

# ANCHORAGE INITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

### diverse beliefs, common purpose.

### Today At Our Fellowship Thursday, January 9, 2025

#### This Weekend @ AUUF

#### Thursday 1/9/25

5:30 – 7:00 pm CYRE Team Meeting - In Person & Zoom 6:30 – 8 pm Choir Practice with Esme in the Sanctuary

#### Friday 1/10/25

8:15 – 11:15 am Music Together Mountain Song Social Room 12:00 – 2:00 pm Freethinkers in Person Only Room 7

#### Saturday 1/11/25

8:30 – 10:30 am AA-Slap Happy Group 10:30am – 12:45 pm Music Together Mountain Song Social Room 2:30 – 4:30 pm Private Rental Sanctuary 5:30 – 8:30 pm AUUF Connections Game Night Sanctuary and Social Room

#### Sunday 1/12/25

9:00 – 10:15 am The Forum Live at AUUF & on Zoom

### 11am – 12:00 pm Sunday Worship Live at AUUF & on Zoom

12:30 – 2:00 pm The Alliance - At AUUF Upstairs Library
1:00 – 3:00 pm Coming of Age Meeting Room 8

#### Sunday 1/12/25 continued

1:30 – 2:30 pm Worship Associate Meeting on Zoom 4:00– 5:30 pm Anchorage Friends Meeting Sanctuary & Social Room

#### Monday 1/13/25

6:30 – 8:00 pm Fireweed Sangha of Mindful Living - Private Rental Visitors Welcome

#### Tuesday 1/14/25

10:00 – 11:30 am Stewardship Meeting 11:00 am – 12:00 pm Staff Meeting 2:00 – 3:30 pm Hungry Book Club Upstairs Library 6:00 – 7:00 pm Community Connection -Private Room 8

#### Wednesday 1/15/25

3:15 – 5:15 pm Music Together Mountain Song Social Room 5:30 – 6:30 pm OWL Teacher meeting Library 6:30 – 8:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting

#### Thursday 1/16/25

6:30 – 9:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting - In Person (Zoom-Contact Don) 6:30 – 8:00 pm Choir Practice Sanctuary with Esme





The Forum 9:00 AM Sunday January 12, 2025 IN PERSON & on Zoom The Race Across America—Bicycling to Fight Lung Disease Steve Lindbeck and Brad Cruz

The Forum In- Person at AUUF & on Zoom 9:00 am Sunday, January 12, 2025

Click here to join on Zoom. Click here for Speaker's Bio.





Sunday Worship Service 11:00 AM Sunday January 12, 2025 IN PERSON & on Zoom 30 Days of Love Rev. Lise Sherry, Michele Champion

Sunday Worship In- Person at AUUF & on Zoom 11:00 am Sunday, January 12, 2025

Click here to join on Zoom.

Sign Making for the People's Rally

After the worship service on Sunday, 1/12 there will be a sign making event for the People's Rally on 1/18. Please bring your poster board or cardboard or any supplies you want to share. We will have markers. Start thinking of your inspirational slogans!

## Coming January 11 — Games Night at AUUF!

We know that some of you signed up when the Connections Team donated this event to our Annual Auction. But to make it fun we need more of you to come, so we're inviting anyone who wants to attend and bring a



cash or check donation to support AUUF. Bring a favorite game if you like. Please RSVP by contacting Denise Martin, or send an email to connections@anchorageuuf.org and let us know if you need child care. Donations of food / beverages also welcome. Food & Drinks 5-6 pm, Games 6-8 pm. Hope to see you there!

## A message from Becca Bernard: AUUF community minister

Dear AUUF members and friends, I'm excited to share the news that I will be serving as a quarter-time contract minister with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fairbanks this year (2025)! I am not leaving Anchorage, but will travel to Fairbanks once a month for a few days at a time. I'll continue my affiliation with AUUF as a community minister, in particular working with Lise on our fellowship's trans advocacy work. I imagine and hope that my work with the Fairbanks fellowship will serve to strengthen the growing bonds between our two largest Alaska UU communities! ~Becca Bernard

### Invitation from the Welcoming Congregation Action Team

The Welcoming Congregation Action Team is working toward the yearly renewal of our fellowship as a Welcoming Congregation for the LBGTQ+ community. As part of the renewal, we will be offering a course called Transgender Inclusion in Congregations that was developed by the Transforming Hearts Collective. We hope you'll join us! Here is a short description of the course from the Collective's website:

This course is for individuals, groups, and congregational teams who want to take their knowledge and skills to the next level in terms of trans identity and how to create congregations that are fully inclusive and affirming of the full breadth of gender diversity. Over six sessions you will deeply explore the intersection of trans identity, spirituality, and faith community, and gain the grounding, context, and skills to transform yourself and your congregation.

Each of the six sessions includes a one-hour presentation by UU Rev. Mykal Slack followed by an hour of discussion. While we encourage you to attend all the sessions, you can attend only those that work for your schedule and interest. Please use the following

link to see more information about the topic of each session.

