

The LOG

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

January

2015

Gary Holthaus, Minister	1	Gary Holthaus, Minister
December 2014 Board Report	2	The days of our new 2015 year will be getting noticeably longer soon. The return of light seems appropriate as the year just beginning bodes well for AUUF. The waning days of 2014 offered a winter solstice bonus as we closed an extraordinary year in the life of our community. In mid-
Year End Giving	2	December of 2014 our Board of Directors wrote a proposal to the Chalice
Social Justice	3	Lighters Program of the Pacific Northwest Region of the Unitarian
Ripples in the Larger Pond	4	Universalist Association. It will give us a start toward our efforts to adapt
Birthdays	4	our new building so it better serves all our members, friends, and visitors.
Fireweed Sangha	4	Our Chalice grant will not cover the entire cost of new energy efficient
Climate Change	5	heating, hot water, and ventilation for our building but it will give us a big
Hungry Book Club	5	leg up towards that project. And the new system's increased efficiency will
Alternative Gift Shop	5	help us maintain our Green Sanctuary status and reduce our current
Alliance	5	heating costs.
RE Notes	6	I called this an extraordinary year for our community. That may seem a bit
Youth	7	over the top, and yet... And yet after seven years of looking and not finding
The Welcome Mat	7	a worthy home we closed on the sale of our old building about noon and
Adult Programs	8	closed on the purchase of our new building an hour later on the same day!
About January Speakers	8	It felt like a "Holy Mary" pass in the NFL, for just a couple of days before,
Contact Information	9	the buyer for our old building had backed out and only quick action by the
PILOT	9	New Building Search Committee and board chair Sam Cason saved the day.
January Services	10	Attendance at our Sunday services has been up throughout the year, and
		our Tuesday Evening Service has been maintaining itself. Twenty-eight new
		members have signed the book and joined the Fellowship. Average
		attendance in our Religious Exploration programs is also up for this year.
		We have new programs available, training "Lay Chaplains" under the
		guidance of the Committee on Shared Ministry for example; and the choir
		and Religious Exploration are already putting us on our way to another
		good year. Find a place and get in on the fun!
		<i>See You Sunday! Gary 433-9311</i>

Great news!

AUUF received a wonderful holiday present by being selected as the next recipient of a Chalice Lighter grant to help fund a high-efficiency heating and hot water system for our new/old building! The call for Chalice Lighter donations to fund this grant will go out to UU Chalice Lighters across the Pacific Northwest. THANK YOU to everyone here who has joined the Chalice Lighters to help our congregation and others grow. If you haven't signed up as a Chalice Lighter yet and would like to be part of this wonderful program, it is very easy to join at <http://www.pnwd.org/connections/chalicelighters.aspx> -- just click on "become a Chalice Lighter" on the left side of the page. If you don't want to join on-line, please contact Marty Freeman at 276-3749 or martyw@ak.net for a form.

December 2014 Board Report

Sam Cason, President

Happy Holidays, may the New Year bring unexpected blessings to all! During this season of gratitude and holiday bustle, the Board managed to add to the general uproar with several items. We made our annual payment in lieu of taxes (P.I.L.O.T.) to the municipal assembly on December 2. You can see the presentation through the Alaska Commons website: <http://www.alaskacommons.com/2014/12/08/despite-tax-exempt-status-one-church-pays-anyway/>. When members of our Fellowship speak out on local issues, whether street maintenance, police presence, park facilities, or fire department coverage, you do so as a contributor to the payment for those functions and services – we are *an* interested party together, as well as all being interested parties individually. (*more page 9*)

We took advantage of an unexpected opportunity to apply for a Chalice Lighter's grant from the PNWD; with the board's blessing and a little help from her friends, Marty grabbed the bull by the horns to put together and submit a beautifully constructed application for a grant to upgrade our boiler system. Barely a week later, we heard it was approved, so next spring should find us sporting a greener, more comfortable, and cheaper to run mechanical system in our new building.

In a remarkable convergence, the Winter 2014 UU World Magazine (www.uuworld.org/currentissue.shtml) has a series of articles by Kimberly French exploring issues of sexual abuse and communities. She concludes that while it is impossible to have a perfectly safe community, we can be a *safer* community by having a flexible policy established that incorporates rules, guidelines, and individual treatment into a coherent body. The convergence is that our own Safer Congregations Committee presented just such a policy for adoption by the Board at the December meeting. Since the annual meeting last spring, the SCC has been working steadily to put together a safety policy, and the latest revision was strong enough that the board voted to implement it immediately so we have a policy in place, even as we tinker with refinements and exact wording of certain elements. This policy integrates a response cycle involving the Minister and DLRE, the SCC, and the Board, all of whom have a role in a decision making process designed to foster an inclusive, but aware and vigilant community. If you have any questions, in addition to Gary and Rosene, SCC members Tom Stenson, Mary Ann Eininger, and Kate Lehn made the presentation to the board.

As expected when we decided to transition to a new facility, our operating budget expenditures are running a little ahead of the calendared costs. While we are not worried about finishing out the year or immediate dire financial stress, we are concerned that we generate sufficient annual income to pay our operating expenses on a going forward basis; this place is too important to allow it to fall into debt.

In other business, the board received instruction from Amy on the security system, scheduled discussions on draft financial policies, the capital campaign, the endowment fund, and new web site design proposals, heard a brief report on a new Pastoral Care Group, and approved use of the google group by the Climate Change Group to disseminate announcements.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2015, 6:15 p.m.

Please consider a year-end gift to AUUF

In the course of year-end tax planning, you may find yourself considering special one-time donations. There is a growing trend among donors to make contributions to their favorite organizations via the Web during the final week of the year. As you contemplate year-end gifts, please keep the Fellowship in mind, and even consider joining other families who have increased their pledge or pledged for the first time to help cover costs in our new building ("50 families @ \$500"). In addition to checks and cash, we welcome your donations through the "donate now" button on the church website at www.anchorageuuf.org. Credit and debit card donations made on-line to the Fellowship as late as 8:59pm (Alaska time) pm December 31 can count as a 2013 donation for tax purposes! And you can choose to indicate an increased pledge, fulfill an existing pledge, or dedicate this special gift to any number of our special funds – towards our new facility (capital fund), or our Endowment Fund, for example! Check it out!

If you have any questions about how this works, your pledge or giving status to date, or if you would like to discuss other ways of giving please feel free to email or call me at 727-5275.

Happy New Year!! Carma Reed, AUUF Treasurer"



Social Justice Committee

By Dennis Arashiro

A New Year resolution? How about continuing with a resolution we've already made? The Social Justice Committee has made it a goal to involve the youth and teachers in Religious Exploration with our work. We have had liaisons with RE on our committee in Marty Freeman and Annie Belts, keeping us informed on youth social justice activities and sharing what we do with the classes downstairs. We have arranged the schedule of Half Portion recipients to allow for the greatest participation by RE classes in supportive activities. This past year having Alaska Youth for Environmental Action as the April Half Portion recipient had the activism of our youth in mind. In October RE teachers and youth were part of the Food Bank of Alaska's Volunteer Saturday with others from the Fellowship.

This year we look forward to more joint activities with RE. We would welcome any ideas you might have in making that happen. Join us at regularly scheduled meeting at **12:30 PM on Sunday, January 25, 2015, in Gary's office at the Fellowship** to give us your suggestions. If you cannot attend but still wish to share your thoughts, call or email me with what you wish to communicate to the committee. Dennis Arashiro at 277-7377 or elvischannel@yahoo.com.

Half Portions for Social Action: UUSC-UUA Ebola Emergency Relief Fund

By Dennis Arashiro

A disaster strikes and the afflicted need help. Often there is a massive outpouring of aid and relief. Yet, when the headlines recede and the crisis moment passes, what happens then? Often the greatest challenge is to deal with the conditions creating or exacerbating the crisis and the conditions coming in the aftermath. That is why the response of the Social Justice Committee to the Ebola crisis in West Africa is to designate the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee-Unitarian Universalist Association Ebola Emergency Relief Fund as the January 2015 recipient of the Half Portion for Social Justice.

Although the joint effort by the UUSC and the UUA confronts immediate needs, it is not a mere duplication of the work being done by others. Too often those marginalized and persecuted in the affected countries face discrimination in the aid effort itself. Too often there is a vicious cycle where social injustice creates a bigger crisis, which creates greater social injustice. This is why the UUSC-UUA fund needs our support. We are doing what needs to be done and what others may not do.

Hands-on Help at Airport Heights Elementary

by Kalen Saxton

Here is a way to contribute to the neighborhood. A request came to AUUF for people to volunteer at Airport Heights Elementary. They have many volunteer opportunities. I chose to read to a Kinder class, while they eat lunch in their room, from 11:10-11:45 on December 15, 16, 17 and 18. I met with the Librarian who had many holiday books to choose from. I chose "'Twas the Night Before Christmas" to recite (because I still can) and brought other well-loved picture books from home.

The children were attentive while I read, raised their hands to ask questions. When asked by the teacher if they wanted me to come back and read they voted "thumbs up". You too can have a heart-warming experience like this if you volunteer a little time at Airport Heights Elementary.

(Editor: the school has a great need for assistance in afterschool tutoring Tuesday through Thursdays and many other tasks for volunteers. Contact Deb Dickey, school administrator 742-4562 to get plugged in.)

Friendly 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 plastic beverage bottles from your household as much as possible. Only buy drinks in glass, aluminum, frozen juice containers, waxed cartons.

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Appreciation for several faithful members who came to support the Blue Christmas service and stayed to eat a simple supper of soup and bread. Thanks to the

musicians, soup makers, Rosene and Gary who

planned the service and participated, Karen Tschannen for reading her own poem, Bruce for helping in many ways.

This is a wonderful gift AUUF does for the community this time of year. We need to get the word out that this a lovely service for people who are unhappy (for whatever reason) during the holiday to come and join us.

Smile at a stranger. See what happens.

Patti LuPone

Healing energy and healing thoughts sent to Lauren Pelon (Gary's wife) who had surgery December 17th at Mayo Hospital. This is a big surgery for a musician like Lauren (shoulder replaced). Please keep her and Gary in your thoughts during her recovery. Lauren will be recovering in Anchorage through the holiday season.

We rejoice in the good news for member, Tim Flesher, who had been battling cancer and is now cancer free. We are grateful to modern medicine and Tim's wonderful attitude.

Also, appreciation to Marty Freeman and the Social Justice Committee for the recent Alternative Fair where seven worthwhile nonprofits got the benefit from generous gifts purchased in the name of someone to help a nonprofit organization. Great idea! We understand the Alternative gift idea has really caught on.

Our RE department has been very busy this season. We had a gorgeous Christmas tree decorated in the Sanctuary waiting for mittens, caps and gloves. Donations for AWAIC filled three large bags. There have been cookie decorating, games, social events, an upcoming Christmas Eve Pageant which is not to be missed because it is SO Wonderful.

Wishing each of you a wonderful Holiday and a very happy and healthy NEW YEAR.

January Birthdays, Best Wishes!

Birthdays are not published in the On Line Version

Fireweed Sangha of Mindful Living

The Stewards of the Fireweed Sangha of Mindful Living offer our gratitude for AUUF's hospitality in providing a meeting space with special thanks to Gary, Amy, and Rosene. We have been meeting in the downstairs gathering room on Monday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 pm since the first of October. We are very pleased that some members of AUUF have joined us and are happy to extend that invitation to everyone in the fellowship.

Our Sangha is a community of lay people who practice Buddhism according to the teachings of Zen teacher Thich Nhat Hanh. Practice sessions last an hour and a half. We start with a period of silent meditation followed by a short check-in from each member. We then spend time in walking meditation and perhaps some singing, followed by a Dharma reading and discussion. We close with another period of silent meditation. Members take turns facilitating different parts of the practice sessions each week.

For more information visit our web site at: <http://fireweedsangha.org/>. You can also call Bill Hall at 748-3216 or Bridget Paule at 230-9903.

Alliance

by Shirley Dickens

First, the Alliance wishes to THANK everyone who came, bought or gave or helped in any way for the most lucrative Christmas sale ever. We had plenty of

room this time which helped, also you all are very generous in giving us things to sell and for paying generously for things you buy. We deeply appreciate each of you. Because of you all, the Alliance made \$1,227.00 to use for the Fellowship.

We will purchase our usual poinsettias for the staff at the Fellowship and encourage them to take them home with them to enjoy and we also will gift Bill Stilling (Pioneer home) with one. Christmas cards to be sent to John Zappa and Gene Kulawik from the Alliance.

We could use some new members in the Alliance and would love to answer questions about what we do. Essentially we support AUUF financially and with people power in any project we can. Our money earned from things like the Christmas sale and an annual rummage sale bring in revenue which we get to keep in our separate account and spend where we get to vote to decide how to spend (all for the good of the Fellowship). This is a wonderful volunteer opportunity for someone looking to become part of the church community and wants to do a good deed. Come join us. We meet next January 11th at 12:30, second Sunday of the month. Call Shirley for more information, 563-4499.

Alternative Gift Fair Update

HO HO HO! Thank you to all who participated in the Alternative Gift Shop this year and shared so much with our community and the world. Donations totaled over \$4,200, helping to brighten this season for many. These gifts will provide help in the form of books and literacy assessments, trained facilitators for civic discourse, diapers and groceries, water quality monitoring, suicide prevention outreach, birth control, school shoes, and support to Ebola health workers. We are grateful for your generosity. – The A.G.S. Committee

Recycling Plastics: Our next recycling pickup is Sunday March 15. 5s only, some examples are yogurt and cottage cheese containers.

Engage With Climate Change

by Bill Hall

Join a group of your fellow AUUF members who have been discussing what might be done on climate change. Originally organized by Stan Fischer, the group has been meeting monthly since September. It has evolved into a federated or distributed association of individuals that will:

- sponsor monthly mini-forums with speakers from climate action organizations around the state.
- coordinate the formation of interest action groups around climate change issues.
- host (at the mini-forums) letter writing and petition signing tables on the issue of the month.
- report to the AUUF congregation at the Sunday Forums on activities, issues, and a recommended climate issue reading for the month.

