

The LOG

January 2018



AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

On The Journey

Welcome to January! We'll be starting our interim journey together in the month when we naturally think of new beginnings. From ancient times in Western culture, January has been cast as a month of reflection, asking the classic questions, "Where have we been?" and "Where are we going?" Those looking back and looking forward queries form the essence of interim ministry as we mindfully explore your history as a congregation, and start to wonder about your dreams for the future. Think of this month as a time for curiosity. A time for questions. A time for getting to know each other a bit as we embark on this sacred path together. January will be just the beginning but an important beginning at a time of year when we are filled with resolve to "do _____ better." Just know that it's way too early to be making resolutions about ways you may wish to "do church" even better. Now is simply the time for being curious, not for discerning answers and making plans for what comes next. So, I am glad to be a willing partner in this journey of new beginnings and very much look forward to meeting you all and starting on this path of discovery and growth that is Interim Ministry.

Blessings,

Reverend Shelley

Meet Reverend Shelley

It's an honor and privilege to be serving as your Interim Minister! January begins our time of getting to know each other, so here's just a little bit about me to start us off. I love being a Unitarian Universalist minister, and helping congregations navigate transitional times. I've been a UU for over 35 years now and deeply appreciate the power of our faith to transform lives and our world, in the service of love and justice. I bring my whole self to my ministry including my previous careers in corporate marketing and communications, and not-for-profit management in organizations as diverse as Procter & Gamble and Planned Parenthood. I bring my experience as a mother of two wonderful daughters, Petra and Greta, both in their 30s, both living their UU values in their careers and personal lives. I bring my history of living through and beyond life challenges, and the beautiful times to be savored. I bring my love of learning and deep curiosity about the world, especially my love of people, culture and the natural world. I bring my adventuresome spirit and love of life! I look forward to learning all about AUUF and Alaska! Your Transition Team will be setting up some opportunities for us to meet and get to know each other more as January unfolds. Stay tuned for these possibilities and plan to gather with us for our first Sunday together on January 14th. See you soon!



Calendar Highlights

Jan 7 Plastics Recycling

Jan 9 Common Read

Jan 13 Friendship Dinners

Jan 14 Rev. Shelley, Joint 10am

Multigenerational Service, **potluck follows!**

Jan 21 Regular RE resumes!

Jan 24 Project Homeless Connect

Jan 28 Soup Sunday and Sunday Afternoon at the Movies



President's Log Letter

With respect and gratitude, we wish Gary Holthaus, our called minister of the last five years, well as he launches into the next chapter of his life. Gary joins his wife Lauren Pelon in Red Wing, Minn. where they have taken up residence on the shores of the Mississippi River. The lyrics to the song we use to sing the children out on Sunday mornings says it best...

"We hold you in our hearts as you go, as you go. May your heart be at ease as you go. We cherish the light of your preciousness. We hold you in our hearts as you go."

Big slow breath in. Exhale completely. One more time. Really, take as many as you need as you prepare to turn the ministerial page. Breathing, lifting, pausing, gently lowering...done. And so we begin a new chapter at AUUF.

Let's start by extending a warm welcome to Rev. Shelley Page, our new interim minister! After settling in to her new digs in the first weeks of January, she will deliver her first service on January 14. Let's fill the house at 10 a.m. for this joint service.

Rev. Shelley is passionate about interim ministry and is thrilled to lead us over the next 18-months in our selection of a new called minister. A skillful communicator with a deep love of church and a background in business, AUUF is extremely fortunate to have her. May your own transition to Alaska be smooth and filled with wonder, Rev. Shelley!

As requested, a transition team has been formed to serve as Rev. Shelley's "brain trust" during her time with us. According to the UUA Transitional Ministry Handbook, the role of the team is to provide her with insight, organization and facilitative talent, and willing hands as the ministry proceeds. The team members are: Dennis Arashiro, Theresa Bartoldus, George Bryson, Marty Freeman, Carolyn Gove, Ann Larabee and Teresa Zimmer. Thanks goes out to each member of the team for your willingness to hold space for all of us with Rev. Shelley throughout this time of transition.

During the interim ministry search, the selection committee adopted a mantra: "Hold the vision, trust the process." I invite you to adopt it for yourself and apply it to these times of change at AUUF. Know that we are in good hands and the future is ours to create!

In faith, Amanda Mack

Building Something That Matters

By Mindy Willis, Chair Stewardship

I love stewardship. Stewardship makes me take time from my daily and weekly routines to consider what AUUF means to me, and why I give my time and money to AUUF. I have more to consider this year with the excitement of the construction going on in our building, the uncertainty of losing a minister I've loved, and the anticipation of working with an interim minister in the coming year.

This year, Stewardship is focusing on walls, and building something that matters. Thanks to your generous capital campaign donors, we're making our spiritual home more inviting, more accessible, and more usable. We're building walls that open onto our communal gathering space. But walls do more than close off the space inside. Walls are also made for climbing. With our stewardship campaign this year, we're looking beyond our walls.

We're building something that matters. We're building our community, and opening it up to those outside who haven't found us yet. We're building a larger RE area, with room for children to play and learn. And we're building a future for AUUF as it grows, changes, and evolves.

Welcome to Stewardship 2018. We're building the future together.

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"New Front Door 2017"

by Carma Reed



Are we there yet? By the time this log goes out, we should have near-complete access to the social room and kitchen area again – yay! (...although the wider door to the sanctuary will have to wait until our “new front door” with lift and stairs is completed... this has to do with having sufficient egress before then).

As 2017 nears an end, the Project Oversight Team is turning its focus more to the transition between the end of our current phase of construction, and the beginning of the next. We are crossing our fingers that the Municipality of Anchorage agrees our upstairs offices are ready for occupancy by mid-January, but don't anticipate the new south-facing entry and downstairs office to be ready until the first or second week of March. That is later than we hoped and caused primarily by varying structural (and other) surprises as well as added scope areas. We feel really good about the improvement and upstairs schedule, and are patiently awaiting this first phase of our project completing in March.

So, there is now a priority to ensure the delay does not also continue to impact RE classes. We have a goal to ensure classroom space is returned by January 21, the first day of Winter/Spring classes downstairs, if not before (the first day of RE classes – January 14, will be multi-generational upstairs with our new minister). This will involve another round of volunteer labor and rearrangement of storage between now and then. Thank you to everyone who will be responding to that call when it comes! This may involve moving, installing cabinets, drywall, mudding and taping, some ceiling work and painting.

Another priority is to ensure the sanctuary and social room areas are truly done. No more storage of furniture in the sanctuary, and, but for the door between the Sanctuary and Social room, no more unfinished edges in the social room. The chase that partially blocked the accessible women's bathroom stall upstairs has been relocated to improve accessibility, and may now require some patchwork in the women's bathroom and in Gary's old office. These also rely on volunteer efforts.

The good news is we are still within budget, although just barely! Scope increases at this point must be minimal or unavoidable. If you have ideas for improvements upstairs, of course you can ask, but understand the answer may just be.... we can't afford to do it yet.

We've also begun talking about the timing for “Phase II” – which is where Downstairs we will 1) finish up the new gathering space/library, 2) split the North-Western large classroom into two and add an access hallway where the old library was, and 3) split the Southwestern large classroom into two, with an additional access door to the new front area. Still many details to dig into on that Phase, but it is exciting to start thinking about it – hopefully to be done this summer after RE classes are over.

Finally, please remember that at our last annual meeting we raised All But \$13,000 of what we estimated for “Phase II”. We are sincerely hoping that people take advantage of the Wake Now our Vision (WNOV) campaign by letting UUA know if AUUF is in your will (there is a form available on line, or at AUUF that explains how). WNOV will give AUUF 10 percent of the amount included in your legacy document to help fill that \$13,000 gap (and maybe more) in 2019 or 2020. You don't have to let us know that you've done that for AUUF to receive the funds, but if you do, we can better track how close we are getting (you can forward information to auuf@gci.net or to me at carmaandjiri@gci.net). The WNOV campaign has been identified in the last few logs, by Google group, and on our website. This is such a great opportunity, please ask the person next to you if they have heard of it, and if they haven't, go ahead and tell them about it. It's pretty amazing! (*See Page 5*)

Thanks again to Amy and Gary who put up with screaming saws and sanders many days, all day, Rosene who has no office at the moment, Eric who has never really had an office and still doesn't, and thanks also to Aesthetics Team who made my day by finding a beautiful warm color for the social room (and so much more), the Project Oversight Team, Architect and Contractor for keeping focus on this very complicated-for-its-size renovation, and for our volunteer team and volunteer coordinators for keeping the essential volunteer effort going strong. Pretty amazing to be a part of this transformation. Happy New Year!

Half Portion for Social Action: Alaska Literacy Program

By Kalen Saxton

Since 1974 the Alaska Literacy Program has been providing literacy services to Anchorage residents. Over the years Dr. Fred Hillman, recruited many AUUF members to be volunteer teachers. The mission is "Changing lives through literacy".

ALP, a volunteer based non-profit, has provided basic literacy instruction in seven classrooms and one computer lab. ALP recruits, trains, certifies and supports volunteer teachers and tutors who work one-on-one or in a classroom teaching reading, writing and speaking English.

They provide year-round programs to adults and families with young children who are beginning learners in reading and English.

Their two major fundraisers are the BizBee, a corporate team spelling bee, and the Scrabblers Scramble for Literacy, a team-based competition for community members. The AUUF team at the BizBee is called, "In Fred's Name" honoring Fred Hillman.

Volunteer Teacher Training Winter 2018 Feb 7-21. Training is 15 hours in Feb.
Call 337-1987 to set up a time to observe an English language class.

Social Action Council Update

By Emily Madsen

The Social Action Council has met twice in the past two months as it starts to consider various projects both within and outside the fellowship and how to best support them. For example, Dennis has been assembling fellowship members who are interested in working on Project Homeless Connect, which will be Wednesday, January 24th. The Council is also looking at opportunities to help Fair Anchorage, and Moral Movement Alaska's participation in the Poor People's Campaign, occurring this spring. If you are interested in becoming involved with any of these efforts, please email Dennis at elvischannel@yahoo.com or Emily at emily.j.madsen@gmail.com.

The Council is looking forward to meeting with the new interim minister to discuss facilitating these efforts, and the Council thanks Gary for his support and guidance in getting the initial work started.

Transgender Rights Threatened in Anchorage, Alaska

By Sara Hannon

In April, Anchorage residents will vote on whether or not people will be required to use the restroom which matches the sex listed on their birth certificate rather than their gender identity. Here are a few reasons why I think that this proposed legislation is harmful:

- It would discourage talented people from living and working in Anchorage.
- It would make access to restrooms more difficult and even dangerous for transgender people.
- It would be difficult to enforce and would not improve public safety.

If you want to keep Anchorage a fair place live for everyone, please contact Rashika Rakibullah (rrakibullah@acluak.org) or check out fairanchorage.org to learn more about how you can support Fair Anchorage's efforts.

UUA's Pacific Western Region 2018 Regional Assembly

The four districts of the UUA's Pacific Western Region will gather April 27-29 in Portland, OR for the 2018 Regional Assembly. Speakers include civil rights activist, the Rev. Dr. William Barber; Washington Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, advocate for women's, immigrant, civil, and human rights; and the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, newly elected UUA president. Programming includes workshops, worship, district meetings, and an optional social justice activity. A day-long Professional Day designed for religious professionals is planned for Friday, April 27, before the start of Regional Assembly. Discount lodging is available at the Portland DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, site of the Regional Assembly. Childcare and youth programming will be available. Registration will open by January 4. Watch the PWR website (www.uua.org/pwr) for full details to be posted soon.

Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival

Jeanna Duryee, Social Justice Committee Member.

UU's around the country are working to support the upcoming Poor People's Campaign. In my perspective, it is going to be the most powerful social justice movement we have seen in 50 years. The PPC is being led by Reverend Barber, Repairers of the Breach, The Kairos Center, and many more organizations. The Poor People's Campaign was the work Rev. Martin Luther King was working on when he was assassinated. It is powerful work. Its goal is to unite tens of thousands of people across the country to challenge the evils of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, ecological devastation and the nation's distorted morality.

The goal is that each state gets 1000 people to commit to direct action. The actions will be spread over 40 days, from Mother's Day to Solstice. Different people will act on different days, depending on the topic of the day. Some actions will include peaceful organized civil disobedience. Another major action will be a caravan of impacted persons traveling across the country to arrive in DC on solstice to deliver our message to Congress. I hope that caravan will include first Alaskans suffering from Climate change.

We are asking you to participate as you are able. Please sign up online at PoorPeoplesCampaign.org. We will be handing out pledge cards at the Fellowship soon as well. Please contact your friends and associates. We need to reach out to pull in immigrant groups, First Nations people, Powerful people of color, Poor White American's, and our LGBTQI allies. We have work to do.

UUA campaign offers matching cash NOW for legacy gift promise!

Earlier this year, our national Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) launched a new *Wake Now our Vision (WNOV) Collaborative Campaign*. In a nutshell, if a person makes a legacy gift commitment to AUUF or other UU organization (in one's will, for example), the WNOV campaign will donate 10% of that amount NOW to the organization to which the legacy designation is made (up to \$10,000 per donor!). This opportunity is available now through June of 2020.

We are all mortal, yet our legacies can live on to benefit generation after generation of UU's. Gain peace of mind and benefit AUUF. It's that simple.

More information is available online at the UUA WNOV website: <http://wakenowourvision.org/>. Or call John Blaine 907-229-8050.



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 UU's 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 UU's in addition to our summer Whalecoast tours, contact the office for more information.

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.

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

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Grateful for an incredible month of “nonstop” activities and some lovely programs. Between construction in social room, Christmas sale spilling out into the Sanctuary, the children upstairs making ornaments because of “soup Sunday” downstairs, the first Sunday of the month was very full. Thanks for all who helped or participated in any way.

Grateful for AUUF being involved in a monthly offering to 4 A's of food again. We volunteered for many years and I am glad we are once again among the contributors.

Grateful for our “Blue Christmas” service. It is a chance to honor Hospice workers and their clients and everyone facing loss. I love this service, simple, sharing stories, sharing homemade soups and bread and butter, listening to our guests' stories. Thank you Rosene and Marilyn and Gary for making it happen. I think this is maybe the 16th year we have had a Blue Christmas service. It was very lovely.

We are grateful for the life of Rod McCoy who was part of this Fellowship for many years. He passed December 14th after several months of declining health. So glad he was part of his own "Celebration of Life" and able to attend services now and then for the past couple of months. His legacy lives on through his son and daughter-in-law, Eric and Tamara McCoy and their beautiful children. We will miss you Rod. Condolences may be expressed to Rod's wife of 47 years, Ann Harter McCoy. Ann may be reached at 317-1610. The home address is 7749 Old Harbor Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99504. Eric's cell is 230-6915. Tamara's cell is 982-9777.

We are honored that our minister Gary Holthaus has been selected to receive a Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities in the 2018 Governor's Arts and Humanities Awards. The award will be presented in a Gala February 8th in Juneau.

Grateful for the Christmas Pageant. I know it will be wonderful as usual. Our children are always great in the Pageant.

This whole month has gone so quickly and it is wonderful that we have so many lovely ways to say “Goodbye” to Gary, our minister. We have been so lucky to have had him with us for 5 and 1/3 years. We wish you and Lauren the best of everything as you resettle in Minnesota. Thank you for everything. (Gary Holthaus and Lauren Pelon's mailing address is P.O. Box 401 Red Wing, MI 55066.)

We are grateful to have Rev. Sherry Page coming in January. Have a wonderful Holiday, Be safe and Happy New Year!

January Birthdays! **(Birthdays are not published online)**

Manage your on-line electronic giving on your phone! Download the GivePlus Church app from Google Play or the Apple App store. It's Free!

Green Tip: When you bought all those gifts and goodies in December did it strike you that there was lots of extra packing on them? Start looking for brands without so much packing. They are out there.

News from The Alliance

By Shirley Dickens

Thank you to ALL who contributed to a very successful Christmas sale. We made approximately \$1,290.00 and we appreciate your generosity. All the leftover treasures are either stored for future sales or, sent on to charities. Our next meeting will be January 14th as we are returning to second Sunday for our monthly meeting. Wishing you all a very special Christmas season and a Happy New Year.

Adult Offerings!

AUUF Common Read

Third Reconstruction,

second take! If you missed the church-wide discussion of *The Third Reconstruction*, our Fall "Common Read," fear not. Ingrid Larsen has agreed to lead a second discussion on Tuesday January 9, 7 pm, at the Fellowship.

Two more "common reads" are scheduled! If you like to read ahead, we'll discuss the following books in the Spring: *The New Jim Crow*, by Michelle Alexander (early March) and *Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity and Power in Ministry*, by Mitra Rahnema (late April).



Friendship Dinners continue on January 13

Want to expand your circle of friends at AUUF? Join our next Friendship Dinner, 6-9 pm on Saturday, January 13. (The last Friendship Dinner of the year will be Sunday, March 4, 5-8 pm.) These in-home dinners for 7-8 adults are a wonderful way to get to know other AUUFers in a relaxed, intimate setting, and begin lasting friendships. The host provides the main dish, and guests bring the rest. Contact Andee Cordano (350-6361; AndeeCordano@gmail.com) or Deena Mitchell (847-997-8357; DeenaMitchell@hotmail.com) to sign up, or for more information.

Sunday Afternoons at the Movies Debuts January 28th. Looking for a cozy way to spend a winter afternoon? Enjoy "Soup Sunday" on January 28,



and enjoy "Reinhold Niebuhr: Conscience of America" afterward. Time for discussion will follow the movie.

The Hungry Book Club

Nine of us met at Doriola's restaurant to share a delicious Christmas lunch and exchange a beloved book in a Chinese Auction game. We had a very good time. We meet again in January at the 9th and M Condo's at 2PM, second Tuesday of the month, in their social room (2nd floor). We will be discussing "The Little Paris Book shop", by Nina George. It should be easy to find. We are an open book club and available to any who love good books. Call 563-4499, Shirley Dickens for more information.

Update from Valley Community for Recycling Solutions (VCRS) by Judith Anderegg



We interviewed Carole Henry at VCRS recently and this is what we learned.

In 2016, 13,000 pounds of 5s were sold by VCRS at \$80/ton. That figure does not include what it costs to get the plastics to market. Full loads of recyclables (40,000+ lbs) are backhauled on TOTE and Matson trailer vans via a freight agreement with ALPAR. Distributors own the backhaul; they have paid for a roundtrip of their van. ALPAR and its partners donate the backhaul costs of recyclables (valued at approx. \$3,000). VCRS pays associated wharfage fees and a per van/per type of material fee as part of the freight agreement. Selling 5s is not a wildly profitable adventure, but it is one which VCRS considers worthwhile, given the backhaul donation, given there is a manufacturer who will recycle the material into something new and especially because it is expensive to landfill waste, especially packaging waste that is readily recyclable.

For a time, VCRS had a "mixed plastics" category. However, recyclers in China were buying these mixed plastics bales, keeping only the 5s and trashing everything else. That is why organizations like VCRS quit accepting mixed plastics and narrowed it down to bottle shaped 1s and 2s and all 5s. There is a reliable market for each of these three.

Regarding 1s which are not bottles (including clamshells, apple containers, etc.) we live too far from a plant that processes this type of plastic.

The AUUF community, who have been bringing us 5s, have been doing an extraordinary job of bringing us "clean" bags of 5s for recycling. By that we mean, bags which contain NOTHING but 5s. That is a big help for us as the delivery mechanism for such plastics. VCRS can only recycle 5s that are sorted as we have been so careful to do. Keep up the good work.

Plastics Recycle: January 7 is our next plastics recycle date. 5's only please.

RE Notes December 2017

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Happy New Year!

Our Program – 11:00 Service

January 7th – Cross age New Year's program

January 14 – Multigen Service Welcoming Reverend Shelley

January 21 – RE classes begin for all ages

January 28 – RE classes

OWL (Our Whole Lives Sexuality curriculum)

K-1 OWL Begins this month with a 7-week session. These interactive classes will help parents educate their child about birth, babies, safe and healthy bodies and families through songs, stories and activities. Sign up early, space limited.



January 8 Parent Info night 7-8:30 pm (If you would like to know how to use the program on your own, come to the parent night to learn about the program.)

January 20 – Parent & Child Kickoff 1:00 – 3:00 pm

January 21 – March 4 - OWL Workshop sessions 12:30-1:30

RE Social Justice

Guest at your Table - We hope you are having fun with your Guest at Your Table activities. Remember to keep Feeding **The Guest At Your Table (aka – box)** during the holiday season and until January 21st when you will bring back the boxes or envelopes to the Fellowship.

Service Projects - Congratulations to the **Moon Spinners** who earned \$315 for a service organization of their choice at their Soup Sunday in December! Thanks to all the wonderful Soup Makers.



Next Soup Sunday is January 28th.

Thank You's

to all who participated in the MITTEN TREE event, 3 big bags full of warm hats, gloves, socks, neck gators and scarves were donated to McKinnell House.

to Deena Mitchell and all her elves who organized and led a wonderful Winterfest this year. Many beautiful ornaments were created!

to our Elementary, OWL teachers, Bethany Buchanan, Meghan Bundtzen, Bev Grogan



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

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

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

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

Staff Contacts

Shelley Page, Interim Minister, (907) 248-3737 Selection off menu; revshelleyauuf@gmail.com

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

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

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

Megan Webb, Music Director, auufmusic@gmail.com or 248-3737 x6

AUUF Board of Directors

Amanda Mack, President; Don Crandall, Vice President;

Kelley Hartlieb, Secretary; Peggy Robinson, Treasurer; Wendy Romberg; David O'Brien; James Dryden

Other Contacts are Available on our Website.

About Our Speakers and Services (see back page)

Rev Shelley Page is our interim minister. See page 1 for her introduction.

David Scheel is a Professor of Marine Biology at Alaska Pacific University as well as a nationally recognized authority on octopus behavior and ecology. His research has been featured on the NPR Science Friday program, National Geographic website and Scientific American magazine, as well as numerous academic journals. After earning a bachelor's degree in biology at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in upstate New York, Scheel earned masters and doctorate degrees in Ecology at the University of Minnesota. He joined APU in 2000 and has since studied octopus behavior all around the world. At this event, he'll highlight his research in Australia and Alaska, including his discovery here of a new species of large octopus.

Teresa Pond, the Producing Artistic Director of Cyrano's Theatre Company, was born and raised in the Anchorage theater scene (her first show was at Grant Hall Theatre when she was 10 weeks old!). Teresa received her BFA in Communications at Chapman University, then served as Executive Director of Anchorage Community Theatre in the 1990's for several years. After receiving her MFA in Directing from UC-Irvine, she moved to New York City and has directed professionally across the country and internationally with companies such as Women's Project Theatre (Off-Broadway), New York Classical Theatre, Vital Theatre Company, New show theatre development, NY Fringe Festival, and numerous theaters regionally over the past 15 years. She has served on arts councils and various non-profits, and has collaborated on and off the stage with organizations such as Perseverance Theatre, ACT, ATY, Alaska Native Heritage Center, Alaska Dance Theatre, UAA Department of Theatre, Out North Theatre.

Longtime Anchorage Unitarian and social activist **Ruth Weisman Sheridan** will celebrate her 100th birthday in a few weeks – as well as a remarkable life's journey that stretches from Woodrow Wilson to Donald Trump. Born in New York City on Jan. 22, 1918 – before women had the right to vote – she helped her widowed mother make ends meet through the Great Depression, earned a college degree by attending night school, moved to Chicago during World War II and worked there as a legal secretary. In Chicago she joined the International Workers of the World and met and married Jack Sheridan, a kindred spirit also committed to social justice. Living there through the fifties and turbulent sixties, the couple joined the Unitarian church and raised three children. After Jack died in 1967, Ruth's life began all over at the age of 50. That's when a friend convinced her to move to Alaska.



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AUUF Services and Events –January 2018

Sunday January 7

9 am Ruth Sheridan with George Bryson,
“The Ruth Sheridan Century”
11 am Becca Bernard, “Standing at the Threshold”

Sunday January 14

10 am Rev. Shelley Page, “Curiouser and Curiouser”
(Followed by Potluck)

Sunday January 21

9 am David Scheel,
“Tracking Alaska’s Giant Octopus”
11 am Rev. Shelley Page, “Living in the Chrysalis”

Sunday January 28

9 am Teresa Pond, “
Anchorage's Lively New Theater Scene”
11 am Rev. Shelley Page,
“Torda 450: An Interfaith Legacy”

<u>Tuesday Evening Services 6:30</u>

Jan 2, 16, 23, 30

CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS- January 2018

Sunday 11 am ~ Classes for toddlers through high school

Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare ages 1-10

The LOG

February 2018

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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



On the Journey...

Flexibility R Us! My first month in Anchorage has flown by in a whirlwind of activity! Thank you for your warm welcome as I get to know AUUF and life in Alaska! I'm getting more and more settled as the days unfold, both at home and at the Fellowship. And I am immensely appreciative of your help, well wishes and good energy! I'm glad to be here!

Yes, Flexibility R Us! I arrived in the midst of major construction in the area of the old minister's office, being transformed into a flexible space for meetings as well as music and worship storage. I didn't know what would happen any given hour or day! What an interesting parade of people, activity and mess! And, then it was time to move over to the new minister's office with furniture cobbled together from around the building, and boxes of books, art and other ministerial accoutrement piled high. I'm hoping to get around to actually setting up files soon! Again, I am grateful for the help of so many people who created some workable space as I get started.

I also arrived just in time for Amy Lundell to slip on the ice and break her ankle. We've been working in a highly flexible way together, and with the help of Kalen Saxton, Judy Engh and others to keep things rolling while Amy heals from this injury. It takes a village! (And we send our good healing energy out to Amy!)

I've been making jokes about being Gumby, the flexible rubberized Claymation character from long ago. And, I find this to be an apt metaphor for our interim ministry time together. Keeping flexible, being willing to bend, remaining open to possibility—all ways to cope with the inevitable changes life brings us. Interim ministry does usher in a time of change and we don't even know yet what that looks and feels like here at AUUF. We are in the chrysalis together, starting to feel some things dissolve and morph, but living in that space of unknowing, of becoming, of flexibility and patience.

The ancient Taoist writer known as Lao Tzu wrote of wisdom of cultivating this kind of flexibility in our lives. The translation from Ursula K. Le Guin for Verse 76 says:

*Living people
are soft and tender.
Corpses are hard and stiff.
The ten thousand things,
the living grass, the trees,
are soft and pliant.
Dead, they're dry and brittle.*

*So hardness and stiffness
go with death;
tenderness, softness,
go with life.*

*And the hard sword fails,
the stiff tree's felled.
The hard and great go under.
The soft and weak stay up.*

May our days ahead be filled with joyful flexibility—tender, soft and pliant, as we learn about each other and the beginnings of possibilities for our interim time together.

Blessings, Reverend Shelley



Calendar Highlights

2-1 Finding Your Way into Fellowship starts
2-4 Rev. Kim Patterson, 11 am
2-6 Tuesday Services new time 7 pm
2-5 Menu for the Future starts
2-10 Family and Friends Winter Fun Night
2-11 Stewardship Kick-off
2-13 Hungry Book Club
2-14 Valentine Tea with Shelley
2-18 Youth Worship Service, 11 am
2-22 Looking Back, Loving Forward starts
2-25 Soup Sunday and Sunday Afternoon at the Movies

President's Log Letter

I had better things to do. What does it really matter if I show up or not? These are things I told myself until a friend reached out and invited to me to walk with her to the Women's March. The home improvement project of the day could wait my husband said. He also said, "You have to go." So, I did. Donning my yellow hat, I caught up with my friend as we walked purposefully toward the march on the Delaney Park Strip. Upon arrival, I quickly spotted the other yellow hats. Via Google Group and Facebook, we had self-organized. We heartily greeted one another, we listened, we cheered, we chanted. Together, we marched behind our Standing on the Side of Love banner. There were so many people there – more than I imagined there would be. And because of the encouragement of family and friends, I was lucky to be one of them.

How do we accomplish anything? We do it because someone called us to growth at some point along the way and, when the time is right, we rise up and answer the call. This was certainly true for me with the Women's March this year and it is also true with stewardship. Stewardship testimonials during services, letters inviting us to pledge, attending stewardship dinners, having conversations with each other about why we pledge – these are all ways AUUF calls us to growth. Eventually, we rise up and start pledging in a meaningful way. Why? We do it to co-create a spiritual home that is meaningful and helps us all live into our promise. We do it to offer hope to each other and the wider community as we live our UU values out loud. We do it to live in an intentional community where people of all ages learn from one another, where questions are encouraged, and exploration of the spirit is a joyful lifelong pursuit. We pledge because we want to build something that matters.

Like those friends who motivate us to show up and be counted, let's answer the call, show up together, and give generously to AUUF.

In faith, Amanda Mack

In the Interim... from AUUF Transition Team

by Teresa Zimmer

We all recognize change happens, so the question is, "how do I want to be with change", curious and excited, anxious and fearful, the choice really is ours. Shelley welcomes change, is excited by possibilities, makes a career of embracing change in hopes of positive movement. So, a "transition team" exists to help keep tabs on how the change is going. Shelley will be with us for 18 months, helping to clarify our strengths and values so we can attract a minister who will walk with us while embracing our idiosyncrasies. So, the transition begins, with getting to know each other, our warts, wounds, gifts and visions. To that end, Shelley is taking time to meet with us in various combinations. Look for "Soup with Shelley" at Soup Sunday, or "Tea with Shelley" on Valentine's Day if you are an elder. She will also be present at the upcoming Stewardship gatherings. Or suggest your own "getting to know Shelley" event. Feel free to share with Shelley, or members of the Transition Team your thoughts, questions and concerns for this time of transition. Marty Freeman, Dennis Arashiro, George Bryson, Theresa Bartoldus, Carolyn Gove, Ann Larabee or Teresa Zimmer are all good points of contact. Let us know how you are weathering this season of change.

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What Is Interim Ministry? What Are We Doing?

Interim ministry offers a meaningful opportunity for a congregation to step back a bit before moving forward with a new settled minister. It's a breathing space, a learning space, a reflecting space that addresses these five key interim tasks:

- Claiming and honoring its past and healing its griefs and conflicts.
- Illuminating the congregation's unique identity, its strengths, its needs, and its challenges.
- Clarifying the multiple dimensions of leadership, both ordained and lay, and navigating the shifts in leadership that accompany times of transition.
- Renewing connections with available resources within and beyond the Unitarian Universalist Association.
- Enabling the congregation to renew its vision, strengthen its stewardship, prepare for new professional leadership, and engage its future with anticipation and zest.

**Calling All Chronologically Gifted People!
Gather with Shelley for a Valentine Tea
Wednesday, February 14 2pm**

Reverend Shelley is getting to know AUUF and would love to chat with you about your experience here at the Fellowship. Gather with her for tea and cookies on Valentine's Day, courtesy of the Alliance. It would be lovely if you let us that you'll be joining us so we can plan to have plenty on hand. Please RSVP to revshelleyauuf@gmail.com.



**Stewardship 2018
Building Something That Matters – A Beloved Community**

By Mindy Willis, Chair Stewardship

When you come into the Fellowship for a Sunday service, or Tuesday service, or attend a committee meeting, or participate in a service project, look around. What do you see? What brings all of us back week after week? What motivates us to pledge? Why do we increase our financial gifts year after year?

The benefits are all around us!

We had events for a fond farewell to Gary Holthaus, our outgoing minister and a warm welcome to Rev. Shelley Page our interim minister. She is already helping us to figure out what we do well, and how we can play an ever more valuable role in creating a just, safe, and caring world. We had a big presence at the women's march II and at Project Homeless Connect.

Our outstanding and burgeoning RE program just started 2018 classes. One class is already using the multipurpose space opened up by the renovation. The OWL, Coming of Age, and YRUU programs continue to develop youth ready to live out the principles in their schools, colleges, and young adulthood.

Adult programs are more abundant than ever with Adult RE programs, Free Thinkers, Chalice Circles, Hungry Book Club, and other offerings.

We haven't even mentioned Sunday and Tuesday services yet! The Forum continues to present a rich smorgasbord of speakers that bring faithful UUs and curious newcomers together every week for intellectual enrichment and civil discourse. The 11:00 service and Tuesday evenings provide times for sanctuary, silence, stimulating sermons, music, musing, and good fellowship.

All of this is supported by our outstanding staff and our new-and-improved building that provides new opportunities within AUUF and with our greater community. Yes, the capital campaign is paying for the upgrades, but our operating fund – our pledges – keep the building cozy, bright, and welcoming and fund our staff.

Why do we pledge? To create, sustain, and fully participate in a just, safe, and caring community. This is AUUF. This is us.

Tuesday Evening Service--Still Happening, Differently

Please join us for our next Tuesday evening contemplative service on Tuesday, February 6, at 7:00 pm, led by seminarian Becca Bernard. This midweek service is an opportunity for quiet contemplation and celebration in an intimate setting, and for the next while we'll be experimenting with various worship ideas and approaches. If you've enjoyed the midweek service, or have an interest in trying it, please come join us on a Tuesday evening soon and help shape this element of our congregational offerings.

Adult Offerings!

Sunday Afternoons at the Movies

Looking for a fun way to spend a winter afternoon? Join others for Soup Sunday and stay for a movie



and discussion on the following Sunday afternoons: Feb 25: "Amandla & Revolution in 4 Part Harmony"

March 25: "Just Mercy" book read discussion combined with "Ted Talks" by author Bryan Stevenson; and finally, April 22: TBA.

Book Reads

February – See above: "Just Mercy" by Bryan Stevenson, discussion **March 25**



March – "Centering- Navigating Race, Authenticity & Power in Ministry" Edited by Mitra Rahnema, discussion **April 15, 1-2 pm**

Our Whole Lives: Sexuality Education for Adults

The adult segment of the award-winning lifespan sexuality education curriculum. This 6 week class helps you explore sexuality through your values and experiences. The program Helps you to enhance your communication skills as you increase your understanding of healthy relationships, sexual diversity, and sexuality throughout the life cycle. It's the sexuality education opportunity you probably never had growing up. It will be led by Katherine Huffman and Ken Winterberger. For singles or couples. Mondays 6:30 – 8 PM, Beginning Feb. 12. Minimum of 12 persons needed to run the class. \$25 donation per person. Signup in the social room.

Finding Your Way into Fellowship

A 3-week introduction to UU History, UU Thought and UU Engagement. Thursdays, Feb. 1 "Sharing Your Faith Stories", Feb. 8 "UU History & Theology", Feb 15 "How do we Live Our Faith" specifically in regards to AUUF. 6:30 – 8: 00 pm (light meal at the final session).

Leadership Development Workshops

You are invited to upcoming Leadership Development Workshop Wednesday February 28: "Cultural Competence" by Kameron Perez-Verdia. More offerings to follow. RSVP Alix@Alaskan.com.

Northwest Earth Institute Group Study

Over the last century, the way we grow, harvest, transport, and consume food has changed significantly. It's easy to overlook the impact this process has on our environment. "**Menu for the Future**" helps you explore the connection between food and sustainability. Participants learn more about the many cultural, social, and ecological implications of what we eat and discuss the importance of our eating habits. Together, you discover food choices that are good for you and the health of our environment. Beginning Feb. 5 to March 12. 7-9 pm. Email Cathy Steen to register. csteen@gci.net

Compassionate Communication... A Deeper Dive.

If you have some experience with Compassionate Communication (Nonviolent Communication), or you've taken a workshop or a class here at AUUF and you'd like to explore further how you can apply it in your life, please join us for this new study group. We'll meet every other Monday evening, 6:30-8:30pm at AUUF, beginning February 12. To sign up, or if you have questions, please contact Becca Bernard at rbernard.ak@gmail.com.

Looking Back, Loving Forward

Led by Reverend Shelley. A five-part class on Thursdays at 6:30-8 pm: Feb 22, March 1, 8, 22 and 29. Child care provided.

Many folks come to Unitarian Universalism with life experience in other faiths or no faith tradition. Often, we bring our feelings, assumptions and concerns about religion from the past with us on our current faith journey. This five-part class offers an opportunity for unpacking the past in a supportive setting and bringing forth gifts to guide our way forward in love and hope. This class is great for those who are new to Unitarian Universalism, but is also helpful for those who have been UU for many years but have lingering feelings from past faith journeys. This is a closed group so that deep sharing and confidentiality can be honored. Please plan to participate in all five sessions to gain the full benefit of this healing experience. Got questions? Feel free to contact Reverend Shelley at revshelleyauf@gmail.com or by calling the office. Please sign up in advance (deadline: February 18) by enrolling on the clipboard at the Welcome Center on Sundays or by emailing the office auuf@gci.net.

A Big Thanks!

James Dryden

Over the last 30-40 days we have done a great deal of work. We have brought the kitchen up to nearly finished status with cabinets, countertops, and operating sinks. We have restored nearly all of the Room 2 class room to use by selecting and removing excess cabinets and construction items in addition to moving all the kitchen stuff back to the newly installed cabinets. The work and reuse have saved us tens of thousands of dollars. Freeing such funds will let us move towards completion of the RE spaces downstairs and long range goals such as a fast cycle dishwasher.



I just want to express my thanks and highlight a few who have helped so much in this effort. The congregation owes all the volunteers a very big thanks.

Bruce Roberts	Stephanie Koonz	Don Crandall
George Baker	Stan Histan	David O'Brien
Paul Wheeler	Scott Wheaton	Erik Hill
Pedro Kim	Alan Peabody	Ann & James Larabee
Randy Steen		

For those with time, we have about 15 smaller projects in need of volunteers to take ownership.

More Thanks!

Peggy Robinson

We had a wonderful response from urgent appeals through Google Groups for cleaning/moving/organizing the kitchen, social room, and the offices during 3 days in January. At least 18 people helped on January 6th, and a number of people on January 5th and January 18th. Thank you all for your time and energy!

The new "Flex Room" was initiated on January 21st with the 5th grade RE class. The adult library will be located here, in addition to the Music Director's work space. This space is still a work in progress, as the walls, doors, and windows need to be finished.

Half Portion for Social Action: Planned Parenthood

By Kalen Saxton

AUUF members again voted to support our local organization which is part of a region which includes WA, OR, ID and HA. Three years before the Roe v Wade decision, Alaska's Legislature voted to give women the right to choose. In 1970, Helen Nienhueser lead the women who campaigned for four months to get to the override vote of 41-19. We have consistently supported the clinic that provides health services to men and women.

AUUF Local Organizing Ministry (LOM)/AFACT

By Marie Rozak

AUUF's AFACT committee, or "Local Organizing Ministry", has joined with the LOM of St. Mary's Episcopal. This is referred to as a Temporary Organizing Committee (TOC).

This TOC is currently in the research stage of our selected topic, Climate Change. Yes, a very large topic. This research includes meeting with public officials, educators and leaders such as Polly Carr of the Alaska Center. Research will narrow the wide-ranging topic to a focus worthy of our efforts to create positive support for change through education, awareness, and public office. More information to follow soon.

