ornament Making party for All ages 12:45-3:00 p.m.

Ornament making Activity will once again take place, with some very cool ornament crafts, The Wind Walkers will provide the **Soup**

Sunday – So "Stay and Play" and make some new ornaments for your tree! Maybe we'll be inspired to sing carols this year!

Christmas Eve Service, Tuesday Dec. 24th 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

This year's Christmas Eve Service will include a no-rehearsal Christmas Nativity play. Listen to the old story, sing the traditional Christmas carols, and watch the tableau unfold before your very eyes, with volunteer adults and children from the audience!

For more information about RE, contact Rosene Beachy rbeachy@alaskalife.net

Adult Offerings

Labyrinth Walk with Live Music, December 27, 6-8 pm

Soothe your soul with labyrinth walking while listening to contemplative live music. Instruction offered. Appropriate for kids 10 and up. You need not arrive exactly at 6, but may drop in to check it out.

Hungry Book Club ~ Shirley Dickens

The Hungry Book Club met Nov 12th in our Library to discuss November's book, LOCKDOWN by Laurie R King. All seven of us had read it and were glad we had. It made for some very interesting discussion. For **December 10th** we will go to a restaurant across the street from Moose's Tooth, I think it is called Kinleys with a book in hand we no longer need and enjoy lunch together and go home with another book. We also picked out our January book. It is "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens (a murder mystery, a coming of age and a celebration of nature). Come join us, but let Shirley Dickens know about the restaurant for December. Call Shirley Dickens 563-4499 for more information.

Yoga for Every Body

Donation-based, supporting local non-profit addiction treatment programs, is meeting at AUUF on Wednesdays, 6-7:15 pm. This month's sessions will be offered December 11th and 18th. For more information, contact Paula Saylor saylor.paula@gmail.com

Attention Newcomers AND "Old-timers"!

Interested in joining or learning a whole lot more about AUUF OR willing to meet and get to know newcomers on a much deeper level? Our next "Finding Your Way into Fellowship" **class starts Wednesday January 8th**. We have revamped this class to be more of a small group experience including everyone from brand new folks to seasoned UUs. It's scheduled for 6-8pm Jan 8, 22 and 29 (not on the 15th) You can sign up at the Welcome Table on Sundays. For more information, contact Judy Engh at judyrae427@yahoo.com or the office 248-3737.

December Services

Sunday December 1

9 am Jeanine Heath-McGlinn, "Talking About Suicide--Risks, Warning signs, Intervention, Resources"

11am Rev. Shelley Page, "Our Awe-Filled Lives"
What role does awe play in our lives? Let's explore the ways that awe touches our spirits in special and ordinary moments.

Tuesday December 3

6 pm Rev. Shelley Page, "Blue Christmas"

Let quiet words and music soothe your soul if you are finding this holiday season to be difficult. Feel held in the fullness of your feelings and then share a light supper of soup and bread.

Sunday December 8

9 am Justina Beagnyam, "The Poor People's Campaign--Bringing It Home"

11 am Rev. Shelley Page with Dave Johnston, Cari Sayre and Thai Verzone
"Denali Awe"

Climbing Denali inspires awe beyond compare! We'll hear from those who have done it and what it meant for their spiritual lives.

Sunday December 15

9 am Shawna Larson, "Decolonization: Understanding Why 'Our Past' is Not Past"

11 am Rev. Shelley Page and AUUF Players, "A Christmas Carol"

Dicken's A Christmas Carol comes alive with a special Readers Theatre presentation and awe-some reflections on how Dickens' Unitarian values shaped this timeless story.

Sunday December 22

9 am Senator Tom Begich, "Alaska at the Crossroads--What's Coming in the New Session(s)"

11 am Rev. Shelley Page and Solstice Merrymakers, "Winter Solstice Live!"

We welcome back the sun with story, song and ritual--and special solstice experiences for people of all ages. We'll start in the sanctuary, disperse for our celebrations around the building (and outside) and then return to bring back the sun with great energy and joy!