This is an evolving opportunity that can only be successful with your participation. For information on future Climate Change mini-forums and how you can be involved, please send an email to Marie Rozak at marierozak@hotmail.com or Bill Hall at arlothall@gmail.com. Climate Change Group meets Sunday, 1/11/15 from 12:30-2:30pm in the Sanctuary

Hungry Book Club News

by Shirley Dickens

We did not formally meet as a book discussion group in December, but instead met at a local cafe and had a Holiday Lunch together (12 of us). If we brought a book to give away, we got to draw numbers and select a book, which is always fun. We will meet January 13th, second Tuesday, at 2 PM back at Pioneer home, 3rd floor to discuss a very interesting coming of age story, "City of Thieves" by David Benioff (in paperback). It was published in 2008 and was easy to find, library, TitleWave, Barnes and Noble, Amazon.com. I found it fascinating.

You don't have to have read it, but you will probably enjoy the conversation more if you did. All who love good books and good writing are welcome. We bring a healthy snack to share, Pioneer home provides coffee, Debbie furnishes the tea bags and Pioneer home shares their hot water. For more information, call Shirley.

RE Notes January 2015 Happy New Year!

"We are pleased to inform you that you have been accepted at Hogwarts UU School of Wisdom and Wizardry. Our 2015 School of Wisdom and Wizardry will commence on January 11th and continue for 7 weeks until February 22nd."

The Owls went out on Sunday delivering scrolls of acceptance into our UU School, to the children at AUUF. If you didn't get yours check the Info Spot downstairs at the Fellowship. We will be learning our UU Principles Hogwarts style with classes in topics from Charms to Flying (and learning to play Quidditch) to Care of Magical Creatures and Defense Against the Dark Arts. Our Elementary age children will join their house groups in exploring interesting topics each week. Adult volunteer helpers are welcome to join us for a day and experience a bit of magic yourself! Brighten up the dark winter days and join us each Sunday at the 11:00 service to find that spark of magic hidden within each of us!

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

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

Tootles,
Rosene Beachy, DLRE (aka Professor Dumbledora)

Our Program

December 28 - There will be no RE classes but childcare will be available

January 4— Cross Age Kwaanza celebration downstairs

January 17th Youth Fundraiser! Childcare @the Fellowship! 6-9 pm Drop your kids for the fun and you have a bit of time! Snacks provided. Call Charlotte Mitchell to register and for information. 231-7034. Kristi Taylor Bond is adult contact.

January 11 – February 22nd children will be in multi age groups to participate in *Hogwarts UU School of Wisdom and Wizardry* classes. The *Sorting Hat* will decide the groups at our Kick off on January 11th. 3 & 4 year olds will be in their regular class except by special request from parents to participate in Hogwarts.

January 18th – 7 – 8:30 p.m. K-1 OWL (Our Whole Lives Sexuality curriculum) Parent Information Night!

January 25th 1 – 3:00, K-1 OWL class will Kick off this month with an 8 week session. These interactive classes will help parents educate their child about birth, babies, safe and healthy bodies and families through songs, stories and activities. Sign up early, space limited.

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 – Container)** during the holiday season and until January 19th when you will bring them back to the Fellowship for our Ingathering.

Service Projects - Congratulations to the **Fire Keepers** who earned over \$269 at their Soup Sunday in December! They have chosen to donate the funds raised to Clare House for blankets. Thanks to all the wonderful Soup Makers. **Next Soup Sunday** is January 25, organized by the Star Gazers class (5th-6th graders)

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 for AWAIC!

...to our wonderful teachers who enthusiastically provide interesting and inspiring classes each Sunday morning!

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

... to our OWL teachers, Laura Greffinius and Rob LeFebvre, Ken Winterberger, Katherine Huffman, Teresa Zimmer and Shannon Bell for providing accurate, informative and fun sessions and fieldtrips relating to Human Sexuality issues.

Youth News!

This last fall we had an exciting schedule of youth worship that kicked off the first ever AlasCon at Fall Frolic. Later in the season, the youth led an engaging worship about the topic of increasing inclusivity--look for it on the web if you missed. We had phenomenal guest speakers, including Drew Phoenix, and our own Shirley Dickens and Mary Ann Eininger!

The YRUU youth are looking forward to a lock-in to plan their 2nd semester. Some highlights include:

- We are planning on attending Spring Youth Con (I did say planning--we have a member on the YES! Team)
- We are looking forward to sending a youth contingent to general assembly in Portland, Oregon.
- We have two youth attending chaplain's training in the spring.
- We have many youth applying to participate in Youth For Environmental Action, a caucus that studies issues and lobbies the Legislature in Juneau.
- Stay tuned for date nights and child care at the fellowship. (*see details for Jan 17th above*).

Always, beat the cold and dark with java, the water of life, served by our cheerful world makers! Don't hesitate to contact me with any thoughts or questions, 907 230-6915 or auufcyp@gmail.com, Eric McCoy



Beyond Greeters, What We All Can Do to Welcome Newcomers

As we settle into our new space we have a number of visitors and newcomers.

We all have a role in helping everyone feel welcome. Some ways to help:

Conversation Starters (to break the ice)

- "Hi! I'm _____. I don't think I've met you before. Is this your first time here?"
- "What brings you here today?"
- "Why did you select a Unitarian-Universalist congregation to visit?"

Welcoming Questions (to better introduce newcomers to others)

- "Have you lived here long?" (where do you hail from?)
- "What do you do the rest of the week?"
- "Are there any questions I can answer for you?"
- "Tell me about yourself." (Don't forget to share something of yourself.)

Wear your nametag. It makes it easier to get to know people.

Get to know them a bit, then introduce them to someone else, perhaps with something in common.

Lead them to the welcome table to get a newsletter

Walk them to the coffee table and pour them a cup.

Take them on a tour of the building.

Welcome them to sit with you.

If they ask you a question you can't answer, say, "I don't know the answer to that, but perhaps _____ does. Let me introduce you."

Adult Programs – Winter 2015

ONGOING INTEREST GROUPS

Freethinkers at AUUF – Gathers Fridays at noon in the social room at the new fellowship. Meets from 12:30 – 1:30. Contact George Bryson for More information gfbryson@gmail.com; 250-5140.

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

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

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

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Up For Discussion A 4 week discussion series focusing on the theme, “finding meaning”, led by Gary Holthaus. First Thursdays - 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Some copies of each book will be available from Gary's office the month prior to each discussion.

The Fellowship Address Book will be published after the holidays. Please check your information in the social room. Kindly make corrections or initial if all correct. Please fill out a yellow card if you wish to be added. Concerns contact Amy auuf@gci.net or 248-3737 x3.

About our Speakers and Services (see back page)

Gary Holthaus is AUUF's called minister.

David Gottstein is President & Chief Investment Officer of Dynamic Capital Management. He has a B.S. in economics and finance from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School with postgraduate work in Food Marketing Management at the University of Southern California. Returning home in 1978 he began a ten year career as a procurement, supply chain and logistics manager. He took two sabbaticals during that time period in order to pursue other interests. 1981 he was an aide to the then Senate President of the Alaska State Legislature. And in 1984 he started his career on Wall Street as an intern at both Furman Selz of New York, and then at the Frank Russell Company of Tacoma, Washington. Returning to the Carr-Gottstein Company, he served as a senior procurement executive and then finally as the Director of Distribution. For the last 20 years he has been a Registered Investment Adviser. He is also the CEO of Efficient Tax LLC, the distributor of the country's leading financial services website catering to the professional taxable investment community.

Richard Gay has had a long religious and educational career. He served as the chaplain of Alaska Methodist University at the time of it's founding in 1959, and he served as the minister of the Saint John's Methodist Church. He served as the minister for the AUUF from 1975 to 1986. Dick is AUUF's first "Minister Emeritus". He has returned to the Fellowship on numerous occasions as an invited speaker.

Mead Treadwell is a Graduate of Yale and has an MBA from Harvard. He was appointed to the U.S. Arctic Research Commission in 2001 and elevated to Chairman in 2006. He served as Alaska's Lt .Governor from 2010 to 2014.

Mark Foster is currently CFO of the Anchorage School District. Previous consulting work included: State of Alaska Health Care Commission - Analysis of the Affordable Care Act on Alaska UAA ISER - Alaska Health Care Market Overviews (2006, 2011) Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association - Analysis of the Affordable Care Act on Alaska Anchorage School District - Long range K-12 funding opportunities and challenges Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium - Telemedicine business models Centers for Disease Control (Alaska Office) - Cost/Benefit of Rural Sanitation Denali Commission - Cost of rural infrastructure (including clinics and hospitals) Kuukpik Corporation, Chevron, Anchorage Municipal Light & Power, Alaska Natural Gas Development Corporation, UAA ISER, Denali Commission, UAF Energy Options, AEA/AIDEA - Alaska Energy Options, Regulatory Commission of Alaska - Pipeline and utility policy and rate cases.

Payment in Lieu of Taxes, "PILOT"

On December 2nd AUUF presented its annual PILOT check to the Municipal Assembly. Below is an excerpt of the presentation:

"We, the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, value the future of our grandchildren too much not to help pay for the upkeep of our city today. Therefore, we are pleased to present our voluntary payment in lieu of taxes, as we have done for most of the more than 50 years that we have been a church in the Municipality of Anchorage. We present this PILOT in support of the costs of city maintenance, road plowing, police protection, and education in our community. Belief and participation in the democratic process is one of the seven principals we strive for, and we strengthen our commitment to it by recognizing the financial stake every person has in maintaining a civilized society. "We the people" enjoy the benefits, and will not refuse the burden, of our local government.

Like many families in Anchorage, our budget at AUUF is tight. We cannot fund all of the worthy programs we envision to make not only our congregation, but also our community a better and more wholesome place to live. Also, as you may or may not know, we moved this year. More than twenty years ago we moved from our little Log Cabin church on the park strip to a bigger facility nestled between Turnagain and Spenard. Almost ten years ago we realized we were outgrowing our lovely little blue home, and began an extended process of planning, and searching, and trying to figure out how to move to yet a larger facility. This fall we moved to an old church building in Airport Heights, another old Anchorage neighborhood....

In making this payment in lieu of taxes, we honor the founders of AUUF by continuing their commitment to share in the costs of caring for our beautiful city just as we share in the benefit of living in this incomparable place. We do this also in affirmation of the separation of church and state that safeguards religious freedom for all in our nation.

In closing we hope that each of you will accept our humble gratitude for your participation in the democratic process as elected officials; thank you to the Assembly and to the Mayor for your work in sustaining our Municipality and its people in peace and equity."

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Information

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

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

Staff Phones and Email

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

Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration, 248-3737, x 4

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

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

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

Contacts for AUUF Board of Directors and Committee Contacts are available on the Website

AUUF Board of Directors

Sam Cason, President; Erik Hill, Secretary; Carma Reed, Treasurer; Helen Nienhueser, Vice President; Marty Freeman; Rod McCoy; Mindy Willis

AUUF Committee Chairs/Other Contact Persons

4As Lunches – Robin Hill

Alliance – Shirley Dickens

Building and Grounds - Bruce Roberts

Children and Youth RE – Deena Mitchell

Committee on Shared Ministry – Marty Herriott

Denominational Affairs – Mary Richards

Endowment – John Blaine

Forum Planning-Mindy Willis, Helen Nienhueser

Finance – Carma Reed

Green Sanctuary –Suzie Kobierowski

Lay Chaplain Committee – Mary Ann Eininger

Nominating – Ron Devon/Stephanie Wheeler

Pastoral Pantry – Amanda Cash

Safe Congregation – Tom Stenson

Social Justice Committee – Dennis Arashiro

Small Groups – Susan Orlansky

Stewardship – Judy Engh

UUSC Coordinator – Dennis Arashiro

Welcoming Committee – Denise Martin

Whalecoast – Denise Martin

Worship Associates –

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AUUF SERVICES – Late December 2014- January 2015

Sunday, Dec. 28

9 am Ron Spatz, "The Alaska Quarterly Review –
Its History and Future"

11 am Ruth Greenwood, "What if Every
Day Was New Year's?"

Sunday, Jan. 4

9 am Mark Foster,
"Challenge of High Medical Costs"

11 am Gary Holthaus, "Conversation With a King"

8 pm Vespers, social hour at 7

Sunday, Jan. 11

9 am David Gottstein
"National, State, & Market Economics"

11 am Gary Holthaus

Sunday, Jan. 18

9 am Dick Gay,
"Questions I Would Like to Ask Dick Gay"

11 am Gary Holthaus

Sunday, Jan. 25

9 am Mead Treadwell,
"Alaska and the Law of the Sea"

11 am Panel, "UU Therapy"

Regular Tuesday Evening Services

7 pm December 30, January 6, 13, 20, 27

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- January 2015

Sundays 9 am ~ Childcare.

Sunday 11 am ~ Classes for toddlers through high school

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February

2015

Gary Holthaus, Minister	1	Gary Holthaus, Minister
January 2015 Board Report	2	
Stewardship	2	The days are getting noticeably longer with Alaskan speed these days--
Climate Change Concert	4	nearly 4.5 minutes per day as I write this. I'm glad; the increasing light
Social Justice	5	seems to match the increase in AUUF activities for children and adults as
Alliance	5	we ride out this mild winter and look forward to spring.
Ripples in the Larger Pond	6	February is an especially important month for our Fellowship. Our
Birthdays	6	Stewardship Campaign will give us all a role to play in celebrating our
Choir Schedule	6	AUUF's offerings to us: a healthy religious exploration program that
Adult Programs	7	encourages our children and youth to grow into thinking, responsible
Hungry Book Club	7	adults; participation in the creation of a caring community, intellectual
RE Notes	8	stimulation, opportunities to work for social justice, the joy of good music,
Youth	9	good fellowship, and good food as we break bread together: a great place
About February Speakers	9	to feed the mind and warm the heart. One of the pleasures of
Contact Information	9	participating in AUUF lies in knowing your pledges support a project
February Services	10	working hard not only to serve our congregation but our larger Anchorage
		community and the world beyond.
		In February we will complete training for our first group of lay chaplains.
		The training will be an ongoing process for a time so if you have an
		inclination to take part of the creation of a group who can respond to our
		members or friends who need someone to talk with, let us know; we have
		room for a couple more recruits. This is another important element in our
		AUUF ministry of pastoral care. The Committee on Shared Ministry
		initiated this program, and Mary Ann Eininger and I are co-chairs. The
		Reverend Ruth Greenwood and Shirley Dickens have been serving as
		consultants. This is really an exciting expansion of our effort to better
		serve our congregation.
		Last week fifteen of us went together to see "Selma" and about half the
		group was able to meet afterward at Denny's to talk about it. Despite the
		sober nature of the film, folks all agreed it was great to see and good to
		have the chance to talk about it too.
		<i>Sure look forward to seeing you at AUUF!</i> Gary 433-9311
		Save the Date –<u>First Ever AUUF Summer Camp!!!</u>
		As you start making summer plans for your K – 6 th grader, mark your
		calendar for our first ever AUUF summer camp. During the week of July 27
		– 31, this year's "Peace Camp" will be full of UU summer fun with friends!
		More details and registration information to come...