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

So very sorry to hear that our own Amy Lundell fell in our own icy parking lot and that she broke her ankle and had to have pins in it and will be out of the office for a few weeks, then on crutches. We are sending our loving care and healing thoughts and gratitude for modern medicine and pain medication. Be well, dear Amy.

Also healing thoughts for our Bruce Roberts who fell from a ladder at home and broke a leg. Get well.

Grateful for the wonderful program (facilitated by George Bryson) to "interview our oldest member, Ruth Sheridan" who will turn 100 January 25 but will be in California for a few weeks. Friends far and near joined many of our congregation to hear about her interesting life and especially about her 47 years here in Alaska. Her life has spanned 18 US Presidents. Wow! And she still drives and doesn't wear glasses.

Grateful for the members and families that hosted the recent "circle dinners". This is an excellent way to get to know each other and share a wonderful meal together. If you haven't taken this opportunity, do yourself a favor, and be sure to participate in the next "circle dinner". Or even host one yourself.

Grateful for our own new "interim minister", chosen by our Board (with our blessings) for the next 18 months, while we regroup and choose our next full-time minister. This is a long process, but with a record of very good results. We have been down this road before. It will be work for the Board and various committees to be formed, etc. We are very much enjoying getting acquainted with the Rev. Shelley Page, who promises to be the most delightful "interim minister" we have ever had. Welcome Rev. Shelley.

We are profoundly grateful for the gifts and talents and six years of service of Eric McCoy to the Youth Program. (More page 7).

I have decided that our Rod McCoy was a very rich man. A huge turnout for his Memorial service, as big as the Celebration of Life that Rod did attend. He was very rich in devoted family, connections, community, good works, devotion to teaching in public schools, humor, service to this Fellowship, and many more wonderful qualities. One family member said, "the Celebration of Life was for Rod, but the Memorial service was for our family".

We are honored that our minister Gary Holthaus has been selected to receive a Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities in the 2018 Governor's Arts and Humanities Awards. The award will be presented in a Gala February 8th in Juneau.

Be well, dear people. Stay warm and safe, walk carefully in our Northern climate, you are important to us.

February Birthdays!

Birthdays are not published in our online version.

From the Fellowship office

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

Your Credit Card for Routine Donations: If your credit card number or expiration date has changed please be sure to notify the office. Thanks for your continued routine giving.

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

Manage your on-line electronic giving on your phone! Download the GivePlus Church app from Google Play or the Apple App store. It's Free!

Hungry Book Club We are an open book club and meet monthly (second Tuesday of the month). We will meet again, February 13th at 2 PM at the condos at 9th and M St. (in their meeting room). Our book for February is "Thomas Jefferson and the Tripoli Pirates, The Forgotten War" by Brian Kilmeade and Don Yaeger. If you are interested in joining us, call Shirley Dickens for directions and monthly book selection 563-4499.

RE Notes February 2018

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Our Program – February 4, 11, 18, 25

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

11:00 Service – Elementary classes have begun along with the Preschool and Youth classes!

Family & Friends Winter Fun Night Saturday, February 10, 6 P.M.-8:00 P.M.

Get out your dancing shoes or just come to hear some great music, the Jim Kerr and Denise Martin band! Mary Schallart will be calling the dances for all ages!

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!! And, you don't need to have a child to attend. If you want to have fun - this is the place to be! We'll see you there.

Re Social Justice

Guest at your Table - Do you still have the UUSC Guest at Your Table boxes & envelopes distributed at Thanksgiving? Please bring them back on February 4 both upstairs and downstairs will be collecting them on February 4. This important fund raiser for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee supports the programs they work with throughout the year.

Next Soup Sunday February 25, organized by the Truth Seekers (4th grade) and the Sun Catchers (K-1st)



Stay connected - know what's happening at your fellowship!

There is a closed Facebook group for families in the RE program to keep up with pertinent RE and fellowship events, and share pictures of your children in RE activities. **Find us on Facebook - search groups - AUUF RE**, and if you are a registered family you will be added to the group.

Youth News

We are sad to announce the resignation of Eric McCoy as Coordinator of Youth Programming. He has been with us in this position for the last 6 years. His energy and enthusiasm for and commitment to youth and our Youth programming has been a great driver in the growth of the program. We will miss his involvement, humor and the joy and laughter he brings to every meeting and event. We wish him well as he continues on his life journey.

The youth are busy in February preparing for the Youth service which will be presented on February 18 at AUUF and then again on February 25 as they take a road trip to Fairbanks to meet with the Fairbanks youth and present at the Sunday service.

TK Kleiner is continuing in her role as Youth Advisor and COA leader. She is guiding the youth as they take lead roles in Sunday morning youth worship, topic discussions and volunteer service planning. The 12 – 17 youth who show up every Sunday are actively “becoming”!!

Coming of Age Spiritual Practice Retreat – Feb. 3-4

February 17 – Coming of Age group community service at the Food Bank

February 18 - Youth Service at 11:00

February 18 - Coming of Age Mentor/Mentee meeting

February 24 /25 – Road trip to Fairbanks for 2nd Youth Service

The youth have other activities in the works as they prepare for their Spring Service trip. So, stay tuned for more exciting details!

Chalice Circles

Small groups connect UUs on a deeper level. Groups of 12 or less, meet once a week for 8-10 weeks to reflect and discuss significant life topics. The time together is structured and may include a chalice lighting, focused readings, and a moment of centering silence before participants share their perspectives, tell their stories and listen deeply. Days, times and locations vary, depending on group preferences. contact Meghan Bundtzen at BetterWithArt@gmail.com. New groups starting as people sign up.

Friendship Dinners – Last Date This Winter!

Our 3rd Friendship Dinner is March 4, 6-9 pm. This is a wonderful way to get to know other AUUF folks in a relaxed, intimate setting, and begin lasting friendships. The host provides the entrée, and the guests bring side dishes. If you did not sign up and would like to participate, please contact AndeeCordano@gmail.com (350-6361)

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; revshelleyauf@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 Contacts are Available on our Website.

Yoga for Every Body Offered at AUUF

Wednesdays 6-7:15. Free will offering (half to AUUF). Instructor: Paula Saylor. 907-297-9184.

Blessings Flow!



Our gratitude to Sylvia Short for the very generous gift of our newly re-built Steinway piano, a treasure for generations yet to come! We will dedicate the piano on February 11 at the 11 am service. Gather with us to celebrate this new addition to the AUUF sanctuary.

News from The Alliance

By Shirley Dickens, Member

10 members met Jan 14th and welcomed a new member, Kalen Saxton. Business consisted of reports, and approval of money to buy flowers for Amy who is home recovering from her broken ankle. We also approved a donation of 200 to the Minister's Discretionary Fund and were able to present it when Rev. Shelley joined us later. We also approved \$150.00 for Rod McCoy's Memorial service for flowers.

Our annual rummage sale will be May 19th (Saturday) at 8 AM until 3 PM. We will set up Friday afternoon, May 18th. The congregation can donate goods as they start their spring cleaning the week prior. We will remind you all in the upcoming months.

Connecting with Reverend Shelley...

Reverend Shelley is available to talk with you, whether it's something about the Fellowship, or a more personal matter. She is happy to connect with you. The best ways to make an appointment to see her are to email her (revshelleyauuf@gmail.com) or call the office ([907\) 248-3737 x 2](tel:9072483737). It is helpful to offer possible times that work for you so that Shelley can more easily schedule. And, of course, if there is a pastoral care emergency, please do call or stop by church immediately. You can also reach her on Facebook Messenger.

About Our Speakers and Services (see back page)

Tuesday Evening Service Please join us Tuesday evenings for a contemplative service at **7:00 pm**, led by seminarian Becca Bernard. This midweek service is an opportunity for quiet contemplation and celebration in an intimate setting, and for the next while we'll be experimenting with various worship ideas and approaches. If you've enjoyed the midweek service, or have an interest in trying it, please come join us on a Tuesday evening soon and help shape this element of our congregational offerings.

Gretchen T. Bersch started with OLÉ! in 2007 and currently chairs the Board. She spends summers on Yukon Island, her family homestead, hosting groups at her retreat center. Gretchen taught at UAA/ACC for 35 years. She coordinated the adult education graduate program and is still active nationally and internationally in that field.

Sandra Christopherson arrived in Alaska in 1974. She taught Humanities for the early years of the PACT program in Anchorage and later taught with the Socratic Seminar program here in the ASD. Since the inception of OLÉ! in 2007, she has served with the Curriculum Committee and continues to enjoy the classes that it creates.

Rev. Kim Patterson is executive pastor of Anchorage City Church, as well as the author of "Swift Justice -- Leveling the Playing Field for America's Re-Entry Citizens" (2012) about the predicament of minorities and the poor when they reenter society from the correctional system. He is also the founder of Connections Alaska, Inc., a faith-based educational resource for young adult Alaskan males, especially at-risk, re-entry, substance-experienced, and homeless males (ages 19 - 30). Rev. Patterson is the son of longtime Anchorage Shiloh Baptist minister Alonzo Patterson.

Rev. Denise Sudbeck is a married trans woman living in Anchorage and pastor of the emerging Metropolitan Community Church. She is currently working toward a Doctor of Ministry degree with a dissertation in trans-focused theology. Sudbeck also serves as campaign co-chair of Fair Anchorage, a coalition of local citizens urging a "no" vote on Proposition 1.

David Lockard is a longtime resident of Anchorage who is raising two teenagers, including his transgender son, Col. He's currently serving as campaign co-chair of Fair Anchorage.

Betty Arnett grew up in Knoxville, Tennessee, and obtained a B.S. in Education from the University of Tennessee. She immediately accepted the position of housemother at the Jesse Lee Home in Seward. After her marriage to Russell Arnett, attorney, she taught in the Anchorage School District for 39 years. Betty's teacher training tapes on kindergarten received a 1971 Alaska Press Club Award. She has had a long-term connection to AUUF and produced the video tapes, "The Gospel According to Richard R. Gay" and "The Little Log Church on the Park Strip." Member of Richard R. Gay Trust, Governor Egan's Advisory Board on Drugs, a past Executive Director of the Alaska World Affairs Council, and the author of "22 and the Mother of 11."

Sky Starkey has decades of experience representing Alaska Native tribes and tribal organizations, local rural governments and Native corporations on a wide variety of issues, including tribal and subsistence rights, Indian Child Welfare Act cases, natural resource protection and allocation, state and federal political and legislative actions, Native allotments and co-management opportunities. Sky litigates in the federal and state courts, appears before state and federal administrative regulatory boards and agencies, and advocates before the Alaska Legislature and the U.S. Congress and Executive Branch. He was recognized with the Alaska Federation of Natives Service Award in 2003. Sky is an enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Lakota Tribe, Eagle Butte, South Dakota.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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AUUF Services and Events –February 2018

Sunday February 4

- 9 am Gretchen Bersch and Sandra Cristofferson,
'Life-long Learning – Ole!'
- 11 am Rev. Kim Patterson,
'Swift Justice Revisited '
- Anchorage City Church Executive Pastor Kim Patterson is the author of "Swift Justice -- Leveling the Playing Field for America's Re-Entry Citizens" (2012). His book examines the plight of minorities and the poor when they reenter society from the correctional system.

Sunday February 11

- 9 am Rev. Denise Sudbeck & David Lockard,
'Challenging Prop. 1'
- 11 am Rev. Shelley Page
'Building Beloved Community'
- Let's explore what Beloved Community really means and how we are building it together. Joyfully gather with us as we kick off the 2018 Stewardship Campaign and dedicate the newly re-built Steinway piano with some special music!

Sunday February 18

- 9 am Betty Arnett,
"Those Jesse Lee Boys & Me"
- 11 am Youth Service
1st Principle 'Ted Talks' according to youth. Talks and music by our YRUU!

Sunday February 25

- 9 am Sky Starkey,
'Native Sovereignty and Subsistence Matter'
- 11 am Rev. Shelley Page
'Shabbat!'
- The ancient practice of Sabbath from the Jewish faith speaks to us about the spiritual value of intentional rest. Learn more about this practice and how a UU Sabbath could transform your life.*

(more info on our speakers and services page 9)

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- February 2018

Sunday 11 am ~ Classes for toddlers through high school
Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare ages 1-10

Tuesday Evening Services 7 pm With Becca Bernard
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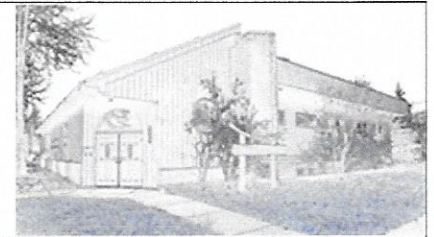
The LOG

March 2018

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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



On the Journey...

One of the things I love about Unitarian Universalists is that we are a curious bunch. We actively wonder about the nature of the universe, poking and prodding with questions as we seek to gain understanding and insight. We wonder aloud about all manner of things! It's who we are as a faith rooted in being comfortable with questions as well as answers, knowing that often answers are complex and nuanced. We are not a one-size-fits-all faith.

I also love that an interim time for a congregation offers a time for questions. This transitional time is a perfect time to be asking "why do we do _____ in that particular way?" or "what's the story about that...?" It's a wonderful time for experimenting and trying some things on for size, asking "What if we tried _____?" or "What would it look like to change _____?" It is a time for all of us to be curious, actively wondering about how to build on the strengths of this congregation, and how to address its challenges in healthy and meaningful ways.

And, like many things in life, the answers will not be simple. We each experience this fellowship in our own way, bringing our own histories, values and needs into the picture. So, as we ask questions, we begin to realize that there are multiple truths and possibilities as answers. Keeping open and curious helps us dive deeper and look at a fuller range of answers. One thing is for certain—the questions will keep forming, and we will live into the answers together, shifting and changing things along the way.

As things shift and change, discomfort can pop up. "Whoa, *that's* not how we do it here." "I'm not sure I like this change, I miss the way we've *always* done it..." Reactions like this are perfectly normal when change happens in our lives. It's a human thing. And, being part of an intentional spiritual community offers us a fabulous opportunity to keep curious about our discomfort (Why do I feel that way? What am I seeking? Is there another way to look at this?) and open to trying something out for a while. For here's the truth, the very thing that makes you feel uncomfortable right now is something that others find fresh, helpful, exciting and interesting. So, for example, if some shifts in the order of service are puzzling to you, give it a try for a while and see how it feels after some time has passed. Reflect about why you feel the way you do. And, if you do have continuing curiosities, bring them to Worship Team. (By the way, no one in this congregation is named Someone, Somebody, They/Them, or Anonymous—please offer your wonderings directly to those who have responsibility for that part of fellowship life.)

Continuing to be curious along with all of you,

Reverend Shelley

Calendar Highlights

March 11 Plastics Recycling

March 18 Ministerial Search Info Sessions

March 25 Soup Sunday

Just Mercy book discussion and Ted Talks

Finding Your Way into Fellowship

March 30 Good Friday Service 7:00

March 31 Family Seder 5:30

April 1 Easter and Spring Fling

July 9-13 Peace Camp

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Letter from the President

AUUF is a self-governing organization. The membership makes the decisions that shape our congregational life. The Minister and the Board of Directors serve to help us live into the mission of the congregation. There are several ways this is happening at AUUF at this time.

Members hold our history. Rev. Shelley is collecting our stories through visits with members to uncover AUUF's truths – our triumphs, our mistakes and our hopes for the future. All this is to prepare us for our search for a new minister. She is listening to us so she can reflect back to us who we have been, who we are now, and who we want to become. This new vision will help us achieve clarity in what we are looking for in a settled minister.

Members call a minister. In addition to working with Rev. Shelley, we will also begin work with Rev. Tracy Springberry, our Regional Transitions Coach (RTC), in March. The UUA Settlement Handbook (available online) tells us "the RTC represents the Transitions Office to the congregation, assists the congregation in understanding the recommended search process, and guides the search committee toward maximum effectiveness. The RTC does not recommend or comment on prospective candidates." Rev. Tracy will be leading a Board retreat on Saturday, March 17 and speaking at both services on Sunday, March 18. This will be an important Sunday to be in attendance so mark your calendar! The Board will then embark on forming a ministerial search committee to be in place by mid-summer with the goal of having our new settled minister in Fall 2019.

Members pledge. Pledges that come in during this year's stewardship drive will determine the budget the Board is able to present to the membership for consideration at the May 6 Annual Meeting. Please show your support for this community by giving generously. And, please pay your current year pledge--our day-to-day operations depend on your contributions.

Only members get to vote. Our bylaws state that one needs to be a member for 30 days to be able to cast a vote at the Annual Meeting. Consider it voter registration! Speak to Rev. Shelley, Judy Engh or Julie Behm, our Membership Committee co-chairs, if you would like to sign the book by Friday, April 6 and participate in the new member celebration on Sunday, April 8.

In Fellowship, Amanda Mack

Save the Date!! Sunday, March 18

We're gearing up for the upcoming Ministerial Search process! Curious about what happens and why? How do UU congregations select new ministers?

Gather with us to learn more on this Sunday when we will devote our entire morning to exploring this important topic with Reverend Tracy Springberry, our Regional Transitions Coach. She will present the Forum and preach during Worship, and will be fully available to answer all your search questions and wonderings. You won't want to miss this golden opportunity!

9:00 am Forum: How to Pick an Excellent Minister

Rev. Tracy Springberry is the Minister at West Hills Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of McMinnville. She has served congregations in Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Alaska. She is a Transition Coach for the UUA Pacific Western Region. Her goal for the Anchorage UU Fellowship is an excellent minister that you love and who loves you! She has helped both the Fairbanks and Boise, Idaho congregations find such ministers. When she served as interim minister in Fairbanks, Alaska five years ago, she fell unexpectedly and madly in love with Alaska the place and the Alaskan people. If Alaska had just a little more spring and fall, and wasn't so far from her four children, she would move there.

11:00 am Worship Service: Learning the Ways of Love and Peace

It seems improbable, but Unitarian Universalists are the direct descendants of the Puritans who came to America in the early 1600s. While they would be as shocked by us as we are by them, they would recognize and affirm how we organize church, and our on-going quest to seek more love and more peace between ourselves and in the world. And, amazingly, this legacy speaks to us as we begin the process of searching for our new minister.

Bylaws and YoUU

What are bylaws and why should I care about them?

Bylaws lay the groundwork for AUUF. Although written in formal language to satisfy legal requirements, bylaws also reflect our mission, vision, and values. They help us govern day-to-day committee and board function, deal with rarer tasks such as calling a minister or buying a new building, and provide guidance for addressing disagreements on legal matters. Bylaws also provide a roadmap for getting involved in key decision making, which is particularly important to new members or underrepresented groups.

Over the last few years, AUUF members have raised questions about some of our bylaws, e.g.,

- Should proxy votes be allowed at annual meetings?
- What should we require before taking a public stand as a congregation?
- What are our membership requirements?

Over the coming year, we'll be taking a look at these and other bylaws to see where we might want updates. We'll also review our bylaws on the ministerial search process for consideration of changes at our May 6 annual meeting this year. Any amendments to the bylaws will require a two-thirds vote at a congregational meeting. If you would be interested in diving into this process, please contact one of us. For a look at all our bylaws, see our website at <https://www.anchorageuuf.org/about>

Marty Freeman, Program Council chair martyw@ak.net
Amanda Mack, Board President amdack@gmail.com

Construction Update

Now that the fence is gone, the siding is up, and the doors and windows are installed on the new addition, we see a transformed south facing entry. By looking from the outside in, we see sunlight shining on new interior walls; we get the sense of opened up spaces. But it's still a mystery! We don't really have a sense of how it will look and feel on the inside yet. Well, that time is coming soon!

We expect the substantial completion of the new front door and the lift to be done by the end of March. Even so, the new front door will only open to the upstairs at that time. The lower level will remain blocked off, as work will continue downstairs until mid-April.

Why is that, you ask? Well, our structural engineers learned in December that the building had a pre-existing condition! The basement columns holding up the ceiling in what will be the new RE library and gathering space were bearing too much weight before construction began. For safety purposes, we fixed the problem by reinforcing the columns. The good news is that our kids and our teachers are safe. That being said, this unexpected cost may limit our ability to complete our vision for dividing up the two RE classrooms into four. We know this is a disappointment. To be clear, the Board is committed to seeing this through as we represent the membership and dividing these classrooms is the wish of the membership. It remains our top capital campaign priority. How we will do it and when is something we are working on and will be communicated as we learn more about the work remaining downstairs.

We acknowledge that in the short term this renovation continues to be hard on programming, building accessibility, and finances and therefore stressful for staff, members and friends. Thank you for having confidence in the process we developed together that has guided our decisions throughout the renovation. And have faith! This renovation will indeed meet our long-term goals to improve AUUF's functionality and accessibility and enhance our ability to live our mission both inside and beyond our walls.

In faith, Amanda Mack

Stewardship Update

Many thanks to those of you who picked up your Stewardship packet on the last two Sundays. We appreciate not having to spend the postage!

Please take some time to review the Fair Share Guide as you decide your level of support this coming fiscal year. With a settled minister search, a new mortgage payment to cover the accessibility features of the building remodel and fabulous staff to support, we have a stretch goal this year of \$340,000 for our annual budget. **We can do it!!!**

Pledge forms can be returned 4 ways:

- **During the service!** We will make a call during the 11:00 service for people to come forward with their completed pledge form and exchange it for a fish to add to our wall of growing supporters.
- **Before, During, After** either service. There will be members of the Stewardship Committee at the table to take pledge forms if you'd like to hand it to a person, or you can put it in the lock box in the copy area of the new office suite.
- **By mail:** Use the handy return envelope to send your form back to the office.
- **Online:** From our website click Giving / Donate to be taken to AUUF's secure donation site. Scroll to the bottom you will see an option for establishing recurring contributions

Changes to your pledge do not take effect until July 2018 as we are on a July – June fiscal year. If you would like to make the change effective immediately, please indicate this on your form. Your immediate generosity would be very helpful!

Thanks again to everyone who has made their pledge so far! **With a 1-month campaign we are asking that all forms be returned by March 11th.**

***** If you would like to talk with a member of the Stewardship Committee about your pledge level for the 2018/2019 Fiscal Year, please contact me at wendy.romberg@gci.net to arrange a meeting*****

Yours in Fellowship, Wendy Romberg

Anchorage Faith and Action Congregations Together

By Stephanie Koonz

The AUUF Action Team in AFACT meets twice a month with members of the St Mary's Episcopal Church; together they are doing research on climate change. Recently they have met with Polly Carr of the Alaska Center and Chris Rose, executive director of Renewable Energy Alaska Project. Relationships and contacts are the backbone of research in what is being done, or can be done, in Anchorage about climate change. Reports and progress will be forthcoming. Members of the AUUF action team are Don Crandall, Marie Rozak, Sara Hannon, Johanna Grasso and Stephanie Koonz.

AFACT is sponsoring the Mayoral Candidates Forum on March 19, 2018 from 7pm-8pm at the First Covenant Church, 1145 C Street 99501. All the candidates have committed to attend. Questions to the candidates that AFACT is working on now will encompass climate change, affordable housing and neighborhood safety. There will be a reception period afterward when other questions can be asked.

AFACT Catholic Native Ministries is sponsoring a School Board Forum on March 24th at 7pm at St. Anthony's 825 Klevin Street, Anchorage 99508.

Come and support this event and hear what our very own Deena Mitchell has to say. There will be a reception afterward when you can ask additional questions.

AUUF is hosting a citywide AFACT meeting on March 24th from 9:45am-12:00noon. Members of 16 Anchorage congregations meet to exchange ideas on a quarterly basis.

An AFACT Statewide Leadership Training will be held March 9-March 11, 2018 at Birchwood Camp, 7161 David Blackburn Road, Chugiak, AK 99567. This is training on the principles and methods of Faith Based Community Organizing. For more information, please contact Dan Gibney, 907-297-7731, dan@anchoragefact.org

March Half Portion for Social Action: The Alaska Innocence Project

By Sid McCausland

Concerned that there was no advocate for the wrongfully convicted in our State, a group of Alaska attorneys and investigators launched AKIP in 2007. AKIP strives to identify and exonerate wrongfully convicted individuals and to prevent future wrongful convictions through criminal justice reform and public education.

AKIP's investigations have expanded since the release of the "Fairbanks Four". AKIP will be in Court in April on behalf of a man wrongfully convicted of murder 24 years ago. AKIP is close to filing another suit on behalf of another man who has been wrongfully imprisoned for 20 years for a murder he did not commit. Briefs are currently being prepared for two additional cases.

AKIP is encouraging the Legislature to compensate the wrongfully convicted for the time spent in prison. When signed into law, Alaska will be the thirty-third state to do so. The Legislature is also considering legislation to pay the wrongfully convicted their back PFDs.

AKIP is partnering with the Department of Law and State and local law enforcement to implement and support best practices regarding eyewitness identification and the problematic use of incentivized informants. We pray these efforts will reduce the number of future wrongful convictions.

A wrongful conviction steals a life one day at a time and it will take the efforts of all Alaskans to correct these miscarriages of justice. AKIP is grateful for AUUF's support. (For more on Half Portion see our giving on page 10!)

Social Action Council

By Dennis Arashiro

"When trans people can't access public bathrooms, we can't go to school effectively, go to work effectively, access health care facilities--it's about us existing in public space. And those who oppose trans people having access to the facilities consistent with how we identify know that all the things they claim don't actually happen. It's really about us not existing--about erasing trans people." - Laverne Cox

Proposition 1 on the April 3 ballot is a measure to restrict public bathrooms according birth certificate assigned sex. Clearly, Proposition 1 is not merely about bathrooms--just as the Montgomery bus boycott was not merely about bus seats; just as the Nineteenth Amendment was not merely about a voter's gender. It's about denying the right to live fully and completely as part of the human family--about assigning full humanity to some and denying it to others. Would you have stood by Rosa Parks or stood back? Would you have stood by the suffragettes or stood back? Will you stand by our trans friends and neighbors now or stand back? Joining the fight against Proposition 1 is part of the larger struggle for all human rights for all people.

Here are some ways you can take a stand against Proposition 1:

Donating - Getting the facts out to the voting public takes money. Your money can mean more flyers on doors and more ads on TV and radio.

Canvassing - Saturdays are set aside for meeting our neighbors to inform and persuade.

Telephoning - Join the many volunteers in the evening in calling our neighbors to identify and build support.

Social Media - Engage friends and family on social media in joining the fight. Visit the Fair Anchorage website at <https://www.fairanchorage.org>.

If you want to know about the Fellowship's effort, contact the co-chairs of our Prop. 1 Action Team: Dennis Arashiro at 444-4324 or elvischannel@yahoo.com or Sara Hannon at 843-1406 or sara.hannon@gmail.com. Or, visit the rainbow flag information table at the Fellowship on Sundays for more specifics about how you can help. And once you've acted, ask yourself if you can do more.

Save the Date! More information to come:

March 30 Good Friday Service 7:00

March 31 Family Seder 5:30



Adult Offerings!

The February Book Read – “Just Mercy” by Bryan Stevenson, is available for purchase for \$12 (it’s a deal!) at the Welcome table in the Social Room. Get it now so that you can read it before our discussion and “Ted Talks” event on **March 25**.

‘Just Mercy - Stevenson, founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, has dedicated his legal career to defending those who are trapped by an often capricious, political, and willfully unjust criminal justice system - poor people, people of color, children, and others over whom the system has run roughshod. It speaks to justice, mercy, and compassion, themes of concern to us as Unitarian Universalists and as human beings.’



Consider Being An "Our Whole Lives" Class Facilitator! *Would you love being part of the fabulous team that brings Sexuality education to our young people?* We need both male/female Elementary OWL leaders willing to be trained to lead the Elementary curriculum. There will be Elementary OWL trainings around the US this spring and summer that you could attend. There will also be a Jr/Sr High OWL training in Fairbanks –April 6-8 led by Katherine Huffman. If you are interested in either of these levels, please fill out an application form available at the RE Info Spot downstairs. Training is required to teach this program. If you think this might be the niche for you, please speak to Rosene Beachy, DLR. Trainings funds provided from our prior OWL registrations.

Hungry Book Club Six dedicated readers were able to make the February meeting Feb. 13th. We had all read February’s choice, “The Man Who Sold Alaska” and “The Man Who Bought Alaska”. We all appreciated the research that had gone into these companion books and enjoyed a review of Alaska’s history and we learned some things about the Civil War also. Next read for March will be “A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles”, a best seller in 2016. We are an open book club and anyone who is a lover of good books is welcome. Bring a “semi healthy snack” to share and join us for an interesting afternoon, March 13th 2-4 at 836 M Street. Call Shirley 563-4499 for more information.

Chalice Circles Small groups connect UUs on a deeper level. Groups of 12 or less, meet once a week for 8-10 weeks to reflect and discuss significant life topics. The time together is structured and may include a chalice lighting, focused readings, and a moment of centering silence before participants share their perspectives, tell their stories and listen deeply. Days, times and locations vary, depending on group preferences. contact Meghan Bundtzen at BetterWithArt@gmail.com. New groups starting as people sign up.

Friendship Dinners – Last Date This Winter! Our 3rd Friendship Dinner is March 4, 6-9 pm. This is a wonderful way to get to know other AUUF folks in a relaxed, intimate setting, and begin lasting friendships. The host provides the entrée, and the guests bring side dishes. If you did not sign up and would like to participate, please contact AndeeCordano@gmail.com (350-6361)

Yoga for Every Body Offered at AUUF Wednesdays 6-7:15. Free will offering (half to AUUF). Instructor: Paula Saylor. 907-297-9184.

Are You Considering Joining AUUF?

We welcome anyone who is interested in learning more about UU and/or becoming a member of AUUF to come to our next **Finding Your Way into Fellowship** class led by Rev. Shelley. Because some folks are not available in evenings, we are planning to do it all in one afternoon instead of 3 evenings. It will be Sunday, March 25th from 12:30-4:30pm. We will be serving lunch and snacks and will provide childcare as needed. Please let us know ages of children so we can staff properly.

We plan to have our next New Member Ceremony April 8th when we will officially welcome folks from this class and our recently completed class into our Fellowship community.

Please spread the word! To sign up or ask questions, contact the office 248-3737 or Judy Engh at judyrae427@yahoo.com. We look forward to welcoming many new people as we co-create this great community!

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Grateful for the lovely Valentine's Day "Tea" with Rev. Shelley where about 18 of us were free to join our new Interim Minister to share Valentine memories (how lovely that people still make homemade valentines), and talk about what our congregation does well and a little about what we don't do so well. It was a good mix of really "old timers", one who has been here since 1962 and a few new ones who are also learning about our past history. So glad to be a part of this charming event.

Grateful for the wonderful "youth" program presented at 11 AM service recently. What a lot of talent we have among our young people! Loved all the music offerings and the spoken concerns from various youth. It was very touching to hear the names of recent students killed in the mass shooting in Florida as a candle was lit for each person who died. When will we learn that killing one of us touches all of us? If you have "extra miles" from Alaska airlines, I can't think of a better use than to give them to our youth for traveling to conferences and workshops.

Grateful for ALL our many volunteers who do so much to make AUUF a better place to be. It does seem to take a village, but you are appreciated.

Thanks to the 7 youth, Ruth, Makayla, Ethan, Noah, Lucas, Spencer, Oceano, youth Advisor TK Kleiner, and DRE Rosene Beachy who participated in a wonderful youth adventure, driving through the snowy miles for a Youth Lock-In and Alaskan youth service at the Fairbanks UU, February 24th – 25th. Thanks to the Fairbanks UU families, DRE Molly and Rev. Leslie who hosted the youth at the church. We are so grateful for our thriving youth program and developing ties to our UU congregation to the north! Be well, dear people.

Regional Assembly is for the Family!

The PWR Regional Assembly in Portland, Oregon (April 27-29) has something for people of every age. In addition to the main programs for adults, we'll have a UU Kids Camp for ages 5-14, a Youth Assembly for ages 14-18, and high-quality childcare for infants to age 4. Families can spend time together, too, sharing the experiences of the opening ceremony, the Sunday morning worship, mealtimes, and more. Because of our UU commitment to including children and youth, the PWR is covering much of the cost of the programs for young people. The Pacific Western Regional Assembly promises to be an experience that deepens UU identity and fosters hope and resilience in people of all ages. Register now! www.uua.org/pacific-western/regional-assembly

News from The Alliance

By Shirley Dickens, Member

The Alliance met in February with almost every member present. We agreed to buy some goodies for the Valentine Tea, and send a basket of items for Bruce Roberts who is recovering from a broken leg. We will pick a date in March for the party for our elders (pot luck) and we are working on revising our brochure and bringing it up to date. We took a group picture in front of Sylvia's refurbished piano before we left the building.

Keep us in mind for our May rummage sale.

March Birthdays!

Birthdays are not published in our on-line version.

Manage your on-line electronic giving on your phone! Download the GivePlus Church app from Google Play or the Apple App store. It's Free!

Sound and Media Support Form!

A support request form for people to use when communicating about upcoming events with the sound and media team has been created. When you have an upcoming service or event, please use this form to give specific information to the team about what we can do to make sure your event goes smoothly. The form is on our website and paper copies are in the sound booth. Feedback: Alix McKee727-9385; alix@alaska.com.

RE Notes March 2018

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Our Program – February 4, 11, 18, 25

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

11:00 Service – March, 4, 25 Regular classes

There will be **RE during Spring Break March 11 and 18!** - Cross Age Dance and Music and activities for Elementary ages. Preschool and youth classes will be self-contained.

April 1st - Spring Fling - Easter activities

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. We've had several wonderful soup Sundays this year and have donated funds to these special projects. Thanks everyone for making, donating to and eating soups to further the kids projects!

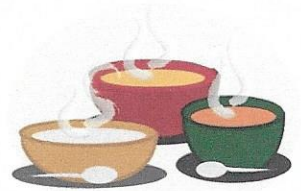
December Soup Sunday hosted by the Moon Spinners raised \$316 for Heifer Project International

January Soup Sunday hosted by the Fire Keepers raised \$ 214 for animal care at the SPCA.

February Soup Sunday hosted by the Sun Catchers and Truth Seekers classes raised \$230.

The March Soup Sunday on March 25 will be coordinated by the Coming of Age group to raise funds for the Coming of Age program.

Guest at Your Table – raised \$192.70 For the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and their work for justice around the world!



Spring Fling- April 1st – Easter celebration

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

So when you are buying treats for Easter baskets for your favorite people, please think about buying few extra bags for RE! Please bring items to the fellowship by March 25.

We will also need non-dyed, hard boiled eggs brought on April 1st.

Save the Date –Summer Camp

As you start making summer plans for your (completed) 1-6th grader,
mark your calendar for

AUUF's 3rd annual Summer Peace Camp. July 9-13, 2018

this year's "Peace Camp" will be full of UU summer fun with friends!

July 9-13, 8:30 am – 4:30. Additional childcare 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. (Parent Stipend or child's scholarship available.)

If you have some time to spend with us this week, please contact Rosene Beachy, DLRE, for details. Teens and adults welcome to apply.

Registration Form next page. Sign up list and extra registration forms at the Parent Info Spot downstairs.

(If you would like, you can pay your camp fees on our Website.)

AUUF Summer Peace Camp 1st-6th gr. Registration – July 9-13, 2018



PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Early Bird Registration until May 1, (Children who have finished K-5)

Child/Youth name age gender Birthdate Grade Completed

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Parent/Guardian #1 Name _____ Occupation _____

Address _____ zip _____ Hm phone _____

Email address _____ Cell _____ Best? _____

Parent/Guardian #2 Name _____ Occupation _____

Address _____ zip _____ Hm phone _____

Email address _____ Cell _____ Best? _____

Emergency contact: _____

GENERAL FIELDTRIP PERMISSION AND MEDICAL WAIVER

I give permission for my child to participate in class activities with my advance knowledge about the purpose of the trip or event. I also give permission for emergency medical treatment to be given to my children if needed in emergency circumstances while in the custody of an advisor or RE teacher. I understand best efforts will be made to contact me.

Health Ins. Provider _____ Name of Insured Party _____

Preferred Hospital _____ Physician _____

Food Allergies/Special Needs/Health Issues/Medications: _____

Child (name + allergy) _____

Child (name + allergy) _____

Does your child have an IEP or any other special accommodations at school or family circumstances. _____

Continue on back

Before camp care needed (\$10/day) – yes _____ (8 – 8:30 am) After camp care needed – yes _____ (4:30 - 5 :00pm)

Camp fee enclosed - \$200 per child (Early Bird registration before May 1 - \$150) Total _____

I need a Scholarship _____ Donation toward a scholarship _____ I can be a craft volunteer for the week _____ days? _____

T shirt size (CS, CM, CL, AS, AM, AL) _____ Special skill I can provide _____

PHOTO AND VIDEO RELEASE – CHILD OR YOUTH

I hereby authorize Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship to use of my child, _____ without a name attached, in the AUUF newsletter, Religious Education brochure or any other publications put out by the church.

I authorize release of my child's image for use on the AUUF Website, in video footage that may be used to promote the church and its activities, or in any other print or online publications to which the church contributes (AUUF Facebook pages, District and UUA publications, etc.)

Signature _____ Date _____

Youth News

Bridging. Bridging - Calling all HS Seniors

As winter turns into spring, it can only mean one thing: the end of the school year is close, and seniors will be "Bridging" into Young Adulthood.

A particularly wonderful youth celebration is held each year in the spring (this year April 15) with AUUF high school seniors. Celebrate your roots and this important time of transition by participating in a Bridging ceremony during our Youth Sunday in April.

Our Bridging program will include a "Synthesis & Planning" workshop for seniors, at the Fellowship to reflect on their life so far, prepare and decide on the service components. If you are a senior or know a senior interested in participating in this celebration, please contact Rosene Beachy, rbeachy@alaskalife.net All 12th grade youth welcome, but they need to participate in this workshop. Information packet and registration form will be mailed to known senior youth.

Bridging Workshop will be Friday, March 2nd, 5:00 - 8:00 for HS seniors who would like to participate in the Bridging ceremony.

Coming of Age - next Mentor & Mentee meetings:

Sunday, #7 - March 4th - Values/Beliefs collages

#8 - April 8 - Credo writing

#9 - April 22 - Rites of Passage Retreat prep/Parent-Youth Workshop

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; revshelleyauf@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 Contacts are Available on our Website.

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).

Our Half Portion Social Justice Gifts

July 2017 – January 2018

July 2017	Dr. Jill Seaman, Sudan Hospital	\$1062.46
Aug. 2017	Minister's Discretionary Fund	\$1094.37
Sept. 2017	Girls on the Run	\$1229.67
Oct. 2017	CSS-Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services (RAIS)	\$1329.90
Oct. 2017	Oct. 29, 5 th Sunday Ministers Discretionary Fund	\$314.45
Nov. 2017	Project Homeless Connect	\$1468.33
Dec. 2017	Children's Lunchbox	\$1,327.94
Dec. 2017	Dec 31, 5th Sunday Ministers Discretionary Fund	\$771.13
Jan. 2018	Alaska Literacy Project	\$1470.98
	Total Half Portion for seven of twelve months	\$10,303.23



Recycling # 5 Plastics only **March 11th**.
Recycling tip: Switch to clear plastic garbage can lines instead of black. They are cheaper at Costco than the black ones and are more acceptable in the recycling market.