The course will be offered in the AUUF sanctuary on six Friday evenings in 2025: January 24 and 31; February 7, 21 and 28; and March 7. Soup and bread will be served at every session, with dinner starting at 6 pm and the presentation and discussion going from 6:30 to 8:30. There is no cost to you, though we might ask you to bring some soup to share!

If you have questions, you can contact Kath Rutherford at 530-636-3019 or krutherford13@gmail.com.



### OWL (Our Whole Lives) Grades 4-6 Update

Grades 4-6 OWL (Our Whole Lives) Grades Class start date has changed to Sunday, January 26, 2025, 1pm-3pm in Room 7.

More information on what this program entails can be found with this following link.









# Peace Camp planning for 2025 will begin in the New Year!

This year, "The Wizardly World of Peace Camp", will take place June 9-13. Wizard themed but with a spin on UU Values. Will you be in the Cabin of Gratitude? Justice? What potions can demonstrate transformation?

Every wizard needs a fine wand...crafting

and creating what uniquely comes from your imagination will be celebrated! Every wizard is sure to get thirsty. Maybe a class in butterbeer making is in order as a refreshment from casting spells all day...

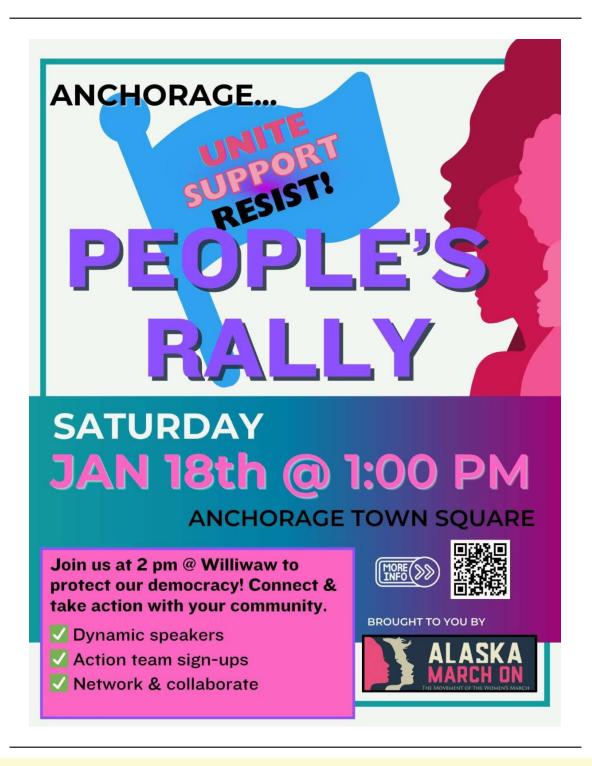
Those broomstick rides (bike rides) will explore the trails of the land...

Oh, and the ideas that are sure to come from brainstorming together....Join us! If you have previously helped plan Peace Camp, or are a newbie like me, please consider joining us on the following dates and times in the Library at AUUF.

Thursday, January 23 at 1pm Thursday, February 20 at 1pm Wednesday, March 26 at 1pm Wednesday, April 23 at 1pm More dates and times will be announced the closer we get to camp.

We are so fortunate to have Rosene Beachy join us and be a part of Peace Camp in 2025 as well! Thanks to Rosene and the hard working team, Peace Camp also has accreditation from the ACA (American Camp Association)! I look forward to learning from the best and beloved former AUUF DRE director on this camp planning journey.

Jenn Bluntach, DRE
Director of Religious Exploration



### January HALF PORTION FOR SOCIAL ACTION: Alaska Institute for Justice

The Alaska Institute for Justice (AIJ) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the

human rights of all Alaskans. Formerly known as the Alaska Immigration Justice Project, it transformed into the Alaska Institute for Justice to reflect the inclusion of an additional program dedicated to climate and social justice issues, the Research and Policy Institute.

Go to <u>anchorageuuf.org</u>
Click on the Half-Portion note or Donate/ Pay at the bottom of the home page.
Enter your donation under
"Half-Portion for Social Action"

#### Our AUUF Covenant

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.



### Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (907) 248-3737

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, (she/ her), Minister,

RevLise@anchorageuuf.org, 907-248-3737 x2,

Office hours are usually Tu 11-3; Th and F 11-3, and by appointment

Rebecca Bernard, (she/ her), Affiliated Community Minister RBernard.AK@gmail.com

Richard Stoneking, (he/him), Congregational Administrator

<u>Admin@AnchorageUUF.org</u>, 907.248.3737 x.1

Office Hours Usually Mon-Thu 11am - 3 pm, Please call first.