January 2014 Board Report

Sam Cason, President

What a busy place! The hum of conversations has been quite lively after services all month, but it kicked up another notch on MLK Sunday. We may have the only minister in town that can give first person accounts of actually meeting Martin Luther King Jr. (twice) – it was a reminder of how close the events of the civil rights movement still are, and of the work towards social justice that remains to be done. Add brand new membership directories to the post-service buzz, and it's practically a party! Thanks to Amy and to all who helped.

At the January Board meeting we tackled some new questions, and continued plugging away at some that we have been working on for a while. As was expected, we are a little behind in our budget for the year. But because we have been having such a mild winter, our heating bill hasn't reached the level we had anticipated, and the need for snow removal just hasn't been there (dang it!) The upshot is that we still need to tighten and upgrade, but our utilities haven't killed us yet. We are in good enough shape that the proposal to put fifty thousand dollars of the Louise Gallop bequest into the endowment fund passed unanimously. There is continued interest in putting more of her bequest into the endowment, but in an abundance of caution, further consideration has been delayed until we have more experience in the building.

We also had preliminary discussions on the FY 2016 budget process. The Stewardship Committee has been recruiting to perform a comprehensive face-to-face canvass. A training session for canvassers will be held on January 25, and the all-members canvass will kick off shortly thereafter. You can expect to receive a call, and when you do, please take a few moments to share not only your financial resources, but also your thoughts on what the Fellowship means, should do, and can do – and don't forget to share what YOU want to do. One of my favorite "UU-isms," that I picked up downstairs teaching RE, is that "because I cannot do everything, I will not do nothing." Personally, I can't think of a better bunch to do something with. After Stewardship and a budget, we will take up and consider our mid-term financial goals beginning with a congregational "Next Steps Weekend" on April 25-26, when our consultant from UUA, Bill Clontz is planning a visit. The next weekend, May 3rd will be our Annual business meeting at which we will elect two new board members and adopt our annual budget.

In other business, we had a report from the Safer Congregation Committee that the policy we adopted in December is already in use, and a new agreement has been made. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to seek out Gary, Tom Stenson, or Mary Ann Eininger. I am very proud to say that what a welcoming community with compassion and caution can accomplish with open eyes is good for all involved. We reviewed the first paragraphs of a Board financial policy, and are looking for possible candidates to serve on the currently quiescent Human Resources committee. Also the interior design committee is examining fabrics so that we can order enough new chairs that the choir and people in the back won't have to sit on plastic folding chairs.

On a slightly different note, AFACT is gathering reactions on whether there is broad based support in our organization to advocate for expanding Medicaid eligibility in Alaska under the current Federal program. If you have an opinion on the question of whether we should support such a campaign, please let Ron Devon and/or Marie Rozak hear from you.

Our next Board meeting will be February 11 at 6:15.

Meet 1:1 with fellow AUUFers in February!

We're excited to announce the stewardship (pledge) drive will be an every member canvass this year. This means that one of our many stewardship ambassadors will call you to set up a time to meet with you for about an hour. This is really important as it gives each of us time to talk about our hopes and dreams for AUUF and to think about how each of us can support its mission. Please plan to set aside one hour in February to meet with a volunteer when they call. If you would like to be one of the ambassadors - even if you just joined - call Judy Engh at 345-8851. Thank you all so much for making our Fellowship great!!

Get your copy of the 2015 Fellowship address book on Sunday. Contact Amy in the office if you need to make other arrangements for your copy.

Fantastic Kick-off Canvass Training Starts Pledge Drive at \$70,000!

Eighteen of our thirty canvassers met January 25th and shared powerful personal stories of the importance of AUUF in their lives. The energy and excitement about the present and future of AUUF was contagious. Each person seriously considered their commitment to AUUF both financially and otherwise as they were asked to make their own pledge before they start the canvass on February 8th.

Please welcome these committed volunteers into your homes or out for coffee, etc. so that you can share with them your own UU stories and hopes and dreams for our future. Let's keep this amazing energy going! The majority of the visits will be planned for Feb 8-22. For those folks out of town, we'll be happy to meet with you when you return!

Thank you to Marty Freeman, Rod McCoy, Mindy Willis, Ken Winterberger, Cee Lewars, Erik Hill, Kate Lehn, Amanda Mack, Doug Eby, Marilyn Lee, Carma Reed, George Donart, Deena Mitchell, Shirley Dickens, Kalen Saxton, Elayne Hunter, Marie Rozak, Ron Rozak, Helen Nienhueser, Denise Martin, Helen Peters, Susan Orlansky, Tom Stenson, Bruce Roberts, Cindy Kinard, Wray Kinard, Mary Ann Eininger, Dennis Arashiro, Gwen Perry-Crawford, Sam Cason. My apologies if I missed anyone! A special thank you to Shirley Dickens, Kalen Saxton, Deena Mitchell, Wray Kinard, and John Blaine for recruiting these folks and for helping so much with the dinner!

AUUF Money 101:

Capital? Operating? Endowment? Bequests? Planned Giving? Stocks? Where is my money going?

In case you are confused about all the different funds we have been talking about, here is some information to try to help:

Our annual budget (~\$300,000) that we vote on every year is called our **Operating or Annual Fund**. This includes all the staff, program, utility, outreach expenses... basically anything that happens every year. All the pledges go to this fund. The auction and Whale Coast proceeds go to this fund. Half of the Sunday offering plate goes to this while the other half goes to the social justice program of the month.

The **Capital Fund** is designated for major improvements that are not annual expenses. This includes buying a new building, making one time improvements, etc. We have had a capital fund for years in anticipation for buying a new building. We have now used most of it and will need to replenish it for any new major expense. This is generally done with a capital campaign. *(Save the date: Capital Drive Next Steps Weekend April 25-26 with UUA Stewardship Consultant)*

The **Endowment Fund** is a completely separate fund overseen by the Endowment Committee and the funds are currently managed by UUA. This is set up for the long term vision of the congregation. Only interest/growth can be used from this (once it reaches \$250,000). That money is planned to be used for new programs or things outside of the annual budget.

Donating Stocks: AUUF has a stock account in case you are interested in maximizing tax benefits by donating appreciated stock. You can direct it to any of the above 3 types of Funds by letting us know your preference. Some members have already done this for the Capital Fund.

Bequests: Bequests are gifts that are given from a person's will. If you have AUUF in your will and have a preference for which fund you'd like your gift to go to, please notify the office. Many times people direct their gifts to the Endowment Fund, but some people may not have a preference or would like it to go to something specific.

Planned/Legacy Gifts: These could be bequests, but this is a more general term for gifts intended to preserve the ongoing mission of AUUF. It could be through a will, or through naming AUUF as a beneficiary on a retirement vehicle or life insurance policy or some type of annuity. It is never too early to plan for these types of gifts and sometimes it just takes a simple signature to make a substantial gift. For more information about this, contact Wray Kinard, Judy Eng, or John Blaine. The UUA website has good information about this as well at <https://www.uua.org/giving/planned/index.shtml>.

"What Do We Do When the Lifeboats are Burning?"

*Songs and Stories
about Climate, Community and Courage*

Singer & Songwriter

**Libby
Roderick**

*"One of the most compassionate and caring
songwriters recording today" – Dirty Linen*



Nature Writer

**Kathleen
Dean Moore**

*"A writer whose senses, heart, generosity,
and intellect open in every direction" – Jane Hirshfield*

IN CONCERT & CONVERSATION

Sunday, February 22 2^{p.m.}

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 2824 E. 18th
248-3737 (18th & Sunrise, Airport Heights)**

\$20 suggested donation

50% of proceeds go to Alaskan Climate organizations

co-sponsors: UU Fellowship; 49 Writers; UAA Office of Sustainability

Social Justice Committee

By Dennis Arashiro

*"Give a man a proverb and he'll muse for a moment.
Teach a man to find the verb in every proverb and he'll walk in wisdom for a lifetime."
- Cameron Semens*

Thought matters, but only as a prelude to action. The Social Justice Committee works to live up to that statement. And that's just a prelude to committing our entire Fellowship to action. And you've continually answered the call to action by putting your dollars into the Half Portion for Social Action and volunteering for Project Homeless Connect, Food Bank of Alaska, Airport Heights Elementary School tutoring, the 2012 campaign for full human rights and more.

Because results of our actions are what matter most, our actions must be as timely and effective as possible. That's where the Social Justice Committee needs your help. Please let us know when timely and effective action is needed from the Fellowship to realize social justice. Please share what you know and what action you propose when we meet at **12:30 PM on Sunday, January 25, 2015, in Gary's office at the Fellowship**. If you cannot attend, call or email me with what you wish to share with the committee. Dennis Arashiro at 27-7377 or elvischannel@gci.net.

Half Portions for Social Action: Brother Francis Shelter

By Dennis Arashiro

Jeanne Fischer made a difference. As a member of the Board of Directors of Brother Francis Shelter and concerned member of the Fellowship, she spoke to the Social Justice Committee of the financial challenges of that long running program. While we focus on the new and developing shelters to address the unmet needs of the homeless, we must not forget what existing programs do every day.

Brother Francis Shelter is the key emergency shelter for the homeless, providing 93,756 nights of stay for 3549 men and women in fiscal 2014. Yet, it is more than that. When many think of feeding our homeless neighbors, only Bean's Cafe comes to mind, not realizing that Bean's Cafe only serves breakfast and lunch. The Brother Francis Shelter provides evening meals and meals outside of regular times for those with work and appointment schedule problems. Its clothing room gave assistance 11,143 times for those in need. To meet these continuing needs, the Social Justice Committee designates Brother Francis Shelter as the February recipient of the Half Portion for Social Action.

Alliance

by Shirley Dickens

The Alliance met with 5 members and two NEW people who we were so happy to welcome. Receipts were turned in for poinsettias purchased for staff at Christmas. New business consisted in voting to pay the AUUF general fund \$2,000.00 to go for the new song books (already purchased) but now that money is freed up to buy more chairs (or whatever the Board decides to do with it.) This passed unanimously and a check will be sent to the Board treasurer. A book plate will be put in each of the 100 songbooks saying donated by the Alliance.

We also set a date for the annual spring rummage sale (May 23rd, Saturday from 8 AM to 4 PM. Of course, we will need lots of good stuff AND lots of energy from young and old and in between to carry it off. So save some stuff for us as you do your spring cleaning. Also, we are so hoping some of you younger, stronger people will help us set up and clean up, always hard for us elderlies. But you all have been so good to us Alliance ladies that we know we can trust each other, so I live in hope.

We will consider buying a small plaque for each of our minister's pictures with their name and years they served as minister at our next meeting, have some investigating to do first as far as size, where to place them (on frame or on wall just below picture, etc).

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Sympathy to Diane and Don McIntyre on the loss of Diane's father in late December. We are glad you both could be there with family to say goodbye.

Congratulations to new parents on the birth of new babies, Amanda Cash and her husband, Cy Two Elk. Amanda delivered a hearty baby boy named Town (to join brother Cash and sister Cedar) born Dec. 27th. Congratulations also to Helen Peters' son and daughter-in-law (Bill and Liz), who live here in Anchorage on the birth of a daughter, Rose Elizabeth Peters, born Dec. 30th.

It was wonderful to see so many grown up children of our congregation home for the holidays: Ken and Paula Winterberger's two daughters, Shea and Bryn; Doug and Rosene Eby's three adult children, Brendon, Eryn and Delana; Kathy, Sheri and Michael's three adult children, Sage, Bonnie and Ryan; and Bob Curtis Johnson's daughter, Mckenzie....to name a few that I saw Christmas Eve during our service.

Gratitude that Gary (our minister) made it back to Mayo Clinic before his wife Loren, who was recovering from an operation on her shoulder, had to go back into surgery for an emergency operation. Delighted to report they both made it back to Anchorage where Loren stayed for a bit. Back in Minnesota Loren's healing continues well. Thankful that Gary's daughter had lots of air miles and got her dad a first class ticket.

Sympathy to Dennis Arashiro on the loss of his dear mother who died in mid January. She was a Hospice patient for a long time. There was a service Jan. 23 at Evergreen Memorial and all were welcome.

Busy, Busy, Busy! Upstairs and downstairs, so much going on, kick off for Stewardship committee and training volunteers who will personally "canvas" individuals, Hogwarts School of Wisdom and Wizardry (It's so much fun and I'm getting to help as one of the Professors), new committee of Pastoral Care and training sessions, Whew, a very interesting time in the life of the Fellowship.

I know there are many of us who are facing health problems, worries about our loved ones, life changing events and trying hard to coop, but know that you are not alone, that your church community cares about you and yours, that we are almost always stronger than we think we are. Life has it's "sack of rocks" for each of us to carry and guess what, "No one gets out of here alive". So let us make the best of it, help when and where we can and care for each other as we are able. In other words, "HANG IN THERE".

PS: If you are a Chalice Lighter for UU Association, please send your check to PNWD because this Fellowship is the recipient of the Spring Chalice drive and since we need \$33,000 to redo our heating system and bring it up to Green Sanctuary standards, be generous with your amount.

Got Miles? We can use the donation of miles to defray travel costs for GA (Portland June 24-28) and YouthCon. 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.

February Birthdays, Best Wishes!

Birthdays are not published in the online version.

Choir Schedule

Saturday, January 31st: 10:30-12pm

Saturday, February 7th: 10:30-12pm

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

Saturday, February 14th: 10:30-12pm

Saturday, February 21st: 10:30-12pm

Sunday, February 22nd: 9:45-10:30am

Saturday, February 28th: 10:30-12pm

Recycling Plastics: Our next recycling pickup is Sunday March 15. 5s only, some examples are yogurt and cottage cheese containers.

Friendly Recycling Tip: Make your own reusable bags for buying bulk items.

Adult Programs – Winter 2015

ONGOING INTEREST GROUPS

Freethinkers at AUUF – Gathers Fridays at noon in the social room at the new fellowship. Meets from 12:30 – 1:30. Contact George Bryson for More information gfbryson@gmail.com; 250-5140.