Connecting with Reverend Shelley...

Reverend Shelley is available to meet with you personally. Please email revshelleyauuf@gmail.com or call the office (907-248-3737 x 2). It is helpful to offer possible times that work for you so that Shelley can more easily schedule. For pastoral emergency call (907) 868-3737. Thanks!

About Our Speakers and Services (see back page)

Tuesday Evening Service Please join us Tuesday evenings for a contemplative service at **7:00 pm**, led by seminarian Becca Bernard. This midweek service is an opportunity for quiet contemplation and celebration in an intimate setting, and for the next while we'll be experimenting with various worship ideas and approaches. If you've enjoyed the midweek service, or have an interest in trying it, please come join us on a Tuesday evening soon and help shape this element of our congregational offerings.

Rev. Denise Sudbeck is a married trans woman living in Anchorage and pastor of the emerging Metropolitan Community Church. She is currently working toward a Doctor of Ministry degree with a dissertation in trans-focused theology. Sudbeck also serves as campaign co-chair of Fair Anchorage, a coalition of local citizens urging a "no" vote on Proposition 1.

Steven Johnson is an Associate Professor and Director of Debate at the University of Alaska Anchorage. He's been involved in competitive debating for over 30 years and believes fervently in the power of academic debating to change people's lives. Steve was the first president of the National Parliamentary Debate Association and served two terms as the Chair of the World Universities Debating Council. UAA teams coached by Steve have enjoyed a great deal of competitive success, including winning the U.S. National Championships in 2002 and 2005. And in 2007, a team from the University of Alaska prevailed over 320 teams from around the world to reach the semifinal round of the World Universities Debating Championships.

Ernestine Hayes was born to the Wolf House, Tlingit Kaagwaantaan clan, in southeast Alaska at the end of World War II. In her first book, *Blonde Indian: An Alaska Native Memoir* – which received an American Book Award -- she weaves reminiscences of her life, stories from her grandmother, Tlingit history, nature writing, and fiction into a testament of the twentieth-century Alaska Native experience and a love song to the land. Her latest book, *The Tao of Raven*, places fiction and nonfiction narratives in the context of Raven and the Box of Daylight and Sun Tzu's *Art of War*. Ernestine teaches writing at the University of Alaska Southeast campus and is our current Alaska Writer Laureate.

Rev. Tracy Springberry is the Minister at West Hills Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of McMinnville. She has served congregations in Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Alaska. She is a Transition Coach for the UUA Pacific Western Region. Her goal for the Anchorage UU Fellowship is an excellent minister that you love and who loves you! She has helped both the Fairbanks and Boise, Idaho congregations find such ministers. When she served as interim minister in Fairbanks, Alaska five years ago, she fell unexpectedly and madly in love with Alaska the place and the Alaskan people. If Alaska had just a little more spring and fall, and wasn't so far from her four children, she would move there.

Rev. Shelley Page serves as the Interim Minister at the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. A graduate of Cornell University and Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, she also served congregations in Delaware, Michigan and Utah. A Unitarian Universalist for over 35 years, her lay leadership roles include founding mother of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Canandaigua in New York. Her previous careers included marketing and communications management for business and not-for-profit organizations.



Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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AUUF Services and Events –March 2018

Sunday March 4

9 am UAA Debate Coach Steve Johnson,
'On Teaching Reason'

11 am Rev. Denise Sudbeck,
'Towards and Epic of Flourishing'

An update from my dissertation research describing what it means to include transgender people in spiritual communities and how to understand and overcome the "voices of no."

Sunday March 11

9 am Ernestine Hayes,
'From Homelessness to Alaska Writer Laureate.'

11 am Rev. Shelley Page
'The Presence of God'

How we perceive god informs how we view the world and our part in it. Let's explore some ideas about god, particularly through the lens of African American feminist science fiction author, Octavia Butler, as she lifts up the notion that god is change.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- March 2018

Sunday 11 am ~ Classes for toddlers through high school

Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare ages 1-10

Tuesday Evening Services 7 pm

Sunday March 18

9 am Rev. Tracy Springberry,
'How to Choose an Excellent Minister'

11 am Reverends Tracy Springberry and Shelley Page
'Learning the Ways of Love and Peace'

It seems improbable, but Unitarian Universalists are the direct descendants of the Puritans who came to America in the early 1600s. While they would be as shocked by us as we are by them, they would recognize and affirm how we organize church, and our on-going quest to seek more love and more peace between ourselves and in the world. And, amazingly, this legacy speaks to us as we begin the process of searching for our new minister.

Sunday March 25

9 am Rev. Shelley Page,
'The Cosmic Theology of Carl Sagan'

11 am Rev. Shelley Page
'Where Do We Go Now? And How?'

We join other UU congregations in honoring UU Service Committee Justice Sunday. This year's focus is on climate change forced migration, a topic affecting Alaskans and others around the globe. Come prepared with a generous donation to support UUSC and its vital work.

Friday March 30 Good Friday Service 7:00

Saturday March 31 Family Seder 5:30

The LOG

May 2018

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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



On the Journey...

Sometimes, to get where you're going, you have to slow down. There's a moose crossing the road, or a bridge is out and you have to go the long way around. You eventually get there but not as quickly as you thought you would. And, it's okay.

The process of transition for a congregation can feel like the bridge is out and you need to go the long way around. It's not as simple as it first seems. That easy comfortable path that you've known for quite a while is suddenly gone. Gosh darn, things **are** different. Worship can feel different. Meetings can feel different. All manner of things can feel different, and understandable feelings can pop up. While most people associate grief with the loss of loved ones, grief can also happen when you are dealing with the loss of a beloved minister, or "the way things were" that felt so comfortable. And grief takes many forms—sadness, wistful memories, frustration, anger and reactions that push back, not accepting the new circumstances. All of these ways of responding to transition are perfectly expected and normal—it is our very human way of coping with change and loss.

It can be tempting to try to push past all these feelings. But, the way of strength and wisdom is the long way around—working through the feelings, together. And, unlike personal grief, this is grief in community, so folks are in different places at different times depending on how long they have been part of the community, their past AUUF experiences and their own life journey. And, then, add on top of any feelings about AUUF, our greater cultural context now is a time of chaos, mistrust in institutions, and people entrenched in their own viewpoint, talking past each one another instead of talking **to** each other.

But, being part of a Unitarian Universalist congregation is a counter-cultural experience. We live in sacred covenant with one another, agreeing to walk together in respect and compassion as fellow seekers. We covenant to live in the big theological tent with atheists, humanists, Christians, Jews, Muslims, pagans, Buddhists, agnostics and all kinds of folks. We covenant to live with members we've known for years as well as those more newly arrived with their own ideas and fresh energy. We covenant to be gentle with one another, **recognizing that multiple realities co-exist here**. The very thing that concerns you can be the very thing that delights and excites others who are also a part of this faith community. That's where the slow path, the long way around comes into the picture.

How do we navigate this time of transition where so many feelings are popping up? **Slow down** and **listen** well to one another, especially when someone is feeling different than you. Listen with deep respect and say "tell me more." Offer your own perspective lightly, with some humility. What is ultimately important is **right relationship**, which can take some time to get a rough consensus about "what is" and "what ought to be." The interim time ahead will be offering some fruitful ways for us to do that work together but in the meanwhile, you can jump start by slowing down and listening as your own spiritual practice, taking some inspiration from the ancient Sufi Muslim poet and spiritual leader, Jellaludin Rumi who once wrote:

Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing,
there is a field. I'll meet you there.

When the soul lies down in the grass,
the world is too full to talk about.
Ideas, language, even the phrase each other
doesn't make any sense.

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Calendar Highlights

May 3rd Budget and By-laws Session
May 6 Annual Meeting
May 15 "Just Mercy" Book Discussion
May 19 Rummage Sale
June 3 Dinner Honoring our Elders
June 9-14 and July 11-13 WhaleCoast
July 9-13 Peace Camp

Blessings, Reverend Shelley

Letter from the President

Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote...the fifth principle: the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

At the annual meeting on May 6, we get the opportunity to practice our fifth principle. Members get to hear about the year in review from the board, the endowment committee, the Alliance, and from the capital project team. Members will then vote on a proposed bylaw amendment and a budget and elect board and endowment members – all important guides for us in the year to come.

To be an informed voter, materials were sent out (via email this year) for your review and informational sessions are scheduled. The first session was held on April 15 and another is scheduled for April 29 after the service. Based on feedback, we've added an additional evening session on Thursday, May 3 at 6:30 p.m. These are opportunities for you to weigh in on issues important to you and for the board to listen, to gather information, to hear your creative suggestions, and to consider, based on that feedback, how to proceed going into the annual meeting. These sessions are an incredibly useful part of the process and help shape the outcomes at the annual meeting. We really appreciate the lively discussion that occurred at the April 15 session. Please attend on April 29 or May 3!

Also, in the March LOG I shared with you that the board was in conversation with Rev. Shelley about extending her contract. We are delighted to report that she agreed to stay with us for another year. After much consideration, the board determined that crunching the various steps of finding a settled minister into a condensed time frame of 18 months was just too much (see ministerial search process timeline). To be clear, one reason is that volunteers are fatigued and need a breather after managing our ministerial transition, conducting the RE program in a construction zone, and pitching in to oversee and work on the renovation over the last year.

Another important reason is that our congregation needs time to develop a shared vision for AUUF's future. That is the work we do in partnership with our interim minister, work that normally begins in the fall and kick-starts a two-year process, a process initially cut short because of Gary's December departure. We need a shared vision before we can call a settled minister that 85 or 90 percent (whichever we decide!) of us can get behind. The interim work that will begin in the fall will be incredibly vital to a healthy future for our Fellowship.

Bring your creative ideas to informational sessions, the annual meeting, and to the interim process. Our future will be better for your participation.

In faith, Amanda Mack

Interesting fact: UU congregations who don't work with an interim minister have a 33 percent success rate of finding a settled minister. Congregations who do work with an interim minister have a 90 percent success rate.

Source: Keith Kron, UU minister and co-author of the book *In the Interim: Strategies for Interim Ministers and Congregations* and 2017 General Assembly presenter.

Ministerial search process timeline:

- Fall 2018 – Launch interim work to develop a unified vision for AUUF's future that will feed into the ministerial search committee's process.
- Winter 2019 – The board initiates the congregation-wide process to select the ministerial search committee.
- Spring 2019 – Ministerial search committee is elected by the congregation
- Summer and Fall 2019 – Search committee conducts congregational survey and focus groups, gathers data, prepares draft congregational record (CR), and packet to post on the online UUA Settlement System
- End of November 2019 – Transitions Office makes AUUF's CR available to ministers online.
- January 2020 – AUUF receives names of interested ministers and we exchange online packets.
- February – March 2020 – Conduct three pre-candidate interviews in Anchorage
- April 2020 – AUUF extends an offer to top ministerial choice
- April – May 2020 – Candidating week and congregational vote
- August 2020 – New minister arrives

Sources: Rev. Tracy Springberry, AUUF's Transitions Coach and UUA Settlement Handbook

From the Transition Team

The transition team has continued to meet monthly to discuss our fellowship's interim process and make observations, hopefully with dispassion and clarity, about where AUUF is right now, our strengths and struggles. We hope to develop awareness of the present moment so we can shine together and be transformed into our best community. As Shelley says, this is the "heart work" of the interim time.

In taking an unflinching look at our struggles, we are noticing a pattern that has occurred in our fellowship. At times the right hand may not know what the left hand is doing. A person or group may be working hard on something, when another person or group has a different idea about doing that same thing and proceeds to make changes. Sometimes there is a lack of communication and a lack of trust. People separate into different camps on various issues, each with their own narrative about what happened. There have been misunderstandings and hurt feelings.

On the transition team we are talking about how we can become aware of these patterns, resolve and release any lingering issues from the past, welcome new members and friends, and move forward joyfully and harmoniously. If you have thoughts or personal experiences relating to patterns like this, or any other sparks of energy or feelings of discomfort regarding our community, please approach any member of the transition team to talk about it. Team members include Teresa Zimmer, Marty Freeman, Dennis Arashiro, Theresa Bartoldus, George Bryson, Carolyn Gove, Ann Larabee, and Reverend Shelley.

Our team will stay together through Shelley's planned time with us, now ending in June 2020. We currently meet once a month and will drop back to meeting approximately once a quarter after next fall.

WhaleCoast Alaska 2018 Hosts Needed!

Tours will be in Anchorage June 9-14 AND July 11-13
Help With our Biggest FUNdraiser of the Year!



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. They will be in Anchorage for at least 2 nights for each tour. Whale Coast is one of AUUF's biggest fundraisers. Our Fellowship earns \$80 per person per night, plus stipend for the banquets, so it is well worth our collective efforts to provide accommodations. Besides, it is Fun! (Ask anyone who has been a host!)

Denise Martin is coordinating housing. We need many hospitable families to house all these visitors in June and July. Plus,

we need help feeding them! Kalen Saxton is banquet coordinator for 2 dinners at AUUF on June 10 and July 12. We could use a Transportation Coordinator to join this fun effort. Drivers are needed to drive guests around. Please contact Denise 317-6134 if you can help house guests. Contact Kalen at 224-8221 to help with banquets.

Please mark the dates on your calendar and sign up to help. Look for sign-up and information sheets on the social room bulletin board (by the kitchen) or on our Website. To learn more about the statewide tour schedules, visit www.whalecoastak.org.

The Whalecoast effort needs some new team members to help plan, so that future leadership can someday take over! This is a fun, once-a-year summer project that could use your help. Interested? Contact Denise Martin to find out more 317-6134, or email dulcimer.diva@gmail.com.

Stewardship Update

The Stewardship would like to warmly thank everyone who has pledged so far this year! If you have been meaning to turn in your form, but just forgot, it isn't too late.

We love recurring automatic donations, because they are both convenient for you and help the Fellowship stay on track with its budget year-round. If you are one of our automatic donors, thank you! Did you know that credit card fees are costing us approximately \$6000 annually? We strongly encourage, you to help us reduce these fees by switching your recurring donation from your credit card to your bank account which has much lower fees. There are a few ways to do this:

1. You can do it yourself by signing on to Vanco via our website - / *Giving* / *Donate Now (Vanco)* / *Log In* / and using your email address. From there you add a new payment method, either savings account or checking.
2. Drop a voided check off in the secure box in the copier room at the Fellowship. And we will take care of that for you.
3. Call the office 248-3737 x 3 weekdays. Have your bank routing number and account number in hand.
4. Help will be available in the social room on upcoming Sundays.

Regardless of how you choose to financially support our Fellowship, your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

Finally, a review of 3rd quarter finances has shown that a number of people are behind in making their current year (FY18) pledge. If you are not current with your pledge (about 80% paid of total pledged), please make arrangements to bring this current by June 30th which is the end of our fiscal year. If you are not sure of your status, you can contact Amy at auuf@gci.net.

Yours in Fellowship, Wendy Romberg

Welcome 10 New Members to AUUF!



We are so happy to welcome 10 new adult members plus their families to AUUF! While some have been Friends of AUUF for years, some are very new and were so impressed after the Finding Your Way into Fellowship class that they joined right away. One wrote, "Wow, what an afternoon. The commitment and energy of all who attended - presenters and attendees was inspiring. I left with an overwhelming desire to be part of what you have built and felt that your community brought together in one-place things I have tried to find but have only done so in a piecemeal fashion." Thank you to all who make our community what it is!

Please welcome Andrew, Erin, Lexie, Morgan, Claudia, Elizabeth, Becca, Lisa, Chris, and Tim to our beloved Fellowship! If you didn't get a chance to see their bios, check out our Bio/Photo book at the welcome table. (BTW, we are continually updating the book, so you can still send us your bio and photo. This is really helpful for all of us - especially new folks - to get to know each other!)

We are considering having a Finding Your Way into Fellowship class this summer if there is enough interest. Please contact the office if you are interested in joining or finding out a lot more about AUUF.

Those Wooden Name Tags

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



Adult Offerings!

"Just Mercy" Book Discussion – Tuesday May 15, 7 pm

If you missed the first discussion about this excellent book, mark your calendar for Tuesday May 15 at 7 pm, at the Fellowship. This will be a special evening, as our own Susan Orlansky, who has defended a death row client herself, will join us to provide her inside perspective. Books are for sale between services every Sunday, and it is an enlightening, hopeful, and relatively quick read.



Weekly Wednesday Summer Potluck Dinners – New for 2018!

With our busy Alaska summers, let's take some time to enjoy summer evenings with weekly potluck dinners! 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, from May 30 through August 15. We'll kick off at the Mitchell home, 1820 Westchester Circle, on May 30. We need hosts for many of the other dates! Sign-up sheets will be available between services Sundays, or contact Deena Mitchell (DeenaMitchell1978@gmail.com; 847-997-8357) or Andee Cordano (AndeeCordano@gmail.com; 350-6361) with questions, or to host a date.

Hungry Book Club Nine of us met Tuesday, April 10, to discuss the excellent book, "Code Girls" by Liza Mundry. We learned a lot about women helping crack the codes during World War II in a very secret operation going on in Washington DC. We will be reading for May, "As All My Fathers Were" by Jim Misko. This was also very highly recommended. June's book will be "Hillbilly Elegy" by J.D. Vance. We meet the second Tuesday at 2 PM off campus (9th and M condos in a social room.) All serious lovers of good books are welcome. Bring a little snack to share, mostly healthy. Call Shirley Dickens, 563-4499, for more details.

Chalice Circles – Summer and Beyond

We just finished up an enriching season of Chalice Circles, which are small groups of Fellowship members and friends who meet on a regular schedule to share their perspectives on a variety of topics, tell their stories, and listen deeply. The time together is structured: Groups begin and end with centering readings and often include a time of silence before the sharing begins. These groups also put their faith into action through service projects.

There will be a group that meets during the summer, probably Wednesday daytime. If you would like to join, or are interested in being a facilitator for a Chalice Circle when we start up again in the Fall, please contact Deena Mitchell (DeenaMitchell1978@gmail.com; 847-997-8357) or Andee Cordano (AndeeCordano@gmail.com; 350-6361). We will offer training for new facilitators – it is a great way to expand your skills and contribute to this wonderful offering.

Interested in Adult Programming? If you are interested in joining the fun and creative Adult Programs Committee, please contact either our DLRE Rosene Beachy (rbeachy@alaskalife.net), or Adult Programs Committee Chair Deena Mitchell (DeenaMitchell1978@gmail.com; 847-997-8357).

Yoga for Every Body Offered at AUUF Wednesdays 6-7:15. (Taking a break early May, resuming May 23rd). Free will offering (half to AUUF). Instructor: Paula Saylor. 907-297-9184.

Annual Meeting and Information Sessions, Be Informed!

Our annual meeting is May 6th. All members have been emailed or mailed a packet of materials. A limited number of extra packets is available at the Welcome table. Two special informational meetings on the budget and the by-laws have been held and the final one is offered Thursday May 3rd at 6:30. Your questions and suggestions are very welcome!

AFACT (Anchorage Faith and Action Congregations Together)

By Marie Rozak

Prior to the Municipal Elections, AFACT held two forums. The Mayoral Candidates Forum was hosted by First Covenant Church. Later in the week, St. Anthony's Catholic Native Congregation hosted the School Board Candidates Forum. Both events were well attended and covered live by KTVA. KTVA reported that the two events were viewed by 4,000 and 3,500 viewers.

AUUF's AFACT Local Organizing Committee has teamed with St. Mary's Episcopal LOC to form a Temporary Organizing Committee (TOC). The group is currently holding research meetings to narrow down a climate change topic for action. We have met with Catherine Kemp, Special Assistant to Mayor Berkowitz, Ceal Smith with Alaska Climate Action Network, Prof. Shannon Donovan who chairs Geography and Environmental Studies at UAA, Kristen Collins and Polly Carr of the Alaska Center, as well as Colleen Fisk, Shaina Kilcoyne, and Chris Rose of REAP.

Catherine Kemp shared with us a draft of the Proposed Climate Action Plan for Anchorage. The introduction and next steps for this topic will be a Climate Action Plan Work Day to be held at UAA May 16.

April Half Portion for Social Action: Identity

By Sid McCausland

Identity, Inc. provides a safe haven where Alaska's LGBTQ community can flourish. Identity, Inc. evolved out of the organization that grew up around the first brave Pride Fest. Identity, Inc. continues to find important new ways to educate the public and to support the LGBTQ community. *TransformAK*, one of its latest projects, uses video interviews with family and friends to help us understand the transgender experience. SAGE, another new program which is affiliated with SAGE USA, offers older LGBTQ Alaskans the opportunity to network, support one another and locate receptive and supportive businesses, health providers and community resources.

Identity, Inc.'s volunteers support a broad range of programs for youth and adults. Among the Youth Programs are a Leadership Retreat, Q-club, Pride Prom, Translution (shepherded by Col of FAIR fame) and Transparent (shepherded by David Lockard, FAIR co-chair & Col's dad). In addition to SAGE, programs for adults include weekly meetings for those interested in networking and building community. Identity, Inc.'s survival is dependent upon donations. To learn more, visit <https://identityalaska.org>.

Social Action Council

By Dennis Arashiro

"It ain't over till it's over." - Yogi Berra

Yes! Proposition 1, the so-called bathroom initiative, lost by over 4000 votes! This is the first-time transgender rights went to a decision by popular vote, and this success was group effort by a diverse coalition of churches, organizations, and individuals, including our Fellowship and the Fairbanks UU's. We all have reason to savor this victory for human rights. Yet, it's also time to get ready for the next action--and the next.

The proponents of Prop 1, the Alaska Family Council under Jim Minnery, have a Plan B and perhaps an entire alphabet of plans. Minnery believes that the majority actually supported the bathroom initiative but were hoodwinked by Fair Anchorage's advertising. He states, "A million dollars buys a lot of confusion." Confused into voting a simple no when they meant a simple yes? Hmm . . .

Their next strategy is a focus on electing a more conservative governor and state house this fall to enact a bill to override the voters of Anchorage. This mirrors what happened in North Carolina, when its state legislators nullified the human rights ordinance of the city of Charlotte with their own bathroom law. This means we, as individuals, will have to roll up our sleeves again for the November election.

In addition, let's not forget that the original proposition also called for legalizing LGBT discrimination in public arena as a "religious freedom", which was deleted because of the single-issue requirement for local initiatives. Expect that issue to come up in a future proposition. Be prepared to step forward and respond as we did with Proposition 1 at the next call to battle.

Keeping our New Front Door Open

By Carma Reed, Stewardship Committee, Finance Committee and Capital Project Oversight Team

A good friend of mine completed major capital project benefiting homeless youth in the last few years. The new building offers young people in our community great opportunities in their lives, with space for partner organizations where they can easily access a variety of help, help which most youth find through their own families: access to health care, snacks, counseling, job and GED training, snacks, music lessons, sports, snacks, and generally, being safe. It's phenomenal!

What my friend has also told me is that one challenge has been that when potential funders or donors see the facility, so well suited to its purpose and so beautiful, they assume the organization is flush with funds. Fortunately, the organization is also great at telling their story with dedicated fundraisers and I am pretty sure they will continue to find sufficient operating fund donors to keep those beautiful doors open to homeless youth in Alaska.

We are so pleased to be able to walk through our "New Front Door". The carpet is beautiful, the windows inviting, the lift is working, the space for adults and children is lovely, the design reminds us of our Seven Principles, and it will get even better over the summer.

Many of you have "given 'til it hurts, or feels good" to the capital project, while also maintaining or increasing your operating pledge. That is so important. Thank you so much. While we are close to covering our costs, the operating budget proposed to the congregation includes using savings, which means our pledges as they stand do not currently offer us a sustainable path.

Whether you are a Member or Friend, please consider if your pledge is reflective of how much you value AUUF, and what you can do keep our beautiful doors wide open. Thank you for all that you do.

Some updates from April on the Capital Project:

- 🚧 Conditional Certificate of Occupancy received!
- 🚧 Outside work left to do expected this Spring and Summer
- 🚧 Additional work will be completed downstairs, made possible by your contributions and performed by volunteers and a limited pool of contractors.
- 🚧 Accessibility lift is OPERATIONAL! For training, please contact the office to schedule a time and a person to "show you the ropes".
- 🚧 Many thanks to nVision, the architectural firm that provided all the design work and most importantly allowed our very own architect Jobe Bernier to put in pro-bono hours on evenings and weekends. We really could not have kept the costs as low as we did without this approach. And the design is gorgeous and functional to boot.
- 🚧 And a HUGE thanks to Kuchar, our general contractor who stuck with us through structural and hazardous material surprises, and worked with us as we brought in volunteers to keep costs down. Kuchar, you were always professional, creative, competent, helpful and understanding and while we are so glad to see you go (😊), you will always find a warm welcome here.

May Birthdays!

Melanie	Baker	05/12
Ed	Bennett	05/10
Georgia	Bennett	05/21
John	Blaine	05/21
Michele	Champion	05/23
Kathleen	Dunning	05/23
Jeanna M.	Duryee	05/26
Julian	Fischer	05/21
Natasha	Graham	05/29
Caroline	Lewis	05/12
Denise	Martin	05/08
Sid	McCausland	05/01
Chris	Nelson	05/28
Emi	Webb	05/29

From the Fellowship office

Fellowship Calendar: We are using a google calendar for our activities, meetings, and building usage. You can view this calendar from our website, or the most recent events as you enter the building. The hanging paper calendar in the Fellowship copier room is no longer the most current! To schedule meetings or events please contact the office. Email is preferred. You will receive a confirming email with room assignment.

~~ Amy, Church Administrator 248-3737 x 3

auuf@alaska.com.

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Grateful for the wonderful "Seder" sponsored by Debbie Bock and her husband March 31st in AUUF's social room. We were about 40 with plenty of children and outstanding food as we all participated in the retelling of the Passover story. I love this service and look forward to each time we have a Seder. All the matzo that was hidden was found by our children and we got to go home in a timely manner.

Grateful for a wonderful Easter/April Fools Sunday Service (April 1st) How rare is that? A wonderful choir, a musical director who has a sense of humor (little April Fool's joke as we were directed to sing a Christmas carol to open the service and we did), a wonderful message from Rev. Shelley as she unpacked her Easter Basket, a gorgeous sunny day with temperature reaching 40 degrees. An unforgettable service.

Grateful for the ten new members who "signed the book" and coveted with the congregation at a recent April Sunday. A hardy "WELCOME" to each of you. Illness and such kept 2 or 3 from being there that morning, but their Bios were included in our order of service and we sent healing energy out to you. We hope this is a wonderful event in your lives as it has been for so many of us. We have "found each other".

Grateful for the wonderful "Bridging Ceremony" April 15th for our 5 youth who are bridging into young adults just graduating from high school. Sarah Freeman, Hannah Romberg, Belle Nygren, Reese Gamache and Izzy Hanks were the youth who were bridging. It was so special to hear from their parents and TK Kleiner (the Youth Class Coordinator) about them individually. I do believe this is my favorite "Bridging Ceremony" in all the years we have done this particular service. I loved the Blessing for Families that our minister, Rev. Shelley Page read to us and our response back. Thanks to Denise Martin and Jim Kerr for the music for this service. Thank you Rosene Beachy for a really special service.

Grateful for the wonderful Annual Women's Retreat, held here at AUUF on Friday evening, April 20th and all-day Saturday, April 21st. Kalen Saxton registered 65 women for the very energizing event. We had lots of choices of workshops, lovely classes, great fun making Prayer Beads with the most gorgeous beads that Irene O'Brien could find in Anchorage, time to connect in many ways, great healthy food (Amanda Cash), laughter and much sharing. Old friends reconnected, new friends were found. Much appreciation to the organizers, Elayne Hunter and Renee Frost and to all the worker bees who helped set up, clean up, stack chairs, the put them back. Grateful for the child care so several mamas could enjoy the whole day. The best Retreat for women ever. Thank you to everyone who was part of it.

And we continue to be grateful for our youth program and our fabulous youth who are as of today on their way to the village of Newtok. Thank you to everyone who donated money for food supplies and over 1000 pounds of clothing for a much anticipated 'garage sale' for the families. Our youth will have an incredible experience learning about life in a village, and the direct impacts of climate change on Alaska.

Sending healing energy to those of us in need of some healing (for whatever the reason). Be well, dear people. Stay connected. Enjoy the sun's return (big time) and the snow is on the way out.

News from The Alliance

By Shirley Dickens, Member

The date for AUUF's party to honor our Elders has changed to **Sunday June 3rd** from 6 - 8. This will be a Potluck. John Blaine will be interviewing our 7 or 8 elders (85 and older) Adults who grew up in the Fellowship when we were in the Log Cabin will attend and share stories. Albums of photographs will be available. If you are newer to AUUF come hear our history through shared memories. If you were there in the '60's through 90's come share a story. Please mark your calendar, it will be a lovely time for all of us. The **Rummage sale is May 19th** 8 AM until 3PM with setup Friday afternoon starting around 3 PM. Bring us your gently used items the week before the sale.

A new Alliance brochure will be presented at the Annual meeting May 6th by Kate Lehn along with a gift from the Alliance of \$ 2,500 to help with the deficit in the operating budget.

Religious Exploration Notes May 2018

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

What a busy and unusual year we have had. With our downstairs RE areas in construction mode most of the year, dedicated teachers led fun and interesting classes amidst the plastic and boxes, and children continued to explore and experience what it means to participate in community and how to make the world a more beautiful place with our love and action.

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

Water Skippers – Kaely Payne, Michelle Wasson

Wind Walkers-3 & 4 yr olds - Kalen Saxton, Marie Hildebrandt, Allison Payne, Emily Madsen

Sun Catchers –K & 1st grade - Stacey Mansfield, Mary Gregory, Monica Perez Verdia

Fire Keepers - 2nd /3rd grade - Jacqueline Adelman, Stephenie Wheeler, Michal Bernier

Truth Seekers - 4th grade - Kristin Nygren, Carolyn Gove, Jim Gove

Star Gazers - 5th grade - Laura Krip, Dianna Polese

JR. YOUTH - 6th, 7th, 8th - Jason Walsh, Kathy Dill, Ron Devon, Carma Reed

YRUU- High School - Eric McCoy, CYP, TK Kleiner

Our Program

9:00 Services – Childcare available ages 2-10

11:00 Service – We have 2 special services this month:

May 6 - 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 13 - Regular classes.

May 20 - Celebration Sunday Multigenerational service to end the program year - Teacher recognition, Coming of Age Recognition – experience COA with reflections from our 9 participants, and participate in our annual tradition - Flower Communion!

Flower Communion is a wonderful UU tradition. Each individual/family brings flowers to share. They are placed in vases or baskets upon arrival. During the service, there will be a ritual exchange of flowers, sharing the beauty of spring, and recognizing the individuality of each member of our wonderful community. **Pease bring flowers to share!!**

May 27 - Memorial Day - No RE

June 3 - Summer RE Begins - UU World Travelers

Summer Program - June 3 to August 26

Information/planning meeting - Wednesday, May 9, 7 pm downstairs at AUUF

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 guides who have lived or traveled in another country and would be willing to share the experience, country and culture with children. You could share mementos, clothing, pictures, stories, song, food, and craft to lead a summer Sunday for our program - **“UU World Travelers”**.

Ideas galore are available for turning your experiences into a wonderful UU hour! There will be an information/planning meeting, Wednesday, May 9, 7 pm downstairs at AUUF. Bring your ideas and calendars and we can create something wonderful.

Talk to Alison Hansen or Rosene Beachy, or sign downstairs at the RE Info Spot!

Don't hesitate sign up now for this very fun opportunity to be a leader, guide or helper!

Children & Youth Religious Exploration Committee

The Committee is excited to be planning for a new RE Year, 2018-2019.

These are the needs that you can help fill:

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 in '18-'19 on World Religions. 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.

AUUF SUMMER PEACE CAMP!!!

July 9–13, 8:30am – 4:30.

Additional childcare available 8 -8:30 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 9– 13, 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.

Cost: \$200, Early Bird by May 1, \$150 Scholarships available, \$10 hour after care

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 and at our AUUF website



Recycling # 5 Plastics only **May 27th.**

Recycling tip: Think of a way you and your household can reduce your use of plastic. For instance, pick one item like plastic beverage bottles. Eliminate them from your household as much as possible. Buy drinks in glass, aluminum, frozen juice containers, or waxed cartons.

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; revshelleyauf@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 Contacts are Available on our Website.

Chalice Circle Reflections...by Judy Engh

When I went to the training for the Chalice Circles facilitators last Fall, I had no intention of doing the whole training or being a facilitator... I just wanted to support and learn more about it. However, through the training process, I experienced how amazing this type of small group ministry really was and I wanted to be sure that we had enough facilitators to do it. These past 6 months have been really great for me being a part of Chalice Circles.

In addition to meeting twice a month, our group spent a couple of hours one Sunday cleaning the chairs in the AUUF and we spent a few hours at the Covenant House volunteering. It felt so good to help out and to do it with our group, some of whom I did not even know 6 months ago.

As we wrap up this first session I want to thank Meghan Bundtzen for her leadership-in guiding us through this new variation of small groups. Also, many thanks to my fellow facilitators. If you are interested in a group this summer, contact Meghan at betterwithart@gmail.com. We are planning for a couple of mid-week group options. Hope to see you in a future Chalice Circle!!

About Our Speakers and Services (see back page)

Connecting with Reverend Shelley...Reverend Shelley is available to meet with you personally. Please email revshelleyauf@gmail.com or call the office (907-248-3737 x 2). It is helpful to offer possible times that work for you so that Shelley can more easily schedule. For pastoral emergency call (907) 868-3737. You can also connect on Facebook with her – just send her a friend request. Thanks!

Matthew Teaford is the Senior Director of the Compliance/Equal Employment Opportunity Office of the Anchorage School District. He coordinates the District's sexual harassment prevention efforts and sexual harassment investigations. Mr. Teaford has worked in the field of civil rights compliance for Alaska school districts since 2007. Before that, he represented school districts as an attorney and was a law clerk for the Alaska Superior Court. Mr. Teaford received his undergraduate degree from Stanford University and his law degree from Lewis & Clark Law School.

Kathryn Milligan-Myhre is an assistant professor in Biological Sciences at the University of Alaska Anchorage with a focus on genetics. Her research and publications explore genetic factors in host-microbe interactions and immune responses. After earning an undergraduate degree in Medical Microbiology and Immunology, she received her Ph.D. in Microbiology from the University of Wisconsin. An Inupiaq raised in Kotzebue, she works to foster diversity in her field by recruiting and mentoring Alaska Natives and Native Americans. Her honors include funding from the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation, and a blanketing ceremony from the University of Oregon Native American community.

Reverend Shelley Page joined AUUF as Interim Minister in January with a specialty of helping UU congregations navigate transitional periods. Raised Roman Catholic, she joined the fellowship as a young adult and has been a UU for over 35 years. After attending Cornell University and working in the business arena, Rev. Page prepared for ministry service at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in New York and at Star King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California. The mother of two grown daughters, she originally hails from the Finger Lakes region of New York and has lived in states across the U.S.

Seminarian Becca Bernard

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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AUUF Services and Events –May 2018

Sunday May 6 Annual Meeting
9 am Breakfast with the Board
10 am Annual Meeting

Sunday May 13
9 am Matthew Teaford, "Confronting Sexual Harassment
in the Workplace"
11 am Seminarian Becca Bernard, ""

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- May 2018
Sunday 11 am ~ Classes for toddlers through high school
Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare ages 1-10
No RE May 27th.

Sunday May 20
9 am Kathryn Milligan-Myhre,
"Risks and Rewards of Genetic Engineering"
11 am Rev. Shelley Page and Rosene Beachy, DLRE
Celebration Sunday
*Gather with us to celebrate our church year as we hear from our
Coming of Age youth, honor our Religious Exploration teachers, and
participate in the uniquely UU ritual of Flower Communion. **Please
bring cut flowers to this service!***

Sunday May 27
9 am Rev. Shelley Page,
"The Making of the Humanist Manifesto"
11 am Rev. Shelley Page, "We Remember"
*We pause to honor Memorial Day as we remember those who have
died in wars and reflect on the meaning of war.*

The LOG

June 2018

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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



On the Journey...

Long haul people amaze me! These are folks who keep faith with their congregation over the course of decades. Folks who believe in the mission and stay the course, yet are willing to shift and adapt, with the deep understanding that each new generation will bring its own gifts and perspectives to continue building the community. I recently had the opportunity to connect with one of AUUF's long haul people, someone who doesn't even live here anymore but is still connected to the fellowship. Bob Bacon was a very active member and leader in the 1980s and early 1990s. One of the stalwart Log Cabin folks who gave a lot of himself to AUUF back in the day. His life path took him to California for the past 30 years or so, but he still keeps up with AUUF. His home church is now in First Unitarian Society of San Francisco but maintains an active interest in your fellowship's progress. He reads the Log regularly, contributes funds and stays in touch with dear AUUF friends. I was delighted to meet him when he popped in for a visit.

Amy, Rosene and I gave him a tour of the renovations and sat down to share about what's been happening in the past year or so. Bob asked long haul questions about the congregation's health, progress of the interim journey, and prospects for living more deeply into your promise as a strong Unitarian Universalist presence in Anchorage. He shared stories from "back in the day" but also perspective from his long haul participation in other UU congregations and the wider UU movement. Bob embodied both living history and cheerleading for the future.

We chatted about the evolution of this fellowship and how it has grown and changed over the past 30 years. Just look at Religious Exploration as an example. Back in the Log Cabin days, there was literally no room for children and youth. Families weren't exactly welcomed with open arms. But AUUF did grow and change, establishing a very meaningful and robust Religious Exploration program for people of all ages, with a professional Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration at the helm (Yay, Rosene!!) and a myriad of dedicated volunteers. We shared about how the RE program persevered this year under very challenging physical space and stress during the renovation work. We lifted up how the Coming of Age program and Newtok trip deepened the lives of our youth, with gratitude for TK Kleiner's dedication. We reflected on experiments with Chalice Circles and Common Reads offering new ways for adults to connect and learn. AUUF has come a long way from the Log Cabin days! So much to celebrate!

And we spoke frankly about the fellowship's challenges, because long haul people both celebrate progress *and* honestly engage with opportunities for transformation. We did not shrink from the truth that financial sustainability will be very important to address. We talked about ways folks feel truly seen and heard (or not) within the congregation, and how there has been a pattern of conflict over the years. We spoke of connection with the wider UU world and the rich resources available for congregational growth. We touched on developing systems to continually grow new leaders and offer soul satisfying volunteer opportunities for all. We talked about AUUF making a difference beyond our walls. We agreed that while challenges abound, so does much good energy, hope and faith for a bright future at AUUF!

I am grateful for the perspective of one who has loved AUUF so well and so long. Here's to Bob Bacon and all the wonderful, dedicated and amazing AUUF long haul people!

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Calendar Highlights

June 3, 6-8 pm Dinner Honoring Our Elders

June 9-13th WhaleCoast First Tour;
June 10th Banquet

June 12th Pilot Presentation 5:30
MOA Assembly Chambers

June 16 Pride Fest Parade and Booth

June 24 R UU Cuurious?