Jennifer Bluntach (she/her), Director of Religious Exploration

<u>DRE@anchorageuuf.org</u>

Office hours usually are: Sunday 9am-11am, Tuesday 11am-3pm, Thursday, 11am-3pm, and by appointment Kelly Spring, (she/ her), Communications Specialist, Communications@anchorageuuf.org Kelly's remote office hours Mon-Fri 9 am -1 pm Esme Danner (she/her) Music Director 907-248-3737 x4, Music@anchorageuuf.org **Dan Norton: AV Coordinator** 907-248-3737 x5, AVCoordinator@anchorageuuf.org Contact the Connections Team for more information on how to get involved. Connections@anchorageuuf.org Connect with us Visit Our Website AUUF Podcast

Donate

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### Today At Our Fellowship Thursday, January 16, 2025

#### This Weekend @ AUUF

#### Thursday 1/16/25

6:30 – 9:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting - In Person (Zoom-Contact Don) 6:30 – 8:00 pm Choir Practice in the Sanctuary with Esme

#### Friday 1/17/25

8:15 – 11:15 am Music Together Mountain Song Social Room 12:00 – 2:00 pm Freethinkers in Person Only Room 7 4:00 – 10:00 pm Coming of Age Room 8

#### Saturday 1/18/25

8:30 – 10:30 am AA-Slap Happy Group 10:30am – 12:45 pm Music Together Mountain Song Social Room

Sunday 1/19/25 9:00 – 10:15 am The Forum Live at AUUF & on Zoom

11am – 12:00 pm Sunday Worship Live at AUUF & on Zoom

12:15 – 1:15 pm RE Teacher/Volunteer Meeting Room 5 4:00 – 5:30 pm Anchorage Friends Meeting Sanctuary & Social Room

#### Monday 1/20/25

Martin Luther King Day - Office Closed Inauguration Day (regional holiday) Fireweed Sangha of Mindful Living -Private Rental Visitors Welcome Room 5

#### Tuesday 1/21/25

10:00 – 11:30 am Stewardship Meeting 6:00 – 7:00 pm Community Connection -Private Room 8

#### Wednesday 1/22/25

3:15 – 5:15 pm Music Together Mountain Song Social Room

#### Thursday 1/23/25

1:00– 2:00 pm Peace Camp Planning Meeting Library 6:30 – 8pm Choir Practice in the Sanctuary with Esme





The Forum 9:00 AM Sunday January 19, 2025 IN PERSON & on Zoom *Alaskans for Trans Youth* with Becca Bernard and Guests

The Forum In- Person at AUUF & on Zoom 9:00 am Sunday, January 19, 2025

Click here to join on Zoom. Click here for Speaker's Bio.





Sunday Worship Service 11:00 AM Sunday January 19, 2025 IN PERSON & on Zoom Honoring the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dennis Arashiro and Lauren Rench

Sunday Worship In- Person at AUUF & on Zoom 11:00 am Sunday, January 19, 2025

Click here to join on Zoom.

**RAIS: Upcoming Event and Household Supply Request** 

### 1:00 - 4:00 pm Sunday, February 2, at the Auxiliary Gym at the Alaska Airlines Center

Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services (RAIS) is hosting a Build Belonging event that will bring together community members to learn, connect, and take action. This event will highlight the important role of refuges in Alaska and how you can help. The event is on Sunday, February 2 from 1 to 4 pm at the Auxiliary Gym at the Alaska Airlines Center. In support of RAIS, our Fellowship will collect household items for RAIS clients. Items requested include shampoo, soap, conditioner, lotion, body wash, toilet paper, laundry soap, dish soap, paper towels, and general cleaning supplies. Please consider what you can donate.

You can bring the items to AUUF on Sunday January 19 or 26 or February 2.

Thank you! Mel Langdon



# Brown Mountain Lightning Bugs

7:00 pm Sunday, Feb. 2 at

Get ready for a special concert coming to AUUF on Sunday, Feb. 2 at 7:00 pm, sponsored by the Connections Team. A visiting folk duo will split with our Fellowship any donations collected at the door (Sugg. \$10/person). Featured are

Kendra and Zack Harding from North Carolina with vocals, guitar, mandolin, banjo and more. For more information about them visit www.brownmountainlightningbugs.comn. For more information about the concert, email connections@anchorageuuf.org

# Sign Up Today for Finding Your Way into Fellowship!

6:30-8:30 pm Wednesday evenings Feb. 12, 19 and 26

Are you ready to learn a whole lot more about UU and AUUF? The Connections Team invites you to attend our next Finding Your Way into Fellowship class. There are 3 sessions scheduled for Wednesday evenings Feb. 12, 19 and 26 from 6:30-8:30. This class is designed for newer folks, or anyone ready to explore our history, our personal spiritual journeys, and ways to get involved. And you'll get to meet some new friends along the way. Deadline to sign up is Sun. Feb. 9th. Please email connections@anchorageuuf.org to sign up, ask questions, or to let us know of days/times that might work better for you.

#### **Being a Board Member**

by Jim Kerr

The AUUF mission statement:

"AUUF is 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."

I like to remind myself of that mission before every board meeting.

Here are a few of my thoughts on becoming and being an AUUF board member.