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

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

Small Group Ministry – Connect to UU's on a deeper level. Small groups are a group of people who commit to meeting weekly or biweekly for a semester to discuss themes chosen by the group using a "Small Group" format.. Organized by Susan Orlansky on a request basis for the 2nd half of the year. Call Susan, 248-1141 if you would like to participate in a group.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Mindfulness Video/Discussion Series – Sunday afternoons after the 11:00 service. 12:30 –1:30 in the Teen Room. Facilitated by Helen Peters and Mary Ann Eininger.

Up For Discussion - You still have time to find some meaning or at least talk about it! Join in the last 2 discussion evenings of the book "Man's Search for Ultimate Meaning" by Viktor E. Frankl. Thursdays - 6:30 – 8:00 pm, February 12, & March 5th

Adult Discussion of the book "Being Mortal" by Atul Gawande 12:30 – 2:00 after the 11:00 Service on March 15. Bring a dish to share for the Immortal Potluck!

Finding Your Way Into Fellowship (2 sessions)An introduction to UU History, UU Thought and UU Engagement led by Gary Holthaus. Wednesday, April 15 & Thursday, April 23, 6:30 – 8:00.

Hungry Book Club News

by Shirley Dickens

Seven of us book lovers met Tuesday, January 13th to discuss City of Thieves, the very grim coming of age story about World War 2 in Russia under siege. Most of us were glad to know the information, but parts of it were brutal. We have chosen "The Cruellest Miles, the Heroic Story of Dogs and Men in a Race Against an Epidemic" by Gay Salisbury. And while we were choosing, we chose a book for March too. It's called "Being Mortal" by Atul Gawande, both highly recommended. Should be easy to find for both of these books as they have been around awhile, Barnes and Nobel, the Library, Tital Wave, Amazon.com. etc.

We will meet again February 10th at 2 PM at the Pioneer Home on the 3rd floor. We are an open book club to all lovers of good books, even if you haven't read the selection of the month. Come and join us, We each try to bring a little snack to share, Pioneer home furnishes the tea and coffee.

CYRE Sponsored Discussion

What do RE families and others think about allowing video games, including those with violent content, at the Fellowship and Fellowship functions like Fall Frolic and other sponsored events? How do RE families feel about allowing electronics downstairs? If you are interested in these questions, please attend a CYRE sponsored discussion on March first after the service.

Feb. 8th Luncheon for Newer Members

If you've joined AUUF in the past couple of years, please join us right after the service February 8th for a lunch sponsored by the Stewardship Committee. We want to socialize with you and hear about your experiences and dreams for AUUF. As space is limited, please RSVP to Kalen Saxton or Judy Engh if you can come. We look forward to seeing you there!

R.E. Notes for February 2015

OUR PROGRAM - February 1, 8, 15, 22

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

Early Birds – Jr and Sr Youth –Topics of youth interest

11:00 Service – Hogwarts classes will continue through February for K – 6th grade.

Preschool and Jr/Sr High Youth in age/grade classes

Jr Youth will be doing church visits with their curriculum – “Neighboring faiths”.

12:30 – K-1 OWL CLASS (OUR WHOLE LIVES)

Save the Date –

First Ever AUUF Summer Camp!!!

As you start making summer plans for your K – 6th grader, mark your calendar for our first ever AUUF summer camp. During the week of July 27 – 31, this year’s “Peace Camp” will be full of UU summer fun with friends! More details and registration information to come, but feel free to contact Rosene (RBeachy@AlaskaLife.net) for details, or to put your child’s name on the list.

COMING ACTIVITIES

MYSTERY PALS RETURN IN March—SIGN UP IN February

Do you remember how much fun it was the last time we had AUUF Mystery Pals?

Mystery Pals Month will run from March 22 to April 19, 12:30 pm

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

CYRE will start circulating the sign-up sheets for the adults in February and you can join any time before March 8th. We need about 40-50 (or more!) wonderful adults to pair up with our many excited children.

Parents of participating children will be matched with children other than their own, and “Grandparents” are especially urged to participate! We’ll match the adults to the children, then on March 15 or 22nd each participating adult will find out who their Pal is and be given the brief information sheet the child completed. There will be a set of mailboxes and a bulletin board set up so notes can be secretly passed between Pals Each Week. You might choose to pass poems, cool pictures, cards, stickers, drawings, coloring pages, or—use your imagination and be creative! (Just please limit items to less than a couple of dollars.) It will conclude at the big Revealing party on April 19th when the Pals are revealed and introduced to one another.

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

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

Need more info?? Contact either Susie (762-4622 skobierowski@yahoo.com) or Deena (847-997-8357 deenamitchell@hotmail.com)

RE SOCIAL JUSTICE

Guest at your Table - If you forgot to return your Guest at Your Table box, you can still drop them in the RE office downstairs until March 1. The money will be counted and added to the Half portion plate and sent to UUSC. Thanks everyone for your participation in this valuable and beneficial program.

Hogwarts kids will be collecting Pennies for Peace each week. Help us fill our caldron!

Next Soup Sundays – February 22 will be organized by the YRUU group.

Seeking Buddy Families! We have several families with children who are brand new to our Fellowship, 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 David Mack at DRolandMack@gmail.com, or Rosene Beachy at rbeachy@alaskalife.net. Please also let us know if you are new, have not yet been paired with a buddy family, and would like to be.

Our next CYRE Buddy Tea (actually more of a lunch) will be Sunday, February 15, from 12:30 – 1:30 pm. If you are new to the Fellowship, are currently a buddy pair, 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.

Youth News

Over the past two years, our YRUU group has been having a larger say in the curriculum that they experience. Now they plan most of their themes and topics and suggest most guest speakers themselves. This spring our YRUU team designed curriculum around two elements—how does a YRUU youth fit in a variety of contexts, and what commonalities do their beliefs share with a broad scope of other religions and faiths?

If you 25,000 Alaska Airlines miles, and would like to sponsor a youth to either the Youth CON or General Assembly, please let me know! We also do accept money donations.

Got a cool project? Information to be passed along? An invitation to the youth? Don't hesitate to contact me for any reason.

Eric McCoy

Youth Topics

2/1 UU and Personal Relationships

2/8 Guest Speaker: Chelsea from AFACT

2/15 UU and Family

2/22 SOUP SUNDAY!

3/1 UU and School

...

5/1-3 Youth CON!

...

6/24-28 General Assembly!

About our Speakers and Services (see back page)

Gary Holthaus is AUUF's called minister.

Rick Mystrom is known to all of us as a former Anchorage Mayor. Rick will be speaking about his 50 year history of living with diabetes and about his latest book "What Should I Eat? Solve Diabetes, Lose Weight, and Live Healthy".

Steve Johnson: Professor Johnson has a Masters Degree in rhetoric and argumentation from Colorado State University. He has directed the UAA Debate Team since 1996. The UAA Debate Team is rated 14th of 800 debate teams worldwide.

John Tichotsky Chief Economist & Audit Master

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Information

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

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

Staff Phones and Email

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Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration, 248-3737, x 4

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

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

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

Contacts for AUUF Board of Directors and Committee Contacts are available on the Website

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Anchorage, AK 99508-3303

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AUUF SERVICES –February 2015

Sunday, February 1

9 am Steve Johnson,
The UAA Debate Team and Critical Thinking
11 am Gary Holthaus
8 pm Vespers, social hour at 7

Sunday, Feb. 8

9 am Rick Mystrom, What Should I Eat?--Solve
Diabetes, Lose Weight, and Live Healthy
11 am Gary Holthaus

Sunday, Feb. 15

9 am 2/15 John Tichotsky
"The Future of Revenue for Alaska"
11 am Gary Holthaus

Sunday, Feb. 22

9 am Jean Mills,
"Water Justice through Fiber Arts"
11 am OWL in Flight, Our Whole Lives,
Katheryn Huffman

Regular Tuesday Evening Services

7 pm February 2, 9, 16, 23

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- February 2015

Sundays 9 am ~ Childcare.

Sunday 11 am ~ Classes for toddlers through high school

The LOG

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

March

2015

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Chalice Lighter Deadline!

March 9th!

If you are a Chalice Lighter for UU Association, please send your check to PNWD because this Fellowship is the recipient of the Spring Chalice drive and since we need \$33,000 to redo our heating system and bring it up to Green Sanctuary standards, be generous with your amount. Donations must be received by March 9 to be credited to our project.

Gary Holthaus, Minister

It doesn't seem possible. Only half an hour ago we moving into this place; 25 minutes ago we were just cranking up our fall programs and projects; 15 minutes ago we were still inventing the Christmas Eve program; 5 minutes ago we were prepares for our annual pledge drive, and now we've had two meetings getting ready for special Easter events (Three programs for Easter week, late afternoon on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday! The food, like my typos, comes to you at no extra cost). Further, the sun is telling us (not that it doesn't sometimes fool us) that spring is here.

Maybe it is just my age, but the speed of the seasons seems to be increasing – soon Spring will be practicing sprints in the parking lot and the others will be doing four minute miles along DeBarr. I'm writing this on February 17, and fully expect that spring will see its shadow and creep back under cover in a few days, but oh, well... Sunny and 45 degrees in February is always to be greeted with pleasure.

OK, so I'm giddy. It's just that, yes, it does feel like spring out there. And yes, we do have some special events coming along in the spring of a Fellowship year that has already been full of special events. Religious Exploration has new families downstairs. All three of our services, including our Tuesday night service, still provide a real variety of programs, meeting differing needs and desires. I love our work together because you, our board, our volunteers and our staff make this a joyous place to be.

See You Sunday!

Gary 433-9311

Pledge Forms are Requested by March First!

Committee on Shared Ministry

by Robin Hill

As the light returns and we inch closer to spring, it's time to collect the leaves of gratitude and hope from the tree in the south entry way and reflect on their messages. And what do they tell us? That we're *overwhelming* grateful for the clean, bright, roomy space that awaited us when we moved in last fall. And we're overwhelming grateful for those who worked so long and hard to make it happen: organizers, packers, cleaners, movers, painters, the Board of Directors and, with special gratitude, Bruce Roberts. "Hurrah for us all," read one leaf. "It seems as though we have been here for years with everything in its place," read another. "Thank you organizers!"

Several of you specifically mentioned more room for RE and a separate room for OWL. Others are happy to be able to walk to church and grateful for those who shared this building before us. "It already feels like home," wrote one of you. "I am excited to have a place where we can build our UU community and be a gathering place for the greater community," read another. Yes.

February 2014 Board Report

Sam Cason, President

At February Board meeting we updated projects, advanced some major policy work that has been underway for years, and took a first look at the FY'16 budget. The canvass process is underway and the stewardship committee has done a wonderful job of laying the groundwork for gathering pledges that will form the foundation of the budget. If you haven't yet, please get those pledge forms in!

One of the ongoing projects we have funded on a trial one-year basis is to have a person assisting Gary with coordination of various projects and undertakings. Over the past several years we have made progress toward evolving from a pastoral organization to having a programmatic structure; which creates new challenges. We discussed the structure of what we were considering and our current status with the organizational experts at PNWD who recommended we look outside our membership for what we have (at least for now) designated as an "outreach coordinator." The process of creating a bigger tent with mixing and intermingling communities, rather than remaining a single community crowded into a small tent is complicated, but we are hoping it will provide all of us even more opportunities to grow ourselves as well as to grow together.

The mild winter has meant we have not busted our old budget in our new place by as much as we had feared, but we still have had substantial cost increases, and that new boiler we are planning to install with the Chalice Lighter's grant will be a welcomed upgrade. Thanks to all who signed up to be a Chalice Lighter. The Safer Congregation Committee took our input and presented an updated Safety Policy. The Policy was referred to the administrator to be put in final form so at the March meeting we can approve a final version of the interim policy we adopted in December. This is an important project and we are proud of the work the SCC has done. The Board next took up the draft financial policies presented by the Finance Committee and worked through section 2200 "Liabilities." As the last item of old business, we had a first reading of an update to hiring policies in the Human Resources manual.

In new business, the board took a first look at the preliminary draft FY'16 budget. Even though when we made our move we acknowledged that we may have a lag in balancing the budget, we are striving to maintain our reserves. Between increases in pledges from members and new pledges from new members, we are hopeful that we can limit spending of our savings to one-time expenses. In other new business, the Board appointed Kalen Saxon to be our voting representative at Airport Heights Community Council meetings. At the Annual Meeting on May 4, we will be considering the recommended budget, selecting two new Board Members to replace Sam and Mindy who have "termed out" and a new person to serve on the Endowment Committee to replace Neal who moved to Oregon. Gary advised us that you may also be asked to consider adopting an "85 percent rule" congregational position on selected social topics, and receive some feedback on the state of the congregation.

Our next meeting was rescheduled in light of spring break travelers and will be held on March 4 at 6:15 pm.



Registration and housing options available starting March 1st!

Info link about GA: <http://www.uua.org/ga/index.shtml>.

Registration and financial aid: <http://www.uua.org/ga/registration/financialaid/15005.shtml>

A Summer Sabbatical!

Deena Mitchell, Chair Children and Youth RE

"Every now and then go away, have a little relaxation, for when you come back to your work, your judgment will be surer, since to remain constantly at work you lose power of judgment. Go some distance away because then the work appears smaller and more of it can be taken in at a glance, and lack of harmony or proportions is more readily seen." Leonardo da Vinci

The UUA recommends that a paid sabbatical become part of the contract for full time Ministers and Religious Educators, to allow them time to recharge after being involved with ministry on a daily (including evenings and weekends) basis. The UUA Sabbatical Handbook recommends offering one month of paid leave for every year of full time employment after five years of work.

The CYRE (Children & Youth Religious Exploration) committee proposed to the board that they consider a sabbatical for any full time DLRE (Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration) who works for us for five years. We proposed that Rosene Beachy be offered a paid sabbatical in conjunction with her current full time contract at AUUF. Rosene has worked half and ¾ time for AUUF for 12 years, and then full time the past 3 years. Under her guidance the RE program has grown and flourished, nurturing many children and youth on their search for truth and meaning.

The Board approved the proposal, and Rosene will take 3 months during mid-May through mid-August 2015. An additional 3-month sabbatical period was recommended for 2017. During the sabbatical we are looking for a paid part-time Summer DRE who will fill some of the functions that Rosene does so well, and the CYRE Committee will also take on more responsibilities. The Summer DRE will provide a Sunday morning presence, and teacher and program facilitation. On Sundays they will also monitor attendance, welcome and assist new visitors, and help organize and implement the summer Sunday program.