July 9-13 Peace Camp

July 11-12 WhaleCoast Second Tour, July 12th Banquet

Blessings, Reverend Shelley

President's Letter

Annual meetings are good for two things: getting on the same page and learning the ways we are not on the same page. This year, we had active input during the three informational sessions held leading up to the annual meeting. RE advocates made clear that youth programming is vital to the health of our congregation and we need to maintain funding for the program. We received helpful feedback on the proposed ministerial search committee bylaw change. We also heard the very understandable disappointment about various things that weren't funded.

In response, the congregation allocated more money for youth programming in FY19. More congregational input will go into the bylaw change process before voting on the amendment at a general membership meeting in the fall. Part of our interim journey will involve discovering more about how we can make sure that congregational voices are heard in decision making and to make sure that we can continue to support our top priorities in the years ahead.

We're all in this together and it will take the energy and gifts of us all to move forward as the Fellowship lives into its mission more deeply. So, where do your passions lie? Are you currently serving on a team that reflects your passion or your vision for the future of AUUF? With a new mortgage to pay a year from now, a ministerial search process upon us, and a desire to prioritize youth programming, we will need to generate additional funding through inviting all friends or members to pledge and participate to the best of their ability. With a fundraising team, we can look at new opportunities like organizing an Iditarod Whalecoast - one of the best ideas I have heard so far. We also need teams to address how we communicate (calling all social media mavens out there!) and market ourselves for things like rentals and programming. That Steinway needs an agent! This is a good time to reflect on such things and invest your time, energy and resources accordingly. Be in touch with Marty Freeman, our Program Council convener, at martyw@ak.net or 907-231-1406 with your ideas and interests!

In faith, Amanda Mack

Board Transitions

At the annual meeting in May, the congregation elected Frank Mitchell to a three-year term on the board. Board President Amanda Mack was elected to serve a second three-year term. Current board vice-president Don Crandall will complete his term in June. The board enthusiastically welcomes Frank and Amanda into their new and continued roles. We also bid a fond farewell to Don as he rotates off the board. We are truly grateful for his time, wisdom, and thoughtful leadership.

PILOT presentation to Anchorage Assembly on June 12

AUUF will present its annual PILOT payment or Payment in Lieu of Taxes to the Anchorage Assembly on Tuesday, June 12 during the 5:30 p.m. portion of the meeting. Meet at the Assembly Chambers at Z.J. Loussac Library, 3600 Denali in Room 108.

Payment in Lieu of Taxes is a payment made to compensate a government for some or all of the property tax revenue lost due to tax-exempt ownership or use of real property. Our congregation has been voluntarily presenting a check to the Assembly for most years since we were founded in 1955.

AUUF does this in support of our fifth principle, "the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large." Because we are members of this community, AUUF benefits from Anchorage's police and fire services, snow plowing, and public schools. Therefore, we believe we have a responsibility to help support those public services that support us. We also do this as an affirmation of the separation of church and state, which protects religious freedom in America.

Our PILOT payment this year will be \$1,000, less than we had originally budgeted. We reduced the payment in an effort to lessen our year end deficit. A PILOT payment for 2019 was approved in our most recent budget as part of the half portion which is about \$1,250 per month for each selected charity. During the designated month, we will educate members about PILOT and pass the basket a second time for those who would like to contribute additional funds to this important AUUF values statement.

Please join us at this annual event as we exercise our fifth principle.

From the Transition Team

By Marty Freeman

'Who are we?, Where do we come from?, Where are we going?'

We've sung these words in a meditation hymn at the 11:00 service, and they echo the big questions that we will address in our interim time and as we search for our next settled minister.

- Who are we – as human beings, as AUUF members, committees and teams, and collectively as a Fellowship?
- Where do we come from? What is our history? What events in our 60+ years still reverberate? How does our past at the log cabin church, during the “Turnagain days,” and in our new home influence who we are?
- Where are we going? What do we want to become? If we allow our dreams to surface, what do they look like? What can we accomplish to build a just, safe, and caring community at AUUF, in Anchorage, in Alaska, in the world? On the way, how can we live well together, fulfilling our covenant of deep listening, love, and respect?

Over the next two years, we -- our congregation -- will dig into these questions together. This process will help ground the ministerial search, so that we can find a settled minister with whom we will thrive. Margaret Wheatley wrote, “There is no power greater than a community discovering what it cares about.” Let's find out!

WhaleCoast 2018!



We begin our first tour June 9th. Our guests will be with us Sunday June 10th so be sure to come to the service so we have a full house to welcome our guests. Drivers are still needed for this tour. Contact Denise Martin 317-6134 dulcimer.diva@gmail.com to get in on the fun.

Thanks to our hosts Kalen Saxton (she also coordinates June banquet), Yolanda Mesa & Kate Lehn, Doreen Ransom, Kathy & Jeff Dill, Stacy Mansfield, Shirley Dickens, Mindy Willis, Jeanna Duryee, Judy Engh, Koala Vandruff, Irene O'Brien, Chris Low, Renee Tatusko, Joella Buswell, Elizabeth Glaser, Heather Flynn, James Dryden & Stephanie Koonz, and Terry & Don Antrobus.

Want to Go to Virtual General Assembly?

Experience some of this year's General Assembly in Kansas City via live streaming. Some great workshops and all events in the General Session Hall (worships, plenary sessions and more!) will be live streamed. You can register yourself for virtual GA and watch at home, or, join us at the fellowship to watch with others. Reverend Shelley is a virtual registrant and she invites you to join her in viewing this annual gathering of UUs. Watch your This Week at the Fellowship email for a viewing schedule on Thursday, June 21 through Sunday, June 24.

R UU Cuurious?

Is UU or AUUF new to you? Do you wonder things like - Is UU a religion? Do I have to believe something to attend? What are the children taught? What do all these abbreviations mean like RE, OWL, COA, PILOT? Do you just want an opportunity to ask Rev. Shelley questions about UU or AUUF?

We invite you to have an informal sit down with Rev. Shelley after the 11am service on June 24, July 15, or August 19 to have your UU questions answered.

For folks who want to learn a lot more or who want to become members, we will have a separate, more comprehensive, “Finding Your Way into Fellowship” class. Contact the office for more information.



Renovation Project

Look for opportunities to help as we continue renovation downstairs this summer! Contact James Dryden at dryden@alaska.net if you want to get on his notification list. Contact Carma Reed carmaandjiri@gci.net if you'd like to contribute financially to the Capital Project.



Friendly Stewardship Reminder!

Our FY 18 fiscal year runs from July 2017 - June 2018.

Now is the time to finish your FY2018 pledge!

If you aren't sure of your balance owed, you can Amy in the office at auuf@gci.net.

Amy can also help you set up a recurring payment from your bank account so you stay on track for the coming year. Thanks for all your support.

Yours in Fellowship, Wendy Romberg



Dinner Honoring our Elders

Join us **Sunday, June 3rd 6-8 pm** for a Dinner Honoring our Elders hosted by the Alliance. Alliance members will provide potluck supper, but anyone can bring food. John Blaine is serving as the Master of Ceremonies. Albums of photographs will be available. If you are newer to AUUF come hear our history through shared memories. If you attended at the Log Cabin bring stories to share. If you were there in the '60's through 90's come share a story. Call Marie Rozak, 252-7677 to offer help.

PrideFest 2018: Save the Date!

This year PrideFest will be on Saturday, June 16th and AUUF will once again be participating in the march, which will start at 11 am. Please join us in showing our love and support for the LGBTQ community! In addition to marching, we will also have a booth at PrideFest, filled with brochures, free cell phone charging, a craft for kids to do, and volunteers from AUUF! Help will be needed for set up, running the booth throughout the day, and take down.

To march with AUUF in the Equality Parade, be downtown by 10:45 am, as the parade starts promptly at 11 am. Wear your Side of Love gear if you have it!

If you'd like to help out with the booth, and/or receive either a text or email the morning of the 16th with the exact location of parade group, sign up at the Social Action Council table in the social room or email Julie at juliebehm@gmail.com. Thank you!



Adult Offerings!



Weekly Wednesday Summer Potluck Dinners – New for 2018! With our busy Alaska summers, let's take some time to enjoy summer evenings with weekly potluck dinners! 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, ten Wednesday evenings at 6 pm, from May 30 through August 15. We need hosts for five remaining dates! Hosting sign-up sheets will be available between services Sundays, or

contact Deena Mitchell (DeenaMitchell1978@gmail.com; 847-997-8357) or Andee Cordano (AndeeCordano@gmail.com; 350-6361) with questions, or to host a date.

	Hosts	Location
June 06	Melanie Baker	9089 Nuthatch Place, 817-680-6353
June 13		
June 20		
June 27	Rosene Beachy / Doug Eby	4561 Sandy Beach Dr.; 441-6815
July 18	Bruce Roberts	9081 Nuthatch Place; 907-952-9969
July 25		
August 01		
August 08	David Peltó and Judith Anderegg	4770 Grumman Street; 907-982-6673/907-715-4269
August 15		

Interested in Adult Programming? If you are interested in joining the fun and creative Adult Programs Committee, please contact either our DLRE Rosene Beachy (rbeachy@alaskalife.net), or Adult Programs Committee Chair Deena Mitchell (DeenaMitchell1978@gmail.com; 847-997-8357).



Hungry Book Club The Hungry book club met Tuesday, May 8th to discuss a very interesting book, "All That Our Fathers Were" by Jim Misco, who happens to live here in Anchorage part of each year. It is an ecology book with a special story wound around it about the healthy or un healthy lives of rivers and how we ignore that fact to our peril. We have chosen "Hillbilly Elegy", by JD Vance for June's read which will be June 12th. We have outgrown our last meeting

spot so we will meet in the AUUF building in the social room at 2 pm. Bring something halfway "healthy eats" to share and come join us for a great discussion. We also have chosen July and August books. July's book will be "The Professor and the Mad Man" by Simon Winchester. August's book will be "The Great Quake" by Henry Fountain. We are an open group and all who love books are welcome.

Yoga for Every Body Offered at AUUF Wednesdays 6-7:15. Free will offering (half to AUUF). Instructor: Paula Saylor. 907-297-9184.

Freethinkers is a weekly Humanist discussion group. Newcomers and drop-ins are always welcome. We meet downstairs at the Fellowship from noon to 1:30 p.m. each Friday. Discussions usually center on a portion of a book or article the group is reading. (Recent examples include "Enlightenment Now -- The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism, and Progress," by Steven Pinker, and "Fantasyland -- How America Went Haywire: A 500-Year History," by Kurt Andersen.) For further information, please contact George Bryson at gfbryson@gmail.com.

June Half Portion for Social Action: STAR

By Kalen Saxton

Standing Together Against Rape provides educations about sexual assault and support to victims, and their families to report the crime, receive medical care and go to court. STAR has been proactive to educate ways to avoid or de-escalate situations that could lead to assault through the Green Dot Program. They have supported a position on the UAA campus located in the Student Health clinic.

AUUF members have supported STAR as a Half Portion recipient for many years. In light of the #MeToo and #NoMore campaigns, this is a good time to provide funds for education and support in Alaska.

Social Action Council

By Dennis Arashiro

"If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them." - Henry David Thoreau

Our dreams of a just world are simply that--castles in the air. Imagined in a flash without a price attached. So easy to embrace that even the worst enemies of social justice can politely applaud when they hear the words, "I have a dream..." It is only in building the foundations under our dreams of a just world that we realize those dreams. That is why we are transitioning from having just a Social Justice Committee to creating a Social Justice Fellowship with all of us involved. This means involving all of us in foundation laying, not a mere few. This means identifying a battle to be fought or a need to be filled. This could mean joining an existing action team on Community Food Needs, Pride Fest, Four A's Support, Half Portion for Social Action, or Project Homeless Connect. This could mean creating a new action team to tackle an unmet challenge. Bring your decision and proposal to act to the co-chairs of the Social Action Council, Emily Madsen (emily.j.madsen@gmail.com) or Dennis Arashiro (elvischannel@yahoo.com).

Sign up!! Fresh Food for All! Hope Gardens...

The Earth Day Eco Challenge asked us to do all kinds of good stuff.

But one especially is close to our hearts—and tummies, and we hope some or many of y'all will want to join us!

To--- "Support Local Food Systems". This is pretty important to all of us, what with so much of our food being imported, at all kinds of costs-- environmental, monetary, *and* nutritional.

AUUF has a special part in this challenge—We, as a faith community, are pledged to help the wider community. Food security is a big issue in Anchorage for many folks. The food bank and other such organizations work with mostly imported foods.

But one of the food bank's major helpers, the Lutheran Church of Hope, provides fresh-grown local food all summer. They grow it in a really cool all-set-up garden in back of the West Northern Lights church, managed by Master Gardener Don Bladow. They need our help to do the work of planting, weeding, and harvesting, to get great food to folks without enough food of *any* kind. You can spend as much or as little time as you want at it, and it will all add up!

A sign-up sheet at the Social Action table after two April services garnered a bunch of volunteers...but many hands make light --and fun-- work, so if you are interested in joining in this fine work, please don't hesitate to contact Cindy Kinard, at ckinard@ak.net.

You'll not only do really good deeds, you'll get to take a little of the harvest home with you, and you'll learn loads about the best ways to easily grow your own veggies!

So put on some old clothes and come on down and get dirty with us!



Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Grateful for the good annual meeting May 6th and all who attended, helped volunteer in many rolls, voted and contributed in discussion. Grateful for Heather Flynn being there as the expert on "Roberts Rules of Order".

Grateful for the lovely Mother's Day service May 13th. Seminarian, Becca Bernard gave a wonderful service. The special music was lovely, both by one of our youngsters on the piano piece, and Joyce Laine and her friend sang a song written by "Sweet Honey on the Rock" about children that was stunningly beautiful.

Grateful for the wonderful service May 20th when we honored all the RE teachers, celebrated the Coming of Age Youths and their mentors (and met their parents). TK Kleiner and her helpers did a wonderful 9 months program with our youth. It was fun to hear from both the mentor for each of them and then the youth's thoughts. They are off for a great start to adulthood. This was also our annual Flower communion day and what it means to UUs all over the world. We all went home with a flower or two. Perfect ending service for the RE year.

So pleased with our own newer member Sophie Tidler who is organizing an effort in Anchorage to ban plastic bags. If you want to get involved in this seventh principle project, message Sophie: sophiatidler@gmail.com; 351-5986.

And we are so thankful for the energy and talents of those involved in the downstairs phase of the renovation. Work is heavy now that we are in June with the goal to complete before Peace Camp.

So grateful for so many of us who are involved in the many activities going on.

Be careful driving as you enjoy our Alaskan Summer, you are dear to us.

June Birthdays!

Birthdays are not published in our online version.



Recycling Plastics **June 24th and August 19th**. # 5 only.

Recycling tip: Ween yourself off paper towels. Either go "cold turkey" or buy the rolls with smaller pieces and try to do with a smaller piece of paper towels. Keep cleaning cloths or sponges close at hand to see if you can make do with them rather than using paper towels. If re-usable after use, re-use paper towels.

Fred Meyer Rewards Card:

Our last check from Fred Meyer was \$100, every little bit helps. Can these returns continue? grow? If you haven't yet done so, 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).



News from The Alliance

By Shirley Dickens, Member

Our annual garage sale which was a huge success. We had the most helpers Friday and Saturday ever, plenty of the public buying, lots of stuff to sell and we made \$1,216.00 profit. Thank you dear congregation for your donations and coming back to buy stuff. We really appreciate all your help and promise to invest these funds back into the congregation.

We do not plan to meet in summer unless we are called to help with something. But, please do not forget to come to the "Honoring Our Elders Party" Sunday June 3rd from 6 to 8 PM at the Fellowship, when we have a great potluck supper (everyone bring something to share), and we hear the eight Seniors interviewed by our own John Blaine. It will be a lovely night, not to be missed. Please mark your calendars.



Religious Exploration Notes June 2018

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Summer Program - June 3 to August 26 - "UU World Travelers".

Helpers needed for all Sundays. Sign up at the RE Info Spot or join us when you bring your kids!

June 3 Bon Voyage party with Alison Hansen
June 10 Antarctica with Koala
June 17 Turkey with Chris Low
June 24 Alaska with Russ Baker
July 1 Fiji/Samoa/New Zealand with Janet Linnell
July 8 Ecuador with Rosene
July 15 Egypt with Rosene
July 22 Thailand with Rosene
July 29 Mexico with Jeanne Duryee

Please register your children and youth for next year's program.
Registration and volunteer forms will be available downstairs at the RE info Spot, at our AUUF website

Children & Youth Religious Exploration Committee

The Committee is excited to be planning for a new RE Year, 2018-2019.

Volunteer as a class leader for next year 2018-19! We need about 20 teachers + Hogwarts Professors!

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 in '18-'19 on World Religions, and then Hogwarts School returns in January! Spring will return to Workshop Rotational themes & 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!

Space Still Available! AUUF Summer Peace Camp!!!

July 9–13, 8:30am – 4:30.

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

During the week of July 9– 13, 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, Director of Religious Exploration, (rbeachy@alaskalife.net) for more information.

Adult volunteers needed. 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. Cost: \$200 per child, Scholarships available

\$10 hr before/after care. Registration and Application forms at the Religious Exploration Info Spot (Downstairs) or on the RE Facebook group page.



Did you know? Access Alaska (located at 1217 East 10th Ave) is a local non-profit agency that maintains a loaner closet of assistive technology and adaptive equipment (e.g. wheelchairs, transfer benches, magnifiers, hospital beds, commodes, walkers, grab bars) for individuals with disabilities to increase their safety and independence in their homes and the community. They loan to anyone regardless of insurance or length of disability. If you have medical equipment that is no longer needed, please give them a call 248-4777 and they can put your donation to use in the community today.



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; revshelleyauf@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 Contacts are Available on our Website.

From the Fellowship office

This Week at Your Fellowship: Are you getting our new weekly emails? Like our new look? We are experimenting with how to keep you informed. We would love your feedback.

If you don't think you are receiving our email blasts please check your spam and junk folders. The subject line will be "This Week at Your Fellowship" and will come from the email account auuf@gci.net.

Don't 'do email'? Drop the office a note so we can put you on our 'no email list' and get you all the news.

Wish List: the office can always use forever stamps and 20# copier paper.

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

About Our Speakers and Services (see back page)

Connecting with Reverend Shelley... Reverend Shelley is available to meet with you personally. Please email revshelleyauf@gmail.com or call the office (907-248-3737 x 2). It is helpful to offer possible times that work for you so that Shelley can more easily schedule. For pastoral emergency call (907) 868-3737. You can also connect on Facebook with her – just send her a friend request. Thanks!

Koala Vandruff arrived in Alaska in 1974 as an eager Campfire girls camp-counselor at the age of 19. Immediately smitten by the north, she came back the next year in her VW wagon for a second Campfire season and ultimately remained. A registered nurse since 1991, she still works at the Alaska Native Medical Center, which helps support her habit of traveling all over the world. Using social media, Koala has found a low-budget way to travel both solo and with her partner, often on a work-your-way basis, for life-long learning and play. She's been active at AUUF for the last three years.

Dr. E.J.R. David is an associate professor of psychology at the University of Alaska Anchorage and serves as the director of the Alaska Native Community Advancement in Psychology Program. He researches and publishes articles on the psychology and mental health of Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and indigenous and post colonial ethnic minorities. His books include *The Psychology of Oppression* (co-author), *Brown Skin, White Minds: Filipino-/American Post Colonial Psychology*, and most recently, *We Have Not Stopped Trembling Yet: Letters to My Filipino-Athabascan Family*.

Howard Weaver was born in 1950 and educated in Anchorage public schools. A career journalist, his reporting on the construction of the Alaska pipeline helped the Anchorage Daily News earn the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service award in 1976. Later, as the paper's editor, Weaver led a newsroom team that won a second Pulitzer in 1989 for its "People in Peril" series on the plight of Alaska Natives. In 1995 he moved to California to assume a leadership position at McClatchy Newspapers, where he was named Vice President, News in 2001. Weaver and his wife, Barbara Hodgin, currently reside in Sacramento and the Sierra foothills.

Les Gara is a state legislator, free-lance writer and part-owner of a local restaurant. Born in New York City in 1963, he earned a B.A. in History at Boston University and a law degree at Harvard -- then moved to Alaska in 1988 to serve as a law clerk for former Alaska Supreme Court chief justice Jay Rabinovitz. He went on to become an assistant attorney general, working on the state's Exxon Valdez oil spill legislation, and a private attorney. Since 2003 Gara has served as a Democratic member of the Alaska House of Representatives, representing the 23rd (West Anchorage) District. He's been re-elected seven times.



Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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AUUF Services and Events –June 2018

Sunday June 3

9 am Koala Vandruff,
‘Low-Budget Social Travel Around the World’
11 am Rev. Shelley Page, ‘Truthiness’
Truth, lies, honesty – let’s explore the complications from a UU Perspective.

Sunday June 10

9 am E.J.R. David,
‘Talking Race with My Filipino-Athabascan Family’
11 am Rev. Shelley Page, ‘Love in the Digital Age’
Our cell phones have transformed our lives in many remarkable ways. Have they transformed our love as well?

Sunday June 17

9 am Howard Weaver, ‘Living in a Post-Truth World’
11 am Bill Sherwonit,
‘On Father's Day, Let Us Celebrate Our Earth Father.’
While our modern, western culture refers to the Earth--and nature--as feminine, some ancient, pre-Christian cultures also recognized an "Earth Father." Honoring and celebrating the Earth's male aspects could help to heal our species' relationship with our home planet.

Sunday June 24

9 am Les Gara,
‘What Our Legislature Did (and Didn't) Do in 2018’.
11 am Rev. Shelley Page, ‘Stories We Tell’
Beloved childhood stories take on new meaning when re-read as an adult. Let's re-visit Little Women and learn more about Unitarian author, Louisa May Alcott. Bring a copy of your favorite childhood book!.

CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS- June 2018

Sunday 11 am ~ Classes for toddlers through high school
Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare ages 1-10

The LOG

July 2018

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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



On the Journey...

We are all connected. Part of our interim journey together involves renewing connections with the larger Unitarian Universalist movement. We're doing just that in a variety of ways but one way is to act in solidarity with other UUs around the crisis of family separation at our southern borders. Our faithful actions, born from love and hope, are needed now more than ever as we confront inhumanity. It will take all of us acting in a variety of ways to stop this evil.

AUUF will be exploring what you may want to do as a collective body. But in the meanwhile, I encourage you to do your part by taking action yourself, whether it's contacting our congressional delegation, giving funds to organizations helping at the border or witnessing in public demonstrations like the Families Belong Together rally this Saturday. Please check out the updates about actions that we are sending via email.

I also offer you a gift of some words about hope from my colleague, Reverend Sean Parker Dennison. He captures my feelings entirely and I could not say it better. Again, our connections with our fellow UUs across the miles and cyberspace offer us fresh hope, in community.

"I feel like I'm on a constant hunt for hope these days. I have to be: every time I look at my phone or open my laptop, I'm overwhelmed by stories of violence, disrespect for life, greed, and selfishness. When I listen to my friends and loved ones or to conversations in coffee shops, it feels like everyone is dispirited and disheartened. And that is dangerous.

The danger of hopelessness is a double danger. First, hopelessness makes us feel it's useless to take action. It fools us into believing there's nothing we can do, or that our efforts won't make a difference. Once we abandon hope, there's no stopping the momentum of the unscrupulous who are willing to cooperate with evil in order to get ahead.

The other danger of hopelessness is that we can lose each other. In times of hopelessness, it's easy to get scared of everything and everyone. It's easy to start believing that your neighbor is the problem and that hoarding is a better strategy than generosity. The problem is that when community starts to break down, we lose the most important source of hope we have: each other.

The message of hope that still blazes bright for me in these hard times is that I am not alone. I don't have to face the world alone and I don't have to fix the world alone. When I need hope, I find it in on the faces of my people. I find it in their hearts, when we find each other again and stop hiding out, thinking we are the only one. I find it when we come together in community to sing, to bless one another, to mourn, to strategize. All we need is hope... and for that, we have each other."

Blessings, Reverend Shelley

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Calendar Highlights

June 30 Families Belong Together Rally (Park strip)
July 9-13 Peace Camp
July 15 R UU Currious?
July 11-12 WhaleCoast Second Tour, July 12th Banquet
September 9 Homecoming Sunday
September 21-23 Fall Frolic

Join Us for this **Day of Action!** Rally Saturday, June 30th **Families Belong Together – Anchorage.** Meet us at the Delaney Park Strip at 10am at the southwest corner of 10th and I Streets. The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and the Love Resists campaign of the UUA are partners in the National Day of Action on Family Separation. Message Kalen Saxton (244-8221) for more info.

President's Letter

If I have learned one thing serving AUUF as president of the board, it is that everyone of us has a completely unique experience at AUUF. Our reasons for showing up and our stories about our experiences here can be so different that it's hard to believe at times that we are talking about the same place, people or events. Yet it is these shared experiences that connect us to this faith, this place and to each other. I am fascinated by both our differences and the stories that unite us. Mining our stories and helping us find common ground as a congregation is at the heart of Interim ministry.

In the coming year, AUUF will pull together a ministerial search committee to begin the work of calling a settled minister in August 2020. In the meantime, Rev. Shelley Page is serving as our super savvy and talented interim minister. She is here to do the important work of helping prepare us to welcome a new settled minister. The Transitional Ministry Handbook available on the UUA website describes that work as ranging from "claiming and honoring [our] past and engaging and honoring [our] griefs and conflicts" to "proudly coming into possession of a renewed vision and strong stewardship, prepared for new growth and new professional leadership, ready to embrace the future with anticipation and zest."

Some of this work has already begun. Rev. Shelley's insights and expertise are helping teams and committees refine their work and become more effective. Examples include our successful stewardship drive, elevating social justice initiatives, trying out some new approaches for welcoming and integrating newcomers, and her work with staff to improve communication with members. The process of listening to and sharing our stories with each other and the work to develop a new vision for the future of AUUF will begin in earnest in the fall (stand by for more information from Rev. Shelley and the transition team on that). The reasons for this timeline are that we Alaskans are busy experiencing our amazing summers and when we are back in town, we are at AUUF working on finishing the renovation or hosting Whalecoast guests. Just know that we are right on track and making great strides toward our goal of calling a new settled minister in August 2020.

In closing, many thanks to Don Crandall for his years of service on the board and welcome to Frank Mitchell, our newest board member. We look forward to working with you!

In faith, Amanda Mack

From the Transition Team

By Dennis Arashiro

"Silos build the wall in people's minds and tie the knots in their hearts." - Pearl Zhu

Silos. Great for corn. Not so much for the Fellowship. When serving as chair of the Social Justice Committee, I admit to having a silo mentality at times. I focused so much on the committee that I lost any view of the Fellowship as a whole. I viewed my priorities as THE priorities. I viewed others who pointed out other needs as adversaries. I viewed them as callous and uncaring, while I was being callous and uncaring toward them. Such an attitude was and is lethal to the very idea of Fellowship.

As we transition from one minister to another, we the Fellowship must continue to live up to our name. That is why the Transition Team will be meeting different committees and groups to ensure that we do not become a landscape of isolated silos but partners with a common purpose. If there are walls in our minds, let's dismantle them. If there are knots in our hearts, let's untie them. Let's leave silos for corn--GMO or not.

R UU Cuurious?

Is UU or AUUF new to you? Do you wonder things like - Is UU a religion? Do I have to believe something to attend? What are the children taught? What do all these abbreviations mean like RE, OWL, COA, PILOT? Do you just want an opportunity to ask Rev. Shelley questions about UU or AUUF?

We invite you to have an informal sit down with Rev. Shelley after the 11am service on July 15, or August 19 to have your UU questions answered.

For folks who want to learn a lot more or who want to become members, we will have a separate, more comprehensive, "Finding Your Way into Fellowship" class. Contact the office for more information.



New Front Door

By Carma Reed

With full funding of the “downstairs” portion of our capital project, volunteers have been BUSY! Most noticeable, a wall dividing **Room 1** into two classrooms has been framed and wired, and sound blocking is underway. Problem solving and prepping around creating the hallway (so much more complicated than you might think!) so **Room 2** can be similarly divided is also happening, and Room 2’s dividing wall is expected soon. Finishing touches



on **the new gathering area**, most notably kitchen cabinets and countertop is also expected to be completed soon. A beautiful oak cap on the that area’s pony wall was custom built and installed by David Pelto. Storage closets have been organized and reorganized. Thank you so much to all the hard-working volunteers! (you know who you are... James Dryden, Bruce Roberts, Jobe Bernier, Sid McCausland, Sid Atwood, Ken Winterberger, Stan Hstand, Scott Wheatton, Stephanie Koonz, Koala Vandruff, Susan Kobierowski, Mara Hill, and Yolanda Meza for sure, if I missed someone, thank you, too!)

Meanwhile, there are just a few items left on the first project’s scope. After some delays, the door between sanctuary and social room is ordered, or will be shortly, and will be installed when it arrives. Trouble-shooting with the windows and thermostat and lift continue, but we are optimistic will be solved soon. The sidewalk concrete has been poured, final topsoil and landscaping will be a volunteer effort, so stay tuned.

While volunteers have been working overtime, the Project Oversight Team took a bit of a hiatus but is starting up again to support this effort as best we can, so look forward to continued updates in the Log. If you have Project Oversight experience or aspirations, we would like to add fresh energy to this group – project management experience in particular is needed at this time. We could use your assistance, please contact any of us (Carma – 727-5275, or James Dryden, Peggy Robinson, Amanda Mack, Jobe Bernier) if you think you can provide this type of consistent, but time-limited help for the next six months or so.

Anti-Racism Plan in the Works for AUUF

By Becca Bernard

Many AUUF leaders and members recognize that racism is deeply entrenched in American culture and that a great deal of work remains to be done to transform ourselves – as individuals and as a society – into a truly egalitarian society. AUUF has engaged in many efforts to educate ourselves about and to fight racism, including bringing speakers to the Forum, engaging in white supremacy teach-ins, discussing “common read” books that address racism, and supporting the Alaska Poor People’s Campaign. These efforts have not been coordinated, however, and this work can be more effective if we have a written anti-racism plan that our congregation commits to implementing over the long-term.

So, with the blessing of Rev. Shelley, our Board president, and our Social Action Council co-chairs, I will spend some time this summer reaching out to members and friends of the congregation to solicit ideas and input, researching anti-racism training resources, connecting with community leaders outside of AUUF, and crafting a draft plan that will then be circulated for more input. I imagine that when it’s finished, the plan will include regular anti-racism training, monthly or bimonthly discussion groups based on relevant books, articles or videos, and partnerships with other groups in the community on specific actions, but . . . I want to hear your ideas! Please call me at 244-3988 or email me at rbernard.ak@gmail.com if you have ideas or thoughts to share, or if you’d like to be part of the team committed to putting the anti-racism plan into action. ~Becca Bernard

July Half Portion for Social Action: UUSC, Helping with Stopping Family Separations



Our half portion for July is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, UUSC. Our denomination’s service organization was founded during World War II to rescue Jewish children and others from the Holocaust. They were already partnering with organizations helping immigrants and asylum seekers along our southern borders. UUSC’s work takes on additional urgency as the crisis with family separation deepens. Your generous support will be much appreciated. (See page 1 for info on June 30 Rally in Anchorage)

Social Action Council

By Dennis Arashiro

"I am a planter--a cotton planter. I am a Southern man and a slaveholder--a kind and merciful one, I trust--and none the worse for being a slaveholder." - John C. Calhoun

John C. Calhoun, South Carolina Representative and Senator, American Vice-President, Secretary of State, Secretary of War, and defender of slavery as a "positive good." John C. Calhoun, Unitarian. Surprised and disappointed? That's because it so much easier to recognize only the great champions for social justice in Unitarian and Universalist history. Read "The Universalist Klansman," by Colin Bossen, in the summer 2018 UU World, a sober look at the racist side of our past.

Relieved that our racism is in the past and no longer with us? Read "Wakanda or Watts," by Adam Lawrence Dyer, in the same UU World, in which a black UU wonders if Unitarian Universalism serves as an anti-racist sanctuary or just another racial battleground for him and others. Dyer points out that while white UU heroes in the Civil Rights Movement are lauded, black UU heroes are invisible. There's something very wrong if an overwhelmingly white denomination only acknowledges its white heroes for racial justice but not its own black heroes and white opponents.

We need to be clear eyed about our past, so that we can be clear eyed about our present and our future. We need recognize where we have succeeded in addressing racism within ourselves and in the larger community and where we have fallen short. The White Supremacy Teach In this past year was just a start. Becca Bernard's anti-racism project for the Fellowship can serve as a valued next step.

Adult Offerings!



Weekly Wednesday Summer Potluck Dinners – New for 2018! With our busy Alaska summers, let's take some time to enjoy summer evenings with weekly potluck dinners! For those of us who are out of town on weekends – or not, this is a nice way to stay connected, Wednesday evenings at 6 pm through August 15. Contact Andee Cordano (AndeeCordano@gmail.com; 350-6361) with questions, or to host a date. (no dinners July 4th or July 11th)

	Hosts	Location
July 18	Bruce Roberts	9081 Nuthatch Place; 907-952-9969
July 25	Rosene Beachy / Doug Eby	4561 Sandy Beach Dr.; 441-6815
August 01	Peggy Cobey	3023 Knik Ave; 441-6939
August 08	David Pelto and Judith Anderegg	4770 Grumman Street; 907-982-6673/907-715-4269
August 15	Would you like to host?	

Hungry Book Club 13 book lovers met at the Fellowship in the social room to discuss "Hillbilly Elegy" by JD Vance. All had read it, and we were glad we did. We had a most interesting discussion about backgrounds that included some of the author's experiences. We will meet again at the Fellowship in July on the second Tuesday (the 10th) at 2 pm. We will be discussing "The Professor and the Mad Man" by Simon Winchester. Bring something to share in the way of simple "goodies", fruits, nuts, cookies, lemonade, or iced tea. It was nice to have the room since we are growing. We are an open book club and all are invited to join us. Call Shirley Dickens 563-4499 for more information.

Yoga for Every Body is taking July and August off. Classes will resume Wednesday September 5th 6-7:15 pm. Free will offering (half to AUUF). Instructor: Paula Saylor. 907-297-9184.

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

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Grateful for the huge effort from AUUF for our first hosting of the "Whale Coast Tour" group this summer. 39 people from all over the lower 48 states arrived at the airport and were met by their hosts Saturday night, June 9th for a whirlwind visit over the next 5 days as our guests came and went (including 2 early drop offs at the train station). We also had a potluck supper for them which was well attended with lots of delicious foods. Kaylen Saxton deserves "special thanks" for organizing the set up for the dinner served in the Sanctuary. And another "special thanks" to our local organizer who placed our guests with various hosts, Denise Martin. She and husband Jim, entertained us with live music while dining. Jim did many clever acts with his juggling. This is a wonderful way to increase our revenues as we are paid well for housing these people and feeding them. A great way to meet and learn about other UUs from across the United States.

Grateful for the party given to "Honor Our Elders," members who are 85 and older. The Alliance sponsored this event and with John Blaine doing the honors of "interviewing" each of special guests. There were seven, who made it to this potluck dinner, Joanne Anderson, Hal Johnston, Julie Garrigues, Judy Whittaker, Sylvia Short, Jane Mangus, and Ruth Sheridan. Lots of family members came too and it was actually Judy Whittaker's birthday, so there was cake. A lovely evening.

We are grateful that AUUF had a part in the "Gay Pride Parade" (again this year) and manned a booth at the Park Strip. Even without a pickup or truck, there was lots of us who participated. Thank you one and all.

I am sure all of us members join me in sending lots of positive energy to Rev. Shelley Page on the complete healing of her injured eye. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful "interim minister" who has fallen in love with Alaska as we have fallen in love with her. Be completely well.

Summer is upon us, enjoy the outdoors and Fish On!

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- 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 Contacts are Available on our Website.

Recycling Plastics **August 19th.**
5 only.

Recycling tip: Make reusable produce bags to give away as presents. Judith has Robin Lauster's pattern if you are interested. 907-982-6673



July Birthdays

(Birthdays are not published in our on-line version)

From the Fellowship office

This Week at Your Fellowship: Are you getting our new weekly emails? Like our new look? We are experimenting with how to keep you informed. We would love your feedback.

If you don't think you are receiving our email blasts please check your spam and junk folders. The subject line will be "This Week at Your Fellowship" and will come from the email account auuf@gci.net.

Don't 'do email'? Drop the office a note so we can put you on our 'no email list' and get you all the news.

Wish List: the office can always use forever stamps and 20# copier paper.

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



Religious Exploration Notes July 2018

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

9:00 Service - Childcare for ages 1 – 11.

11:00 Service - Cross age program, ages 4-11

June 3 to August 26 - "UU World Travelers"

Childcare for ages 1-4

July 1	Egypt with Rosene
July 8	Thailand with Rosene
July 15	Fiji/Samoa/ New Zealand with Janet Linnell
July 22	Dominican Republic with Stacey
July 29	Mexico with Jeanne Duryee
August 5	Japan with Laura Krip
August 12	Germany with Ingrid Larson
August 19	Finale

2018-19 RE Registration

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

Interim Discussion about the Religious Exploration program – July 17 or 19, 6-7:30 pm

As part of the Interim process work of the Fellowship, there will be several opportunities to share your hopes and dreams for the Religious Exploration program at AUUF. Please join Shelley, Rosene, and members of the CYRE committee to discuss what is working for you and your family in the current RE program, and what you would like to see in the future. Two meetings were held in June and there will be 2 more in July. Please let the CYRE team know whether you will attend on July 17 or 19. Food and childcare provided starting at 6:00 pm.

Recruiting - Teachers for 2018-19! Sign up downstairs at the Family Info Spot to volunteer on a class team. Great, easy to use curriculums that were created by the UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association), with teams of 3 that rotate through the Sundays. With our Cross Age or Multigenerational services each month, that means you only 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 or sign up downstairs by the kitchen!
Sign up list and applications for new teachers available at the Parent Info Spot.

If you are not able to commit to teaching, but would like to be involved, there are many other options on the RE Registration forms.

AUUF Fall Frolic Annual event is coming soon!

September 21 - 23, 2018

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: Wednesday, August 2 and August 30, 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.

Have a Wonderful Summer, and don't forget to collect a bit of water from wherever your adventures take you that reminds you of a special place and special people you were with! Bring it with you for our "Gathering of the Waters" Ceremony during the Homecoming Service on September 9 when we return for our fall program.

In peace, Rosene Beachy, DLRE



Space Still Available! AUUF Summer Peace Camp!!!

July 9-13, 8:30am – 4:30. Additional childcare available 8 -8:30 am and 4:30 –5:00 pm

During the week of July 9– 13, 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, Director of Religious Exploration, (rbeachy@alaskalife.net) for more information.