Wednesday, December 24

6 pm Reverend Shelley Page, Rosene Beachy and YOU, "Christmas Eve"

Listen to the ancient story, sing traditional carols, light candles and watch the Nativity tableau unfold before your very eyes with our no-rehearsal play featuring volunteers of all ages from the audience.

Sunday December 29

9 am Bede Trantina, "Yippee, It's Bede!! Gratitude for a Life in Public Radio ... and a Life After"

11 am AUUF Worship Team, "Fast Away the Old Year Passes"

Gather with us to reflect on 2019 including its awe-filled moments!



Forum Speakers

Jeanine Heath-McGlinn is a licensed professional counselor and clinical supervisor in private practice. A lifelong Alaskan, she is a survivor of suicide who has lost family members and others to suicide. Though recently retired from the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District, she worked for 24 years as a high school counselor, as part of their crisis response team, and was the primary author of the school district's crisis response manual. She was part of a team who created several suicide prevention eLearning modules with the Alaska Department of Education for educators, as well as student suicide prevention curriculum for 5th-12th grade students. Jeanine served on the original Alaska Statewide Suicide Prevention Council and helped to write the first state suicide prevention plan. She has traveled throughout Alaska conducting over 50 ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) workshops.



Justina Beagnyam has been organizing in Alaska since 2018 for the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival. Justina formerly served as the Client Services Program Manager for Bean's Café. She is a self-proclaimed "wild child in perpetuity," and social and environmental activist. From the early age of five, she wanted to uplift the poor by opening a rehabilitative homeless shelter. Justina holds a degree in Entrepreneurship from the University of North Texas where she graduated with honors. After college, she worked as the regional manager for a bakery and café in her hometown of Houston, TX. In 2016 she decided to move to Alaska to embark on a new journey. In Fairbanks she volunteered for several grassroots organizations, gaining first-hand experience in "movement building," before relocating to Anchorage to work at Bean's.

Shawna Larson is Regional Director of Native Movement. She is Ahtna from Nay'dini'aa Na' (Chickaloon Village) on her father's side, and Supiaq from the Village of Port Graham on her mother's side. Her work experience includes 13 years with non-profits working on Indigenous issues at an international and local level, focusing on human rights and environmental policies. She currently serves as Vice Chair for the Chickaloon Village Traditional Council and has served on the Council for 10 years. She was selected by the Utne Reader magazine as a young visionary and she has worked extensively in community organizing at a local, national and international level. Shawna and her husband and two children live in Palmer, Alaska. She has volunteered countless hours at the only tribally owned and operated school in Alaska, in Chickaloon Village.



Senator Tom Begich represents District J, including downtown Anchorage, in the Senate. In addition to being Minority Leader, Sen. Begich serves on the Education and Health and Social Services committees, and helped found the Senate's Innovation Caucus. Through his firm CW Communications, Begich engages in strategic planning, facilitation, and communications in the areas of juvenile justice, education, and government relations. He provides training in Alaska and throughout the country in juvenile justice, restorative and community justice, community development, strategic planning, and media relations. In the past, Begich served as staff assistant to two Majority Leaders in the Alaska State House and Chief of Staff to the Caucus Chair in the State Senate. He has served on numerous boards and commissions in Anchorage and Alaska since 1983. Begich is also a professional musician, writer and poet.

Bede Trantina retired as morning show host and programming director for Anchorage public radio station KSKA in 2018. She was born in Omaha, raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, and graduated with a BFA from Northern Arizona University. Bede became a volunteer at KSKA when she moved to Alaska in 1979. She was hired as a "temporary vacation relief" that summer, and then "had the great fortune to bloom where she was planted" for the next 39 years until her retirement from Alaska Public Media. Former Alaska Public Media GM Steve Lindbeck wrote, "...she taught me by example, day in and day out, that our community was the only reason for our existence." Since 2002, Bede has been a member of "her church"—the Providence Hospital's Cuddle Corps, holding babies in their Newborn Intensive Care Unit.



Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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