The goal of the sabbatical is for the DLRE to have the time and opportunity to renew her passion, increase her knowledge, and explore her vision for RE. We are sure she will use this time well to benefit herself and the future RE program.

A Next Steps Visit by the UUA is Coming in February

By Marty Freeman

We have requested a Next Steps Visit through the UUA Congregational Stewardship Network and are pleased to announce that Stewardship for Us Team Consultant Bill Clontz will be with us in April 25-26.

The purpose of the visit is to provide our congregation and our leaders with an objective eye in gathering information and identifying strengths, opportunities, and areas needing improvement. This visit will examine all areas of the congregation; Bill will meet with the staff, lay leaders, and volunteers throughout the visit.

We have been in correspondence with Bill for a while now and are providing him a great deal of background information on our congregation and our operations. Following the visit, Bill will develop recommended priorities and actions, and will provide guides, examples, and links to help us on our way. These will be designed to help us attain our long-term goals and to address our near term requirements and opportunities, including our thinking about stewardship and what it means to be a member of our congregation, as well as our considerations for a capital campaign.

Summary observations and recommendations will be shared at the end of the visit, to be followed by a detailed written report within two weeks.

There will be a full day of meetings on Saturday, April 25. The agenda is being finalized now and will be available before the visit for all to review. While meetings focus on particular areas and those who are most engaged in them, any member is welcome to observe any meeting. There will also be an open session at the end of the day on Saturday, during which Bill is available to talk with anyone about any issue that may be of interest.

On Sunday, April 26, we expect Bill will speak briefly to the congregation during the service and he will remain afterwards to meet and talk with members of the congregation. We hope you will take this opportunity to meet our consultant and to share your views and hopes about our future.

Questions? Please contact Marty Freeman (martyw@ak.net or 276-3749). Thank you for helping our congregation get the most out of this visit; it's a great opportunity for us to see where we are and where we are going, and to learn what is working for others that may be relevant to us.

Social Justice Committee

By Dennis Arashiro

Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does." - William James

The key to making a difference is to act. That's why the Social Justice Committee looks for every opportunity for all of us to act. Every time we designate a recipient of the Half Portion for Social Action, we ask what else we can do to support its mission beyond providing needed funds. Project Homeless Connect asked for volunteers for the January event and you came through. We all made a difference for one day and who knows how many more. Airport Heights Elementary School asked for tutors and readers and you came through. Who knows what a difference it's making for those kids? Brother Francis Shelter asked for items on a wish list and you can fill our wish list bins to meet its needs. Let's keep making a difference.

You are welcome to join us as we continue to act. You can attend when our committee meets at **12:20 PM on Sunday, March 29, 2015 at Gary's office**. If you cannot be there, please phone or email me with what you want to share with the committee. Dennis Arashiro at 277-7377 or elvischannel@yahoo.com.

Half Portions for Social Action: STAR

By Megan Young, Events Coordinator

Standing Together Against Rape (STAR) has been a presence in Anchorage, Alaska for over 35 years. What started as two women answering phone calls in their basement in 1978 has evolved into a comprehensive 24-hour crisis intervention and rape response organization.

STAR continues to offer a variety of immediate crisis intervention services to victims of sexual assault as well as long term support. STAR operates a 24 hour crisis line answered by staff during the day and by extensively trained volunteers on evenings, weekends, and holidays. The crisis line is often the caller's first contact with the organization and offers a multitude of information including reporting options, support services, and someone to listen to the survivor's experience; 24 hours a day. Last year, the crisis line received over 1,800 phone calls.

Additionally, STAR has trained advocacy staff who function as part of the multidisciplinary teams responding to reports of sexual assault. The advocate-victim relationship is confidential which allows the advocate to assume the role of a buffer between the victim and law enforcement or nursing staff. The advocate's role also includes assisting the victim with immediate safety planning and meeting basic needs such as food, shelter, and clothing, as well as continued support. A few examples of long term follow up care include one on one support sessions, individual counseling, referrals to outside agencies, support groups, and legal advocacy services.

STAR's education and prevention department has four full time staff members dedicated to presenting up to date and appropriate safety information to all age groups. We have curriculums for school aged groups ranging from pre-kindergarten to college as well as adult education and professional trainings. STAR believes the primary way to prevent sexual assault is through education, and strives to educate as many people as possible each year, reaching over 10,000 students in FY 2014.

CYRE Sponsored Discussion

What do RE families and others think about allowing video games, including those with violent content, at the Fellowship and Fellowship functions like Fall Frolic and other sponsored events? How do RE families feel about allowing electronics downstairs? If you are interested in these questions, please attend a CYRE sponsored discussion on March first, after the service, 12:30.

Crafting Party!

The Green Sanctuary Committee is having a party and you're invited! Please join us on Sun., **March 8th @ 12:30** in the upstairs Social Room for a Crafting Party! We're re-purposing old/used items and giving them a second career. If you have old calendars, copier paper (printed on one side), tee shirts, and/or small plastic containers (like single serving yogurt cups), bring them along. Or- maybe you have a project you'd like to teach us? We'll have soup and bread and stuff to transform even if you don't have anything to bring- but want to party with us! Want more info? Call/text Susie @ 748-4466 (skobierowski@yahoo.com)

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Sorry to hear about two of our "beloved seniors" who fell in late January (too late for the LOG) Ruth Sheridan, in California visiting her daughter fell and broke her hip/femur and had a brief hospital stay with surgery but is doing well. Still in California as we go to print but doing better (has had some rehab) Another daughter who is a nurse is bringing her back to Alaska when doctors release her.

Also recently Judy Whittaker fell and broke her knee cap and then ended up in Regional in CCU with a heart problem. She was transferred to St Elias and as we go to print is feeling much better and stronger and hopefully will be released soon.

Congratulations to Julie and Gavin Kentch and big sister Bridget, on the birth of second daughter, Audrey Katherine Kentch. Gavin was part of RE during his teen years and is the older son of member Susan Orlansky and he and family now live in Anchorage. Little Audrey was born Feb. 5th and all are doing well.

A big shout out to Stewardship Chair, Judy Engh and her committee of volunteers, the Stewardship Canvassers, for the really big job of personal interviews with all of our members. It has been a few years since these labor intensive personal interviews were done, but hopefully, it will have a wonderful effect on people being heard and the feeling of "we are all in this together". Be kind to your canvasser, as I know you will.

Grateful for the army of volunteers who are rallying around Rick and Teresa Zimmer to support them all we can, as Rick waits for a stem cell transplant which will be done in Seattle.

Glad to hear how well Loren Pallen has done with her surgeries and grateful that minister Gary Holthaus has just joined her for two weeks vacation back east (where there is a lot of snow). Have a lovely time Gary and Loren.

Grateful to Rosene Beachy and her wonderful crew of volunteers for another great 6 weeks program of "Hogwarts" Wisdom and Wizardry" which has got to be one of the most fun programs UUA offers for teaching UU values to our youth. Thanks for including me this year as one of the "professors". I have a deep appreciation for our RE programs and the army of volunteers who help, but especially Rosene who is the major energy behind this very high quality RE program AUUF can offer the community. Way to go Rosene and all your helpers.

Grateful that our denomination and our AUUF community offers OWL programs (Our Whole Lives), the Adult and RE committees who are trained to present age appropriate sexual information to our community. This group who teach these classes have taken many classes themselves and are deeply committed to deliver a wonderful program involving all our principals as we learn about our sexuality and choices to live healthy lives. To my knowledge we are the only church in town who offers these classes.

Be well, dear people, and if you aren't, I hope you get better soon. Enjoy the light returning big time.

Choir Schedule

Saturday, March 7th: 10:30-12pm
Sunday, March 8th: 9:45-10:30am
Saturday, March 14th: 10:30-12pm
Saturday, March 21st: 10:30-12pm
Sunday, March 22nd: 9:45-10:30am
Saturday, March 28th: 10:30-12pm
Saturday, April 4th: 10-12pm
Sunday, April 5th: 9:45-10:30am

Recycling Plastics: Our next recycling pickup is Sunday March 15. 5s only, some examples are yogurt and cottage cheese containers.

Friendly Recycling Tip: Shop at Salvation Army or other thrift stores for reusable bags. Purchase them and "pretty" them up by sewing designer cloth, pretty potholders, portions of old shirts with patterns on them. Give these away to friends to encourage their use of recycled shopping bags. Encourage them to keep them in their cars.

Hungry Book Club News

by Shirley Dickens

The Hungry Book Club met at a private home Feb. 10th to discuss "The Cruellest Miles, the Heroic Story of Dogs and Men in a Race Against an Epidemic" by Gay and Laney Salisbury. We found this book (very carefully researched) to be fascinating and full of new information about the original major dog race in 1925 to Nome with diphtheria serum to save lives. Lots of historic pictures of the mushers involved and the wonderful dogs who led them. What a story! I have new respect for our sled dogs.

We have chosen a very different book for March, "Being Mortal, Medicine and What Matters in the End," by an East Indian writer and physician (Atul Gawande). We will meet the second Tuesday in March, which is the 10th, back at the Pioneer home, 3rd floor, and Debbie Cahoon will host us. We are an open book club, all readers of good will are welcome. For more information, call 563-4499.

Alliance

by Shirley Dickens

The Alliance did NOT meet in February, but we will meet the second Sunday in March, the 8th at 12:30 PM in the Wiggle room. Please keep the Rummage Sale in mind as you start your spring cleaning (in May). Thank you. Also, please remember to check out our books in the social room.

March Birthdays, Best Wishes!

Birthdays are not published online.

Adult Programs – Winter 2015

ONGOING INTEREST GROUPS

Freethinkers at AUUF – Gathers Fridays at noon in the social room at the new fellowship. Meets from 12:30 – 1:30. Contact George Bryson for More information gfbryson@gmail.com; 250-5140.

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

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

Small Group Ministry – Connect to UU's on a deeper level. Small groups are a group of people who commit to meeting weekly or biweekly for a semester to discuss themes chosen by the group using a "Small Group" format.. Organized by Susan Orlansky on a request basis for the 2nd half of the year. Call Susan, 248-1141 if you would like to participate in a group.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Mindfulness Video/Discussion Series – Sunday afternoons after the 11:00 service. 12:30 –1:30 in the Teen Room. Facilitated by Helen Peters and Mary Ann Eininger.

Up For Discussion - You still have time to find some meaning or at least talk about it! Join in the last discussion evening of the book "Man's Search for Ultimate Meaning" by Viktor E. Frankl. Thursday- 6:30 – 8:00 pm, March 5th

Adult Discussion of the book "Being Mortal" by Atul Gawande 12:30 – 2:00 after the 11:00 Service on March 15. Bring a dish to share for the Immortal Potluck!

Finding Your Way Into Fellowship (2 sessions)An introduction to UU History, UU Thought and UU Engagement led by Gary Holthaus. Wednesday, April 15 & Thursday, April 23, 6:30 – 8:00.

R.E. Notes for March 2015

OUR PROGRAM - March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

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

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

11:00 Service - Age group classes will resume for K – 6th grade on March 1st.

March 1, 22, 29 Spring age grouped classes resume

March 8, 15 Spring Break Art Sundays – Peace theme

COMING ACTIVITIES

Mystery Pals in March

March 22 – April 12 are our 4 Mystery Pal Sundays.

Ideas: Send frequent, brief notes, tell them interesting things about yourself, children, hobbies, travels, favorite things.

Give clues! A fun thing to do is to reveal a little bit more about yourself with each letter - Kids will have fun trying to figure out who their “pal” might be.

Send: a cute card, cool pictures, stickers, drawings, magazine picture puzzles, a simple paper craft, a coloring picture, . (Just please limit items to less than a couple of dollars.)

Contact your pal once or twice a week. Please remember these are young children waiting with great anticipation for a note, or a card from you, it's very disappointing to not hear from a pal for 2 weeks!

Start immediately, keep it simple, but frequent throughout the time period.

Messages can be mailed directly to your pals home or delivered at church. There will be a bulletin board at the bottom of the stairs for leaving small items or letters. Children may leave something for their pal there also, so don't forget to check! This will serve as our **“in house” mail system.**

The Mystery Pal Revealing Party will be Saturday, April 18, 4:00 – 6:30.

RE SOCIAL JUSTICE

SOUP SUNDAYS - Soup Sundays give each class a chance to choose a project to learn about and donate money too. They are passionate about their choices and also love to help with Soup Sunday. Have your child help make the soup, or cookies to bring for their class project, pitch in and help with clean up. Show your values, make it a family effort!!

January 25 Soup Sunday, coordinated by the Hogwarts Prefects (aka – Star Gazers) raised \$308 for their class project TBD!

February 22 Soup Sunday will be coordinated by the YRUU youth!

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE – raised \$263! For the Unitarian Universalist service Committee and their work for justice around the world!

First Ever AUUF Summer Camp!!!

As you start making summer plans for your K – 6th grader, mark your calendar for our first ever AUUF summer camp. During the week of July 27 – 31, this year's “Peace Camp” will be full of UU summer fun with friends! More details to come, but feel free to contact Rosene (rbeachy@Alaskalife.net) for details, July 27 – 31, 9am – 4:30.

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

Cost will be a sliding scale of \$90 - \$120 per child.

Group leaders needed. Stipend or child's scholarship available.

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

PENNIES FOR PEACE – RE is continuing our Pennies Collection started during our Hogwarts school, through May. Please bring your pennies and place in the small caldron in the upstairs foyer! We have collected \$ 92 so far!

SPECIAL FAMILY EVENTS IN MARCH

CYRE Parent Discussion – March 1, 12:30 in the Jr. High room– What do RE Families and others think about allowing video games, including those with violent content, at the Fellowship and Fellowship functions. How do RE families feel about allowing electronics downstairs?

STAR Presentation to Kids on Safety – March 22, 1-2:00 after Soup Sunday

This presentation on personal safety is presented by STAR to as many groups of children as possible. Many schools have held them. The CYRE Committee and Safer Congregations Committee is offering this valuable information to our AUUF Families. There will be 2 age group presentations – K-3rd grade and parents will be held in Classroom 1, and 4th – 6th grade and parents will be in Classroom 2.

CPR Training – March 21, 12-4 pm

An Adult, Child and Infant CPR training led by the company Hero For Life will be offered on Saturdays, March 21 from 12:00 – 4:00 at the Fellowship. If you are a parent or teacher, and have never had this training, you are welcome to join our Childcare team for this potential lifesaving information. You will get a Red Cross card valid for 2 years certification. Cost is \$75. Please email Rosene Beachy, if you would like to participate !