About Our Speakers and Services (see back page)

Connecting with Reverend Shelley...Reverend Shelley is available to meet with you personally. Please email revshelleyauuf@gmail.com or call the office (907-248-3737 x 2). It is helpful to offer possible times that work for you so that Shelley can more easily schedule. For pastoral emergency call (907) 868-3737. You can also connect on Facebook with her – just send her a friend request. Thanks!

Sylvia Short has lived a happily outspoken life as a committed and erudite social activist in Anchorage for a half century -- and now, at 97, is no less out-spoken. Born in 1921 in Stockton, Calif., she became what she calls “an uneducated lawyer,” managing to pass the California bar exam after just two years of college. Moving to Alaska in 1967, she continued her work as a lawyer and helped organize the fledgling Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, later serving as AUUF board president. The following year she married Anchorage Community College Director Eugene Short, a childhood acquaintance who shared Sylvia’s love of books. And that’s just the beginning of her story.

Katherine Huffman has been providing sexual health education and trainings in Alaska for 20 years as a member of Planned Parenthood’s education team. A nationally certified facilitator, she has also helped provide comprehensive sex ed at AUUF for several years through our multi-level OWL courses. Katherine, her partner Tim and daughter Emma attend the AUUF, live with a puppy and three chickens and go as often as possible to their flag-stop cabin in Denali State Park.

Rosene Beachy has been the AUUF Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration (DLRE) since January 2000. In this capacity, the DLRE oversees and organizes the fellowship’s numerous Religious Exploration programs for children, youth and adults, including the UU Sexuality education program - Our Whole Lives. She provides leadership for the Children and Youth Religious Exploration (CYRE) Committee as it carries out the Anchorage UU Fellowship RE program activities.

Bill Hall is the leader of Let’s Talk Alaska, a library-based program in civic dialogue initiated by Alaska Common Ground as a collaboration with the Anchorage Library. From its beginning in 2006 the program has facilitated “Doing Democracy” dialogues in six communities across the state – over 50 since 2012. In the last two years the focus has been on making sense of political change through it’s “Saving Democracy” dialogues. Bill is a life-long Alaskan and former mayor of Cordova. He has received facilitation training from the Kettering Foundation, Fielding Graduate University, the Compassionate Listening Project, and others.

Former Alaska Lt. Gov. Mead Treadwell was appointed to the US Arctic Research Commission (<https://www.arctic.gov/people.html>) in 2001 and served as its chair 2006-2010. The commission helps Arctic stakeholders improve icebreaking and safety infrastructure in the Arctic Ocean. In addition, from January 2015 to June 2018, he also served as president of Pt Capital (<http://ptcapital.com/>), an Arctic-focused private equity firm with investments in Alaska, Canada, Finland, Greenland and Iceland. In civic life, Mead is president of the public policy forum Commonwealth North and former president of the Alaska World Affairs Council. He recently won the Walter J. Hickel Lifetime Ocean Leadership Award from the Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward. A graduate of Yale and Harvard business schools, he's made Alaska his home since 1977.

Derrick Jamison, 33 years ago in the state of Ohio, was convicted for a murder he did not commit and sentenced to die by execution. He spent nearly all of his subsequent 20 years in prison on Death Row, where he faced six execution dates -- including one occasion when he came within 90 minutes of execution by lethal injection. Later it was shown that Jamison did not fit the eyewitness descriptions of the men who committed the murder and that police withheld evidence from a key witness who’d identified two other men as the perpetrators. He was released from prison in 2005 and has spent the years since then educating people about the risks of wrongful conviction.

Rev. Patience Stoddard has served 32 years as a UU minister. In that time, she served as a parish minister, a consulting and interim minister, a Hospice chaplain, a licensed pastoral counselor and the Director of Pastoral Services at a State Mental Hospital. She just retired from serving 3/4 time 5 years at the UU Congregation of the Upper Valley in Norwich Vt.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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Anchorage, AK 99508-3303

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AUUF Services and Events –July 2018

Sunday July 1

9 am Bill Hall, 'Saving Democracy in an Age of Peril'
11 am (Almost) Live --UUA General Assembly Worship,
Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray and Rev. Shelley Page
Joyfully gather with UUs from around the nation to experience the powerful Sunday worship at General Assembly with UUA President, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, a host of musicians and other inspirational speakers. Our service will be live in Anchorage with video from Kansas City. Come fill your UU cup to overflowing!

Sunday July 8

9 am Rosene Beachy, Katherine Huffman, 'Our Whole Lives: Sex Education as a Social Justice Issue'
11 am Rev. Shelley Page, 'Our Enquiring Minds'
Got questions about UU faith, traditions, theology or history? Bring them to this service and Shelley will answer them, on-the-spot, in this fun service that centers our questioning minds as part of our spiritual journeys. Let's celebrate our curiosity and wonderings.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- July 2018

Sunday 11 am ~ Classes for Kinder through 5th
Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare ages 1-10

Sunday July 15

9 am Sylvia Short and George Bryson, 'The Unsinkable Sylvia Short'
11 am Rev. Shelley Page, 'T-Shirt Sunday'
You're invited to wear a T-Shirt that expresses part of your identity. We'll share about the messages conveyed on our shirts and learn some more about the complexities of our personal identities and the identity of this congregation.

Sunday July 22

9 am Mead Treadwell,
'An Accessible Arctic -- What It Means for America'
11 am Rev. Shelley Page, 'The Stories We Tell'
Beloved childhood stories take on new meaning when re-read as an adult. Let's re-visit Little Women and learn more about Unitarian author, Louisa May Alcott. Bring a copy of your favorite childhood book!.

Sunday July 29

9 am Derrick Wayne Jamison,
'My 20 Years on Death Row'
11 am Rev. Patience Stoddard, 'Let It Be a Dance, or What I Learned on My Summer Vacation'
...about a family trip that went horribly wrong and taught me a valuable life lesson about living in the moment.

The LOG

August 2018

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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



On the Journey...

Sometimes I am asked if Unitarian Universalists have a special spiritual practice. Yes, I say, we do have a core spiritual practice. Gratitude. It is not simply being thankful. In the face of loss and despair, gratitude asserts the goodness and deep interdependence of all in an infinite circle of reciprocity, joyfully giving and receiving. Being alive is radical gratitude! It does not deny the pain of the world, but it opens the door for fresh life affirming narratives because despair does not get the last word. Feminist Christian scholar, Diana Butler Bass explains "Gratitude empowers us. It makes joy and love possible. It rearranges the way we see and experience what is around us. Gratitude makes all things new. It transforms how we understand what is broken and gives us the ability to act more joyfully and with hope."

My question for you right now: What are you grateful for at AUUF? How can your gratitude help the transformation of the congregation during this interim time?

I offer you my adaptation of *A Thanksgiving Prayer* by Diana Butler Bass.

There are days we do not feel grateful. When we are anxious or angry. When we are alone. When we do not understand what is happening in the world, or with our neighbors. We struggle to feel grateful.

But, let us choose gratitude. We choose to accept life as a gift from the unfolding work of all creation. We choose to be grateful for the earth from which our food comes; for the water that gives life; and for the air we all breathe. We make the choice to see our ancestors, those who came before us, and their stories, as a continuing gift of wisdom for us today. We choose to see our families and friends with new eyes, appreciating them for who they are, and be thankful for our homes whether humble or grand. We will be grateful for our neighbors, no matter how they voted or how much we feel hurt by them. We choose to see the whole planet as our shared commons, the public stage of the future of humankind and creation.

Right now, we do not give thanks. We choose it.

And we will make thanks, with strong hands and courageous hearts. When we see your sacred generosity, we become aware that we live in an infinite circle of gratitude. That we all are guests at a hospitable table around which gifts are passed and received. We will not let anything opposed to love take over this table. Instead, we choose to see grace, free and unmerited love, the giftedness of life everywhere, as the tender web of all creation. In this choosing, and in the making, we will pass gratitude onto the world. Together, we pledge to make thanks. Let us be strengthened in this resolve. Here, now, and into the future. Around this table. Around the table of our nation. Around the table of the earth. May it be so.

With deep gratitude for this fellowship, Reverend Shelley

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Calendar Highlights

August 7 Immigrant Action Next Steps
August 19 R UU Cuurious?
August 23rd Remembering Circle to honor Beryl Johnson
September 9 Homecoming Sunday
September 21-23 Fall Frolic
Nov 3 Annual Dinner and Auction

President's Letter

Dear AUUF,

I love this place! I can't believe all that we accomplish in the space of a year, a decade, a half century – whatever your measure. Seeing the spaces upstairs, downstairs and outside function so well during Peace Camp was pure delight. Hearing people comment on the beauty of our well-cared for grounds and the progress on the downstairs classroom divisions is a joy to pass on to those of you who are making it happen. I even enjoyed the 7 a.m. meeting I showed up to that turned into a coffee clatch for various reasons. Instead of business as usual, sharing and laughter became the agenda. AUUF is a vibrant place filled with, like Sylvia Short said during a recent Forum program focused on her life, some of the best people you'll find anywhere.

We start the new fiscal year with a new board member, Frank Mitchell (welcome!) and by closing out the books from FY18. AUUF finished in the red this year. We dipped into our reserves due to higher expenses (think costs of ministerial transition) and lower income (think minimal rental income due to construction) than anticipated. The good news is that 96 percent of pledging units honored, exceeded or partially fulfilled their pledge. We are pleased with these numbers! Nonetheless, we fell short of our pledging goals. One reason for that is that a full twenty-five percent of members do not pledge. To meet our congregationally-set priorities for the coming year, we ask for your help. We are counting on you! Here are some ways you can help:

1. Pledge. We'd like to achieve full pledging participation among members and friends at AUUF. Pledge forms are always available on the wall in the workroom in our Fellowship Office.
2. Fulfill your pledge to help us fulfill our mission. Set up electronic payment from your checking or savings account. That works best for us from a cash flow perspective and makes your life a whole lot easier (think one time set up and then you don't have to think about it again until next year). If you use your credit card, please consider covering the cost of fees so that AUUF doesn't have to. (We pay an additional 2.35% to 3% in banking fees for credit card donations.)
3. Talk to us. We recognize that sometimes, as the year progresses, circumstances change in our lives. Please give to whatever extent you can. Life happens. If your ability to pledge changes, just let us know.

Finally, in addition to pledges, part of how we make our money for operating expenses is to have fundraising and rentals going on. You are going to be hearing more about possibilities. If you have ideas about that, please bring them forward. Talk to board member Wendy Romberg who is working with stewardship and fundraising. We also need more people on these committees to help do the work.

Together, let's make this fiscal year sound.

In faith, Amanda Mack

Weekly Wednesday Summer Potluck Dinners

With our busy Alaska summers, let's take some time to enjoy summer evenings with weekly potluck dinners! For those of us who are out of town on weekends – or not, this is a nice way to stay connected, Wednesday evenings at 6 pm through August 15. Contact Andee Cordano (AndeeCordano@gmail.com; 350-6361) with questions, or to host a date.



	Hosts	Location
August 01	Peggy Cobey	3023 Knik Ave; 441-6939
August 08	David Pelto and Judith Anderegg	4770 Grumman Street; 907-982-6673/907-715-4269
August 15	<i>Would you like to host?</i>	

Capital Project Update:

Volunteer work is on-going, and our contractor continues to be of great assistance even though the bulk of their work is done. Some highlights and things to look forward to:

Done:

- Outside basic lawn near new south entry. More extensive landscaping will come later.
- Downstairs kitchen is installed and is being used, although some fine tuning has been requested.
- Downstairs classrooms have been a major focus – demolition to make way for a hallway between the Northern rooms, ceiling work, new fill-in walls built, two classroom divider walls framed, roughed in nearly all electrical, brought in 24 sheets of sheetrock, hung acoustical sheetrock on one wall, and re-installed the toddler toilet in Room 1. We have passed our Municipality framing and rough electrical inspections. Many have contributed a lot of hours and the fellowship thanks you!!!!



Looking forward to:

- Installation of Sanctuary/Social Room door in August (hopefully!)
- Volunteer work to tape and texture the new sheetrock, ceiling work, hang doors, repair baseboard and mount auditorium oak strip.
- Next up – painting! We'd love to have fresh volunteers for this. Please let James Dryden, 344-4995, know if you can offer time or expertise to this effort.
- Also, next up – Snow Dump drainage!! Bruce Roberts will be spearheading this effort and may need some strong backs and equipment operators to help move dirt and rock.
- Members Jobe Bernier and Cindy Kinard are beginning to discuss a process to develop a master landscape plan with input from a variety of teams, members and committees. More to come on that!
- If you noticed that the yellow canopy glass has a different effect than the other glasses, you are right! It is being re-ordered and will be replaced.

Also, we [have](#) excess construction material and some possessions that need a new home. We will bring to the Habitat for Humanity Re-Store anything that our members do not wish to take (for free!), materials such as: doors, laminate flooring, vertical cedar siding, some windows, and lots of florescent shop light fixtures. Talk to James Dryden or Bruce Roberts.

Many thanks to all the volunteers! Including: James Dryden, Stan Histand, Scott Wheaton, Bruce Roberts, Pedro Kim, Ken Winterberger, Greg Hartlieb, Bill Romberg, Sid McCausland, Dave Pelto, Stephanie Koonz, Don Crandall, George Baker, Akilena Veach, Bryan McClarence, Cyrus Hicks, Cindy Kinard, Jobe Bernier.

What tremendous energy and progress, please be sure to tell these people how much you appreciate their work!

R UU Cuirious?



Is UU or AUUF new to you? Do you wonder things like - Is UU a religion? Do I have to believe something to attend? What are the children taught? What do all these abbreviations mean like RE, OWL, COA, PILOT? Do you just want an opportunity to ask Rev. Shelley questions about UU or AUUF?

We invite you to have an informal sit down with Rev. Shelley after the 11am service on August 19 to have your UU questions answered.

For folks who want to learn a lot more or who want to become members, we will have a separate, more comprehensive, "Finding Your Way into Fellowship" class. Contact the office for more information.

Big Thank You to WhaleCoast Hosts and Volunteers!

By Denise Martin

Our 2 summer WhaleCoast tours brought us record profits this year. Our Fellowship earned \$11,905 from the June National Parks Tour, and around \$8,000+ from the July All-Alaska Tour. I'm so grateful for the many hosts, banquet volunteers, and drivers who made it all possible. I especially want to thank the following hosts who opened their homes to our guests:



JUNE TOUR: Yolanda Mesa & Kate Lehn, Doreen Ransom, Kathy & Jeff Dill, Mindy Willis, Judy Eng, Irene & David O'Brien, Chris Low, Elizabeth Glaser, Heather Flynn, Terry & Don Antrobus

JULY TOUR:

Peggy Cobey, Deb Addie, Gwen & Harry Perry-Crawford, Jane Gray (also organized the July Banquet!), Jeanne Fisher, Helen & Gale Neinhauser, Carol Harris, Bev Grogan, Shelley Page, Susan Orlansky.

HOSTED BOTH TOURS (Double Thanks!):

Koala Vandruff, Kalen Saxton (also organized the June Banquet!), Stacy Mansfield, Shirley Dickens, Jeanna Duryee, Renee Tatusko, Joella Buswell, James Dryden & Stephanie Koonz

Special thanks also to Marie Rozak for helping organize transportation, and to Jim Kerr for the downtown walking tour in July, plus his wonderful juggling entertainment at both banquets.

The WhaleCoast tours are organized by Dave Frey from the Fairbanks UU, and he has designed them so that all the participating Alaska UU congregations can benefit financially, while also providing opportunities to meet and get to know other UUs from around the U.S. Denise Martin has voluntarily coordinated the housing arrangements in Anchorage for the last few years, and would welcome the opportunity for others to learn about and help manage this rewarding summer project so that its future continued success can be assured.

On our Piano

By Megan Webb, Music Director

You may have noticed last Sunday that a plaque was attached to our beautifully refurbished Steinway in appreciation of Sylvia Short. Thanks to Peggy Robinson for making that happen, and of course to Sylvia for her overwhelming generosity. Those of you who peek under the cover from time to time might have also noticed that a piano lock was installed a few weeks ago. This protects the piano from damage and is standard practice with an instrument as valuable as this one is. Those who wish to use the piano themselves or who need it to be accessible for a function can speak to Megan, Amy, or Shelley to make sure that it's going to be used appropriately by someone qualified to play it, in which case it can be unlocked and made available. Your support and understanding regarding protecting this priceless gift is most appreciated. Thank you!

Recycling Plastics

Mark your calendar for the coming year: **August 19th**, September 30, October 21, November 11, and December 16, January 27, February 24, March 24, and April 21.

5 only. Check the lids.

Thanks to Judith Anderegg and Dave Pelto who transport our #5s to the Mat Su where they are recycled.



Single Use Plastic Ban?...and More....

Our own Sophie Tidler is volunteering with Plastic Free Anchorage. Plastic-Free Anchorage is focused on reducing plastic consumption in Anchorage. To get involved, contact Sophie, like Plastic Free Anchorage on Facebook, or email plasticfreeanchorage@gmail.com.



August Half Portion for Social Action: Alaska Institute for Justice

By Kalen Saxton

In 2017 the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee provided a grant to the Alaskan

Institute for Justice. The AIJ also received funds from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The Climate Justice Resilience Fund is for two years and will enable AIJ to work with 15 coastal Alaska Native villages to design and implement a community-led approach to decision making about community relocation in the face of climate change.

Robin Bronen, co-founder and Executive Director of AIJ, has said, "This funding will have a monumental impact on our efforts to help Alaska Native communities as we face one of the biggest humanitarian challenges of the 21st century."

Our AUUF youth who visited Newtok in May, brought back to us first-hand information on the impact of having to move the village.

Social Action Council

By Dennis Arashiro

"Few of their children in the country learn English...The signs in our streets have inscriptions in both languages...Unless the stream of their importation could be turned they will soon outnumber us that all the advantages we have will not be able to preserve our language, and even our government will become precarious."

No, that was not a press release from the White House, however plausible. Those were the words of Benjamin Franklin in 1753 as he expressed his fears of the German immigrants flooding into colonial Pennsylvania. History has proven Franklin factually wrong on immigration but being factually wrong is not the only--or worst--problem. Being morally wrong is. By separating families. Like breaking apart slave families through sale. Like send Native children to boarding schools far away from their families. Now, ICE in normal operation. It was only because of resistance that families are now being reunited, but the fight continues.

This is our fight, too. Tie a ribbon of support in the Sanctuary. Stop by the Social Action Table in the Social Room to sign up for the Immigration Action Team. Join up as we work with such allies as the Alaska Institute for Justice and Catholic Social Services Refugee Assistance and Immigrant Support. Come up with your own proposals for effective action to support our immigrant and refugee communities, and send them to me, Dennis Arashiro at 444-4324 or elvischannel@yahoo.com or Emily Madsen at (608)807-6670 or emily.j.madsen@gmail.com.



Follow-up on Immigrant Actions

August 7th 6-8 pm at Auuf. A light supper will be provided, bring bread or salad. Help define the next steps and take action with Alaska Institute for Justice.

Join Us for Lunch and Support Our Immigrant Community!

One of the ways we can support our local Anchorage immigrant community is to "get proximate" as civil rights lawyer, Bryan Stephenson would say. That means getting to know folks, supporting their local businesses, learning their stories, and discovering how we can be allies. A changing dozen or so of us have eaten at Queen of Sheba, Hacienda Mexican Restaurant, West Berlin, and Yak and Yeti's Café. We will gather **after the 11:00 worship service**. Who knows where these informal gatherings will lead? And, in the meanwhile, we can enjoy each other and some great food. Do you have a favorite restaurant run by immigrants? Please offer your suggestions for Sunday lunch spots and possible weekday dinner gatherings.

Another Opportunity for Immigrant Support!

The Mountain View Farmer's Market features several immigrant farmers and vendors. Make a commitment to buy some of your produce and other goodies there on Mountain View Drive (across from Clark Middle School) on Thursdays from 3-7pm.! See you there!



Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Grateful for the 4 "General Assembly" meetings that I have been privileged to attend (since I became a UU). The one in Calgary, Boston and the two in Portland. If I were rich, I would go every year. But, this first Sunday in July, the 11 AM service, we did get to experience the special service and choir of the recent General Assembly in Kansas City. A wonderful recording of the Worship Service, concluding the 2018 UU General Assembly. Our own Rev. Shelley Page weaved our service into Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray service so well, it felt like we were there. An important service and "call to action" on both fronts", national and local.

Please "Save the Date" for an August evening, August 23rd 7 PM for a "Remembering Circle" to honor Beryl Johnson, long time member who died in late April. There has not been an announcement in the paper or an Obituary published in our local newspaper. Those of us who remember her well want to have a chance to acknowledge her and what she meant to Anchorage and to this Fellowship. We have chosen August 23rd, Thursday at 7 PM where we will gather in a circle in our Sanctuary or our Social Room where we have a chance to recall her gifts and show our appreciation to a "life well lived".

I am so grateful that our congregation can come together to host the Whale Coast people and create a fabulous banquet dinner for each group, provide rides, beds and breakfast, set up the tables, bring delicious foods, get them to trains or airports, etc. Many hands make light work and it does us proud how we can work together with Denise Martin and Dave (from Fairbanks) to make this happen year after year. My guests enjoyed it SO Much. Well done, everyone!

What a wonderful time the kids had at the Summer Camp! I think the several adults who helped bring it off also had a great time too. Lots of positive energy and lots of memories for both children and the adults who were involved. 5 days of UU style Vacation Bible camp (Rev. Shelley called it). Everyone had fun.

Be sure to check out the new picture of Rev. Shelley Page in our Sanctuary. It's lovely and the frame blends in with the others. Thank you to our own "Alliance" and Marjorie Carter for getting it framed.

Enjoy our summer, whatever the weather. Be well, dear people.

Share your Favorite Experiences!

What are your favorite things to do this summer? Could you share those with our community through an "experience" Annual Dinner auction item? I'm thinking of a family-friendly bonfire, s'mores and sausages on the Kincaid Beach. What are you thinking of? A themed dinner on your deck? A "Bird to Gird" bike ride? A special cabin you own or have access to? The Annual Dinner auction is November 3rd and these kinds of experiences not only build our community through joyful shared experience but also provide financial support to our Fellowship. Items others have offered in the past – weekend at the Manitoba Hut, Birdwatching, respectfully harvesting native plants in our local parks, child care, sewing lessons, and on and on! If you have an idea, please let us know! Contact Carma Reed carmaandjiri@gci.net.

August Birthdays!

Birthdays are not published in our on-line version.



Folks have been asking - When Is The AUUF Fall Frolic Weekend Retreat?

September 21 – 23, 2018 @ Salvation Army - King's Lake Camp in Wasilla.

Fall Frolic Questions & Answers

When, where and how much?

Our annual AUUF retreat will take place at King's Lake Camp in Wasilla from 6 pm Friday evening, September 15th to Sunday afternoon, September 17th. All members and friends of our AUUF family are welcome. Please don't hesitate to come because of cost - Scholarship funds available by request.

- The cost for 2 nights and 5 meals will be \$80 for adults and youth, children age 3-10 are \$50, and wee ones 0-2 are free. **Max for a family is \$275.**
- One night - Adult -\$60 / Child- \$40. Or come and enjoy the day Saturday w/meals – A -\$40/ CH -\$25.

Where is King's Lake Camp?

King's Lake Camp is located outside Wasilla at 3313 Lakeview Drive. It takes a little more than an hour to drive there from Anchorage. Take the Glenn north, follow the signs to Wasilla. Turn right at Sears onto Seward Meridian Rd. Go 2 miles. Turn right on Bogard Rd. Continue to the 4-way stop. Turn left on Seldon. Continue for 1/2 mile until you see the sign for Teeland Middle School. Turn right on Lakeview Rd. Camp sign is about 1/2 mile further.

Why would I want to come to Fall Frolic?

Maybe you are new to AUUF community and would like to learn to know more people . . .or maybe you've been coming to the Fellowship for a long time and have met some folks you would like to know better . . . or maybe you know lots of people and would like to have some fun in a camp setting. . . or, maybe you remember how much fun you've had before and would like to come back again . . . or maybe you would like to get out of town for some time for quiet reflection. Then this is the camp for you. Young or old, family or single you will have a relaxing, enjoyable weekend with friends.

What are we going to do for two days?

The focus of this weekend is to relax and have fun. Weather permitting there will be lots of time for lakefront fun, canoeing, hiking, crafting, lantern building, singing and stargazing. You might join in a hike, join an informative Adult discussion, watch the kids on the playground or square dance. There will be opportunities for meditation and movement as we create and walk a Labyrinth or enjoy the Lakefront sunrise. If you prefer to spend most of your time enjoying the beautiful Alaskan Fall in your own way, you can do that also. There will be several Adult/Teen workshops other than crafts offered on Saturday. Rev. Shelley will lead worship on Sunday morning.

What shall I bring?

Bring comfortable shoes and casual clothes including wet weather gear and extra clothes for the children. Also bring your own bedding, (sheets and blankets or sleeping bags), pillows, towels, toiletries, insect repellent, snacks, games or puzzles for a rainy day. **NO alcohol, firearms, dogs or off-road vehicles!!**

What will we do if it rains?

Bring your rain gear (we're Alaskans!) Also, musical instruments, games, books or anything else you'd like to share. We have a large heated lodge that can keep us all nice and dry. But of course, it won't rain!

Do I need to bring a tent?

You don't! But you can! You may either bring a tent or a trailer to camp, or, there are 15 heated and several rustic cabins (no heat). Each cabin contains 8 - 12 bunk beds and will be shared by 2 or 3 families. There are 2 large, heated, central bathhouses complete with hot showers and flush toilets. Cabins are chosen upon arrival, or groups can let me know ahead of time. There is a Dining Hall and a large multi-purpose activities lodge.

What about food?

Meals will be provided on Saturday and Sunday. We do request prep and clean up help from volunteers in the kitchen to assist our UU cooks! Vegetarian options will be available at each meal. **Bring hotdogs, buns, munchies, s'mores fixings or drinks to share for dinner** (6:30 or so) around the campfire on Friday night.

What if I have more questions?

You can always call Rosene Beachy, DLRE 441-6815. Or call the church office, 248-3737.

Camp Registration forms also available, online & downstairs. Payment can be made on the AUUF website.

Religious Exploration Notes August 2018

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Fifty bikes, big and small gathered at the Fellowship this week for our 3rd annual and largest ever UU Peace camp! If you popped into the Fellowship this week, you will have noticed some very busy and enthusiastic children making sun catchers and tying fleece blankets, learning juggling and yoga, adjusting bikes, singing, discovering the properties of spheres, and building our new little lending library!

Our peace theme of social justice was biking and also creating items of beauty to share with the elders at Horizon House and Clare House. A biking adventure every day to parks, Goose Lake and Horizon House, culminated with a wonderful bike parade around the neighborhood ending at Fire Island bakery where we sang songs in the garden and were gifted with “the best” chocolate chip cookies by Baker, Max! Thanks Max!

Thanks to our wonderful teen counselors: Ethan, Killian, Sarah, Makayla, Tatum, and Piper. Thanks to our workshop leaders: Bev Grogan, Elayne Hunter, Kalen Saxton, Michelle Champion, Jim Kerr, Jim Mayers, Amanda Mack, and AUUF community volunteers Ann, Annie, Silver, Sue, Laura, and Becca . We’ll see you again next year!

Summer UU World Travelers continues for a few more weeks, but we are planning for Fall. Registration is open for RE and all OWL classes. All registration forms are available on the RE Facebook group, and the AUUF website. We are also recruiting for class leaders for our very interesting and fun classes on World Religions this Fall and Hogwarts in January! 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 9th. And fill out your Fall Frolic registration forms to join in our Family & Friends Retreat on September 21 - 23rd.

Peace, Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Our Program

9:00 Service - Childcare for ages 1 – 11.

11:00 Service - Cross age program, ages 4-11

June 3 to August 26 - “UU World Travelers”

Childcare for ages 1-4

August 5	Japan with Laura Krip
August 12	Germany with Ingrid Larson
August 19	Finale
August 26	Games

2018-19 RE Registration

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

Volunteers Needed For:

Fall Frolic - Volunteers to help plan activities for adults and children. We need your help and ideas to keep Fall Frolic alive and continuing to provide a wonderful weekend each year for our Fellowship!

Planning meetings Thursdays, August 2, and August 30th, 7:00pm

Sunday Morning class Leaders - Join a team! Many teachers are still needed at all age groups Toddler through Jr. High! Our focus this fall will be on World Religions. 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!



Peace Camp 2018

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Programs coming this Fall

Our Whole Lives is a series of sexuality education curricula for six age groups created by the UUA: grades K-1, grades 4-6, grades 7-8, 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.

Elementary OWL – Intermediate level

5th - 6th Parent Information meeting, **Monday, September 10th**, 7:00–8:30 pm

5th – 6th Parent & Child Kick off Workshop, Saturday, September 15, 10:00 – 12:00 am

Classes – September 30 – December 9th, 12:30 – 1:30 pm Sunday afternoon

Elementary K-1 will be offered in the winter if we have class leaders.

Jr High School OWL grades 7-8

Parent Orientation – **Wednesday, August 29, (7-9 pm)**

OWL Kickoff – Saturday, Sept. 8th, 12:00-3:00 pm for Participants and parents

Classes – September 9th to December 9th, 12:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Will include Saturday workshops & fieldtrips, TBA



Stewardship

It's not too late to wrap up FY18 pledge giving or to make your FY19 pledge. If you changed your pledge amount for FY19 and you give through automatic giving be sure to check your July financial statements to make sure the changes went through as you intended. If paying by credit card please consider offering to pay for the fees. Contact the office to add that to your payment if you wish. Thank you for your continued support!

From the Fellowship office

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. Tuesday is the deadline for announcements to be printed in the Order of Service and for the "This Week at Your Fellowship" email.

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

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

Adult Offerings!

Hungry Book Club: 12 of us met at AUUF Tuesday, July 10th to discuss a very interesting book, "The Professor and the Madman" by Simon Winchester. A very interesting book about the days of getting together an early version of the English Dictionary, how long it took (over 60 years), who contributed to it, etc. The book was fascinating and very carefully researched. We chose another interesting book for August read (August 14th, second Tuesday in the month), where we will meet in the social room at AUUF. The book is "The Great Quake" by Henry Fountain. If you love good books, please join us in August. Bring something to share (small snack, semi healthy). Call Shirley Dickens for more details, 563-4499.

Yoga for Every Body is taking July and August off. Classes will resume Wednesday September 5th 6-7:15 pm. Free will offering (half to AUUF). Instructor: Paula Saylor. 907-297-9184.

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

Do you 'PodCast'?

Have you missed a service or two? Want to hear that speaker or service again? Recordings of our services are current and available on our website.



Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

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

Staff Contacts

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

AUUF Board of Directors

Amanda Mack, President; Wendy Romberg, Vice President;
Kelley Hartlieb, Secretary; Peggy Robinson, Treasurer; Frank Mitchel, David O'Brien; James Dryden

Other Contacts are Available on our Website.

About Our Speakers and Services (see back page)

Connecting with Reverend Shelley... Reverend Shelley is available to meet with you personally. Please email revshelleyauuf@gmail.com or call the office (907-248-3737 x 2). It is helpful to offer possible times that work for you so that Shelley can more easily schedule. For pastoral emergency call (907) 868-3737. You can also connect on Facebook with her – just send her a friend request. Thanks!

Debbie Chulick is a Certified Dementia Practitioner (CDP) and an Education Specialist working at Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska. Before that, she was the Activity Director at an assisted living facility. Chulick has more than 12 years of experience working with elders, those with dementia and their families. Originally from the Cleveland area of Ohio, she's lived in Anchorage for the past 15 years and graduated from Alaska Pacific University, earning a degree in Human Services. Chulick is passionate about empowering individuals with dementia, their families and professional caregivers to provide exceptional care for those experiencing dementia.

Vered Mares is co-owner of the year-old Writer's Block Bookstore & Cafe in the heart of Spenard. Born to non-traditional parents who were writers, musicians, and therapists, she explored the high deserts of northern New Mexico as a child and developed a love of travel. She paid to attend art school by managing a bar in Idaho and later created large-scale commercial art. She took up aviation and became a commercial pilot. She ventured to Alaska, returned to school and launched a boutique publishing house, working as a book designer and editor. She considers the Writer's Block Bookstore & Café the culmination of all her life experiences.

Neal Fried is the chief economist for the Alaska Department of Labor and the primary author of articles appearing in its monthly magazine *Alaska Economic Trends*. He's served on both the Governor's Oil and Gas Policy Task Force and the Anchorage Economic Development Committee. In 2011 Fried was the honored recipient of the Governor's Denali Peak Performance Award. He journeyed to Alaska in 1973 to attend the University of Alaska Fairbanks, where he earned B.A. degrees in both History and Economics and has worked as an economist in Alaska for over 30 years.

Rev. Shelley Page serves as the Interim Minister at the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. A graduate of Cornell University and Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, she also served congregations in Delaware, Michigan and Utah. A Unitarian Universalist for over 35 years, her lay leadership roles include founding mother of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Canandaigua in New York. Her previous careers included marketing and communications management for business and not-for-profit organizations. She participated in the annual interfaith pilgrimage to Manzanar, one of the Japanese-American internment camps in operation during World War II. As a student of past internments, she will share reflections and her poetry about this shameful part of our history.

Don Bladow is a 45+ year Alaskan, a UAA graduate and a Master Gardener. In 2015 he developed a 9,000 square foot garden at Hope Lutheran Church providing charity food. Through his work plus many volunteers, Bean's Café, Lutheran Food Pantry, Downtown Soup Kitchen and other nonprofits receive his bountiful harvest.

From his work with the Paul Winter Consort, where he was co-composer of their celebrated "Missa Gaia/Earth Mass," **Jim Scott** has long been an activist for peace and the Earth with his music. Former co-chair of the UU Ministry for the Earth, Jim helped create the "Green Sanctuary" program. His songs of Earth have educated and inspired audiences across the U.S. and the world and his "Earth and Spirit Songbook," supported by a grant for the Fund for Unitarian Universalism, has been widely acclaimed by UU congregations.

From the Fellowship office

This Week at Your Fellowship:

Are you getting our new weekly emails? Like our new look? We are experimenting with how to keep you informed. We would love your feedback.

If you don't think you are receiving our email blasts please check your spam and junk folders. The subject line will be "This Week at Your Fellowship" and will come from the email account auuf@gci.net.

Don't 'do email'? Drop the office a note so we can put you on our 'no email list' and get you all the news.

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

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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AUUF Services and Events –August 2018

Sunday August 5

9 am Debbie Chulick,

'Senior Moment? Dementia? Or Worse?'

11 am Jim Scott,

'Gaia, Mother Earth and the Oneness of Everything'

We will celebrate the Earth with Jim's original songs and readings, along with his personal reflections on the idea of Mother Earth, or Gaia, being one living organism. Our "spiritual response" in word and action is so timely now, as "the spirit of life on Earth is in crisis."

Sunday August 12

9 am Vered Mares, 'From Porn Shop to Writers' Block'

11 am Don Bladow, 'Gardening of the Spirit'

If you admire direct and immediate social action, Don will speak to your heart: dirty fingernails are an honorable badge of his ministry to the less fortunate among us. Hear about his initial concept in 2015 to serve the hungry, which began a journey of planning and developing over 9,000 sq ft of garden at Hope Lutheran Church.

Sunday August 19

9 am Neil Fried, 'Is Alaska's Recession About to End?'

11 am Rev. Shelley Page and Music Director Megan Webb,

'Come Sing a Song with Me'

Come sing with us as we joyfully celebrate UU music with a hymn sing and some special performances of your favorites and some new tunes! Stay tuned for ways to submit your favorite hymns.

Sunday August 26

9 am Rev. Shelley Page, 'Journey to Manzanar: Re-Visiting America's Internment Camps'

11 am Rev. Shelley Page, TBD

Watch 'This Week at Your Fellowship' for a description of this service with Rev. Shelley.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- August 2018

Sunday 11 am ~ Classes for Kinder through 5th

Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare ages 1-10

The LOG

September 2018



AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

On the Journey...

"Everything old is new again." It fascinates me to see what "old" ideas return over time, like vinyl records or the craze in fermenting anything fermentable. We humans have a way of circling back to older things and then putting new twists on them, making them our own in today's context. And so it is with congregational life and our interim journey. Sometimes revisiting what worked in the past can be a fruitful path forward.

And so it is that Rosene and I have engaged in some thoughtful discernment about what happens Sunday mornings. We asked ourselves questions about what helps AUUF build a strong connected multi-generational community. We agreed that shared experiences that express our values help to build community, thinking of Fall Frolic, Winterfest and Animal Blessing.

One missing piece seems to be a **regular** experience of being together, since, on Sundays, kids are downstairs and grownups are upstairs. Some of our newer families have barely ever been part of worship. We were both observing that our children were missing out on meaningful congregational connections, and that adults were missing their connections with the joy and fresh perspective of younger generations. We were noting that a strong part of congregational life involves gathering together to worship, the act of lifting up that which is of worth. In other words, one of the ways we live our Unitarian Universalist values is to "gather in peace, gather in thanks, gather in sympathy now and then, gather in hope, compassion and strength, gather to celebrate once again" as we sing in the hymn, Gather the Spirit, by Jim Scott.

And so, we are revisiting your previous AUUF pattern of having children and youth (kindergarten through senior high) participate in the first 15 minutes of worship every Sunday. We'll joyfully greet each other and sing together (we'll even start singing a few minutes *before* 11 am to get you going!). Families will be invited to light the chalice. Youth will be asked to read the chalice lighting words. We'll gather round for a Time for All Ages with stories or interactive experiences that highlight the worship message of that day, offering some shared fodder for later family conversations. And then we'll sing the children and youth off to their class through the arch of loving arms, a sweet ritual that has been absent from your worship for a while. Then, worship will proceed for adults, and, occasionally, the youth will stay on to learn more about particular topics and gain a fuller sense of AUUF worship.

We'll try out this pattern for a while and see what happens. Open-hearted experimentation is part of the interim journey—let's see where we go, together.

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Calendar Highlights

September 9 Homecoming Sunday
September 9 Youth Kickoff and BBQ
September 16 R UU Cuurious?
September 21-23 Fall Frolic
September 30 Plastics Recycle
October 2 Finding Your Way into Fellowship
October 13 CPR Course
Nov 3 Annual Dinner and Auction

With deep gratitude for this fellowship, Reverend Shelley

President's Letter

Dear AUUF,

Trust the process, hold the vision. This is the mantra the board used as we went through the process to hire an interim minister in January of 2018. We had to overcome the feeling that the odds were stacked against us. The pool of interim ministers looking for placement is smaller in winter than in spring when most interim ministers are seeking placement. And, let's face it, to the uninformed, Alaska is a hard sell in January. Luckily, we found an adventurous soul in Rev. Shelley who had the exact skill set we sought to lead AUUF through the interim process. When we jumped through the final systemic hoop – of which there are many – there was a lot of whooping and jumping around to celebrate the coup we pulled off in getting her here.

Like the ministerial search committee will do, the board educated itself about the placement process and set about the task of preparing our online profile. We did this with the support of our regional contact, Tandi Rogers, who served as our advocate throughout the process helping us put our best foot forward. The Transitions Office in Boston also gave us pointers along the way to ensure our success and was there for us every step of the way. Our vision led the process, but our collaborative effort ensured our success.