I have attended and volunteered at the Fellowship since 1991. In 2022, there seemed to be a real slump in our attendance and volunteer base due to the pandemic. I was asked by our Nominating Committee to consider serving on the board of directors, and was elected at the May 2022 Annual Meeting. This coming May I will be finishing my 3-year term. I hope you'll join me in thinking about who among our members (yourself, even) could be a good candidate for the Board, or other committees: Finance, Stewardship, or Endowment. If you have any suggestions please pass them along to Cindy Kinard or Denise Martin, co-chairs of the Nominating Committee.

Being a board member gives an inside look at how the Fellowship works and how to be more effective at making it a better place. I won't go into details about how the boards work or what we do. Don Antrobus wrote a fabulous article about that in the December 19, 2024 "Today at Our Fellowship" newsletter.

Board meetings are on the third Thursday of every month. At these meetings I have engaged in decisions regarding budgets, the new playground, religious education (especially regarding the youth groups), wrote the land acknowledgement, and engaged in discussions on several other important issues. The AUUF board are meetings are run as good or better than any board I have ever served on. This is a result of the respect and courtesy our board members have for each other and the congregation – even when they disagree.

## A message from Becca Bernard: AUUF community minister

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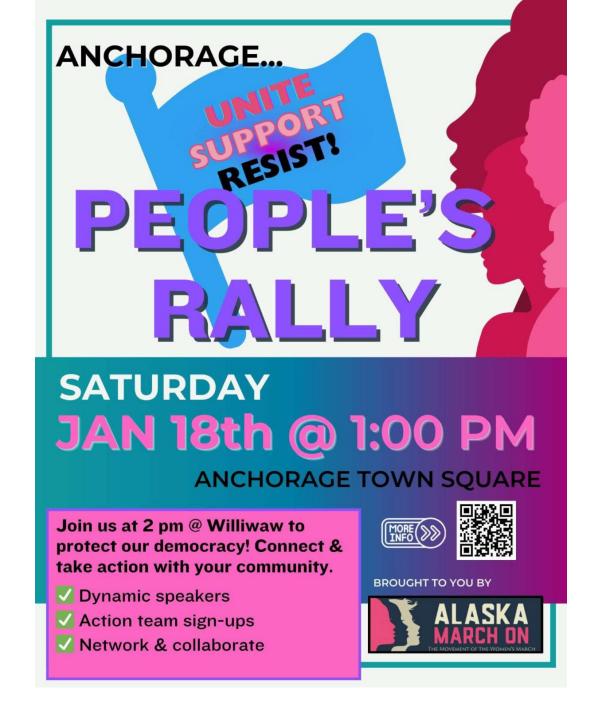
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Jenn Bluntach, DRE Director of Religious Exploration



Anchorage, it's time to take a stand!

When: Jan 18

Rally: 1 PM, Town Square Park

Planning Session: 2 PM, Williwaw Social

This is YOUR chance to be part of the change—form Action

Teams, amplify your voice, and connect with like-minded people.

Together, we'll build something powerful.

Click here to see the Facebook event.

January HALF PORTION FOR SOCIAL ACTION:
Alaska Institute for Justice

The Alaska Institute for Justice (AIJ) is the January Half Portion donation recipient. AIJ was founded in 2005 as the Alaska Immigration Justice Project with the mission to protect the Human Rights of Alaskans. Today, AIJ comprises three programs that together help break down barriers to access to social, health, and legal services, champion critical policy changes for indigenous communities and promote justice for all. AIJ's programs include the Alaska Immigration Justice Project (AIJP), the Language Interpreter Center, and the Climate Justice Program.

All three programs are of the utmost importance to AlJ's mission and the diverse populations AlJ serves. However, the Alaska Immigration Justice Project is AlJ's longest standing program, with a long history of serving immigrant communities and protecting human trafficking victims, many of whom have also experienced domestic violence and sexual assault. The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act was enacted in October 2000. As defined by this law, victims of human trafficking can be divided into three populations:

- Children under age 18 induced into commercial sex
- Adults aged 18 or over induced into commercial sex through force, fraud, or coercion
- Children and adults induced to perform labor or services through force, fraud, or coercion

The first federal prosecution to occur in the United States after this legislation was enacted occurred in Anchorage, Alaska. AlJ staff worked with the FBI, US Attorney's Office and the legacy Immigration and Naturalization Service to ensure that the 7 victims received access to safety and protection. As the Nation faces uncertainty on many fronts with the upcoming change of Presidential Administration, the Alaska Immigration Justice Project's services are more critical than ever to help protect and guide Alaskans facing complex immigration, asylum, and refugee processes. AlJP currently represents approximately 310 clients and continues to prioritize representation of immigrants fleeing persecution, torture, human trafficking, sexual assault and domestic violence.