THANK YOU TO:

Our magical Hogwarts professors – Amy Westfall, Carol Nelson, Mary Gregory, Sheilagh Menck, Angie Harris, Elayne Hunter, Lauren Rench, Carma Reed, Shirley Dickens, Angela Palmer, Alix McKee, Alison Hansen, Kathleen Dunning, Grace Denney, Alex Devon, Jamie Schroyer, and Yana Smith. Also our wonderful soup makers, and hardworking set up and clean-up crews!

Youth News

Got a cool project? Information to be passed along? An invitation to the youth? Don't hesitate to contact me for any reason.

Eric McCoy 230-6915 or AUUFCYP@gmail.com

Jr / Sr High OWL Training

Will happen May 1-3, Friday through Sunday here at AUUF. If you've been interested in possibly teaching in our Youth Sexuality Program here's your chance to learn the skills without traveling to the lower 48! The training will be led by Katherine Huffman.

Youth Topics

3/1 UU and School
3/8 A morning at the Improv!
3/25 YouTube Film Fest
3/22 UU and Fellowship
3/29 Guest Speaker: Islam
4/5 Liv. . .
5/1-3 Youth CON!
. . .
6/24-28 General Assembly!

Opportunities to Share your Talents and Time

Needed: several volunteers to **help coordinate the meals** for the special Easter week services.

Thursday April 2- "Maundy Thursday" potluck meal

Saturday, April 4- Family friendly Seder, recipes available

Please email Gary Holthaus or Rosene Beachy, DLRE, to volunteer.

<u>The 2015 Woman's retreat</u> The women's retreat needs a few good women to organize this year, planning documents and song books are all prepared. Contact Annie Belts and Wendy Romberg.
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It will be Spring Soon! Contact Bruce Roberts and Amy Lundell (auuf@gci.net) if you have green thumbs, strong backs, rough hands, or a love of the outdoors. We are forming a list of those interested in all things flowers, grounds, and playgrounds....

About our Speakers and Services (see back page)

Gary Holthaus is AUUF's called minister.

Dr. Allen Ault was corrections commissioner for Georgia until 1995. Dr. Ault is a trained psychologist who began working in the prison system in order to help and rehabilitate people, but a promotion to the position of corrections commissioner meant the responsibility for overseeing the state's executions fell to him. During his time at the prison in the early 1990s, Dr. Ault supervised five executions. Dr. Allen Ault is currently Dean at Eastern Kentucky University.

Gretchen Bersch is a retired university professor who has been visiting Magadan in the Russian Far East for over two decades. She is happily involved with OLÉ! (Opportunities for Lifelong Education- learning for folks over 50) and hosts learning adventures all summer at her retreat center at her family homestead on Yukon Island.

Brad DeNoble is an Alaskan attorney. He is a graduate of the University of Louisville Law School and has a Master's Degree in Environmental Law from the Vermont Law School. He was the lawyer for the children plaintiffs in *Kanuk vs. State of Alaska*.

Lifelong Alaskan **Andy Hall** is the author *Denali's Howl, The Deadliest Climbing Disaster on America's Wildest Peak*, a non-fiction account of the tragic 1967 Wilcox Expedition. Andy lived in Mount McKinley National Park as a child; his father was superintendent there when the accident occurred. Andy holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Alaska Anchorage, and has enjoyed a long career in Alaska as writer and editor, working at several small newspapers and for 16 years as editor and publisher of Alaska magazine and general manager of The Milepost. In addition being an author, he is a commercial salmon fisherman in Cook Inlet and a ski coach at Chugiak High School. He lives in Chugiak Alaska with his wife and two children.

Ed Graff was appointed superintendent of the Anchorage School District on March 18, 2013. Mr. Graff began his teaching career in 1991 at Gladys Wood Elementary School. Nine years later, he became an elementary school principal in the district. In 2008, Mr. Graff was named executive director of Elementary Education. The following year, he became the Chief Academic Officer, a position formerly referred to as assistant superintendent for instruction. A graduate in Elementary Education at the University of Alaska Anchorage, Mr. Graff holds a Master's Degree in Education Administration from University of Southern Mississippi. He has post-masters coursework in curriculum, educational leadership and instruction. Mr. Graff has served on several boards and professional organizations, including Junior Achievement, School Business Partnerships and Alaska Learning Network. Originally from Minnesota, he has lived in several Alaska towns and villages, including Hooper Bay and Savoonga. He is married to Michelle Prince, an ASD elementary school principal. They have one son.

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

Got Miles? We can use the donation of miles to defray travel costs for GA (Portland June 24-28) and YouthCon. If you think you can assist, contact Amy auuf@gci.net.

Wish List: We can always use 20 pound white copier paper.

Name Tags: Would you like a cardboard name tag printed? Let the office know and we'll make you one.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Information

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

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

Staff Phones and Email

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

Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration, 248-3737, x 4

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

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

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

Contacts for AUUF Board of Directors and Committee Contacts are available on the Website

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AUUF SERVICES –March 2015

Sunday, March 1

9 am Allen Ault,
"Alaskans Against the Death Penalty"
11 am Ruth Greenwood, "Black Lives Matter: From
Selma to Ferguson and Beyond"

Sunday, March 8

9 am Gretchen Bersch, "Views and reflections on
travels to our Sister City Magadan."
11 am Gary Holthaus

Sunday, March 15

9 am Brad DeNoble, "Atmospheric Trust Litigation--
Our Children's Trust"
11 am Gary Holthaus

Sunday, March 22

9 am Andy Hall,
"The Wilcox Expedition Tragedy on Denali"
11 am Rev. Amberle Wright, "Spring Equinox Ritual"

Sunday, March 29

9 am Ed Graff, "Education on the Ballot"
11 am Gary Holthaus

<u>Regular Tuesday Evening Services</u>
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7 pm March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- March 2015

Sundays 9 am ~ Childcare.

Sunday 11 am ~ Classes for toddlers through high school

The LOG

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

April

2015

Gary Holthaus, Minister March 2015 Board Report April Events Adult Programs Choir Schedule Earth Care Social Justice Ripples in the Larger Pond Neighborhood Connection Birthdays Alliance / Rummage Sale Hungry Book Club RE Notes Youth Odds N Ends About April Speakers Contact Information April Services	1 2 3 4 4 4 5 6 6 7 7 7 8 9 10 11 11 12	Gary Holthaus, Minister It does seem as though spring is here, and I'm wondering where this church year has gone. It couldn't possibly have gone as quickly as it has. But I have been in several planning meetings this week and last that indicate Easter is near, and Celebration Sunday which marks the end of main season of our Religious Exploration is also at hand... Where did our time go? Still, thanks to our program staff of Rosene and Tamara, and Mary and Eric, there are still exciting things to look forward to: A New Member luncheon; a new baby dedication; Mother's Day; a "Bridging Ceremony" for our young people; and two small group discussions called "Finding Our Way into Fellowship" that explore UU history and belief. There will also be a first-ever opportunity to have a different look at Easter Week will explore some early sources of our UU traditions that will be of interest to our Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, and humanist/atheist members, or those of other traditions as well. The overall question will be "Who are we, and how did we get to be this way?" Another question we will explore will be "Do these old stories have anything meaningful to say to us now, in our day?" You can find a somewhat more complete description of these events on page 3. <i>See You Sunday!</i> Gary 433-9311 cell
		<i>Together...</i> <i>We seek to be an open and welcoming community.</i> <i>We strive to listen deeply and speak with one another and to our larger community with consideration and respect.</i> <i>We hold each of us and all of this amazing world worthy of our attention, compassion and care.</i> <i>Together we are Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.</i>

March 2014 Board Report

Sam Cason, President

Our March Board meeting was our first chance to see Gary since he returned from contemplating manatees and taking a rare opportunity to recharge his batteries. Just in time too, since this was our second budget discussion and as expected, we are facing some tough choices. We also made a policy call that we hope, and expect, the Fellowship will ratify with an 85% vote of confidence at the annual meeting.

There is a complaint that for as liberal as the exchange of ideas in the Fellowship is, we have one of the most conservative decision making processes imaginable. (On the other hand, I always assumed that our values – like family, democracy, personal responsibility and inherent dignity - are conservative, so I don't know how we got called liberal to begin with.) Anyway, as you are probably aware, the Bylaws provide that the Fellowship will only take a position on political or social topics if 85% of the membership agree. This must ultimately be decided by ballot at a meeting of the membership.

There are good and sound reasons for this rule. AUUF is not primarily a political organization. The liberal exchange of ideas that many of us depend on as our greatest sacrament is fostered by a non-judgmental and open forum, where it is safe to have, and even express, divergent opinions. BUT, we usually only have one meeting a year, and many important issues are considered in the course of a year that may not have come up at the last meeting. Accordingly a few short years ago when Doug Eby was President, well over 95% of the members at an annual meeting adopted a policy that if the board believes in good faith that there is overwhelming support for a position, the board can take a position on behalf of the Fellowship, and present that position for ratification at a Membership meeting.

This year the Alaska Legislature has promised to consider participating in Federal programs that will expand eligibility for health care coverage for many Alaskans. We have been asked to take a public position in support of expanded Medicaid eligibility by the folks at AFACT. The Board considered several arguments before concluding this is the kind of situation that was anticipated by the policy mentioned above. In light of the facts that access to health care is desirable, that regular care is more effective than emergency room visits, and of the reports showing participation in the Federal program will actually save the State of Alaska money, the Board determined that it is very likely that more than 85% of the membership will endorse the position taken by AFACT, that Alaska should participate in the Medicaid expansions that will provide increased eligibility for health insurance. That position will be subject to ratification at the May 4 meeting. We hope that this note will encourage conversation and further exchanges of information on the topic, not only prior to the vote, but also in time for every member to make their opinion known to the legislature.

In looking at the draft FY'16 budget, we are in the tough place we expected to be when we bought this new facility. We have expanding programs and see wonderful things to accomplish, but we have not yet generated new or increased pledges commensurate with our new budget needs and wants. We are obliged under our bylaws to consider a balanced budget, and the Board takes seriously our need to avoid operational debt and maintain our financial integrity. (Like I said, we're pretty dang conservative.) But we also see solid growth and firming commitments that suggest our current trajectory is sustainable, and that with resolve and hard work we will find even more ways to elevate and vindicate the seven principals in our communities' development.

On March 20 a valve leading to one of the hot water heaters slated to be replaced with the Chalice Lighter grant failed. The flood swept debris into the floor drain, clogging it, and sending up to a couple of inches of water throughout the lower floor. We called the dry out crew and they managed to get us dry enough to have our regular programs beginning a scant 48 hours after the leak was discovered. Pretty amazing! Thank you to John, Marty, Bruce, Rosenne, and Amy for dealing with the situation so promptly. As a result of the flood we held the March soup Sunday upstairs, and judging from the response, it was a very popular move that may be repeated.

In order to complete preparation of a budget to be circulated at least 30 days before the Annual Meeting on May 4, the next Board meeting will be held on April 1 at 6:15 pm.

Newcomer's Luncheon April 12

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

Three Events to Celebrate Spring and Social Justice 2015

By Gary Holthaus

All of these events include a pot luck supper!

Thursday, April 2, 5:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday

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

Friday, April 3, 5:30 p.m. Good Friday

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

Saturday, April 4, 5:30 p.m. A Family Friendly Passover Seder

Contemporary **Seder** program featuring readings, singing, food and community. The original "last supper" was a gathering for Seder, and this Seder recalls the cry for freedom and justice that still echoes in our own day. We are striving to become an ever greater caring community. Participate in a ritual that mends fences, brings us together in pursuit of social justice in community with good friends.

Sunday, April 5, 11:00 a.m. Easter

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

Spring Cloz Swap

By Cathy Steen

Green Sanctuary Committee is sponsoring a women's clothes swap on the 4th of April from 11 – 2. Clean out your closets and bring in those clothes you no longer want/use/need and swap them for a brand new (used) wardrobe! The swap occurs in room 2, downstairs, and all clothes not selected will be taken to a charity at the end of the event. Bring snacks to share!

This is a swap, please don't just dump clothes and leave (feel free to just take them straight to a donation point! If you have a portable mirror that is helpful (we know we have 2 so far). Please bring a small (optional) donation for use of the facility. Teens are definitely welcome. Please bring only clothes and related items (e.g., shoes, scarves, perhaps jewelry).

This event is not limited to AUUF members, so bring your friends. It is, however, limited to women. Men, if you'd like us to do a men's clothes swap, just let us know!

Recycling Plastics: Our next recycling pickup is May 3. 5s only, some examples are yogurt and cottage cheese containers.

Adult Programs – Spring 2015

ONGOING INTEREST GROUPS

Freethinkers at AUUF – Gathers Fridays at noon in the social room at the new fellowship. Meets from 12:30 – 1:30. Contact George Bryson for More information gfbryson@gmail.com; 250-5140.

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

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

Small Group Ministry – Connect to UU's on a deeper level. Small groups are a group of people who commit to meeting weekly or biweekly for a semester to discuss themes chosen by the group using a "Small Group" format.. Organized by Susan Orlansky on a request basis for the 2nd half of the year. Call Susan, 248-1141 if you would like to participate in a group.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Mindfulness Video/Discussion Series – Sunday afternoons after the 11:00 service. 12:30 –1:30 in the Teen Room. Facilitated by Helen Peters and Mary Ann Eininger.

Finding Your Way Into Fellowship (2 sessions)An introduction to UU History, UU Thought and UU Engagement led by Gary Holthaus. Wednesday, April 15 & Thursday, April 23, 6:30 – 8:00.

Earth Care

By Mary Spalding

Earth Care is the new name for the AUUF climate change action group.

Earth Care brings together individuals and groups who want to take action to stop or reverse the environmental damage that is occurring to our planet. Currently Earth Care is coordinating with AUUF Green Sanctuary committee, with the Citizen's Climate Lobby, the Castle Mountain Coal Coalition and an interfaith coalition in the Valley.

Actions on the table:

- AUUF Green Sanctuary committee is working within AUUF to make our building as energy efficient as possible and will create a garden. *AUUF members will be notified of work parties so all can participate as they are able.*
- A local group of a national organization, the Citizens Climate Lobby's focus is on passing a carbon tax that will increase yearly with the money returned to the US citizens in the form of a rebate. All are invited to their meetings on the 1st Saturday of each month at UUA. *George Donart can provide more information and what action is helpful – 887-6109.*
- A state sub-cabinet on climate change has been proposed to provide administration and coordination of state efforts to respond to climate change in Alaska. A bill will need the support of Gov. Bill Walker. It will also need to be sponsored and approved by the legislature. *Calls, letters and e-mails to your representatives and Gov. Bill Walker (907-465-3500) will show there is a need for this cabinet.*

The next meeting of Earth Care will be on Sunday, April 19, 12:30 - 2:00 at the Fellowship.