A standardized timeline is used by all congregations in search of either an interim minister or a settled minister. The system is a two-sided portal where congregations can “shop” for available ministers and ministers can “shop” for available congregations. From that initial point of access, the discernment process begins where a congregation expresses interest and a potential minister expresses interest and the match making process begins. The Board is deeply aware of this timeline and we are exactly where we want to be. Firstly, we engage in interim work to help us move through the inevitable sea of change and feelings that accompany transitions and, importantly, help us determine together who we want to be as a congregation as we look to the future. With that vital piece in place, we, as a congregation, select a ministerial search committee (MSC). Then we empower and trust the MSC to do the work that will be deeply fed by the interim work findings to secure a settled minister. Our MSC will present a candidate to us whom they chose, and who also picked us, for a congregational vote. Please check out the ministerial timeline presented by the Transition Team.

As far as the bylaw change goes, AUUF gets to determine how we select a ministerial search committee – the group that will faithfully see the process through to secure a new settled minister. The current bylaw that speaks to this process has worked in the past and would work again. We may want to change it, we may not. The congregation can decide that when the time is right. We aren't there yet. Now is the time for us to participate in interim work that will determine how we want to present ourselves to ministers who are seeking placement. Once we have that information in hand, we can go about whatever approach we decide to use in selecting a ministerial search committee. Our interim work will help us determine who the right people are to serve on the search committee. This is a two-year process that we are just now embarking on. We are right where we want to be. Trust the process, hold the vision.

In faith, Amanda Mack

Ministerial Search Timeline

by the Transitions Team

This timeline was provided to us by Rev. Tracy Springberry, our Transition Coach. If you would like more information about the settlement process, read the Settlement Handbook on the UUA website. As a starting point, the introduction is a good read. Board members are also available to answer questions.

These undertakings have already happened or are in process:

Phase 1: Concluding a Ministry Well

Minister Announces Departure	Fall 2017
Consultation with Regional UUA Staff/UUA	Fall 2017
Interim Ministry, application and search	Fall 2017
Interim Ministry Begins	January 2018

(continued page 3)

Phase 2: Education and Preparation for Search

Review Congregational By-laws	Fall 2017 – ongoing
Transition Coach Visit: Overview of Search	March 2018

These important tasks are on our radar and will be rolled out according to the timeline:

Review Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) bylaw and vote on changes if needed	Nov 2018 – Jan 2019
Approve Budget for Search Committee	Spring 2019
Initiate Church Website Update	Spring 2019
MSC Selection	Feb – April 2019

Phase 3: Building the Structure to Search

Convene an MSC Retreat with Transitions Coach	May 2019)
Select a negotiating team	Aug – Sept 2019
Gather and create our packet	June – Nov 2019
Present a minister contract and compensation packet to the Board	Oct – Nov 2019
Select neutral pulpits for pre-candidate preaching	Fall 2019
Complete the Congregation Record, a very comprehensive description of the congregation	Mid-late Nov 2019

Phase 4: Opening Up the Search

MSC works with Rev. Tracy on our Congregation Record	Mid-late Nov 2019
Makes it visible to potential ministers online	Nov 30 – Dec 5
Final consultation before receiving applicants	Mid-Dec to first week of Jan 2020

Phase 5: Discernment/Mutual Selection

Receive the Initial List of Applicants	Jan 2, 2020
Gain Access to Applicant Ministerial Records & Websites	Jan 2 – 15 ,2020
Video/Phone Interview of Top Applicants	Mid – late Jan 2020
Precandidate Selection	Mid Jan – Early Feb 2020
Precandidate Weekend Visits to Anchorage	Feb 1 – Mar 24, 2020
Submit List of Top Candidate Preference to Transitions Office	by Mar 25, 2020
Make Offer Date to Invite Top Candidate	March 28, 2020

Phase 6: Finalizing the Offer

MSC negotiates the contract and does background checks	Early April 2020
Announces the candidate to members	Early April 2020

Phase 7: Entering Into a New Ministry

Candidating Week	April 28 – May 4, 2020
Preparation for an August Start	May – July 2020
Arrival	August 1, 2020
Starting Together	Aug – Nov 2020

If No Match Occurs in the First Round: The Second Round

Congregation Decides to Enter Second Round	by April 5, 2020
Ministers may express interest in 2 nd round congregations	April 8, 2020
Search Committees receive names for second round	April 12, 2020
Interviews	April 12 – 30, 2020
Precandidating Weekend	Late April – May 2020
Candidating Week	Late May – June 2020

Join us to Celebrate “There’s No Place Like Home” 2018 Annual Dinner-Auction is Saturday, November 3

Mark November 3 on your calendar for the 2018 AUUF Annual Dinner / Annual Auction. Thanks to great progress on our capital improvement project, we’ll return to hosting this gala gathering at our own facility this year. After all... *There’s no place like home!* And, fittingly, this is the 2018 event theme.

We have the beginnings of a core event team, including: Co-Chairs Stephenie Wheeler and Ron Devon; Auction Lead Coordinator Cathy Steen; Finance / Check-in / out Coordinator Carma Reed; and Share-a-Dish Buffet Co-Coordinator Dennis Arashiro. We’re looking for a mix of seasoned experience and fresh ideas to fill a few lead or co-lead roles. Call Stephenie Wheeler, 907-382-3327 or email msgmaker@gci.net to volunteer or discuss:

- Co-Coordinator of the share-a-dish buffet
- Beverage Station Coordinator(s)
- Dessert Auction Co-Coordinator
- Children’s Auction / Activities Coordinator
- Pie of the Month / Non-Auction Fundraising leads

In addition to volunteer power, we invite EVERYONE to participate. Look for sign-up sheets in the Social Room to:

- **Share a favorite dish!** Add something special (main dish, side dish and/or salad) to the buffet.
- **Make a delectable dessert** for the fun, fast-paced after-dinner Dessert Auction.
- **Donate an item to the Auction!** Your treasures translate to a critical component of AUUF’s operating and program budget. See the story below for donation ideas.
- **Volunteer!** Success takes a village. Each functional lead needs a handful of helpers.

Questions? Suggestions? Call Ron Devon at 301-1601 or Stephenie at 382-3327, msgmaker@gci.net.



Inspiration for Fun, Fabulous Donations to Annual Auction

We hope these ideas inspire some fun, new and tried-and-true donations to our fund-raising auction:

Wine and Winsome Reviewers! Contribute a bottle of your favorite wine; and include brief description of why you like it, what you pair it with, and/or share an anecdote of what makes it special to you.

Heavenly Harvesters! We’re planning a new twist on the traditional “pie of the month” auction item, instead offering a year featuring monthly local harvest items. Contact Carma (carmaandjiri@gci.net) if you can contribute an item in the next year. Examples: garden goodies, herbs, canned / smoked salmon, berry jams, ground moose meat, devil’s club balm, homemade spirits, dried herbs, etc.

Season Ticket Holders! Do you have season tickets but know you won’t make a show? We can pair admission with a restaurant gift card or downtown condo overnight for a great stay-cation package!

Experience Makers! Do you have an experience you’d love to share? Experiences are popular! If you have an idea or want some help fleshing one out, send Carma Reed or Cathy Stein an email, or connect at the fellowship, and let’s figure it out!

Preferred Patrons! Do you regularly get services or purchase goods from a local business? Why not share your favorites by requesting a gift certificate or gift basket as a goodwill gesture? Proprietors will often donate as a way to promote their services / products through their loyal customers.

A donation request letter and Auction Donation Forms are available opposite the copier and also in the supply closet in the Social Room. The three-part form doubles as a receipt with the pink copy going to the person/business donating the item. Tip: Personalize the letter with a hand-written note at the top before delivering to your favorite establishment.

Small donation items can be stored (with the donation form) in the Social Room supply closet. For larger items, please contact Carma or Cathy for pickup. **For Auction questions and donations**, contact Cathy Steen, 440-6540, csteen@gci.net or Carma Reed at carmaandjiri@gci.net.

Update on Alaska Institute for Justice

by Kalen Saxton

On June 30th between 30-40 UU's gathered on the Park Strip to joined hundreds of others protesting the separation of children from parents as they crossed the U.S. Border seeking asylum as a refugee. This national day of action, called **Families Belong Together**, was sponsored in Anchorage by MoveOn.org, ACLU, Planned Parenthood and the Alaska Institute for Justice.

On August 7th AUUF hosted a meeting held by AIJ as a follow-up to the gathering on the Parkstrip. Twenty-five of us ate a light supper, and listened to information from an immigration attorney and from a young adult who is working and paying taxes because they have a green card. We ended with individual introductions and questions on immigration and refugee status in Alaska.

You can sign up at the Social Justice table if you are interested in this justice issue. The Alaska Institute for Justice was our Half-Portion recipient for August.

September Half Portion for Social Action: Food Bank of Alaska

By Kalen Saxton

September is Hunger Action Month, a month where people all over America stand together with Feeding America and the nationwide network of food banks to fight hunger. It's a month to spread the word and take action on the hunger crisis, and dedicate ourselves to a solution. In honor of Hunger Action Month our half portion recipient is the Food Bank of Alaska. Food Bank of Alaska is reducing food insufficiency in Alaska. Cash, or our half portion donations, are more effective than canned food drives. For hands on social justice, sign up yourself, your family, or friends for volunteering at the Food Bank. It's fun and no special talents required! Foodbankofalaska.org.



Social Action Council

By Dennis Arashiro

"Whatever words we utter must be chosen with care, for people will hear them and be influenced by them for good or ill." - Buddha

Gurbir Grewal is the Attorney General of New Jersey and a Sikh American, but he will now and maybe forever be known as "Turban Man." Two radio hosts gave him that label without ever referring to him by his name in a derogatory broadcast. Yes, they were given ten-day suspensions by their station and were apologetic afterwards, but the damage was done. Not just to an individual but to an entire community viewed as not quite American enough. Unfortunately, this mirrors the kinds of words immigrants have heard throughout our history.

Consider the words that follow: "Waves of immigrants. The rise tide of immigration. Immigrants flooding our country." Metaphorical words for immigrants as water, both amorphous and threatening. Metaphorical words for immigrants that deny, both individuality and humanity. I myself used "flooding" in my last LOG article to describe German immigration to colonial Pennsylvania. Only after seeing it in print did I realize what I had done--in an article supporting immigrant rights, no less. Take a moment to reflect on that. In our fight for immigrant justice words matter. As do symbolic actions. As do policies. As do elections. We live in a time when it all matters.



Recycling Plastics

Mark your calendar for the coming year: September 30, October 21, November 11, and December 16, January 27, February 24, March 24, and April 21. # 5 only. Check the lids.

Bring to the front yard of the Fellowship near the Little Free Library on those Sunday mornings, (until the snow flies!).

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

So very grateful that when Rev. Shelley was on vacation and our guest speaker was delayed in his travels, that our service leaders rose to the occasion and together with a lot of help from our audience, produced a wonderful program. Beverly Grogan played the piano and three members of our choir jumped into help. Bill Sherwonit, our worship associate, read a new poem he had recently written which was wonderful. Bill also read parts of a really interesting essay. My favorite part was Bill's memory of falling in love with AUUF by staying for the 11 am service for our annual "Blessing of the Animals" Sunday and how meaningful that service meant to him because his beloved dog of several years had recently died. That was in 2012. Anyway, the whole service was very special even without our guest speaker, Jim Scott. Some of the audience went to Unity church on a Monday night to hear him play and sing his music. Well done everyone!

Grateful for a very special 11 am service August 19th, something that in my 40-year history with this congregation I have never experienced: a special service singing songs from our two hymnals. Who knew "singing our values" could be such fun! Many of us got to help in the choice of songs as we had 2 or 3 weeks to help choose. Rev. Shelley and our wonderful music director, Megan Webb (with the help of Joyce Laine, and Amanda and Katherine) helped keep us on track. It was the perfect service before our annual picnic, which was held indoors because it started to rain as the service ended. Thoughtful people had already got a fabulous bunch of food ready for us in the social room. Delicious food for about 94 hungry people, eating in shifts. A great time was had even though it rained all afternoon.

So very grateful that Rev. Shelley insisted we hold a "Remembering Circle" for our beloved long-time member, Beryl Johnson, who died this Spring at age 97. We hosted this ceremony for a group of family members and our congregation and civic leaders. 27 of us had a wonderful time hearing about Beryl who was a smart, funny, sensitive, born leader. A few long-time civic leaders from the "League of Women Voters" joined us. Thank you, Alliance members, for the simple reception and flowers, Amy for finding an early scrapbook for those who choose to look at it during the reception, Kalen for all her help setting up and dealing with food after. Rev. Shelley (who had never met Beryl) did a lovely job. Everything felt "just right" as we said Goodbye to one of our own.

School and the Alaska State Fair are upon us. Can Autumn be far behind? Be safe people and remember that Fall Frolic is coming soon.

September Birthdays!

Birthdays are not printed in our online version.

Connecting with Reverend Shelley... Reverend Shelley is available to meet with you personally. Please email revshelleyauuf@gmail.com or call the office (907-248-3737 x 2). It is helpful to offer possible times that work for you so that Shelley can more easily schedule. For pastoral emergency call (907) 868-3737. You can also connect on Facebook with her – just send her a friend request. Thanks!

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
- 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.

Create Your Legacy to AUUF Now!!
The UUA Wake Now Our Vision Program Is
Waiting to Send AUUF Buckets of FREE Money,
If Only You Act Now!

by Wray Kinard, Endowment Committee Chair

The old joke is, only two types of people need to prepare wills: those with children and those without. The truth is, preparing for the end of life is not just for old folks but for all adults. Legacy giving to AUUF ensures the fellowship is a stable long-term alternative voice within the Anchorage religious community, but it also has short-term benefits.

The great news is that a national Unitarian Universalist Association program, Wake Now Our Vision, is open to you for the next few months—They'll give local fellowships like AUUF matching funds up to 10% of every legacy gift promise sent in, if you:



- 1. Name the Fellowship in your will.** Already got one with AUUF in it? Just fill out the Wake Now one page checklist! Easy-Peasy.
- 2. Or (since new or revised wills often require the fees of a lawyer), no-expense ways are also included in the program such as:**
 - a. Change or add AUUF as a contingent beneficiary on your existing IRA account.**
 - b. Change or add AUUF as a contingent the beneficiary on your life insurance account.**
 - c. Move an amount from your existing IRA to a new one with AUUF as primary beneficiary.**

The program will provide the matching funds to AUUF starting next year—2019 – even though you may have many decades of your life left to enjoy. Your legacy will help the Fellowship realize the dreams of our membership right away!! What do you want to see happen? A new playground? More building upgrades? A cool landscape? New programs for adults and children?

Whatever the future holds, your Legacy matching funds will be a wonderful help almost immediately – 2019 is only a few months away. But *your claim to the matching funds must be made soon, since the funds are available only until they run out, which is projected to be by the end of this year, according to the legacy campaign director, Laura Randall.* Please contact me (wkinard@ak.net) for information, forms or discussion about the program, or contact Laura as well at (617) 948-6511, or lrlandall@uua.org.

Members from the AUUF Endowment Committee will be available at a table in the social room after each Sunday Service on Sept 9 and Sept 16 for further discussion and information. Bring your questions, or ideas for your situation, and let's get this thing done!

UUSC Project on Climate Forced Displacement and AUUF

Take a look at your calendar and clear out space the last weekend in September and the first weekend in October. Why? To help the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), our sister organization, welcome over sixty frontline community representatives who are losing their homes and lands due to the growing impacts of climate change who are coming to Anchorage.

UUSC in partnership with the Climate Justice Resilience Fund and the Alaska Institute for Justice is hosting the *First Peoples Convening on Climate Forced Displacement* at Alyeska from Monday, October 1 through Friday, October 5. AUUF has been asked to help with logistical support before and after the convening.

To get involved in this important opportunity for AUUF use the online link in our This Week at Your Fellowship or contact Amanda Mack. You can welcome guests at the airport, take a group on a sight-seeing excursion, bring people to the service on Sunday the 30th, or provide a ride to or from Alyeska. Guests will be arriving in Anchorage from Alaska Native villages, the Pacific Islands, Bangladesh, Central America and the Lower 48. Contact Amanda Mack at amdmack@gmail.com or call 907-342-9008 for more information.

Grounds Master Plan Update

Summary—The Grounds Master Plan leaders, Cindy Kinard and Jobe Bernier, met with the Board, August 15, and came away inspired and ready for action. Of course, that means we'll be meeting with lots of folks to get input about how AUUF will develop our grounds...What are your dreams? How would you envision using our outdoor space in a way that helps us live our UU values?

Schedule—Our aim is to have a final overall grounds master plan and some of the high-priority-item detailed plans ready for action in Spring/Summer 2019...Stay tuned!

Your Input—We will be meeting with every AUUF committee and congregant who would like to give input on the Grounds Master Plan, beginning in October. If you don't hear from us this month, please feel free to email Cindy at ckinard@ak.net to make sure you are on the agenda.

Actions Underway Now—Several items have come up that need to, or can be, addressed before a plan can even be started. There's a long list! For starters:

1. Make Playground Equipment safe(r), and begin study/work to create better play area. Jobe will lead folks from Religious Exploration on the study/work.
2. Work to remove pernicious weed Bird Cherry trees from north side of building. Plans to come, to replace them with safe & environmentally acceptable species in more maintainable spots.

Actions you can take to help—

1. Ideas--Begin to think about how you'd like the grounds to look and work, activities you'd like to accommodate, problem areas you'd like to address...make a list!
2. Plants to donate--If you have plants you think might be gorgeous or useful in the final grounds layout, make a list of species, size, color, etc., and provide that to Cindy for use once planting areas are determined. Then, take very good care of those plants at your home till we're ready to select and plant! (No new planting areas are ready for any final plantings, nor are the Grounds folks able to care for any until they are planted in their final "resting" places.)
3. **Funding**—Anything cool we come up with will take MONEY! No, we don't want your hard-earned cash now! What we can all do to help fund wonderful things both in the Building and on the Grounds is:

Do the Wake Now Our Vision Program! It's easy, it's free, and it can put many thousands of dollars into AUUF coffers, in 2019, for anything we decide is important! But now is the time for action—the free money will soon be gone! See the details in the Legacy Article, page 7!

Next—We look forward to meeting with you soon to learn of your visions for the AUUF Grounds!

R UU Cuurious?

Is UU or AUUF new to you? Do you wonder things like - Is UU a religion? Do I have to believe something to attend? What are the children taught? What do all these abbreviations mean like RE, OWL, COA, PILOT? Do you just want an opportunity to ask Rev. Shelley questions about UU or AUUF?

We invite you to have an informal sit down with Rev. Shelley after the 11am service on September 16th to have your UU questions answered.

For folks who want to learn a lot more or who want to become members, we will have a separate, more comprehensive, "Finding Your Way into Fellowship" class (October 2, 9, and 16 at 6-8 pm). Contact the office to RSVP auuf@gci.net.



Religious Exploration Notes September 2018

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

The 2018-2019 Program Year has begun! Last weekend 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 40 teens in our Jr and Sr youth programs. This is a very large program by local standards and in most UU churches. The OWL sexuality programs reach out to that many youth again 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.

Teens who have gone through the Coming of Age program have relationships with adult mentors, many of who retain a friendship and connection throughout their HS years. Youth Advisors who can connect with teens and support their growing independence and spiritual journey make a difference in lives. As a congregation, this is our responsibility and mission to our families and youth.

Don't wait to be asked! Get to know a teen, volunteer to help in activities and "Lock ins" (overnights). Be a mentor and HS Youth Advisor. We need you! You will be inspired by the wonderful young people in our midst.

In Peace, Rosene Beachy, DLRE

rbeachy@alaskalife.net

Our Program

We still need several special and wonderful people to help lead for Children's RE and youth classes: Toddlers, 3rd/4th grade, 5th grade, Youth advisor. **We have 15 wonderful class leaders so far and still need 10 more.** Our class leaders are in teams of 3 or 4 so that each person preps/leads one Sunday a month and helps with a 2nd. We have great curriculums on World Religions this year. Call Angie Harris, CYRE Committee or Rosene Beachy, DLRE to volunteer.

September 9th - "Homecoming Sunday"

Bring the water you have collected over the summer to the 11:00 service, for our Gathering of the Waters Communion. Parents and friends are invited to mingle after that 11:00 service for "homecoming sundaes"!! and to register for our Fall Programs – RE, OWL, and Fall Frolic.

September 8 - Teacher Orientation and Workshop 3-7 pm at the fellowship.

Volunteer Helpers needed from 8am -2pm for cleaning and setting up the downstairs rooms in preparation for Homecoming Sunday. Contact Rosene for details of how you can help.

September – 21-23rd is Fall Frolic, our annual, much loved, fall camp weekend at Kings Lake Camp in Wasilla. Please register for Fall Frolic by Sunday, September 9th.

This is a favorite of all ages no matter what the weather, as we learn to know new friends, relax by (or in) the lake, hike, jam, discuss, play and eat good food. If you've never been, this might be the year to try it out! There are plans for many varied workshops for everyone from preschool to teens and adults. Crafts, 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!

September 16th –fall classes begin with the curriculum theme this year of World Religions.

Thank You's

Thanks to all the RE leaders; Alison Hansen, Koala Vandruff, Russ Baker, Janet Linnell & Claude Taylor, Stacey Mansfield, Jeanna Duryee, Laura Krip, and Ingrid Larsen who presented about countries of the world to our UU World Travelers this summer. We visited Antarctica, Ecuador, Egypt, Thailand, Fiji, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Japan, Germany and Alaska!!

Thanks to all the volunteers who spent hours working on the downstairs remodel! Helping out with many hours – Don Crandall, George Baker, Judith Anderegg, David Pelto, Koala Vandruff, Stan Histan, Scott Wheaton, David Mack, Tom Choate, Pedro Kim, Bryan MacClarence, Scott Wheaton, Paul Wheeler, Susan Moeller, Sid McCausland, Cyrus Hicks & Cady Lynn O'Brien and baby Edmund, Ken Winterberger, Bill Romberg, Greg Hartlieb. And, James Dryden and Stephenie Koonz, who I think practically lived at the Fellowship this summer! Thank you, thank you all for helping to create a wonderful downstairs!!

Special Programs

OWL sexuality classes will also be held this fall for 5th - 6th Elementary OWL
Parent Informational meeting – Monday, September 10, 7 pm – 8:30
Kick off- Saturday, September 15, 10am - 12:00 pm

Our 8th grade Jr High OWL will be held this winter starting in January.

Childcare Orientation on Sunday, September 30, from 9:00 – 10:00 am in the, Jr High room. This is for youth or adults 13 and up interested in being on the childcare team for 9 am services and other RE and Fellowship events. Please fill out the application form available at the Parent Info Spot!

Seeking Welcoming "Buddy" Families!

We have many families who are brand new to our Fellowship in the last year, and we would like to pair each with an established AUUF family (a "buddy" family). If you would be willing to reach out to a "new" family every few weeks to let them know about upcoming events, and be available to them to answer questions about our community, please contact Rosene Beachy, for more information.

Our Fall CYRE Buddy Family Tea (lunch!) will take place on Sunday, September 30, from 12:30 – 1:30, so if you are new to the Fellowship, or are willing to be a buddy to a new family, or would simply like to meet some of our new families, please plan to attend! Children, of course, are welcome.



Jr Youth program

Jr Youth Kick off BBQ –
September 9, 4-7 pm
AlasCon Sept. 21-23, Kings
Lake Camp Wasilla

Adult Offerings!

Hungry Book Club: Ten of us met and discussed "The Great Quake" by Henry Fountain. Everyone had read it and ALL enjoyed it a lot. Jane Mangus knew the Geologist who is featured in this book and told us about him and his family. We enjoyed a visit from Brenda McCue who lives in Florida. Lots of "Earth Quake" stories were shared as half of us were here in Anchorage in 1964 when the Big Quake happened. September's book is "Stations Eleven", a novel about a worldwide flu epidemic. We will meet again Sept. 11th (second Tuesday) at 2 pm. October's book will be "The Death and Life of the Great Lakes" by Don Egan. November's book is "A Brief History of Everyone Who Ever Lived", by Adam Rutherford. We are an open book club and all readers who love good books are welcome. Call Shirley Dickens 563-4499 for more details.

Yoga for Every Body classes will resume Wednesday September 5th 6-7:15 pm. Freewill offering (half to AUUF). Instructor: Paula Sayler. 907-297-9184.

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

Do you 'PodCast'? Have you missed a service or two? Want to hear that speaker or service again? Recordings of our services are current and available on our website.



Free CPR First Aid Class available at AUUF!

by David O'Brien

The Health Ministry Outreach program at Providence Alaska Medical Center is providing AUUF with a complimentary Automated External Defibrillator, also known as an AED. In addition to this first aid device, they are offering a 4-hour CPR first aid class at AUUF at no charge. The training will include how to use the AED, and is scheduled for **Saturday, October 13, 12:30-4:30 pm**. You are invited to attend this training.

The class is titled "Family and Friends CPR" and was designed by the American Heart Association. It is meant for the general public (adults and children) and goes at a relaxing pace. There is no test at the end and there is no official "certification" given as part of the class. The Family & Friends CPR program teaches:

- Adult Hands-Only CPR and AED, as well as CPR with breaths
- Child CPR and AED
- Infant CPR
- Mild and severe airway block: How to help a choking adult, child, and infant

Skills are taught in a group environment using the American Heart Association's research-proven practice-while-watching technique. Students are provided with the most hands-on CPR practice time possible. The course is taught by an American Heart Association Instructor. Please RSVP to David O'Brien at IreneAndDavid@ak.net or call 907-344-5874.

About Our Speakers and Services (see back page)

Emily Anderson is the Alaska Director for the Wild Salmon Center and an attorney who specializes in natural resource law and policy. She has worked in Alaska for the last 14 years and has experience representing the diverse interests of Alaska Native communities, fishing groups, and individuals around the state.

Peter Caltagirone is the Regulatory & Legal Affairs Manager for the Alaska Oil & Gas Association. After graduating from Villanova University School of Law in 2009, he joined the international law firm Cozen O'Connor. In 2016, he moved to Alaska and served as Assistant Attorney General representing the departments of Natural Resources and Revenue in oil and gas litigation, as well as other assignments.

Rick Goodfellow and his wife Jan founded KLEF-FM, Anchorage's classical music radio station, 30 years ago. Ten years ago he began research for the Ghost Tour of Anchorage, a theatrical walking experience that forced him to confront what he considers uneasy facts about Alaska's economy that contradict conventional wisdom about this being a land of prosperous opportunity. Expect to hear his take on both the Anchorage economy and "Other Ghost Tours."

Polly Smith has served as Executive Director of the Alaska Literacy Program since 1999, working with learners of all ages, from preschool in family literacy programs to adults in college and the workforce. She's the recipient of both the Administrator's Award presented by the Alaska Adult Education Association and the AAEA's John L. Hulbert Award for outstanding long-term contributions to adult learning. She has a Master's Degree in Education/Learning Disabilities and currently serves on the board of the Coalition of Adult Basic Education, a national association representing 55,000 individuals involved in adult education.

Rev. Mary Katherine Morn is president and CEO of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), a nonprofit, nonsectarian organization advancing human rights around the world. Her UUSC tenure began in June, 2018. Previously Morn served as senior minister of the UU Congregation of Fairfax in Oakton, Va., and grew small, mid-size, and large congregations in Texas, Alabama, Washington, D.C., Georgia, and Virginia. She and her husband, John Rakestraw, the director of Boston College's Center for Teaching Excellence, now live in the Boston area and have one adult son.

Rachel Gore Freed is a human rights lawyer, community organizer, and social justice advocate and educator with a wealth of domestic and international experience. As UUSC's Vice President and Chief Program Officer, Freed leads the organization's creative and effective approaches to advancing human rights. Previously serving as the Senior Program Leader for UUSC's Rights at Risk Program, Freed has spearheaded, planned, and implemented UUSC's work responding to humanitarian crises and advancing the rights of people who are most overlooked or discriminated against in crises such as forced migration, large-scale conflicts, genocide, and natural disasters. Freed holds a bachelor's degree with a focus in international development from the George Washington Elliott School of International Affairs and a doctor of law degree from Vanderbilt University Law School.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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AUUF Services and Events –September 2018

Sunday September 2 (No RE Classes)

9 am Movie Memories,

‘From the Log Cabin Church to Gay to Holthaus’

11 am Rev. Shelley Page, ‘Labors of Love’

Let's pause to celebrate Labor Day and its surprising Universalist history as we consider how to honor this important social justice holiday.

Sunday September 9

9 am Emily Anderson and Peter Caltagirone,

‘Stand for Salmon: Yes or No?’

11 am Rev. Shelley Page, Homecoming Sunday

*Join us for a joyful start to the fellowship year! We'll celebrate homecoming with people of all ages in story and song. **And please bring water for the annual Gathering of Waters ritual.***

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- September 2018

Sunday 11 am ~ Classes for toddlers through 12th

Children and Youth begin upstairs for worship for about 15 minutes.

Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare ages 1-10

Sunday September 16

9 am Rick Goodfellow,

‘KLEF -- the Little Radio Station that Lasted’

11 am Rev. Shelley Page, ‘Are We There Yet?’

Transitions in our lives present us with special opportunities for growth. We'll explore personal transitions and the nature of transition in congregational life. We'll also joyfully dedicate Religious Exploration teachers and bless our children and youth as they kick off their new year of learning.

Sunday September 23

9 am Polly Smith,

‘The Once and Future Alaska Literacy Project’

11 am Alaska Literacy Program Leaders and Volunteers,
‘Journey Towards Literacy’

Helping our immigrants learn more about English reading and speech offers deep hospitality to the stranger. Discover the sacred journey toward literacy through the experience of those who are helping with this vital work.

Sunday September 30

9 am Rev. Mary Katherine Morn and Rachel Gore Freed,
‘Battling Trump’s Anti-Asylum Movement’

11 am Rev. Mary Katherine Morn,
‘The Promise; The Promises’

In religious community, we hold that the promise of human progress rests in the promises we make to one another. What are those promises? And how do Unitarian Universalists faithfully live into them?

The LOG

October 2018



AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

On the Journey...

What a delight to participate in your annual ritual of Fall Frolic! I so enjoyed getting to know many of you. It is a wonderful tradition of your congregation, bringing people of all ages together in a fun and beautiful way. And now I have my very own hand-made fish shirt! I will wear it with pride and fond memories of Fall Frolic with AUUF.

It's important to include celebration into our lives and Fall Frolic feels like a grand celebration of your congregational life together. **Another celebration is coming up on Sunday, October 21 when we'll celebrate and dedicate the renovations in your building**, the culmination of many months of hard work, chaos, sweat equity and investment in your future. We'll celebrate at 10:15, between the services so that everyone in the community can easily participate as we joyfully and playfully bless the spaces, UU-style with song, laughter and some raucous energy. You'll have a chance to see all the spaces, upstairs and downstairs, and enjoy some goodies along the way. Hope to see you there for this special moment.

Fall Frolic was also a time of connecting about things that are very important to this intentional spiritual community. Some folks gathered to share their feelings, questions, hopes and concerns about AUUF high school youth programming. One thing was very clear—a deep commitment to youth is a strong and enduring value of this fellowship. It's true that you find yourselves in a time of discernment about how best to support youth with the resources we have available. That can feel unsettling and even upsetting. And it is a moment of great possibility and promise for the congregation to pull together in new and meaningful ways as you collectively commit to supporting youth.

And so, **you are invited to participate in a Community Conversation on Youth Programming on Sunday, September 30** to expand the conversation beyond the group that gathered at Fall Frolic. Gather with us at 12:45 for this facilitated discussion of possibility. Bring a snack to share and let us know if you will need child care for 12:45-2:45 (RSVP to Rosene at rbeachy@alaskalife.net). You will also receive an email invitation with more details. And, if you are not available on September 30, please know that this is the beginning of a community process. There will still be plenty of opportunity for you to offer insights, ideas and energy in the days to come.

This community made a tremendous commitment to build something new at AUUF—an accessible entry, a lovely social room and kitchen, new Religious Exploration spaces, new offices and a library that has already become a go-to meeting space. It is now time to offer your commitment to our youth with your time, talents and treasure. I'm excited to see the possibilities unfold!

With deep gratitude for this fellowship, Reverend Shelley

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Calendar Highlights

September 30 Plastics Recycle
September 30 Conversation on Youth Programming
September 30 Childcare Orientation
October 4 Finding Your Way into Fellowship
October 6 CYRE Friends and Family Fun Night
October 13 CPR Course
October 21 Building Dedication
October 21 AFACT Governor Candidates Forum
October 28 Fairbanks UU Search Committee Services & Soup Sunday
Nov 3 Annual Dinner and Auction
Nov 6 Budgeting Our Values
Nov 7 Change Is Our Choice
Nov 11 AUUF Search Committees History Gathering

President's Letter

The Board heard from Megan Webb, our music director, at our September meeting. She wanted to come and thank AUUF for providing funding to send her to a conference of the Unitarian Universalist Musician's Network in Portland, Oregon. She said that she will be bringing what she learned about our UU faith and making music more accessible to all to our services. You may have already noticed some of the new things she's trying out. Truly, we all benefit from her experience when we engage in the ministry of music on Sundays.

I attended a Foraker Group session called the "Nonprofit Racial Leadership Gap – Where We Are and How We Can Change" here in Anchorage using leadership development funds, a modest line item added to this year's budget. Member Kameron Perez-Verdia, co-chair of the Nominating Committee, was also in attendance through his work with the Alaska Humanities Forum. Sean Thomas-Breitfeld, Co-Director of the Building Movement Project presented on their Race to Lead report. The racial equity ideas that AUUF has been exploring were at the heart of the report's finding. By actively addressing our own racial biases, we increase our odds of increasing the racial diversity of our membership, not to mention our staff. Will we have done our work to welcome a minister of color should the opportunity present itself? A training like this helps these important questions rise to the surface again.

So, many thanks to the membership for providing these learning opportunities for staff and leadership development. In so doing, we challenge ourselves and advance our faith inside and outside of our walls – yet another cause for celebration.

And celebrate we will! Our building dedication is scheduled for Sunday, October 21 between services and the Annual Dinner is Saturday, November 3. Both events will be an opportunity for Forum attendees, RE families and worship service regulars to come together as one congregation to celebrate our many successes. To get ready, please submit your nominees for the Volunteer of the Year Award and the Frank Hillman Lifetime Service Award to David O'Brien at akdrdata@gmail.com. We have worked so hard, we have accomplished so much. It's time to party!!!

In faith, Amanda Mack

Save the Date! November 3rd!



November 3rd is our 2018 Annual Dinner and Auction, and we are really excited about this year's event, which we will bring home to our Fellowship again! Between now and then, the Auction/Dinner team will be stationed just outside the large sanctuary doors most Sundays between services and after the 11 o'clock. Come by and see what fun we are having, and how you can have some if it, too! There are really easy, as well as more involved ways you can participate, whether or not you can make it to the dinner. Our goal is to have everyone participate in some way, big or small. This is a great year of celebration, There's No Place Like Home!

- * Donate a Bottle of Wine with a Story and/or Pairing Suggestion
- * Sign-up and bring something to the pot-luck dinner
- * Sign-up to help with some part of the event, either in advance or the night of
- * Offer something to the Silent Auction - host a themed dinner at your home, or another "experience" item, offer an excellent-quality item for sale (old or new). Please fill out the donation form!
- * Contribute to the "Dessert of the Month" item, or the "Local Harvest of the Month"
- * Pick up a letter to bring to your favorite business for donations, or let us know of your ideas!
- * Contribute to the Dinner/Auction buzz!
- * Do you have a 6-8' plastic folding table we can borrow for the evening?

Visit us in our corner, we want to see you! If you have questions or ideas you'd like to email, please reach out: carmaandjiri@gci.net

* Carma, Cathy and Stephenie



Come Celebrate! October 21st
Building Celebration October 21st 10:15 am

Join Us! Food, Fun, Song, Celebration for all ages.!

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), and Kalen Saxton (2017).

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), and Rod McCoy (2017).

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.



Learn More About Ministerial Search – Two Special Sundays Coming Up!

The Transition team invites you to attend two Sunday Services which will provide information and perspectives on the Ministerial Search Process. It seems there are many questions floating around about what this process entails, so come and be informed!

The first gathering will be Sunday Oct. 28. At each service that day, members from the Fairbanks fellowship will share their wisdom and experience from their recent search. Subsequently, on Sunday Nov. 11 at 10am, members from our two previous search teams will come and share their discoveries and perspectives. The intention is that all of us will become better informed about what the search process requires and what we can be doing now to help that process unfold in a successful manner. Please come to listen, alleviate your concerns, learn something new and share your vision as we move forward to find our next settled minister.

Re-imagining Stewardship



As the Stewardship team is preparing to reconvene for the coming year, we are looking for a few people willing to see outside the box of "Stewardship=Asking my friends for money" and instead see endless possibilities of what it could be... Specifically needed are people with excellent writing skills, visionary/new direction looking people, motivational speakers. I am hoping to put together a dynamic and fun team that looks forward to getting together and is ready to take on the exciting challenge of Re-Imagining what Stewardship means to AUUF. Note - most of the "money

askers/conversation havers" are already in place! If you are interested, would like to learn more or just want to have a cup of coffee, please email Wendy Romberg at wendy.romberg@gci.net.

October Half Portion for Social Action: Alaska Literacy Program

The Alaska Literacy Program teaches reading to immigrants and others who lack English reading skills. From being able to read notes from school, understanding medication labels, and deciphering a bus schedule, literacy is fundamental to the freedom to function as independent and productive citizens.

AUUF has been changing lives for immigrants in Anchorage and Alaska through financial support and volunteering for the Alaska Literacy Program since its beginning 44 years ago. Our help is needed more than ever as national funding for literacy has been cut.

October's Half-Portion contribution follows September 23 Sunday services which featured the Alaska Literacy Program. You can find out more about volunteering at the ALP website: www.alaskaliteracyprogram.org, call 333-1981 or talk to an AUUF volunteer teacher (including Marilyn Lee and Sid McCausland.).

Social Action Council

By Dennis Arashiro

"In some cases non-violence requires more militancy than violence." - Cesar Chavez

The Second of October is the International Day of Non-Violence, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. The United Nations declared it to "disseminate the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness." But, is that all? Gandhi did not practice the non-violence of passivity. He practiced the non-violence of militancy. He marched to the sea to make salt from brine in defiance of British colonial law. He inspired Martin Luther King Jr. and Cesar Chavez to commit similar acts of civil disobedience in their causes for social justice. They were all soldiers of non-violence.

What does it mean to be soldiers of non-violence and to observe the Second of October? It means fighting state sanctioned murder that we sanitize as "capital punishment." It means providing sanctuary for refugees fleeing violence in their homelands. It means actively supporting the survivors of sexual and domestic abuse. It means fighting for measures to end gun violence. It means opposing stand your ground laws that spread the license to kill. It means protesting one more murder for simply being black, gay, or transgender. And another. And another. It means more than believing in our Seven Principles. It means fighting for them.