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Jennifer Bluntach (she/her), Director of Religious Exploration <u>DRE@anchorageuuf.org</u>

Office hours usually are: Sunday 9am-11am, Tuesday 11am-3pm, Thursday, 11am-3pm, and by appointment

Kelly Spring, (she/ her), Communications Specialist,

Communications@anchorageuuf.org

Kelly's remote office hours Mon-Fri 9 am -1 pm

Esme Danner (she/her) Music Director 907-248-3737 x4, Music@anchorageuuf.org

**Dan Norton: AV Coordinator** 



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11:00 am – 12:00 pm OWL Teacher's Meeting

1:00 pm Peace Camp Planning Meeting 6:30 – 8:00 pm Choir Practice in the Sanctuary with Esme

#### Friday 1/24/25

8:15 – 11:15 am Music Together Mountain Song Social Room 12:00 – 2:00 pm Freethinkers in Person Only Room 7 6:00 – 8:30 pm RE Trans Inclusion in Congregations Class in the Sanctuary and Social Room

#### Saturday 1/25/25

8:30 – 10:30 am AA-Slap Happy Group

#### Sunday 1/26/25

10:00 AM Sunday IN PERSON & on Zoom Joint Stewardship Service Stewardship Sunday: Stronger Together Rev. Lise Sherry

4:00 – 5:30 pm Anchorage Friends Meeting Sanctuary & Social Room

#### Monday 1/27/25

5:00 pm Private Rental 6:30-8:00 pm Fireweed Sangha of Mindful Living - Private Rental Visitors Welcome Room 5

#### Tuesday 1/28/25

6:00 – 7:00 pm Community Connection - Private Room 8
6:00 – 7:00 pm Program Council

#### Wednesday 1/29/25

3:15 – 5:15 pm Music Together Mountain Song Social Room

#### Thursday 1/30/25

6:30 – 8pm Choir Practice in the Sanctuary with Esme





Joint Stewardship Service 10:00 AM Sunday January 26, 2025 IN PERSON & on Zoom Stewardship Sunday: Stronger Together Rev. Lise Sherry

#### Joint Stewardship Service

Sunday January 26, 2025 IN PERSON & on Zoom

Stewardship Sunday: Stronger Together Rev. Lise Sherry

Click here to join on Zoom. Click here for Speaker's Bio.

#### The Three T's

Pledge Drive Begins January 26, 10 am, Join Us!!"

It is once again that time of year — time to consider pledging a portion of your Treasure to AUUF. This organization thrives on our donations. We, as members and friends of AUUF, make it what it is with our Time, our Talent and our Treasure, giving whatever we can afford of each.

We now have a full staff (settled minister, RE director, music director, office manager, communications specialist, AV coordinator) who work hard to help us achieve AUUF's goals, and yes, they must be paid.

The fellowship building requires care and maintenance, along with electricity, heat, water & sewer, and solid waste pick-up, all of which require money.

They say it takes a village to raise a child. We are all a part of that village, nurturing our children and youth with our smiles, hugs, songs, and yes, our money.

Nobody (with the possible exception of Scrooge McDuck) likes to talk about money. But it is one of the necessities of life in our time. Honestly, asking for your money isn't easy. Some of us have plenty. Others of us are stretched. But no matter what your financial situation is, we on the Stewardship Committee are humbly asking you to pledge whatever amount you can to keep the lights on, pay the staff, and nurture the next generation of people who will stand up for Justice and Equality.

The AUUF Pledge Drive for fiscal year 2026 begins Sunday with a joint service (Forum + Worship) at 10 am. We hope to see you there, and please stop by the Stewardship tables in the Social Room before or after to talk with one of us about pledging a part of your Treasure to help further AUUF's mission.

One last thing — please check your physical mailbox for a mailing from us. It includes your tax/ donation information from 2024, your current pledge, and a pledge form for next year. Please fill it out and drop it by AUUF as soon as you can!

### Invitation from the Welcoming Congregation Action Team

Friday evenings in 2025: January 24 and 31; February 7, 21 and 28; and March 7

The Welcoming Congregation Action Team is working toward the yearly renewal of our fellowship as a Welcoming Congregation for the LBGTQ+ community. As part of the renewal, we will be offering a course called Transgender Inclusion in Congregations that was developed by the Transforming Hearts Collective. We hope you'll join us! Here is a short description of the course from the Collective's website:

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If you have questions, you can contact Kath Rutherford at 530-636-3019 or krutherford13@gmail.com.

**Presented by Catholic Social Services** 



Join us for *Build Belonging: Support New Americans in Our Community*, an event that celebrates the strength, resilience, and contributions of Alaska's new Americans.

This event, hosted by Catholic Social Services' Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services (RAIS), brings together community members, partners, and supporters to learn, connect, and take action.

Together, we'll highlight the important role of refugees in our state and how you can help.