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!

Choir Schedule

Saturday, April 4th: 10-12pm
Sunday, April 5th: 9:45-10:30am
Saturday, April 11th: 10-12pm
Saturday, April 18th: 10-12pm
Sunday, April 19th: 9:45-10:30am
Saturday, April 25th: 10-12pm
Wednesday, April 29th: 6-8pm
Saturday, May 2nd: 10-12:30pm

A Word About Planned Giving

By Wray Kinard

Please join a number of wonderful local UUs who have, in recent years, adjusted their wills to include a donation to AUUF. I have had ongoing discussions about this issue with folks at the Fellowship for quite a while, and I encourage you to call me or stop me on a Sunday morning if you'd like more information. You may also pick up helpful brochures printed by the Boston UU Headquarters, located in the informational pamphlet area of the Fellowship foyer. Leaving a gift, no matter how big or small, is a simple gesture that will have far-reaching long-term effects on the financial health of AUUF. The Anchorage community needs the Fellowship to continue its role as an alternative religious presence well into the future, and even a small gift from you can make a big difference.

And guess what? A nice "secret" is that you don't even have to rewrite your will to make an end-of-life remembrance. There are several inexpensive or free alternatives to calling a lawyer for a rewrite, and I'm ready to discuss them with you! Wray Kinard, 345-7296.

Social Justice Committee

By Dennis Arashiro

Selma. We have just observed the fiftieth anniversary of the march for civil rights there. We have just seen a recent film that revisits that moment in time. As Unitarian Universalists we can commemorate our role there; we can honor the martyrdom of the Rev. James Reeb and Viola Liuzzo there. Yet, we must also remember that we were invited there by the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. of the Southern Christian Leadership Council. We must remember that we joined rabbis, nuns, and clergy of many other churches. It was not about us as Unitarian Universalists; it was about all of us as human beings.

Social justice knows no denomination. It does not matter what faith moves those who work to make it happen; it does matter that the work gets done. That is why the Fellowship joined Anchorage Faith & Action Congregations Together (AFACT) to work with other churches on social justice issues. That is why Catholic Social Services Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services participated in our Alternative Gift Shop. That is why Brother Francis Shelter, another Catholic Social Services program, was designated the March recipient of the Half Portion for Social Action.

If you know of any other ways we can promote social justice by partnering with churches, please come to the Social Justice Committee when we next meet at **12:30 PM on Sunday, May 17, 2015, in Gary's office**. If you cannot attend but have thoughts, questions, and proposals to share, please call or email me so that I can present them to the committee. Dennis Arashiro at 277-7377 or elvischannel@yahoo.com.

Half Portions for Social Action: Citizens' Climate Education Corp

By Dennis Arashiro

Climate change denial. We can belittle it; we can laugh at it. What we can't do is trust in the facts of climate change eventually defeating it. By then it might be too late. More importantly, there is a well-funded, organized effort to "ExxonMobilize" the deniers. The self-interest of carbon based energy corporations' demands that the facts be hidden, obscured, distorted, and disputed with or without substantiation. Turning climate change into a red state/blue state controversy insures gridlock. The same public relations firms that worked with the tobacco industry and the infamous Tobacco Institute are taking the lessons they learned from their previous battles to defeat the facts and the interests of the entire nation and world.

The Citizens' Climate Education Corps has as its mission the education of its volunteers, the public, elected officials and the media about global warming and climate change solutions. It is the sister arm of the Citizens' Climate Lobby, which works to create the political will to address the issue. The Social Justice Committee designates this organization as the recipient of the April Half Portion for Social Action because there is no better antidote for the deliberate spread of misinformation to the public for the sake of corporate profits than the deliberate spread of accurate information to the public for the sake of us all.

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Grateful for Wendy Romberg and a host of the Zimmer's friends, Middle Way Cafe, a lot of this congregation and even some of the generous public for the screening for "stem cell match" for our Rick Zimmer on a recent Sunday afternoon, *(this was written March 1st)*.

Update on our two ailing "Beloved Elders" ; Ruth Sheridan arrived back in Anchorage March 6th accompanied by daughter Evie who e taken out via car to book club, etc. She likes company and phone calls. Almost no pain with her healing femur/hip. Judy Whittaker is now home recovering with daughter in attendance, and taking it easy.

We are sorry to hear of the loss to Ken Winterberger's family of his mother, Rita, in early March. I understand she had been ill for some time and he had just recently returned from visiting her. Condolences to Ken, wife Paula and their two daughters, Shea and Bryn.

We are all greatly saddened to hear that one of our beloved members, Rick Zimmer died March 21st in Seattle hospital, his wife Teresa and many family members there with him. He was surrounded for days with a great outpouring from family and friends of love and admiration for this exceptional man. Not many of us face our demise hearing wonderful stories about what people love about us and admire us for, but Rick had many people who loved him. His wife, Teresa and children, Kaylin and Noah are back in Anchorage. There will be a Memorial service sometime in the future. It is a great loss not only to Rick's family and many friends but to this congregation. Rick Zimmer, you will be greatly missed.

Spring has sprung (at least on the calendar) and we live in hope, of new life, rebirth, new growth, new commitments, new opportunities so take heart, The Great Wheel of the Year just keeps on turning. Plant those seeds (in jiffy pots), don't give in or up, do what you can, remember life is good even though we say goodbye when we don't want to. Trust in yourself and each other. Live well and wisely. And BE WELL!

Connecting in Our Neighborhood, Airport Heights Community Council

By Kalen Saxton - AUUF Representative to the Council

February 19th, Meeting Highlights:

PTA Report - The Winter Fun Night had a good turnout despite the weather, \$600 was raised for school supplies. On May 9th they will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the school. The PTA is asking for historical knowledge of the school from neighbors and former students.

Airport Heights Elementary School Remodel - Construction will occur in three phases: summer 2015, school year 2015-2016, and summer 2016. This summer a "relocatable village" will be set up so all students can stay on site, and a bus lane will be built on the south side of the school along 16th Ave. Construction materials and vehicles will be stored in the current parking lot, starting the day after school gets out.

President's Report – Next Year the Council Will Meet At AUUF Due to the School Remodel.

March 19th

PTA Report – Science Fair (March 20) was set up in the library. Family Literacy Night in April. Dream Big Saturday on May 2nd. 60Th Anniversary of Airport Heights Elementary celebrated on Saturday, May 9th.

Airport Heights CC Annual Picnic – June 6, Saturday afternoon, in Takishla Park near the playground. John Whitlock has agreed to be Picnic Coordinator. Anchor Park Methodist Church is willing to help. ***Can AUUF donate tables and chairs? Are there trucks to move them? Who would like to meet the neighbors?*** Contact Kalen Saxton (907) 244-8221 or kalensaxton@gmail.com.

Hungry Book Club News

by Shirley Dickens

Several of us book club lovers met Tuesday March 10th at the Pioneer Home to discuss Atul Gwache's very insightful recent book, ""Being Mortal". All of us appreciated his views that the job of the physician taking care of someone dying is to help find out what that particular person needs and wants as he/she approaches death, and to help them achieve that goal. Made for some interesting discussion. Several of us had seen the author, a well known and respected Boston surgeon on a special TV program recently. (Hope you made the discussion and potluck held at AUUF March 15th.)

We have chosen for "April's read" a very different book, The Children's Blizzard by David Laskin, 2004 novel about the real 1888 Blizzard in Minnesota when so many children were lost. I ordered mine from Amazon.com but the Library, possibly Title Wave, Barnes and Nobel surely has it. We meet again April 14th back at Pioneer Home at 2 PM. You do not have to have read the book but it certainly helps.

We are an open book club and all are welcome. Call Shirley for instructions to Pioneer Home if needed. Bring a healthy snack to share if you are able.

April Birthdays, Best Wishes!

(Birthdays are not published in our online version.)

Alliance

by Shirley Dickens

Only four faithful were able to make it to the March meeting. We are still working on information (before we place an order) for a simple small sign for each of our minister's pictures with the name of the person, the dates he/she served as our minister. We decided they should not be attached to the frame but would be attached to the wall just underneath the picture. Marjorie Carter will get some prices for next meeting from our favorite local printing company.

New song books (paid for by the Alliance) have received very nice little labels telling who donated each song book and the year. Thanks to Kalen Saxton, Helen Peters, Stephanie Koonz, and Ed Hakala who located all 100 new hymnals and placed book plates in them.

We decided to forgo a separate "big book sale" until perhaps next fall and concentrate on the annual rummage sale. Next Alliance meeting will be April 12th. Shirley will write another request for good stuff for the rummage sale and put it in the LOG.

Remember the Alliance Annual Rummage Sale Coming Up Soon!

Please keep the Alliance and AUUF in mind as you sort, clean, and start your Spring Cleaning as the Alliance will have an "all Day" Rummage Sale here in our new building, Saturday, May 23rd from 8 to 4 PM upstairs in the social and wiggle rooms and we will need LOTS of good stuff to sell. Again, only small furniture, no tires, things that work, etc. "If you would not buy it, don't bring it" is a good rule of thumb. What sells well are good clothing, children's nice toys that work, small workable appliances and household things, live plants, small household tools. If you have something in mind ask one of the Alliance ladies. We will also need some energetic strong people to help with everything. It's a fun way to spend a couple of evenings prior to help set up, or a part of a Saturday volunteering to help actually sell stuff. Think about it. Just this past year the Alliance donated \$4,000.00 to this congregation from proceeds from rummage and Christmas sales.

Friendly Recycling Tip: Buy from bulk bins using the reusable produce bags you have made, thus eliminating the commercial plastic bags that dry goods come in.

R.E. Notes for April 2015

OUR PROGRAM

9:00 Services –Toddler childcare available.

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

11:00 Service -

April 5 Spring Fling

April 12, 19, 26 Regular age group
classes

RE SOCIAL ACTION PROJECTS

Easter Sunday– Spring Fling

Donations For Easter/Spring Baskets

Spring Fling, our annual Spring celebration
happening on Easter Sunday will happen on
April 5th. We construct up to 100 Easter

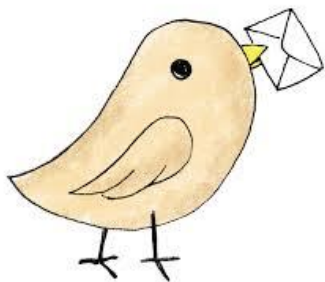
baskets each year to give to Safe Harbor, Clare House or McKinnell House, and are asking for donations of small gently
used or new trinkets or craft kits, tiny toys, plastic eggs and wrapped candy. Please buy a few extras when you stock up
this year and drop them off in the RE office during March/April. No plastic grass please!

Please bring hard boiled eggs for dyeing on April 5th! Also needed – some adult helpers. Please contact Rosene, DLRE
with questions or to volunteer.

February Soup Sunday coordinated by the YRUU, raised \$ 233 for the Alaska Food Bank.

March Soup Sunday coordinated by the Moon Spinners (Jr Youth class) raised \$ 430 for “Be the Match”.

COMING EVENTS



Mystery Pals in March

**Don't Forget! March 22 – April 12 are our 4
Mystery Pal Sundays.**

**Contact your pal once or twice a
week.** Please remember these are young
children waiting with great anticipation for a
note, or a card from you, it's very
disappointing to not hear from a pal for 2
weeks!

Start immediately, keep it simple, but frequent throughout the time
period.

Messages can be mailed directly to your pals home or delivered at church.
There will be a bulletin board at the bottom of the stairs for leaving small items
or letters. Children may leave something for their pals also, so don't forget to
check! This will serve as our **“in house” mail system.**

The Mystery Pal Revealing Party will be Saturday, **April 18, 4:00 – 6:30.**

Family Friendly Seder Dinner at the Fellowship! Saturday, April 4, 5:30-7:30pm

What is on the Seder plate, and why? Can you name the 10
plagues? How does this relate to social justice? On Passover we
can all be inspired by one of the most famous stories from the Old
Testament, or *Torah*. As we celebrate with food and wine (or
grape juice), we rejoice in our freedom and renew our
commitment to freedom and justice all over the world.

We will gather at 5:30pm and the ceremony will begin at
6:00pm. Great for families and fun for kids! There will be a brief
(~30 mins.) ritual filled with both traditional and
contemporary elements. Please bring a main course, side dish or
a salad. No bread, please. Matzos and silliness will be provided.

Youth Topics

4/5 Liv. . .

4/12 UU and Greater
Community

4/19 Guest Speaker: Ruth
Greenwood

4/26 Long Term UU

5/1-3 Youth CON!

. . .

6/24-28 General Assembly!

~ Eric McCoy 230-6915 or
AUUFCYP@gmail.com

Bridging, Bridging - Calling all HS Seniors

Bridging Workshop & Planning will be Saturday, March 29, 12:30 – 3:30 pm for HS seniors who would like to participate in the Bridging ceremony. As winter turns into spring, it can only mean one thing: the end of the school year is close, and our High School seniors will be “Bridging” into Young Adulthood. This year's celebration will be held on Sunday, May 10 at the 11:00 service. Seniors, Celebrate your roots and this important time of transition by participating in this Bridging ceremony.

Our Bridging program will include a planning workshop for seniors, at the Fellowship to reflect, 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, 441-6815. All seniors welcome, but they need to participate in this workshop. Lunch provided!

CYRE COMMITTEE

Come Join in the excitement of our Religious Exploration programs!

Contact Rosene Beachy, DLRE 441-6815, or Deena Mitchell 743-6017 for details about volunteering.

Teachers wanted for 2015-16!

The CYRE Committee planning retreat will be Saturday April 11, 12-4 pm to plan for 2015-16, and would like to be organized 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! We need many volunteer teachers and youth advisors to lead our classes. If you have children in the program and have never volunteered, this would be a great year to begin! If you don't have children in the program, we value your contribution as well – it's a great way to keep in touch with the younger generation! Team teaching is how we enable everyone, some opportunity to participate in the upstairs services, about half the Sundays, and still be involved in the excitement downstairs. There will be a sign up sheet available on the Bulletin Board downstairs in April.