AFACT (Anchorage Faith and Action Congregations Together)

By Marie Rozak

AFACT is hosting a Governor Candidates Forum in preparation for the November 6 election. All candidates have been invited. The forum will be one hour in length with four questions presented. The **Sunday, October 21**, event will be held at Central Lutheran Church located at 15th and Cordova. It begins at 3:00 PM. A reception will follow at 4:00. You are welcome to bring a dish if you like. As we are all aware, this is a very important election. We hope you will join us to see and meet the candidates in person.

Our Half Portion Social Justice Gifts

January 2018 thru August 2018

Jan. 2018	Alaska Literacy Project	1471
Feb.	Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest	976
March	Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC Sunday)	693
March	Alaska Innocence Project	1085
April	Citizen Climate Education Corp.	1226
April	5 th Sunday Half Portion Collection to Minister's Discretionary Fund	310
May	Identity Inc.	876
June	Standing Together Against Rape	1144
July	UUSC	852
July	5 th Sunday Half Portion Collection to Minister's Discretionary Fund	215
August	Alaska Institute for Justice	884
	Total Half Portion for eight of twelve months	\$ 9732

Your Generosity at Work!

AUUF rocks when it comes to Half Portion giving!! Just in the first eight months of 2018, we have supported several organizations that are making a difference here in Alaska and beyond. This is just one of the ways we live our Unitarian Universalist values through generous giving each and every Sunday. And, remember the importance of the other half of the Half Portion. This weekly collection offers a very critical source of income for our operating budget. Your generosity flows out into the world to create more love and justice, and it flows into our own accounts to support Religious Exploration, the weekly Forum and worship services, our dedicated staff and our building and grounds.

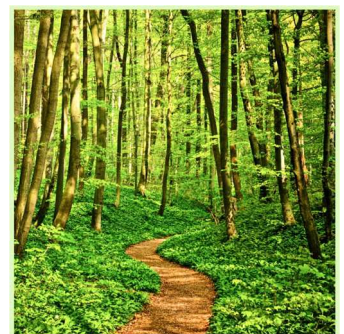
Keep that flow going!!

Adult Offerings!

Finding Your Way into Fellowship We welcome anyone who is interested in learning more about UU and/or becoming a member of AUUF to come to our next "Finding Your Way into Fellowship" class (Thursdays October 4, 11, and 18 at 6-8 pm). This is a 3-week introduction to UU History, UU Thought and UU Engagement. Thursdays, Oct. 4 "Sharing your Stories", 11 – "UU History & Theology", 18- "How do we Live Our Faith" specifically in regards to AUUF. Childcare is available, but you must reserve. Contact the office to RSVP auuf@gci.net.

Change Is Our Choice: Creating Climate Solution The science has long been settled: climate change is real and it's happening all around us right now. This new five-session discussion course on climate action will help you take action to increase resilience and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Presented in an interactive eBook, this new discussion course experience integrates video, audio and printed content with action plans that help you roll your sleeves up and get started taking action toward a better tomorrow. This course was written by the Earth Institute. Five sessions after the first organizing session on November 7. Contact Cathy Steen 907-440-4070.

Chalice Circles Small groups connect UUs on a deeper level. Groups of 12 or less, meet once a week for 8-10 weeks to reflect and discuss significant life topics. The time together is structured and may include a chalice lighting, focused readings, and a moment of centering silence before participants share their perspectives, tell their stories and listen deeply. Days, times and locations vary, depending on group preferences. contact Deena Mitchell (DeenaMitchell1978@gmail.com). New groups are starting this Fall.



Budgeting Our Values



Budgeting Your Values Money is a topic that evokes emotions, fears, stories and history in a way no other topic, save sexuality, can. It is frequently listed as a main cause of marital stress and divorce and can cause otherwise healthy groups to collapse.

Budgeting Your Values is a 4-week series focusing on conversations about money. We will explore our individual history and relationship to money and how that affects our decision making, look at practical tips for maintaining a

sustainable budget, paying down debt, planning for the future and supporting those organizations that feed our soul. Many of the specifics will be determined by the participants during the first week. It is preferred that participants make a commitment to the full 4 weeks as the series does function like a small group/chalice circle in many ways. Join us Tuesdays in November, 6-8 pm.

The series will be led by Wendy Romberg who has over 15 years' experience in the financial world ranging from credit counseling for those in debt and financial education for potential homebuyers, to goal planning through investments. For questions contact Wendy Romberg, wendy.romberg@gci.net. To register and arrange childcare contact the office Auuf@gci.net.

Free CPR First Aid Class available at AUUF! The Health Ministry Outreach program at Providence Alaska Medical Center is providing AUUF with a complimentary Automated External Defibrillator, also known as an AED. In addition to this first aid device, they are offering a 4-hour CPR first aid class at AUUF at no charge. The training will include how to use the AED, and is scheduled for **Saturday, October 13, 12:30-4:30 pm**. You are invited to attend this training.

The class is titled "Family and Friends CPR" and was designed by the American Heart Association. It is meant for the general public (adults and children) and goes at a relaxing pace. There is no test at the end and there is no official "certification" given as part of the class. The Family & Friends CPR program teaches:

- Adult Hands-Only CPR and AED, as well as CPR with breaths
- Child CPR and AED
- Infant CPR
- Mild and severe airway block: How to help a choking adult, child, and infant



Skills are taught in a group environment using the American Heart Association's research-proven practice-while-watching technique. Students are provided with the most hands-on CPR practice time possible. The course is taught by an American Heart Association Instructor. Please RSVP to David O'Brien at IreneAndDavid@ak.net or call 907-344-5874.

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

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

Hungry Book Club meets 2nd Tuesdays at 2 p.m. in the AUUF library. In September and read and discussed "Station Eleven" by Emily St John Mandel, a novel about life (as we know it) changing drastically because of a Major Flu epidemic. It was very well written. We will meet again on October 9th to discuss "The Death and Life of the Great Lakes" by Dom Egan. This an open book club and all are invited who love good books and discussion. We bring a semi healthy "snack" to share, like fruits and nuts and cookies. Call Shirley Dickens for more details, 563 4499.

Do you 'PodCast'? Have you missed a service or two? Want to hear that speaker or service again? Recordings of our services are current and available on our website.



Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Grateful for the lovely wedding Sept 8th at the Congregational Church uniting our own Marilyn Lee and Eric Johnson. Many of our congregation joined many from Eric's congregation for a beautiful "combined" ceremony. Marilyn's daughter Star and her husband came from Norway, Marilyn's sister and husband came from Ohio. We saw a combined clergy with our minister Rev. Shelly and the Congregational minister sharing the pulpit with poems, prayers, etc. Then a lovely reception where the audience brought dishes to share as their gifts to the bride and groom. Marilyn and Eric looked radiant and very happy. We wish them every happiness.

Grateful for the "gathering in" Sunday. Wonderful to see the kids again and have a lovely story for all ages AND see the whole congregation come forward to add their water and a word of what this congregation means to them. We off to a great start with RE. We also have some talented children with a lot of "dramatic ability". Loved the droplets little drama. Also the choir sounded wonderful. Thank you, Megan Web, our music conductor.

Grateful for the annual wonderful "Fall Frolic" gathering. Many of us, mostly families, took advantage of all being together in a lovely spot in nature, exploring and getting to know each other in a fun filled way. Can't wait to hear about the wonderful stories from this special weekend.

Autumn is definitely upon us and so far the best September in many a year as far as weather goes. Love the colors. Let's all enjoy the leaves and the nice sunshine.

Be well and safe.

October Birthdays!

Birthdays are not published in our online version.

From the Fellowship office

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.

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

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2824 E. 18th Ave, Anchorage AK 99508

Office phone: 907-248-3737 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.

Alliance News

Our Christmas sale will be November 25th with set up Saturday November 24th. This is not our rummage sale. This is for our own people before, between services and after the second service. We will have giftable items, many Christmas stocking stuffers, decorations, special things. We will save what is not purchased that morning and repeat a smaller display for the next Sunday, December 2nd (which is Soup Sunday) You may donate quality items to us prior to the sale. All good things are welcome. The Alliance will meet again, Sunday, October 7th at 12:30 PM in the Library.

Recycling Plastics

Mark your calendar for the coming year: September 30, October 21, November 11, and December 16, January 27, February 24, March 24, and April 21. # 5 only. Check the lids.

Bring to the front yard of the Fellowship near the Little Free Library on those Sunday mornings, (until the snow flies!).



Religious Exploration Notes

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Fall has come, and after a standing ovation blessing for teachers on Sunday, our Religious Exploration classes are off to joyful start in our wonderful new spaces downstairs. What fun it was to see happy children and teachers in all our new and lovely spaces creating community together!! If you get a chance, check out the downstairs spaces that have been reengineered by a few dedicated volunteer builders, dry wallers, and painters. The new look to some of the rooms has been helped by the donation of furniture from Leo and Linda Webber and Heather Flynn.

In faith, Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Thanks to all of our Parents who have volunteered to teach this year!

Water Skippers – 1-2 Year Olds – Annie Belts, Kalen Saxton, Stacey Mansfield, Carolyn Gove

Wind Walkers – 3 & 4 Year Olds – Mary Gregory, Amy Reyes, Cady Lynn O'Brien

Fire Keepers – K - 2nd Grade – Ann Randolph, Marie Hildebrandt, Amber Kreis

Planet Keepers – 3rd-4th Grade - Jacqueline Adelman, Monica Perez-Verdia, Stephenie Wheeler

Star Gazers – 5th Grade – Michele Wasson, Carma Reed, Jaime Olson /Bryan MacClarence

Moon Spinners – Middle School Youth, 6,7,8 - Alison & Kris Hansen, Jeanne Duryee, Suzann Speckman, Sheilagh Menck

Jr & Sr High Owl Team – Katherine Huffman, Sam Cason, Kelley Hartlieb, Ken Winterberger, Laura Greffinius, Doug Eby, Teresa Zimmer, Meghan Bundtzen

Elementary Owl Team – Bethany Buchanan, Abigail Kean, Bev Grogan

Our Sundays Together, 11:00 Service

This year, our children will begin upstairs in the Sanctuary with the congregation each Sunday. They will be "sung out" to their classes at 11:15. Classes end at 12:15.

October 14th 11:00 service will be a Multigenerational program for Animal Blessing Sunday. You are welcome to bring your well-controlled pets for a wonderful service that includes our animal and reptile and avian friends! There will be a memory table for photos of departed pets. Toddlers and Preschoolers and Fire Keepers will go to their classes midway in the service.

November 4 will be our next Multigenerational service for All Souls Day. Everyone is invited to bring photos or remembrances from family members and friends who have passed on.

Our Classes

Every week, in their classes, children will enjoy a variety of activities, sometimes going outside. Please dress your child in footwear and jackets appropriate for the weather so they can enjoy the class activities!

Our Whole Lives

A lot of OWL is happening this fall! 2 different age groups! A cadre of 14 trained class leaders is leading these classes:

Elementary 5-6th OWL meets every Sunday afternoon 12:30 – 1:45 through November 18 downstairs in room #4.

OWL 201 meets most Sundays and some Saturdays in the Jr Youth room - #7 at 12:30, following the 11:00 service through November.

We are looking for volunteers who share an interest in sexuality education to participate in an **Elementary OWL training**. We hope to bring trainers to Alaska for a special training in February. Please email rbeachy@alaskalife.net if you would like to participate in this training. We need at least 10 people to host a training!



Childcare Help Needed!

We really need childcare helpers to continue to encourage Fellowship classes and participation in activities or committees, to parents of young children. We have many events that need childcare, especially Thursday evening 6:30 – 8:00 and Sunday mornings 8:45-10:45. Youth and adults 7th grade and older interested in being on the paid childcare call list for 9 am services and other RE and Fellowship events are welcome to apply.

There will be a **Childcare Orientation** on Sunday, Sept. 30, from 9:00 – 10:00, in room 7. Please bring calendar information for scheduling and a Babysitting or /CPR certificate if you have one. Applications are available at the RE info spot downstairs! \$10 /hour. Contact Rosene Beachy, rbeachy@alaskalife.net

Our Activities

There are many events happening this year for you to learn to know about the Fellowship, meet new friends and have fun.

Buddy Family Program

If you are new to the Fellowship and have not received information about our Buddy family program, or if you have been at the Fellowship for at least a year and are interested in being a Buddy to a new family, please contact Rosene Beachy – 441-6815. Or, grab a handy dandy sign-up sheet at the Parent Info Spot.

CYRE Family & Friends Spaghetti & Game Night, Oct. 6th – 5:30 -8

The Children and Youth Religious Exploration committee is kicking off the new RE year with a fun party on Saturday, Oct. 6th, Spaghetti & Games. The fun starts in the upstairs social room at 5:30 p.m. Bring a salad, side, sauce or desserts and get to know some folks. We'll be setting up different table games, so bring a family favorite to share with a group! Remember this is not a child-supervised event; it is for families to do together! No matter how chilly it is outside, it's always warm and cozy wherever our voices are raised in laughter over good food in great company!



Soup Sunday Our first Soup Sunday of the year will be October 28, Spooky Soup Sunday!

About Our Speakers and Services (see back page)

David Boseto is the Co-Director of Ecological Solutions Foundation in the Solomon Islands, working on long-term community owned conservation. A freshwater fish specialist, his background includes a master's degree in marine biology from University of South Pacific in Fiji, and a master's degree in environmental science from Texas A&M. He received global recognition as a Hotspot Hero by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund.

Nixon Buka Tooler serves as the Roviana Conservation Foundation Coordinator, building social and ecological resilience to climate change in Roviana in the Western Province of the Solomon Islands.

Kathleen Tarr is the author of *We Are All Poets Here* (2018), her memoir that examines the late-life journey to Alaska by the renown Trappist monk and spiritual leader Thomas Merton. Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Tarr has lived in Alaska since 1978, working several years as an administrator of the University of Alaska Anchorage creative writing program. She earned her own MFA in Creative Nonfiction at the University of Pittsburgh. In 2016, Tarr was named a William Shannon Fellow of the International Thomas Merton Society. And in 2017, Gov. Bill Walker appointed Tarr to the board of directors of the Alaska Humanities Forum.

Andromeda Romano-Lax is the author of four novels, including her debut novel "The Spanish Bow," published in 11 languages. A long-time freelance writer in Anchorage, she's the author of nearly a dozen travel and natural history guidebooks to Alaska's public lands. Her most recent novel is *Plum Rains*, a hundred-year saga of forbidden love in Japan and Taiwan, from its legacy of colonial rule to a future world both distracted and uncertain. One of the founding members of 49 Writers, Romano-Lax currently lives with her family on Vancouver Island.

Hayden Nevill is former president of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fairbanks as well as former president of the UUA Pacific Northwest District. A career veterinarian, Nevill also served as chair of the UUFF Ministerial Search Committee.

Jana Peirce is a public policy consultant who served as a member of the UUFF Ministerial Search Committee. She also served as chair of the Ministerial Visioning Process.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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AUUF Services and Events – October 2018

Sunday October 7

9 am David Boseto and Nixon Buka Tooler,
“How Climate Change Threatens Our Island”

11 am Rev Shelley Page with David Boseto and Nixon Buka
Tooler, “Our World is One World”

Our special guests, leaders from the Solomon Islands, will share about how climate change is affecting their part of the globe, and their recent experience at the UU Service Committee's First Peoples Convening on Climate Forced Displacement.

Sunday October 14

9 am Kathleen Tarr,
“When Thomas Merton Came to Alaska”

11 am Blessing of the Animals

Come join us in the annual celebration and remembrance of the animals that so enrich our lives. Participants are invited to bring their pets/animal companions for the blessing ritual. Please note that this year's Animal Blessing service has been moved to the second Sunday of the month.

Sunday October 21

9 am Andromeda Romano-Lax,
“An Alaskan's Guide to a Robotic Future”

11 am Rev Shelley Page, “Canoeing the Mountains”
We'll joyfully celebrate our new spaces at AUUF at 10:15! Then we'll gather again at 11 to explore what it means to canoe the mountains in our lives.

Sunday October 28

9 am Fairbanks Unitarians, “How We Successfully
Selected a New Minister”

11 am Rev Shelley Page with Hayden Neville and Jana
Peirce

Going into Ministerial Search is an exciting and daunting process for a congregation. We'll hear from our sister congregation in Fairbanks about their recent and very successful search process as we prepare for our own search for a new settled minister.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- October 2018

Sunday 11 am ~ Classes for toddlers through 12th

*Children and Youth begin upstairs for worship
for about 15 minutes.*

Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare ages 1-10

The LOG

November 2018



AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

On the Journey...

I am no longer stunned at my whiteness. Yes, it's true that I have been actively working on my own understandings about racism for the last twenty-five years or so. I've learned a lot, *and*, I still have my blind spots that hurt people of color from time to time. I recently experienced yet another very important moment here at AUUF and I want to tell you about it.

I chose to share a story in worship about the Lewis and Clark journey, lifting up the metaphor about canoeing the mountains. In other words, the Corps of Discovery couldn't keep paddling when they got to the Rocky Mountains. They were prepared to canoe all the way to the Pacific but discovered that they needed mountain climbing skills, and set aside their leadership to follow the young Shoshone guide, Sacagawea, who safely led them through the perils. A strong and powerful metaphor about needing to step away from assumptions and old ways of doing things when you are confronted with change.

All good, you may say. A powerful story to tell. But, here's the part that I simply did not think about. I started out by talking about the recent Alaska Day holiday which apparently is really only a thing in Sitka, their commemoration of the official transfer of "ownership" of Alaska from Russia to the United States. I went on to mention the Louisiana Purchase as the reason for the Lewis and Clark journey. Now, you'd think that a minister who openly preached earlier in the month about the devastating effects of colonization on both Alaska and Solomon Islands, would have thought twice about lifting up the colonization from both the Alaska and Louisiana "purchases." But, no, this minister did not connect those dots in her mind and did not think about whether to use the story at all, or certainly to offer some contextualization, some open acknowledgement about the hurtful legacy of colonization here in Alaska and across the rest of the US.

Thank you to Natasha Gamache, an Alaska Native woman who lovingly called me out on this after service, letting me know that it is deeply hurtful to have colonization lauded. Natasha and I had a great conversation about this and I am grateful that she spoke directly to me. The phrase, "intent versus impact" came to mind. My intent was to simply tell the canoeing the mountains story. The impact of my story and how I told it was much different for Natasha, and likely for many of you. And I am sorry for that impact.

We Unitarian Universalists are on a lifelong journey now to undo racism in all its forms. Even those of us who feel we are somewhat culturally competent and "woke" still have our times of causing harm by our words and actions. The power is in the learning, the acknowledging, the apologizing. This is challenging work for us all and I am very excited that a newly formed Anti-Racism Action Team here at AUUF will be helping the congregation continue on that learning path! Let's all continue to learn, together.

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Calendar Highlights

Nov 3 Annual Dinner and Auction
Nov 6 Budgeting Our Values
Nov 7 A World of Health
Nov 11 AUUF Search Committees
History Gathering 10am
Nov 11 Listening / Learning Circle
Regarding the Youth Program
Nov 13 Hungry Book Club
Nov 21 Interfaith Council 'A
Thanksgiving Gathering'
Nov 22 Thanksgiving Dinner at Our
Fellowship
Nov 25 Alliance Holiday Bazaar
Dec 2 Winterfest, Soup Sunday,
Bazaar
Dec 5 Blue Christmas

Grateful for the learning, Reverend Shelley

Come to the AUUF Dinner-Auction for fun, food and fellowship!

Be sure to come to the AUUF Annual Dinner-Auction, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., on Saturday, Nov.

3. The theme “There’s No Place Like Home” acknowledges our return to the AUUF facility to host this event, as well as a salute to the near completion of our home improvement project!

The AUUF Dinner-Auction is a don’t-miss gathering of our fellowship. Together, we’ll enjoy a fabulous dinner with favorite dishes provided by our members and friends. We’ll play some exciting games. We’ll engage in a favorite pastime... discussion! And, we’ll aim to raise \$14,000 through an auction made up of some really special gifts that appeal to a wide audience. It’s important. See you there!



Thanksgiving Eve Gathering

Interfaith Council of Anchorage in conjunction with First Congregational Church invites you to participate in **A Thanksgiving Gathering**, 7 pm on Wednesday, November 21, 2018 at 2016 E. Northernlights Blvd. A service of music, reflections, and heartwarming conversation.

Thanksgiving Dinner at Our Fellowship

Thursday November 22nd. Dinner is served from 1-3. The building will be open from noon-4. Appetizers will be served at noon. Anyone who wants to share this holiday meal is welcome. Bring your newest dish, your traditional dish, your Alaskan harvest, your vegan dish, or something from the store. Those who stay for cleanup will take home leftovers. RSVP to Kalen Saxton call or text 907-244-8221, email saxtonkalen@gmail.com.

President's Letter

I want to begin by expressing gratitude to all. So much important and inspiring work is happening here at AUUF. I don’t have to list them all because they are written up right here in the LOG. Enjoy the read!

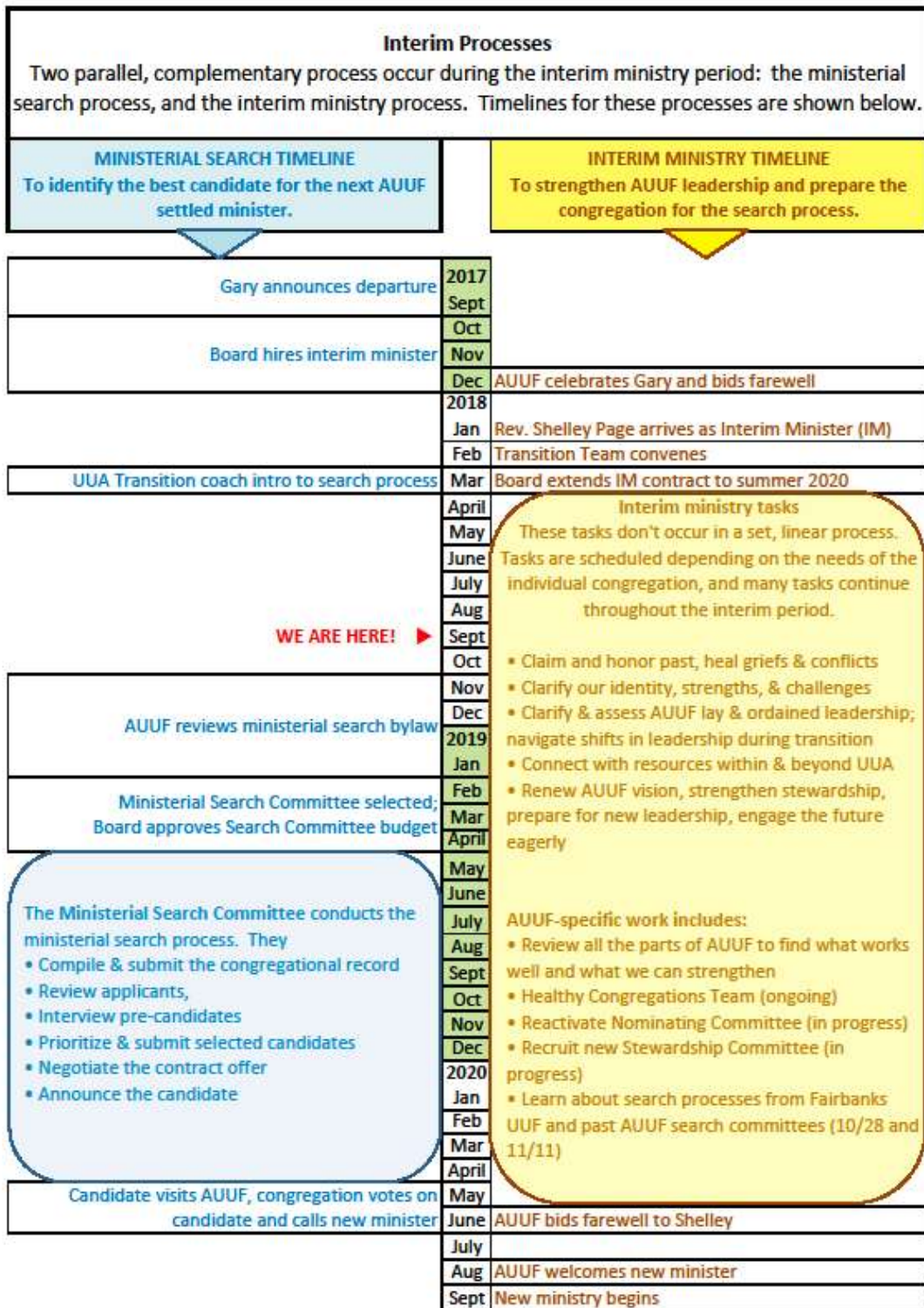
As to Board, at the heart of our work over the next year is the pursuit of a new settled minister. We are also working with Rev. Shelley and the Transition Team to support the health and well-being of AUUF. Many thanks to those who step up and help these pursuits take shape.

In keeping with the Interim and Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) timeline posted at AUUF and page 3, **an ad hoc working group has been formed to revisit our bylaws and our process for selecting an MSC**. As you may remember, the Board did some homework last year to learn more about how other congregations go about selecting their MSC. Our recommendation for a couple proposed AUUF bylaw changes and a selection process based on our inquiry was embraced by some and not embraced by others. We agreed instead at the annual meeting to get broader input from congregants to help us determine a path forward. An ad hoc committee called the Ministerial Search Policy Working Group has been formed to do just that. Members include Sam Cason, Mary Ann Eininger, Marilyn Lee, Amanda Mack and Ken Winterberger. Stand by for more information from them coming soon.

As to tending to the health and well-being of the Fellowship, two things are happening on that front:

- 1. Formation of a Healthier Congregations Team.** This team will build on the important work of the Committee on Shared Ministry that came before it. It will revisit our covenant and explore what it means to be in covenant with each other, develop a conflict resolution policy, educate congregants on healthy communications strategies, and hold listening circles as needed. This important function is vital to the health of our spiritual community. Members so far include Becca Bernard, Jackie Cason, Michele Champion and Robin Hill. The group intends to add some men to the mix. It is a work in progress.
- 2. Convening a Listening/Learning/Healing Circle regarding the Youth Program.** Join us on Sunday, November 11 at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This will be a time to express feelings and ask questions about how we got to where we are with the youth program. We’ll take a look in the rearview mirror with an historical overview of the program and its funding followed by listening circles in small groups and then a larger group discussion. It is our hope to work through and process some of the raw feelings people have regarding this topic.

In faith and in service, Amanda Mack



Note: If no match occurs, congregation can decide to enter a 2nd round of reviews, interviews, pre-candidating, visit to AUUF, and vote. This would occur in April-June 2019

Transition Team: The Transition Team helps foster communication about interim work among leaders and congregants, and works with the Interim Minister to conduct interim tasks. Transition Team members are Dennis Arashiro, Theresa Bartoldus, George Bryson, Marty Freeman, Ann Larrabee, and Teresa Zimmer. Contact any team member if you have questions.

Construction Volunteer

Thank You

As you all should know, the volunteer construction for this year is pretty much done. There are some clean up tasks associated with the construction yet completed. We will continue to address those tasks as the winter moves on but, right now, I want to thank everyone who has contributed their labor and energy to the volunteer construction effort over the last 16 months. I have placed a star by those who have made an exceptional contribution spending many hours on multiple work parties and being responsive to our scheduling needs.

See you all at the Annual Dinner and Auction.

Thank you all again.

---- James Dryden



Leslie Adams	Kelley Hartlieb	★ Stephanie Koonz	★ Dave Peltó
Judith Anderegg	Greg Hartlieb	Amanda Mack	Carma Reed
★ Don Antrobus	★ Cyrus Hicks	David Mack	★ Bruce Roberts
Terri Antrobus	Cady Hicks	★ Sid McCausland	Peggy Robinson
Sid Atwood	Mara Hill	Yolanda Meza	Bill Romberg
★ George Baker	Erik Hill	Deena Mitchell	Kalen Saxton
Jobe Bernier	★ Stan Histanđ	★ Susan Moeller	Diane Smith
Debby Burwen	Silver Hjellen	Willy Napayonak	★ Koala Vandruff
Tom Choate	Mark Houston	Irene O'Brien	Akilena Veach
Bryan Clarence	Pedro Kim	David O'Brien	★ Scott Wheaton
★ Don Crandall	Cindy Kinard	Lisa Paesani-Dexter	★ Paul Wheeler
★ James Dryden	Susan Kobierowski	Alan Peabody	Ken Winterberger

Thanks to all who helped with the UUSC Convening!

Being of service to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) convening of the First Peoples Convening on Climate Forced Displacement was a meaningful experience. We had two Sunday services where congregants learned about climate-forced displacement. And we also got to engage one on one. I won't soon forget Shahjahan taking pictures of Minnesota Street as I drove him from the airport to his hotel. "Where are all the people?" he wondered having just arrived from Bangladesh where 50 million people crammed into 360 miles of coastline are all threatened by climate change. Another remarkable experience was hearing Claudius, an AUUF congregant from Fiji, connect with Makareta, also from Fiji. She knew his family! What?! Hearing the children ask David and Nixon, our speakers, questions about the Solomon Islands during story time on Sunday was another special moment. There were many more.



Many thanks to George Donart, Amy Westfall, Sid McCausland, Leslie Adams, Tom Choate, Carma Reed, Berta Gartner, Koala Vandruff, Rev. Shelley Page, Stephanie Holthaus and The Nature Conservancy, Bill Sherwonit, Chris Lowe, Wray and Cindy Kinard, Carolyn Gove, Marty Freeman and Susie Kobierowski for picking up, transporting, tour guiding, overnighting, and lending your coats! The UUSC staffers were very appreciative and said that they plan to continue their work in Alaska and will stay in touch. They also agreed to spread the word to ministers in search about our congregation and said it would be easy for them to say good things about our vibrant congregation.

Learn More About Ministerial Search – Two Special Sundays!

The Transition team has arranged two Sunday Services which to provide information and perspectives on the Ministerial Search Process. The first gathering was held Sunday Oct. 28. At each service that day, members from the Fairbanks fellowship shared their wisdom and experience from their recent search. Subsequently, on Sunday Nov. 11 from 10-noon, members from our two previous search teams will come and share their discoveries and perspectives. The intention is that all of us will become better informed about what the search process requires and what we can be doing now to help that process unfold in a successful manner. Please come to listen, alleviate your concerns, learn something new and share your vision as we move forward to find our next settled minister.

The Budget Process Has Begun!

Are you curious about the budget process? Do you want to know a little more? If so, read on! This is the article for you.

When does the budget process start? Although we're less than half of the way through current fiscal year, work has begun on the budget for next year. At the September Program Council, team and committee chairs were asked to involve their members in telling us what they want their group to accomplish in the next 2 years, and then in the next 3-5 years. What resources do they need to accomplish those goals? This information will be shared at the December program council meeting and given to the Finance Committee to use to help form the budget for FY20.

I'm not on a committee, how can I be involved? Not on a team or committee? We welcome your suggestions for priorities for spending. We also welcome your suggestions for increasing our revenue to help afford all the wonderful ideas that come forward as well as the basics to keep the congregation running. Please send them to Peggy (probinson@ak.net) and/or Wendy (wendy.romberg@gci.net).

How long does the process last? The Finance Committee works with the Stewardship Committee in December and January to develop a preliminary budget and have it incorporated into the Stewardship Committee's outreach to members and friends. After having the tentative pledge amounts, the Finance Committee finalizes the proposed budget and passes it to the Board for their approval by the end of March. It then goes out in the mailing at least 30 days before the Annual Meeting on May 5th. During April, three informational sessions will be held for anyone with questions or comments about the proposed budget. Last April, 2 were held on Sundays after the 11am service, and 1 held in the evening. Last spring, the budget was revised for the annual meeting based on comments made during these informational sessions.

Who votes on the budget? We encourage Friends to serve on committees, to be involved in the budget setting and prioritization process, and to pledge in support of AUUF. The actual voting on the Budget at the Annual Meeting is a privilege that is reserved for Members.

There are many opportunities to learn more about our church finances and participate in the development of the budget for next year. I hope you join us!

~ Peggy Robinson, AUUF Treasurer & Wendy Romberg, Acting Chair Stewardship



Hello all Anchorage Unitarian Universalists!

My name is Sebastian Reed and I am working on my Eagle Scout project: building custom bookshelves for Reverend Shelley's office. The shelves that are in the office right now are temporary and I will be building a new and matching set that can remain in the office indefinitely. I would greatly appreciate it if you could help me in my fundraising campaign for this project! Even just a few dollars would help me on my way to completing the shelves. Link

to the GoFundMe <https://www.gofundme.com/SebastiansEagleProject>. (If you prefer to donate by check, please make the check out to AUUF with "Sebastian's Eagle Project" on the memo line. Place it in the basket on Sunday or in the secure black box in the workroom.)

Questions? Email 24sebas68@gmail.com or 444-7651. Thank you so much.

November Half Portion for Social Action: Coalition to Prevent Homelessness

For many years AUUF has given a Half Portion donation to **Project Homeless Connect** a one day gathering of service providers sharing information with people who are homeless or about to become homeless. **Next year it will be on 1/23/19.** More than two dozen AUUF people volunteer between 9am-3pm with many volunteering to serve lunch to about 600 of the more than 800 who attend. Our donation will go to this event. This is one project of the Coalition to End Homelessness.

In addition, we will have **Jasmine Khan**, the new Executive Director of the Coalition to End Homelessness making a very timely presentation at the 9am Forum November 4th, on the new **Anchored Home: A Strategic Action Plan to Solve Homelessness in Anchorage: 2018 – 2021.**

For three years over 75 organizations have participated in the development of this strategic plan for the next three years. "Our community, like all communities, has both a moral and a fiscal responsibility to solve homelessness. Everyone in the community has a role to play in ensuring that homeless is a rare, brief and one-time experience." To read this plan go to www.anchoragehomelessness.org/anchored-home.

Social Action Council

By Dennis Arashiro

"The roots of all goodness lie in the soil of appreciation for goodness." - Dalai Lama

What comes to mind as we give thanks at the approach of this holiday season? Perhaps the positivity in resisting the White House agenda. Perhaps the positivity in engaging in this year's crucial elections. Perhaps the positivity that lies in the future. I found signs of a brighter future in--of all things--a marketing report on how to sell to today's children. Susan Berfield of Bloomberg Businessweek writes:

"They're not about positivity that makes themselves feel good but someone else feel bad," says Mandy Daneman of Target. She and her team interviewed hundreds of kids, dug into academic studies, and talked with companies such as Walt Disney and Nickelodeon. "Kids told us: I don't want shirts that say, 'I win, You lose.' I want shirts that say, 'We Got This' or 'Game On.' The teams changed a shirt from 'Play to Win' to 'Play for Fun.'"

Kids want no devaluing and distancing of others. Kids want no gains for themselves at the expense of others. Kids want getting together more than getting ahead. Be thankful for the social justice they will one day demand. Be thankful for the world they will one day build. Be thankful for the coming Greatest Generation.

New! Voting Online for Half-Portion Recipients in November

By Carolyn Gove and Kalen Saxton

In November 2018, AUUF Members will vote for half-portion recipients for the next calendar year. We are changing from paper to online voting, and changing the schedule from fiscal year to calendar year. **Online voting will happen from November 12th to 18th**

Members will vote for 10 out of a list of 15 proposed recipients. Half-Portions for PILOT (Payment In Lieu of Taxes) and AFACT (Anchorage Faith and Action Congregations Together) are included in the FY19 AUUF Budget, approved at the May Annual Meeting, leaving 10 out of 12 months to be decided by vote.

Information on proposed recipients will be available at the Social Justice table, with people available to answer questions on two Sundays, 10/28 and 11/4 from 10:15-11 and 12:15-1.

Winterfest is December 2 – Mark your Calendar to get in the holiday spirit!

Stay for Soup Sunday and then Ornament Sunday/Winterfest for a seasonal, intergenerational afternoon of festive fun! We will have ornament making for all ages and skill levels while we sip cocoa and enjoy holiday music. We will also decorate the tree in the Sanctuary. So bring your grandchild, grab your grandmother or best friend, and take home some handmade bling for your holiday tree! Contact DeenaMitchell1978@gmail.com, 847-997-8357, with questions or if you would like to "host" an ornament table.

An Invitation to All UUs to Participate in Anti-Racism Work

by Sara Hannon

AUUF has a new Anti-Racism Action Team under the umbrella of the Social Action Council. This team is developing a plan to formally integrate anti-racist education, discussions and local action into the annual life of our congregation. As UUs, we strive to uphold the first principle of Unitarian Universalism, which affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Yet, because we are products of a racist culture, we often fall short. The racism that is still pervasive in American life and institutions becomes a matter of life and death for young African-American men, who are 18 times more likely to die of gun violence than their white peers, and for Alaska Native women, who are far more likely to be murdered or sexual assaulted than white women.

Our plan so far includes holding an annual anti-racism workshop, hosting bimonthly discussion groups, and taking action within the larger community to challenge structural racism. We invite you to share your ideas, stories and assistance; your input will help make our actions relevant and true to our values. And we invite you to participate in the workshops, discussion groups, and other activities that we will be putting on the calendar soon. In the meantime, we invite you to join us in some upcoming community events that will help us to explore and deepen our understanding of racism and bias:

- November 10th and 11th: Colorbrave Workshop and Bystander/Upstander Training. Co-hosted by NAACP, Quakers and AUUF. For more information and to sign up for this event with very limited seating, please contact Jan Bronson: Bronson@gci.net.
- November 13th and December 4th at 12pm: The YWCA is hosting dialogues about colorblindness and environmental racism. Contact: Justin Zagorski, 644-9624 or jzagorski@ywcaak.org.

Members of the Anti-Racism Team at present are Dennis Arashiro, Annie Belts, Becca Bernard, Sara Hannon, and Diane Smith. If you are interested in joining this team, or have questions or suggestions about our work, please contact Becca, team leader, at rbernard.ak@gmail.com.

Adult Offerings!

A World of Health: Connecting People, Place and Planet Participants will: • Explore the connection between human health and the environment • Examine the roots of Western medicine and how it has evolved in an industrial society • Learn about the places where our personal health intersects with the environment— our food, our living spaces, our communities and ultimately, our planet • Identify actions that promote good health and in turn promote a healthier environment. This course was written by the Earth Institute. Six sessions after the first organizing session on November 7, 6-6:30. Contact Cathy Steen 907-440-4070.



Budgeting Your Values Money is a topic that evokes emotions, fears, stories and history in a way no other topic, save sexuality, can. It is frequently listed as a main cause of marital stress and divorce and can cause otherwise healthy groups to collapse.

Budgeting Your Values is a 4-week series focusing on conversations about money. We will explore our individual history and relationship to money and how that affects our decision making, look at practical tips for maintaining a

sustainable budget, paying down debt, planning for the future and supporting those organizations that feed our soul. Many of the specifics will be determined by the participants during the first week. It is preferred that participants make a commitment to the full 4 weeks as the series does function like a small group/chalice circle in many ways. Join us Tuesdays in November, 6-8 pm. **Begins November 6th!**

The series will be led by Wendy Romberg who has over 15 years' experience in the financial world ranging from credit counseling for those in debt and financial education for potential homebuyers, to goal planning through investments. For questions contact Wendy Romberg, wendy.romberg@gci.net. To register and arrange childcare contact the office Auuf@gci.net.