#### **EVENT DATE & TIME:**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2024 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

\*Speakers will begin at 1:20 PM



#### **EVENT LOCATION:**

AUXILIARY GYM AT THE ALASKA AIRLINES CENTER ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

### **RAIS: Upcoming Event and Household Supply Request**

1:00 - 4:00 pm Sunday, February 2, at the Auxiliary Gym at the Alaska Airlines Center

Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services (RAIS) is hosting a Build Belonging event that will bring together community members to learn, connect, and take action. This event will highlight the important role of refuges in Alaska and how you can help. The event is on Sunday, February 2 from 1 to 4 pm at the Auxiliary Gym at the Alaska Airlines Center. In support of RAIS, our Fellowship will collect household items for RAIS clients. Items requested include:

shampoo

soap

conditioner

lotion
body wash
toilet paper
laundry soap
dish soap
paper towels
general cleaning supplies

Please consider what you can donate.

You can bring the items to AUUF on Sunday January 19 or 26 or February 2.



### Brown Mountain Lightning Bugs

Music Concert FUNdraiser 7:00 pm Sunday, Feb. 2 at AUUF

Get ready for a special concert coming to AUUF on Sunday, Feb. 2 at 7:00 pm, sponsored by the Connections Team. A folk duo visiting from North Carolina will split with our Fellowship any

donations collected at the door (Sugg. \$10/person). Featured are Kendra and Zack Harding with vocals, guitar, mandolin, banjo and more. For more information about them visit www.brownmountainlightningbugs.com. For questions about the concert, email connections@anchorageuuf.org

### Nametags: A Simple Way to Show We are a Welcoming Group

Our Connections Team would like to remind everyone to wear a name badge or name sticker on Sundays or other gatherings where there are a lot of us. Thanks for helping us build a more welcoming community as we get to know each other!

Email connections@anchorageuuf.org to order a new or replacement nametag.

### Sign Up Today for Finding Your Way into Fellowship!

6:30-8:30 pm Wednesday evenings Feb. 12, 19 and 26

Are you ready to learn a whole lot more about UU and AUUF? The Connections Team invites you to attend our next Finding Your Way into Fellowship class. There are 3 sessions scheduled for Wednesday evenings Feb. 12, 19 and 26 from 6:30-8:30. This class is designed for newer folks, or anyone ready to explore our history, our personal spiritual journeys, and ways to get involved. And you'll get to meet some new friends along the way. Deadline to sign up is Sun. Feb. 9th. If you need childcare, please let us know by Feb. 9, 12 pm. Please email connections@anchorageuuf.org to sign up, ask questions, or to let us know of days/times that might work better for you.

#### First Week of 30 Days of Love

A couple of Sundays ago, Michele Champion and I talked about the Unitarian Universalist effort of the last 15 years (more or less) to celebrate 30 Days of Love beginning on MLK, Jr. Day. Unfortunately, we couldn't tell you much about this year's theme, because they didn't quite have it ready yet . . .

Well, this week the theme is "We Are Home." It's a continuation from some of the efforts immigrant advocacy groups did a few years back in response to detrimental national policies that were being created. Sadly, things have not improved. Below is a link you can follow to find out more about how you can use your love to help others regarding immigration and asylum. There are family stories to read, actions to take, thoughts to ponder. <a href="Just click here">Just click here</a>, and be sure to scroll down so you can see all the stuff. You don't have to do all the stuff though--just pick something that appeals to you and go from there.

I haven't quite made it through all the suggestions myself, so I don't know if they had this idea, too, but I'm going to write about my own family's experience coming to the US from Prussia around the 1860s. I figure if I know the story well, I might be able to share it in a conversation the next time I hear someone talk about all these immigrants needing to go home.

Blessings, Rev. Lise

# High School Youth Group Fundraiser for Rock Climbing

The HS youth group will be selling individual heart shaped cookies, heart shaped Igbtqi+ lapel pins and heart shaped pocket hugs on Sunday, February 9 following the 11am service. Just in time for Valentines Day!!! Free will donation. (Suggestion of \$5 per item to support the youth) The HS Youth have planned a rock climbing afternoon on March 16, 2025. We thank you for your support!

Do you have young adults in college? The RE team will be sending care packages to them in February. Please email your child's name and mailing address to Jenn Bluntach at dre@anchorageuuf.org Please pass along this information to any other AUUF families with young adults who could use some love and support





# OWL (Our Whole Lives) Grades 4-6 Update

Grades 4-6 OWL (Our Whole Lives) Grades Class start date has changed to Sunday, January 26, 2025, 1pm-3pm in Room 7.

More information on what this program entails can be found with this following link.







# Peace Camp planning for 2025 will begin in the New Year!

This year, "The Wizardly World of Peace Camp", will take place June 9-13. Wizard themed but with a spin on UU Values. Will you be in the Cabin of Gratitude? Justice? What potions can demonstrate transformation?

Every wizard needs a fine wand...crafting

and creating what uniquely comes from your imagination will be celebrated! Every wizard is sure to get thirsty. Maybe a class in butterbeer making is in order as a refreshment from casting spells all day...

Those broomstick rides (bike rides) will explore the trails of the land...

Oh, and the ideas that are sure to come from brainstorming together....Join us! If you have previously helped plan Peace Camp, or are a newbie like me, please consider joining us on the following dates and times in the Library at AUUF.

Thursday, January 23 at 1pm Thursday, February 20 at 1pm Wednesday, March 26 at 1pm Wednesday, April 23 at 1pm

More dates and times will be announced the closer we get to camp.

We are so fortunate to have Rosene Beachy join us and be a part of Peace Camp in 2025 as well! Thanks to Rosene and the hard working team, Peace Camp also has accreditation from the ACA (American Camp Association)! I look forward to learning from the best and beloved former AUUF DRE director on this camp planning journey.

Jenn Bluntach, DRE Director of Religious Exploration

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We hold each of us and all of this amazing world worthy of our attention, compassion and care.

Together we are Anchorage Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship.



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Dan Norton: AV Coordinator 907-248-3737 x5, AVCoordinator@anchorageuuf.org

Contact the Connections Team for more information on how to get involved.

<u>Connections@anchorageuuf.org</u>

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# ANCHORAGE JNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP diverse beliefs,

### Today At Our Fellowship Thursday, January 30, 2025

#### This Weekend @ AUUF

#### Thursday 1/30/25

6:30 - 8:00 pm Choir Practice in the Sanctuary with Esme

#### Friday 1/31/25

8:15 – 11:15 am Music Together Mountain Song Social Room 12:00 – 2:00 pm Freethinkers in Person Only Room 7 6:00 – 8:30 pm RE Trans Inclusion in Congregations Class in the Sanctuary and Social Room

#### Saturday 2/1/25

8:30 – 10:30 am AA-Slap Happy Group 10:30 am – 12:45 pm Music Together Mountain Song Social Room 1:30 – 5:30 pm Private Rental Social Room 1:30 – 3:00 pm Private Rental Room 5

#### Sunday 2/2/25 9:00 am The Forum Sunday IN PERSON & on Zoom

11:00 am Sunday Worship Service IN PERSON & on Zoom

#### Sunday 2/2/25 (continued)

12:30 – 2:00 pm The Alliance - At
AUUF Upstairs Library
1:00 – 3:00 pm Coming of Age Room 8
1:00 – 3:00 pm OWL Grade 4-6 Room 7
4:00 – 5:30 pm Anchorage Friends
Meeting Sanctuary & Social Room
6:00 – 10:00 pm Anchorage Folk
Festival: Brown Mountain Lightning Bugs
Sanctuary and Social room

#### Monday 2/3/25

3:30 pm Private Rental Room 5 6:30-8:00 pm Fireweed Sangha of Mindful Living - Private Rental Visitors Welcome Room 5

#### **Tuesday 2/4/25**

4:30-6:30 pm Forum Planning Meeting 6:00 – 7:00 pm Community Connection -Private Room 8

#### Wednesday 2/5/25

3:15 – 5:15 pm Music Together Mountain Song Social Room 5:00- 8:00 pm Connections Team Meeting 7:00 – 8:30 pm Building & Grounds Meeting - Zoom

#### **Thursday 2/6/25**

6:30 – 8:00 pm Choir Practice in the Sanctuary with Esme









The Forum 9:00 AM Sunday February 2, 2025 IN PERSON & on Zoom *Reimagining Opera*Anchorage Opera General Manager Ben Robinson, with Dennis Arashiro

#### The Forum

IN PERSON & on Zoom 9:00 am Sunday February 2, 2025

Click here to join on Zoom. Click here for Speaker's Bio.





Sunday Worship Service 11:00 AM Sunday February 2, 2025 IN PERSON & on Zoom Everyone Belongs in Beloved Community Rev. Lise Sherry & Jenn Bluntach

#### **Sunday Worship Service**

IN PERSON & on Zoom 11:00 am Sunday February 2, 2025

Click here to join on Zoom.



Join us for *Build Belonging: Support New Americans in Our Community*, an event that celebrates the strength, resilience, and contributions of Alaska's new Americans.

This event, hosted by Catholic Social Services' Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services (RAIS), brings together community members, partners, and supporters to learn, connect, and take action.

Together, we'll highlight the important role of refugees in our state and how you can help.





## RAIS: Upcoming Event and Household Supply Request

1:00 - 4:00 pm THIS Sunday, February 2, at the Auxiliary Gym at the Alaska Airlines Center

Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services (RAIS) is hosting a Build Belonging event that will bring together community members to learn, connect, and take action. This event will highlight the important role of refuges in Alaska and how you can help. The event is on Sunday, February 2 from 1 to 4 pm at the Auxiliary Gym at the Alaska Airlines Center. In support of RAIS, our Fellowship will collect household items for RAIS clients. Items requested include:

shampoo

soap

conditioner

lotion

body wash

toilet paper

laundry soap

dish soap

paper towels

general cleaning supplies

Please consider what you can donate.

You can bring the items to AUUF on Sunday January 19 or 26 or February 2.