Chalice Circles are starting up again – join us as a facilitator or participant!

Chalice Circles, a small group ministry program sponsored by the Adult Programs Committee, will begin in January. Chalice Circles will support our “striving to listen deeply and speak with one another and to our larger community with consideration and respect.” These groups are designed to bring members, friends, and community members closer to one another by cultivating deeper connections. If you are interested in participating in a Chalice Circle (there will be several options, including weekday day and evening, and weekend options) please contact DeenaMitchell1978@gmail.com, or AndeeCordano@gmail.com.

Want to be a facilitator, or learn more about the Chalice Circle program? You are invited to join our training for potential facilitators, which will involve a group of patient, open and organized leaders who come together to learn, share, and listen deeply to one another.

Participating in the training provides a cohesive understanding of the Chalice Circle format and its benefits. Those who complete the training can choose to lead a group as a facilitator, support a group as a co-facilitator, join a group run by another, and of course opt out this round. The three-week training course will be offered Thursdays, November 8, 15 and 29, from 6 – 8 pm, at the Fellowship. For more information, or to sign up for the course, contact Andee Cordano at AndeeCordano@gmail.com.

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Very appreciative of the wonderful Forums we have these days. Thank you George and the other volunteers who serve us all with some fascinating topics. I don't know when I have enjoyed hearing someone as much as I enjoyed Kathleen Tarr's talk about The Trappist Monk, Thomas Merton, when he came to Alaska years ago.

Speaking of wonderful programs, Blessing of the Animals seems to be many peoples favorite. I loved every doggie, the one cat, and many guinea pigs (or were they gerbils). Any way, it was a wonderful service and our own lovely musicians and story tellers.

Helen Peters (retired nurse) leaves mid-month to help with the Red Cross in Florida where hurricane Michael has done so much damage. Hopefully she will share with us what it was like and how we can help.

I understand Providence Hospital has “gifted” us with a portable “Defibrillator” for CPR when someone quits breathing. That is a very expensive gift. Thanks to the nine AUUF members attended a “Family and Friends CPR” first aid class given by Providence Alaska Medical Center. The class included lessons on how to properly use the AED. There are plans to offer the class again in the future.

If anyone is interested, I'm ready to hand over the “Ripples in a Larger Pond” article in the LOG: I inherited it a few years ago when someone moved out of state and am ready to pass it on. It's been fun and challenging, and I hope worth the space I took up and it's ready for a new voice. Please consider it. Thank you for the opportunity.

Be well, dear people.

November Birthdays!
(birthdays are not published in our online version).

Fred Meyer Rewards Card: *Our last check from Fred Meyer was \$100, every little bit helps. Can these returns continue? grow* Please link your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards.

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

Hungry Book Club meets 2nd Tuesdays at 2 p.m. in the AUUF library. We meet again November 13th and we will be discussing “A Brief History of Everyone Who Ever Lived” by Adam Rutherford. Bring a semi healthy snack to share. We are an open book club. Call Shirley at 563-4499 for more details.

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

Library Team Starts

by Marie Lundstrom

AUUF's Adult library is getting an overhaul and some organization. Mary Ann Eininger, Marie Lundstrom, and Julie Garrigues are the new Library Team. Mary Ann is sorting books and other materials into categories (Pastoral Care, Freethinkers, Women's Issues, UU History, etc.); Marie is typing a simple list in Excel (Title, Author, Publication Year, Category); and Julie is focusing on our extensive historical scrapbooks—how to preserve and house them properly.

Once everything is organized and categorized, and the list finished, the team will publish the list and devise an easy way for folks to check out items.

Anyone with archiving experience is welcome to join the team Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 at the Fellowship.

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; revshelleyauf@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.

Alliance News

By Kalen Saxton

The Alliance elected new officers at our October meeting. President-Stephanie Koonz, Vice President-Kalen Saxton, Secretary-Carol Harris and Treasurer-Mary Kulawik. We now have 12 members. We will be having our annual Holiday Bazaar on Sundays Nov. 25th and Dec. 2nd. We hope everyone enjoying Soup Sunday on Dec. 2, and Winterfest, will shop at our beautiful tables. The funds we raise are used to support AUUF activities.



Are You Getting Our News?

Mid-week, each week, the office sends out '**This Week at Your Fellowship**' which contains details of our speakers, events of the week and news to keep you connected. We have a new nifty software for this purpose. If you are not getting this weekly newsletter check your spam and mail guard folders. If you still are not receiving our weekly digital news contact Amy 248-3737 x3 or auuf@gci.net.



Recycling

By Judith Anderegg and David Pelto

Just a kind reminder that, beyond our #5 plastic recycling on published Sundays, recycling at the Fellowship building is limited to the municipality's curbside recycling pickup. Space in our can is limited so recycling at the building is only for materials used on site, not from home. Recyclables go into the receptacle in the social hall or outside in the recycling bin. If you are unfamiliar with what is accepted in the curbside program, the recycling cans in the social hall are labelled. If you use something at the Fellowship that does not work with the curbside program that you wish to recycle in another way, take it with you. Thank you for your help in keeping the building clean, neat and welcoming to visitors, and rental groups.

5 Plastics Recycling. Mark your calendar for the coming year: October 21, November 11, and December 16, January 27, February 24, March 24, and April 21. # 5 only. Check the lids. (Bring to the front yard of the Fellowship near the Little Free Library on those Sunday mornings, 8:45-11:15 am.)

Alterative Gift Fair

Boycotting black Friday? Want a simpler way to spread holiday cheer? Join others and support causes you love at the **Alternative Gift Fair** Sunday Dec. 9th at the fellowship! Donate to a charity and send a note to let someone know the donation was made in their honor! Who would be honored that you made a donation in their name? Who would be happy with just a note this year, and no more stuff?

Religious Exploration Notes

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Here's an update on what the classes are doing.

The **Water Skippers** – toddlers are learning about trusting new adults, and playing appropriately with each other.

The **Wind Walkers** – 3-4 yr olds, are exploring and discovering the wonders and feelings of each human being in both celebrations and daily experiences.

The **Fire Keepers** – K-2nd grade are meeting children growing up in different religions of the world through stories and activities. Focusing on Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam and a variety of other religious groups.

The **Planet Keepers** – 3rd-4th grade are having tons of fun exploring the Holidays of the major World Religions. They have built a Sukkah for the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, and made Diyas for the Hindu holiday of Diwali.

The **Star Gazers** – 5th grade, are exploring the meaning of "God" from different religious perspectives.

The **Moon Spinners** - Jr High group is starting from a review of our UU principles and starting to explore local religious groups and denominations and how they are similar to or different from their own or our Unitarian Universalist beliefs.

The **YRUU** – High School, has started out with some self-organization and discussion of chosen topics like genuine vs politeness and Daoism. They've had a Lock In and are looking forward to more fun activities, discussions and worship.

We know everyone is super busy and on many, many committees, but when it comes to changing the world – the CYRE committee and I would like to remind everyone, that it starts at home, here at AUUF, with the teaching and engagement of our next generation in exploring values and beliefs as justice seeking people! Several classes, and the Youth group could use your volunteer time and talents.

In peace, Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Our Sunday Classes

Nov. 4 – Multigenerational service for All Souls –

A varied and interactive service. Preschool – 2nd grade will head downstairs to their classes after the Story for all Ages.

Multigenerational services are designed with all ages in mind and lots of action to keep folks interested. There are several benefits to Multigenerational services – they counteract the cultural trend to separate generations from each other, allowing a sharing of wisdom and perspective across generations; they allow families to experience a worship service together and have a common focal point for further discussions; they provide opportunity for children and youth to learn the structures and rituals of Unitarian Universalist worship services, becoming familiar and comfortable with the idea of "grown up church", with the rituals of our church community and what our faith holds as important when we get together in community on Sunday mornings. Intergenerational relationships are one of the keys to building lasting faith in children and youth.

Nov. 11 10 am – Cross Age for Children during the 2 hour adult service.

Nov. 18, 25 – All classes will continue with children beginning downstairs these two Sundays. Please check with your child's teachers as to needed class helpers.

We still need 4 class leaders – 1 in toddler and 1 in the K-2. 2 Advisors for the Youth group.

Thankyou! A big Shout out to folks who donated some lovely furniture and rugs which we are making use of downstairs! Heather Flynn, TK Kleiner, Leon & Linda Webber and Ed Bostrum. They have spiffed up the downstairs and really been useful to groups using the downstairs, OWL parents and our youth! Thank You!

Our Activities

Annual Dinner November 3 - 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.

Mark Your Calendars for Sunday, December 2nd!

Mitten Tree Collection Start your knitting (or shopping!) Children will start upstairs briefly for this annual ritual of dressing our tree during the 11:00 service! Remember to bring NEW mittens, scarves or socks to decorate our Mitten Tree during the 11:00 service! They will be donated to a local family Shelter, so all sizes are welcome. We will also collect gently used items.

Soup Sunday: Yes, and there will be a Soup Sunday! It will be hosted by the Star Gazers – 5th grade class.



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!

About Our Speakers and Services (see back page)

Jasmine Kahn is the Executive Director of the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness. She's spent the past two decades leading large-scale strategic planning and operational change efforts in both the public and private sector, often with a focus on serving at-risk populations. Prior to coming on-board the Anchorage Coalition, she spent several years managing global consulting projects for Deloitte Consulting. She earned her MBA from the University of Michigan and her Master of Science in Human Services from Bellevue University. She currently lives outside of Eagle River with her partner Wade and a menagerie of farm animals.

An All-Fellowship Forum to discuss past and future strategies for selecting an AUUF settled minister is scheduled for Nov. 11, beginning at 10 a.m. -- preceded by a pancake and sausage breakfast beginning at 9 a.m. The service and forum will begin with a welcoming message by Rev. Shelley Page, followed by a panel discussion led by nine members who served on three previous ministerial search committees. All Fellowship members are encouraged to participate in this informational forum and offer their own thoughts and suggestions.

Tim Hinterberger is a professor of Developmental Biology in the School of Medical Education at University of Alaska Anchorage, with teaching responsibilities in anatomy and neuroscience and a research program in molecular embryology. He earned his BS, MS, and PhD in biology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Four years ago, he served as chair of the Campaign to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol as part of the successful 2014 voter initiative to legalize marijuana in Alaska. His commentary, "Alaska should rethink its approach on marijuana testing," was recently published in the Anchorage Daily News.

Jane Angvik is a community planner, political consultant and longtime civic leader in Anchorage. In her 20s, she was selected as one of 11 people to serve on the 1975 Anchorage Charter Commission that unified the city and borough. In 1979 she was elected to the Anchorage Assembly and eventually became the first woman to chair the Assembly. In the 1990s she helped plan and develop the Alaska Native Heritage Center, then was appointed state director of the Division of Lands under Gov. Tony Knowles. She's served on numerous non-profit boards of directors, including the Girl Scouts of Alaska, Standing Together Against Rape and the Alaska Women's Political Caucus. Along with other members of the two-year-old "Alaska Women Ascend," a movement inspired by the 2017 Women's March on the Park Strip, she's trained scores of female candidates on how to fund-raise and manage political campaigns. In 2014 she was named to the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame.

Marilyn Lee is a long time member of AUUF, and has held many volunteer positions such as music director and chair of the worship associates committee.

Wray Kinard joined AUUF in 2000, and has worked on canvass, worship associate, and endowment fund committees, as well as treasurer.

Rev. Dr. Denise Sudbeck is a married trans woman living in Anchorage and pastor of the emerging Metropolitan Community Church. She recently earned her Doctor of Ministry degree with a dissertation in trans-focused theology.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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AUUF Services and Events – November 2018

Sunday November 4

9 am Jasmine Kahn, 'Anchorage's New Bid to End Homelessness'

11 am Rev Shelley Page,

All Souls, All Ages Multi-gen Worship Service

We pause to remember our beloved ones who have passed on, with story, song and ritual. Please bring photos or mementos to place on our Community Altar of Remembrance.

Sunday November 11

10 -12, Ministerial Search: A History Gathering Forum, Members of Past AUUF Ministerial Search Committees

Gather with us to hear the experiences of the past two AUUF Ministerial Search Committees as we prepare for the next search. Learn more about the process from the folks who lived it. Bring your questions and curiosity. This gathering will also include a brief worship service that honors Veterans Day and post-election feelings.

Sunday November 18

9 am Tim Hinterberger,

'Legal Marijuana in Alaska – Four Years Later'

11 am Rev. Dr. Denise Sudbeck,

Transgender Remembrance

This year's Transgender Day of Remembrance (Nov. 20) takes on new meaning in light of the current federal government attempts to legally "erase" transgender and queer people.

Sunday November 25

9 am Jane Angvik,

'Getting Women to Run for Office in 2020'

11 am Wray Kinard and Marilyn Lee,

'Seeking Gratitude; Can We Find It in This Day and Age?'

Marilyn Lee and Wray Kinard will explore thanksgiving and gratefulness in an era of uncivil discourse. Can we be happy and cheerful and still watch the evening news?

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- November 2018

Sunday 11 am ~ Classes for toddlers through 12th

Children and Youth begin upstairs for worship for about 15 minutes.

Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare ages 1-10

The LOG

December 2018

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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



Upstairs and downstairs. Downstairs and upstairs. Seemingly two different worlds at AUUF. This interim time offers a ripe opportunity to look at this pattern of being with fresh eyes. Recently the Children and Youth Religious Exploration Committee and the Transition Team met to share observations and feelings about Religious Exploration and how things are going these days. Some frustrations were voiced about the current re-visiting of having children and youth participating in the first portion of the 11:00 am worship service (and some delights shared as well!). Some concerns were expressed about feeling a lack of respect for RE. It was a helpful and heartfelt session of sharing.

These are not new feelings. Yes, there are new circumstances, but the story is an ongoing journey of a separation between upstairs and downstairs, of the experiences of child and youth Religious Exploration and what happens in the Forum and Worship and other aspects of fellowship life. As your interim minister, I look at this kind of situation with great curiosity and also a sense of pregnant possibility. How is it that such a separation continues to happen? What are the gifts of this separation? What opportunities for growth, connection, synergy and spiritual deepening are being missed due to a siloed fellowship experience? How can this fellowship build on its strengths to create an even stronger common purpose, instead of feeling a competition for resources and respect?

Interim is a perfect time for experimentation, for what ifing. A lovely question was asked at that recent meeting: “What would it be like to start worship downstairs?” The intrigue and open curiosity of that question has sparked some new collaborative energy with your fellowship staff. Rosene, Megan and I started energetically brainstorming about some creative and meaningful ways to create more connection and relationship between downstairs and upstairs. This kind of conversation will be broadened and deepened as you begin to tackle this challenge together. But, it is an important start.

We are excited to invite each of you to a unique experience of celebrating the Winter Solstice at AUUF this year. We’ll all start out in the sanctuary together but then we’ll disperse throughout the newly renovated building to honor the darkness and return of the light in a variety of ways with people of all ages. It will be a “choose your own adventure” happening with lovely meditation in a darkened space, solstice crafts, exuberant drumming/chanting/dancing to welcome back the sun, creating and sharing solstice poetry, singing solstice songs and much more. Then, we’ll all return to the sanctuary for a lively finale of welcoming the light back into our lives. Think joy, think connection, think openings, think possibilities.

May your December find you in the place of contemplating and asking good questions of yourself and your AUUF community. And, may this month find you in a place of curiosity and openness to create new possibilities in your own life and in the life of this wonderful fellowship.

With joyful anticipation, Reverend Shelley

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Calendar Highlights

Dec 2 Winterfest, Soup Sunday, Holiday Bazaar Wrap Up
Dec 4 Program Council
Dec 5 Blue Christmas
Dec 9 Alternative Gift Fair
Dec 9 Stories of Race and Racism
Dec 16 Plastics Recycling
Dec 24 Christmas Eve 6 pm
Jan 12 Friendship Dinners

President's Letter

If we are learning one thing during this interim time, it is that we need to be talking with each other more. An example of this is determining the process for how we choose our next ministerial search committee (MSC). Last spring, the Board proposed a bylaw change to the membership toward this end. We determined, based on feedback from congregants, that we needed broader input and more discussion about the proposed process and bylaw change before bringing it forward for a vote of the membership at the 2017 annual meeting. In the past month, we have been doing that important work as a congregation and more is yet to come.

Firstly, the Transition Team and Rev. Shelley with help from James Dryden planned services with two members of the Fairbanks UU – Hayden Neville and Jana Pierce – on October 28th at both the 9 a.m. and the 11 a.m. services. Secondly, the Transition Team planned and hosted a combined service on November 11 that featured a panel of past AUUF MSC members for Gary Holthaus and Rev. Fran Dearman, our two settled ministers over the past decade. (If you weren't able to attend and have questions about ministerial search, tune into the podcasts which are posted on our website at www.anchorageuuf.org.) Although each described the experience as a large time commitment, one could easily observe that speakers shared a connection with each other, something they described as one of the best parts of serving on an MSC. Rev. Ruth Greenwood even cited the experience as formative in her decision to become a UU minister. How cool is that?

The Fairbanks fellowship used the MSC selection process proposed at AUUF last year to select their MSC and were pleased with how it worked. In a nutshell, the process is that each member is contacted individually to ask which members he or she would trust to serve on the MSC. From that compiled list, a short list of people rises to the top making them obvious candidates for the search committee. From the remaining list, the Board then rounds out the group of seven adjusting for gender, age, longevity with the church and people who are representative of congregational values. The membership then votes to endorse the slate at a membership meeting and then empowers the MSC to do their important work.

Our AUUF panelists also expressed their support for this MSC selection process. They remembered being asked to serve but weren't clear on who or how individuals were identified to be asked. In fact, the existing bylaws indicate that the nominating committee should select members of the MSC getting congregational feedback only at the time of a vote of the membership. Panelists agreed that the proposed process was a solidly democratic process that is more inclusive than our existing one and expressed confidence that it would have positive results at AUUF like it did in Fairbanks.

Furthermore, a ministerial search policy working group consisting of Mary Ann Eininger, chair, Ken Winterberger, Sam Cason and Amanda Mack are working on a revised draft for a bylaw change and policy recommendations that will be presented to the Board in December for consideration and then be brought to the congregation for further input in January. The ad hoc group is taking into consideration input from these three services as well as concerns expressed last year as we work on a revised draft. If support for this new process of selecting our MSC continues to build, we will vote on a bylaw change in February at a membership meeting so that the Board can begin the MSC selection process and have our MSC in place by spring 2019. The MSC will work closely together over the course of a year to place our next settled minister in August 2020.

Many thanks to members of the Transitions Team – George Bryson, Teresa Bartoldus, Dennis Arashiro, Teresa Zimmer and Marty Freeman – and to Rev. Shelley for the important interim-related work you are doing. With these kinds of intentional conversations, we will indeed find ourselves a new settled minister.

In faith and in service, Amanda Mack

Winterfest is December 2 – Mark your Calendar to get in the holiday spirit!

Stay for Soup Sunday and then Ornament Sunday/Winterfest for a seasonal, intergenerational afternoon of festive fun! We will have ornament making for all ages and skill levels while we sip cocoa and enjoy holiday music. We will also decorate the tree in the Sanctuary. So bring your grandchild, grab your grandmother or best friend, and take home some handmade bling for your holiday tree! Contact DeenaMitchell1978@gmail.com , 847-997-8357.



December Half Portion for Social Action: The Children's Lunchbox

By Kalen Saxton

The Children's Lunchbox is a child nutrition program of Bean's Cafe. They provide meals to local community programs serving children before and after school. These meals are prepared and delivered to partner sites. During the school year they package and deliver thousands of bags, filled with three meals each, to eight Title 1 schools in Anchorage. There are enough bags to ensure no child goes home hungry on Friday. Their Summer Food Site Program partners with many of the same community afterschool programs they work with during the school year. To volunteer with The Children's Lunchbox go to www.beanscafe.org



Social Action Council

By Dennis Arashiro

"Looking homeless is often worse than actually being homeless. If you look (and smell) homeless, everyone automatically assumes the worst about you, and it becomes that much harder to find a job or an apartment or get medical care...Being clean can make the difference to being allowed to sit for a few hours nursing a coffee in a warm fast-food restaurant and getting kicked out as soon as you walk in." - Mark Anthony DiBello (formerly homeless for the better part of 20 years)

A bar of soap. That can mean getting someone a job that ends her homelessness. A bottle of shampoo. That can mean getting someone an extra hour of comfort in a warm coffee shop. That is why we continue to ask for contributions to Brother Francis Shelter. Soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, bath towels, socks. Whatever it takes to give someone a step toward a secure home or even just an extra hour out of the cold.

When Jeanne Fischer first told me this summer of the urgent needs at Brother Francis, I imagined putting out a contribution basket for perhaps a month. But whenever I dropped off a carload of hygiene items, I was told of the need for more. The last time I was told our contributions would last maybe two days. So, we continue asking for more. Bring what you can to the pink bucket at the Fellowship. Keep making a difference in someone's life.

Alternative Gift Fair

By Cathy Steen



Looking for something different to celebrate the holidays? The Alternative Gift Shop is an opportunity to donate to any one of seven nonprofit organizations caring for people in Anchorage and around the world. In return, you get a cheery gift tag for sending or hanging on a tree in honor of someone special. Consider this for giving to those who need nothing more except a good feeling and a warm heart! Come join us **Sunday Dec. 9th** at the fellowship to make your selections. We will

also have an online shopping option!

The agencies scheduled to be at this year's fair are:

Principle 1: The inherent worth and dignity of every person: **Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest**

Principle 2: Justice, equity and compassion in human relations: **STAR**

Principle 3: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations: **AUUF Peace Camp**

Principle 4: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning: **Friends of the Library**

Principle 5: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large: **NAACP/Neighborly Solutions**

Principle 6: The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all: **Alaska Institute for Justice**

Principle 7: Respect for the interdependent web of life: **Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT)**



Blue Christmas is a quiet church service especially for anyone who might not be feeling so jolly during the Christmas season, perhaps due to a recent loss of a loved one or other unfortunate circumstance. There are usually readings, meditation, music and candles. It is followed by a simple supper of soup and bread. Anyone is invited to attend. **December 5th 6pm.**

Adult Offerings!

Stories of Race and Racism

AUUF has a new Anti-Racism Action Team whose work is to facilitate exploration and dismantling of racism and white privilege within our congregation, our world, and ourselves as individuals. Part of the team's work will be to host a series of bimonthly discussion groups about topics related to race, and we invite you to join us for an inaugural discussion session called "Stories of Race and Racism." We'll focus our discussion around some short videos from the perspective of a number of people of color sharing their experiences of racism. The discussion will be an opportunity to share our feelings, thoughts, and responses, using respectful listening and a Chalice Circle format. Our first session will be Sunday December 9th from 1-2:30. 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!



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 Thursdays from 9-11 am near West High School. There will be a third option as well, timing TBD. 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 DeenaMitchell1978@gmail.com, or AndeeCordano@gmail.com.

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) for more information or to join.

Yoga for Every Body classes every Wednesday 6-7:15 pm. Freewill offering (half to AUUF). Instructor: Paula Saylor. 907-297-9184. Join in downstairs in Room 5 at the Fellowship.

Hungry Book Club As is our current custom, for December we are meeting at Kinley's Restaurant December 11th at 1:30 to have lunch and exchange books (as a "gift"). This is our custom to find a book we already have, but love and want to share with someone else. We will draw a number and pick a wrapped book to take home. If you don't want to take one home, then don't bring one. We will also choose a book to jointly read for January meeting. Kinley's is across the street from Moose's Tooth at 3230 Seward Hwy. 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.



Did you know that last year we donated over \$16,600 to non-profits through our Half Portion for Social action offerings? That was \$2800 more than what we budgeted!

Did you know that we raised \$19,968 this summer from our Whale Coast guests? Our budget was \$20,000, so we basically hit 100%!

We Need You to Help Create a Culture of Hospitality!

Some of us have been attending AUUF for decades and have many friends with whom we connect on a Sunday morning. Some of us may have only come once and wondered why no one reached out to us or said “hello”.



Our Connections Team (welcoming/membership) is working hard to create a culture of hospitality and it can only be done if everyone helps.

Think back to your first Sunday at AUUF. What was welcoming about it? What wasn't? What made you want to be part of this community?

When was the last time you met a new person at AUUF? Hopefully it was recently, as we have new folks coming every week!

I remember the first UU church I attended because people were so friendly. It made me think highly of UUs even though it would be years before I would become one. And I remember Shirley D saying that she had to claw her way into AUUF before it ultimately became her “tribe”.

We ask everyone to look around on a Sunday and reach out to someone you haven't met and introduce yourself. Yes, many of us are shy and have a hard time doing this, but most of us can smile or say “hello” to someone we don't know.

One of the great things with the Chalice Circles (small groups) is that an extra chair is always part of the group to point out that new people are always welcome to join. Please think about having a chair open and invite a new person to join you.

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Thrilled that two of our teenagers were chosen to be in the 2018 All State Music Festival at West High recently, Alex Westervelt and his flute were in the All State Band Concert and Piper Hartlieb sang in the All State Treble Choir Concert. This was a wonderful evening of excellent music and our church was well represented. So proud of both of you.

Grateful for Kalen Saxton and helpers, especially Dennis and Sid who set up for our communal “Thanksgiving Dinner”. Kalen had the free turkeys (thank you Carr's Market) cut into “half a turkey” so we could handle them easier. We were 27 members and friends for a wonderful spread with plenty of “left overs” to take home. A lovely day of conversation, good food, gratitude. We all appreciated each others company and it probably would not have happened this year if Kalen hadn't stood up and made it happen.

Grateful for the Alliance Holliday sale, we had plenty of helpers setting things out, lots of buyers being very generous since we let them price what they bought themselves. The Alliance will use this money for something special. Thanks again for all your contributions to our sale.

Grateful for each and every one in our congregation and wishing you health, wealth, and peace as you approach this coming Christmas Holiday. You are all precious to me.

December Birthdays!

Birthdays are not published in our online version.



The UUA Bookstore has free shipping on orders \$50 or more from now through December 15th. Find them at www.uua.org/bookstore.

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; revshelleyauf@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.

Alliance News

By Kalen Saxton

We will be finishing our annual Holiday Bazaar on Dec. 2nd. We hope everyone enjoying Soup Sunday on Dec. 2, and Winterfest, will shop at our beautiful tables. The funds we raise are used to support AUUF activities.



Our AUUF Board Minutes are posted on our website?

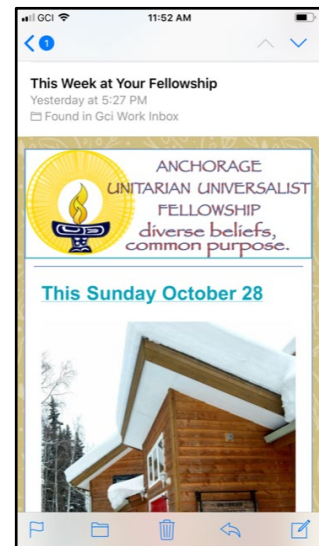
If you are interested in viewing AUUF Board Minutes, they are

accessible on the website (anchorageuuf.org/auuf-board). From the AUUF homepage, click the "About" tab at the top, then click on "AUUF Board". Scroll past board members' headshots and you will see links to Minutes from August 2016-present. Also, hard copies are posted on the bulletin board near the kitchen. Older Minutes are archived in the office.

Board meetings are open to all - please come join us if you care to! Often someone brings fair trade chocolate to share. AUUF Board meetings take place the third Wednesday of the month in the Louise Gallop social room from 6:30 - ? We would love to have you! If you would like to get on the agenda - please contact one of the officers: Amanda Mack, president; Wendy Romberg, vice president; Peggy Robinson, treasurer; Kelley Hartlieb, secretary.

Are You Getting Our News?

Mid-week, each week, the office sends out 'This Week at Your Fellowship' which contains details of our speakers, events of the week and news to keep you connected. We have a new nifty software for this purpose. If you are not getting this weekly newsletter check your spam and mail guard folders. If you still are not receiving our weekly digital news contact Amy 248-3737 x3 or auuf@gci.net.



Tips for Recycling

By Judith Anderegg and David Peltó

For those of you taking recycling to the Anchorage Recycling Center, please remember the following:

The only plastics recyclable at the recycling center are:

1. No. 1 and 2 – only the bottle shapes. Clamshell containers (marked 1) are not recyclable. The plastic containers that apples come in (marked 1) are not recyclable. The plastic cups (marked 1) are not recyclable. All plastic 1s/2s that are non-bottle shapes are trash. If you put them in a bin at the recycling center, you are contaminating the recycling and lowering the effectiveness of the municipality's efforts.

2. Stretchy plastic is also recyclable in Anchorage. It cannot be black. It must be stretchy.

New! If you have curbside pickup you may also add the following to your curbside container:

1. No. 1 clamshells, plastic apple packaging, and cups. This is a relatively new addition to plastics recycling for curbside pickup.

5 Plastics Recycling. Mark your calendar for the coming year: December 16, January 27, February 24, March 24, and April 21. # 5 only. Check the lids. (Bring to the front yard of the Fellowship near the Little Free Library on those Sunday mornings, 8:45-11:15.)



Share the Care, You are Needed!

Teresa Zimmer

We could use some more “helpers” for our Share the Care Team! Send me an email at tzimmer@gci.net to have your name added to the group.

This means that you will receive a notice in your email when a friend or member at the fellowship needs a bit of kindness, often a meal, sometimes a ride or a visit!



Share The Care

When you are able to help, you sign up online and “do your thing”. This is a great way to address the needs of the congregation. Many hands make light work! So, if you are willing to help one another in this way, please let me know and I will gratefully add your name to the group!

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.

End of Year Giving

Make sure your gift can be counted in the tax year you intend it to! If you want to count a gift in your 2018 taxes, make sure to make these timeframes:

By check: You can mail a check up until December 31st, and be sure the check is dated December 31st or before, as well.

By credit or debit card: You can charge your credit or debit card from your smart phone via the app “GivePlus Church” (available on the Apple App store or Google Play, and linkable to AUUF) or via our website “Donate Now” as long you do it before these deadlines (different for credit and debit/ACH):

Credit: Monday December 31st by Noon Alaska time

Debit/ACH: Thursday December 27th by Noon Alaska Time

Stocks or other assets: Leave a lot of lead time for this. Depending on where the asset is held, it could take several weeks.

Thoughts, questions, or tips about Stewardship? I'd love to hear them! Or if you have questions about any of this, contact me at carmaandjiri@gci.net. Carma Reed, member of the Stewardship Committee



Religious Exploration Notes

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

This is the month of many holidays from various world traditions. Did you know we have our very own UU holiday celebration called Chalica?

Chalica is a week-long celebration of our UU Principles, begun in 2005 that begins the first Monday in December. It is an invitation to spend a day with each of the UU Principles. It is designed to increase family time, provide a simple family ritual around the family chalice.

Many of our children have made chalices and this is a great time to use them. If you do not have one, anything that can hold a candle, will do as your chalice. Sing a song, read a poem, talk about how you lived the principle that day, do a special activity. There are ideas in the handout and on line for each day to live out these principles.

For more information, you can pick up the information sheets and kids chalice booklet downstairs. The first week of December, Dec. 3 -9, we will post something on the RE Family Facebook page each day.

Put a little UU love in your holiday traditions!

Wishing you a peaceful and joyful holiday season! Rosene

Our Program – 11 Service

December 2nd - Regular programming

December 9 - Regular programming

December 16 - Regular programming

December 23 - Epic participatory Solstice Celebration for all ages

December 30th – Happy New Year! Cross Age New Years activities for Children

Childcare for ages 1-4.

Winterfest - Sunday, December 2nd An Ornament Making party for All ages After the 11 service, 12:45-3 pm

Mark your calendar for our annual holiday party for all ages! Catch the holiday spirit and Make a day of it – Have Soup downstairs, and then jingle your way back upstairs to make ornaments, and decorate the tree.

Also - Mitten Tree - December 2nd

Remember to bring NEW mittens, scarves or socks to decorate our Mitten Tree during the 11:00 service! They will be donated to a family Shelter, so all sizes are welcome. We will also collect gently used items. Just learned from someone that Dimond Value Village has tons of new hats, scarves, gloves, etc. for extremely low prices, and cute styles as well. Good source for mittens!

Soup Sunday: December 2nd Soup Sunday will be hosted by the Planet Keepers before the Winterfest – ornament making party! Please come and support their class project! Have soup and then party at Winterfest!

Christmas Eve Pageant Practice - “December in Our Town”

We are excited about our pageant this year. All Classes will participate in one of the town festivals and it's accompanying song. Some groups may have more than one role. We need Jr/Sr youth for the character roles, and soloists for the one song. Please let Rosene know if you will be participating. Look for a participation sheet to go home soon! If you will be here on Christmas Eve and are interested in participating, please come to as many of the following rehearsals as possible.

We will be learning/ practicing the songs every Sunday morning in December from 10:30 – 11:00. All children planning to be in the pageant should plan to be at as many of these as possible to learn the songs and the staging. Contact Rosene Beachy, DLRE with any questions.

The first full pageant practice with staging directions and costuming will be: Sat. Dec. 15th, 1– 3

The 2nd practice will be Saturday, December 23, 1–3

Christmas Eve Service, Monday Dec. 24th 6-7, Call time 5 for all participants

Coming in January

Jr High OWL - Our Whole Lives

Our Whole Lives - A comprehensive sexuality curriculum developed by the Unitarian Universalist Organization.

Jr High Owl. - If you haven't registered for the 7th – 8th grade OWL grade program, we have a few spots still available in the class.



January 9 - Parent Orientation 7-9 pm

January 12 – Parent & Participant Kickoff 10 – 12:30 pm

January 13 – March 31 - OWL Workshop sessions 12:45 – 1:45

High School OWL - Our Whole Lives for High school Juniors and Seniors

The HS program for 11th-12th graders still has availability as well. Contact Rosene or Katherine Huffman for more information. You can pick up a registration form at the RE info Spot downstairs.

January 23, Parent Orientation meeting 7 – 9 pm

January 26 - HS OWL Kick off – Saturday, 10 – 12:30

January 27 – Mar. 3 – OWL Workshop sessions, 12:30 – 3

About Our Speakers and Services (see back page)

Dr. William Cox is a retired Alaskan radiologist who's traveled and lectured extensively in Asia and speaks out frequently against human rights abuses in China, Tibet and Taiwan. Cox worked as a radiologist at the Alaska Native Medical Center for 13 years and then 16 years in Nome. He now lives in Anchorage and is an active member of the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

Barbara Hood is a retired attorney and founding board member of *Justice Not Politics Alaska*, a nonprofit that works to protect Alaska's judicial selection and retention system from increased political influence. A 50-year Alaskan, she's also co-owner of the Great Harvest Bread Company and a freelance writer whose commentaries frequently appear in local newspapers. As the former Alaska coordinator for Amnesty International USA, her writing often focuses on social justice issues.

Issa Spatrisano is the Alaska refugee coordinator for Catholic Social Services' Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services (RAIS) program. Working in the refugee resettlement field, she's also assisted communities in Kansas and Missouri. Issa earned a B.A. degree at Western Michigan University and a master's degree in Education at the University of Alaska Anchorage. She's also worked as an English as a Second Language (ESL) instructor for adults at the community education and community college level. Through her teaching and resettlement experience, Issa has assisted clients from over 65 countries.

Bob Hallinen has been a photojournalist in Alaska since the 1980s, traveling extensively all over the state. His news and feature photos of Alaskans and spectacular images of wildlife and natural landscapes have earned dozens of photojournalism awards in both state and national competitions. Bob retired from the Anchorage Daily News last month after 33 years at the newspaper and was recently celebrated – along with colleague Erik Hill – in a community-wide tribute to their combined 65 years of Alaska photojournalism.

Stephen Pinker is a cognitive psychologist, best-selling author and Johnstone Family Professor in the Department of Psychology at Harvard University. In his eighth book for a popular audience, *Enlightenment Now* (2018), Pinker provides hard data to show how “the human condition” has improved dramatically over the past 200 years. New and prevailing problems are not insurmountable, he argues -- as long as liberal democracies continue to embrace the Enlightenment-era ideals of reason, science, humanism and progress. (Video)

The Rev. Ruth Greenwood has been a member of the congregation since the early 1990s. She is a Unitarian Universalist minister with a Master's of Divinity from Meadville/Lombard Theological School and was ordained by AUUF in 2012. Although not in active ministry at this time, she is exploring the idea of becoming a spiritual director. An almost-lifelong Alaskan, some of her passions include exploring creativity in myriad ways and reveling in the beauty of the natural world.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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AUUF Services and Events – December 2018

Sunday December 2

9 am William Cox, 'Human Rights in China – an Eyewitness Perspective'

11 am Rev Shelley Page, Fail Better

Our culture tends to value success and "winning." And yet great riches abound in the path of "failure." We'll explore failing better and honor the lovely tradition of the AUUF Mitten Tree.

Tuesday December 5

6 pm Blue Christmas

A quiet church service especially for anyone who might not be feeling so jolly during the Christmas season, perhaps due to a recent loss of a loved one or other unfortunate circumstance. There are readings, meditation, music and candles. It is followed by a simple supper of soup and bread.

Sunday December 9

9 am Barbara Hood, 'Dangers of Politicizing Alaska's Judicial System'

11 am Rev Shelley, Candles of Wonder

The Hanukkah story inspires us with candles of wonder and hope. We'll discover more about this ancient ritual and its meaning for us today in story, song and ritual.

Sunday December 16

9 am Issa Spatrisano,

'Anchorage's Growing Refugee Population'

11 am Issa Spatrisano, 'The Refugee Experience in Anchorage'

Sunday December 23

9 am Bob Hallinen,

'A Photojournalist's Love Affair with Winter'

11 am Solstice Live! An AUUF Solstice Experience!

Celebrate the return of the sun with a joyful service like you've never experienced before! We'll offer multi-sensory options throughout our fabulous new building to help you honor the Solstice. Intrigued? Then, gather with us for this All Ages service.

Dec 24 Christmas Eve

6 pm An AUUF Celebration for All Ages!

We'll gather to celebrate with the December in Our Town children's pageant that offers a "tour" of December traditions from different faiths and cultures, along with soulful seasonal music and the honoring of Christmas Eve traditions including candle lighting and messages of hope and peace.

Sunday December 30

9 am Steven Pinker (video),

'The Case for Optimism on New Year's Eve'

11 am Rev. Ruth Greenwood, 'To Boldly Go'

The liminal time of New Year's is a natural time to reflect on the past and envision the future. Join us for a Fire Communion where we let go of what we have outgrown or which no longer serves us. And then we will explore what it means to boldly go towards a future shaped by our highest ideals and deepest longings.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- December 2018

Sunday 11 am ~ Classes for toddlers through 12th

Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare ages 1-10