### Brown Mountain Lightning Bugs

Music Concert FUNdraiser 7:00 pm THIS Sunday, Feb. 2 at AUUF

Get ready for a special concert coming to AUUF on Sunday, Feb. 2 at 7:00 pm, sponsored by the Connections Team. A folk duo visiting from North Carolina will split with our Fellowship any

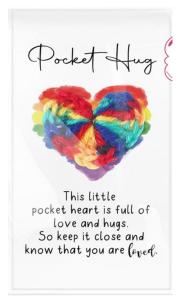
donations collected at the door (Sugg. \$10/person). Featured are Kendra and Zack Harding with vocals, guitar, mandolin, banjo and more. For more information about them visit www.brownmountainlightningbugs.com. For questions about the concert, email connections@anchorageuuf.org

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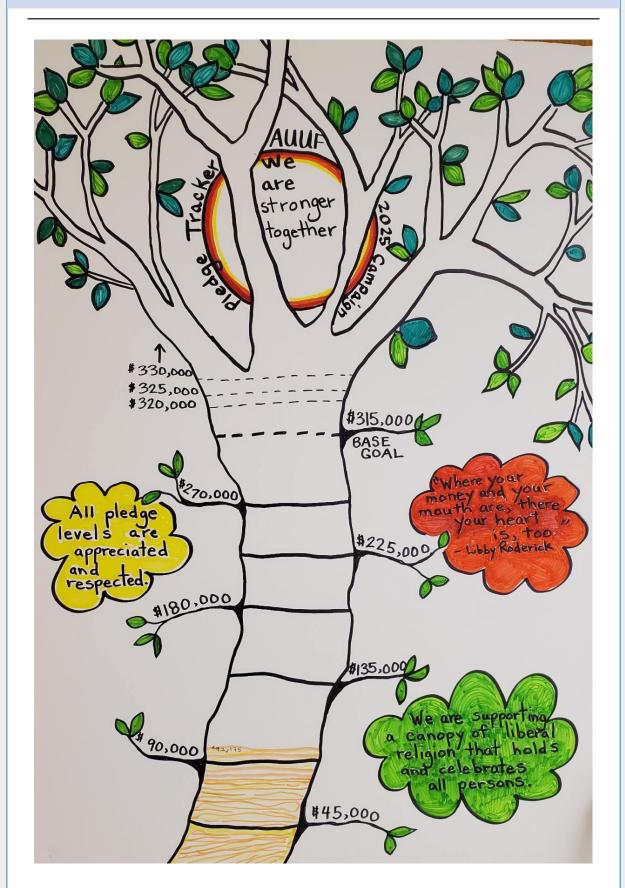


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know by Feb. 9, 12 pm. Please email connections@anchorageuuf.org to sign up, ask questions, or to let us know of days/times that might work better for you.



#### **Pledging Basics**

AUUF's annual Pledge Drive is underway. Many thanks to Rev. Lise Adams-Sherry, minister, and Barb Clark, worship associate, for the wonderful kick-off service last Sunday. It's all out there now — what AUUF needs in terms of monetary support in order to stay afloat. The Board's projection is that we're facing a \$60,000 deficit this year. We

all need to pitch in whatever we can to keep going. I know of at least two people who increased their pledges after that service. Could you do that also? If you don't currently pledge, could you pledge even a small amount each month?

I'll steal from a message from Marie Lundstrom from last year's pledge drive to bring us back to the basics of pledging:

"I think the 4-H pledge ('I pledge my Head to clearer thinking, my Heart to greater loyalty, my Hands to larger service, and my Health to better living, for my club, my community, and my country.') is the best one I've come across. It comes to mind every time I write about pledging money to AUUF, which seems crass compared to the idealistic 4-H pledge of better personal behavior, nothing to do with money. We at AUUF have high-minded talk about pledging Time, Talent, and Treasure, and all are necessary to keep AUUF running. But the hard truth is that without the Treasure part, AUUF would go away. Time and Talent can't buy fuel or electricity or pay salaries. Our organization is based on money, just as all our members need incomes to stay warm, eat, and live in reasonable comfort."

Please fill out those forms you received in the mail and send or bring them back to AUUF as soon as you can. Or visit us at the pledging table in the social hall this Sunday Peggy & I get lonely without you!;)

And thanks for all that you do.

#### **AUUF's Stewardship Committee Needs New Blood**

And the Nominating Committee would sure like to help them find some dedicated people in our congregation to do this important work. If enough creative, talented people step up to do a few things, it will sure be easier (and more fun) to share the load! Basically, the Stewardship will do whatever it takes to get annual pledges and keep track of them: Get the word out, plan a theme, host gatherings, work on charts, mailings... possibilities are endless. Could you picture yourself on this committee? If so, please contact the Nominating Committee co-chairs Cindy Kinard / Denise Martin or email connections@anchorageuuf.org. We are looking forward to the Feb. 23 Stewardship celebration luncheon, and introducing you as a new member of the committee!

Do you have young adults in college? The RE team will be sending care packages to them in February. Please email your child's name and mailing address to Jenn Bluntach at dre@anchorageuuf.org Please pass along this information to any other AUUF families with young adults who could use some love and support



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