Also needed are several folks to join the CYRE committee. What would you like to see in our Religious Exploration program, join the committee to let your voice be heard and help create wonderful programs for next year. Call Deena Mitchell, 743-6017 or Rosene Beachy, DLRE, 441-6815 to chat further about this possibility.

Guides wanted for SUMMER SUNDAYS – UU World Travelers May 31 to August 30

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 Saturday, April 11, 10 am downstairs at AUUF. Bring your ideas and calendars and we can create something wonderful. Talk to Deena Mitchell or Rosene Beachy, or sign downstairs at the RE Info Spot! **Don't hesitate sign up now for this very fun opportunity**

First Ever AUUF Summer Camp!!!

As you start making summer plans for your K – 6th grader, mark your calendar for our first ever AUUF summer camp. During the week of July 27 – 31, this year's “Peace Camp” will be full of UU summer fun with friends! More details to come, but feel free to contact Rosene (rbeachy@Alaskalife.net) for details.

July 27 – 31, 9am – 4:30.

Additional childcare avail. 8-9am and 4:30 – 5:30 pm.

Cost will be a sliding scale of \$90 - \$120 per child.

Adult group leaders needed.

Stipend or child's scholarship available.

Please contact Rosene Beachy -- DLRE, or Annie Belts to help with planning and organization. Teens and adults welcome to apply.

Opportunities to Share your Talents and Time

The Next Woman's retreat The next women's retreat needs a few good women to organize, planning documents and song books are all prepared. Contact Annie Belts and Wendy Romberg.

It will be Spring Soon! Contact Bruce Roberts and Amy Lundell (auuf@gci.net) if you have green thumbs, strong backs, rough hands, or a love of the outdoors. We are forming a list of those interested in all things flowers, grounds, and playgrounds.... Sign up sheet awaits your name in the social hall.

Airport Heights CC Annual Picnic – June 6, Saturday afternoon, in Takishla Park near the playground. Help loan our tables and chairs. Got a truck? Who would like to meet the neighbors? Contact Kalen Saxton kalensaxton@gmail.com (907) 244-8221.

Summer Camp – Want a UU Summer Camp for our kids? Sign up to help now or it will not happen. See page 9 for contact information.

Fred Meyer Rewards Card: *AUUF is enrolled in The Fred Meyer's Community Rewards program and receives small checks every quarter.* To help, 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).

From the Fellowship office:

Wish List

The AUUF office can always use 20 pound white or light colored copier paper, and forever stamps.

Deadlines

The LOG deadline is the third Sunday of each month, for the May Issue: April 19th. Early entries are greatly appreciated. Wednesday 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 to: Kalen Saxton, Helen Peters, Stephanie Koonz, Ed Hakala, Gayle Nienhueser, Sam Cason, Judy Engh, and Ken Winterberger who all lent a hand recently.

A Special Shout Out to: John and Marty Freeman who responded to the call and were over in a moment to assist with our recent water event.

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

Eskimo Yo-Yo

Suspended,
swinging
from the strings of time
two lifeways seek a balance –
old and new
pass each the other,
falter
and collide
patterns
disrupted
jerk to a halt,
complete,
fly out again.

The players
need
more practice.

Louise Gallop

About our Speakers and Services (see back page)

Gary Holthaus is AUUF's called minister.

Doug Eby, Vice President of Medical Services, South Central Foundation. Dr. Doug Eby has served on the leadership teams of Southcentral Foundation (SCF) and the Alaska Native Medical Center since 1995. He has played a key role in the development of SCF's innovative primary care system, and speaks, nationally and internationally, on health care system design and quality improvement. In addition to his medical degree, he holds a master's in public health.

John McKay returns with new material (and perhaps some past favorites). When not writing poetry, John daylights as a lawyer.



Registration and housing options available starting March 1st!

Info link about GA: <http://www.uua.org/ga/index.shtml> .

Registration and financial aid: <http://www.uua.org/ga/registration/financialaid/15005.shtml>

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Information

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

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

Staff Phones and Email

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

Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration, 248-3737, x 4

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

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

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

Contacts for AUUF Board of Directors and Committee Contacts are available on the Website

AUUF Board of Directors

Sam Cason, President; Erik Hill, Secretary; Carma Reed, Treasurer; Helen Nienhueser, Vice President;

Marty Freeman; Rod McCoy; Mindy Willis

AUUF Committee Chairs/Other Contact Persons

4As Lunches – Robin Hill

Alliance – Shirley Dickens

Building and Grounds - Bruce Roberts

Children and Youth RE – Deena Mitchell

Committee on Shared Ministry – Marty Herriott

Endowment – John Blaine

Forum Planning-Mindy Willis, Helen Nienhueser, Jim Wanamaker

Finance – Carma Reed

Green Sanctuary –Suzie Kobierowski

Nominating – Ron Devon/Stephanie Wheeler

Pastoral Care – Mary Ann Eininger

Pastoral Pantry – Amanda Cash

Safre Congregation – Tom Stenson

Social Justice Committee – Dennis Arashiro

Small Groups – Susan Orlansky

Stewardship – Judy Engh

UUSC Coordinator – Dennis Arashiro

Welcoming Committee – Denise Martin

Whalecoast – Denise Martin

Worship Associates –

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

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AUUF SERVICES –April 2015

Sunday, April 5 Easter Sunday

9 am John McKay, 'Poetry'

11 am Gary Holthaus, "Regeneration Service"

Sunday, April 12

9 am Doug Eby

11 am Gary Holthaus

Sunday, April 19 Earth Sunday

9 am Mike Jipping,

'Bear Tooth Theater Selection of Movies'

11 am Earth Day Service

Sunday, April 26

9 am Penny Cordes, 'Travelling in Cuba'

11 am Gary Holthaus

Sunday, May 3

9 am Breakfast

10 am Annual Meeting

Regular Tuesday Evening Services

7 pm April 7, 14, 21, 28

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- April 2015

Sundays 9 am ~ Toddler Childcare.

Sunday 11 am ~ Classes for toddlers through high school

The LOG

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

May

2015

Gary Holthaus, Minister	1	Gary Holthaus, Minister
April 2015 Board Report	2	It is still spring, the season of renewal, of regeneration, of hope and opportunity.
May Events	2	Outside there is the promise of color. The green shafts of tulips and daffodils grow taller and deeper in color. As I write this Bill Clontz, a consultant from the
Whalecoast	3	Unitarian Universalist Association, is about to begin a Next Steps Weekend with
Are You a Member?	3	us. This can be our season of AUUF renewal and regeneration.
AFACT Update	4	By now you will have had an opportunity to hear the result of our conversations
Social Justice	4	with him about the future of AUUF, the "Next Steps" we might take to create
Ripples in the Larger Pond	5	growth and color in our life together. For me it is a continuing season of hope and
RE Notes	6	opportunity for AUUF to grow into its potential for service.
Youth	7	Getting ready for the weekend I went back in my mind to the Congregational
OWL	8	Profile the Search Committee sent me when I first applied for this position as
Birthdays	8	minister three years ago. I have thought of that document as "working paper,"
Find Your Fit	9	rather than a blueprint or even a template. As things unfold, a blueprint locks us
Alliance / Rummage Sale	10	in; a template is like coloring inside the lines. A working paper gives us freedom to
Hungry Book Club	10	adapt if necessary, to grow in ways we could not have foreseen, to color outside
Choir Schedule	10	the lines and surprise ourselves. That Congregational Profile laid emphasis on
Neighborhood Connection	10	three next steps for that time: to find a new space that accommodates a growing
About May Speakers	11	Religious Exploration Program and a growing congregation (a 50 percent increase
Contact Information	11	over the next five years, three of which are now passed); and to grow toward
May Services	12	becoming a "leading voice for liberal religion in Anchorage."
		The first two of those are easy to measure, the last is harder, but we have made a
		great step in that direction with this year's membership in AFACT (Anchorage Faith
		and Congregations Together). AFACT is a membership organization that draws
		people of all denominations together to address issues of social justice. Their rally
		for Medicare Expansion a few weeks ago drew 400 people from 17 churches,
May 3 Annual Meeting		including many AUUF'ers, out on a cold blustery night in Cuddy Park to call on our
May 10: Choir Concert		legislature to support expansion. At the end all of us were on our feet singing and
May 16 Spring Work Party		clapping hands as Somoan dancers led us in a joyous conclusion to an informative
May 23 Rummage Sale		and engaging. No other organization could have drawn that many folks together
June 24-28 GA		for such an event. As Rosene, our Director of Religious Exploration said, "It was
WhaleCoast July 22-23		exciting to see people from 17 churches, ranging from fundamentalist to humanist
		or atheist, all having such a good time in such a good cause – transcending all their
		different religious views to serve a common interest." AUUF had a leadership role
		to play in that event, Ron Devon and Marie Rozak. We hosted the final morning of
		planning in our new social room, supplying the tables and chairs for the event,
		and participating in the program. AFACT is another powerful opportunity for us to
		make our liberal voice heard.
		This is indeed a hopeful season of opportunity for us, a great time to get on board.
		<i>See You Sunday! Gary</i>
		<i>433-9311 cell</i>

April 2014 Board Report

Sam Cason, President

We had two board meetings in April. The first was primarily focused on the Annual Meeting, and the second saw us taking stock of several projects. We are looking forward to our first annual meeting at our new home on May 2, and hope you will be there to share in charting our course for the next year. The morning will start with a breakfast buffet hosted by the Board at 9 a.m. in the social room. At 10 we will convene in the sanctuary. The nominating committee has put together a four star slate of candidates to fill our vacancies as outlined in the supplemental call to meeting, and the board has worked hard to build a budget that reflects our current finances, and at the same time builds for our future. We have identified priorities to add back in to the budget if we get more pledges, and we look forward to hearing more feedback and discussion. As I went on at some length in last month's newsletter, I won't repeat our pitch for taking a congregational position on expanding Medicaid in Alaska, which will require 85% approval. On a more somber note, we heard that June Schlegel had passed earlier in the week; she will be missed.

At the second meeting, we didn't take a deep breath, but we did try to take stock of where we were a year ago, and whether we have followed through and accomplished the projects we have embarked on. We got a bit distracted when we received what seemed to be a bona fide offer on the Turnagain facility, and while the first buyer didn't work out, another came forward. At the same time we examined quite a number of options of where we might go, and for a bit it seemed like we were alternating between two steps forward, one step back and one step forward, two steps back. Nonetheless, we managed to sell, buy, paint, and move, all within a six week period once the dominos started to fall. Our new facility is nice, and we will continue to make it nicer. By the time you receive this, we will be having our "Next Steps" weekend to try and identify priorities, and project general budget ranges for our next ambitious projects. You will receive an update on the series of meetings we will have with Bill Clontz, our consultant from UUA who has experience in helping congregations choose goals and chart a course to get there.

We have not yet received our Chalice Lighter grant (thanks again to all who signed up as chalice lighters!) but we have been notified that we will receive about \$17,500 toward replacing our old physical plant with high efficiency boilers and water heater, and updating the zone valve assemblies. We also gave the order to purchase forty new chairs so we can reduce our reliance on folding chairs in the sanctuary. We had a report indicating progress in hiring a volunteer/outreach coordinator – we look forward to seeing that role filled. We took up discussion of our delegation policy, which has languished a bit even though we identified desirable structural changes that will distinguish between ministry teams that work with the minister and committees that work with the Board last summer. We had a second reading of our draft nepotism policy, discussed implementation and roll-out of our safer congregations policy, training and integration of new board members, insurance coverage, re-designating the Social Room the Louise Gallop Social Room, and upgrading our web page.

Our next Board meeting will be held Tuesday May 5, 6:15 p.m.

Choir Concert! May 10th

"Come join the AUUF choir and guests for our annual Choir Concert!! This year's concert will be held on Mother's Day, May 10th, at 7pm and will pay tribute to mothers everywhere. Come enjoy the good music, food, and community!!!"

A spring work party / garden / grounds party Saturday, May 16!

By Bruce Roberts, Building and Grounds

Join us from 10 am to 2 pm. The initial focus will be on fixing the playground and fence, preparing a vegetable garden, landscaping and maybe even washing the windows. There are several more projects to be done around the church and the published list will expand as the date grows closer.

WhaleCoast Alaska 2015 will be in Anchorage July 22-23

WHALE COAST is one of AUUF's biggest fundraisers. Once again, Dave Frey and his assistant, from UUF Fairbanks will be organizing and leading a group of 36 people on a tour of Alaska. These are UUs from all over the U.S. and Canada. They will be in Anchorage for 2 nights. OUR FELLOWSHIP BENEFITS IMMENSELY from this tour (over \$6,000) so it is well worth our collective efforts to provide accommodations. Besides, it is FUN! (Ask anyone who has been a host!)

Denise Martin is again coordinating housing. We need several volunteers to house all these visitors for 2 nights! We also need help organizing a banquet for them at AUUF on the 23rd. Please mark the dates on your calendar and consider helping one way or another. Drivers are often needed to assist hosts who can provide beds but are not able to drive folks around. One change in the 2015 plan concerns the afternoon of Thursday, July 23 (and helpers will be needed for this!) Instead of a hike in Eagle River, we are considering an offer (for guests who desire a more active experience) rental of a bike at the Downtown Bike Shop and ride the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail. Tour director Dave Frey is open to suggestions about other alternatives, but this is what is planned at this point. Please contact Denise 345-8787 if you can help. A sign-up will be posted on the bulletin board in the social room, along with more details about the tour.

Are You a Member of AUUF? Could You Be?

By Judy Engh

Our community of AUUF is transforming! We are exploding with new people every Sunday morning and many Tuesday evenings. I have talked with several folks about becoming members and I hear lots of thoughts about it. Some folks just want to stay "friends" and some just want to come once in a while, and some just say they haven't gotten around to signing "the book" of membership. As you ponder your involvement, let me share some thoughts about membership.

I've always felt strongly about welcoming everyone into a religious community regardless of their background. Being in community is vital to the human experience. We each make the community what it is. At AUUF our community changes each Sunday depending on who is part of the community. The question of membership really is about how committed are you to being a part of this community and how much are you willing to invest in it with your time and talents.

In my nearly 10 years of being a member, I waxed and waned in my involvement until I realized that I needed to focus more on contributing to the community instead of mostly receiving from the community. Now I find that I am even more fulfilled with all the relationships that have developed and feeling like I am making a positive impact.

As I am very involved with the finances of the fellowship I want to say a word about that. Everyone is welcome to be a member regardless of the amount of money you are able to contribute. We expect everyone who is able to contribute financially to do so, but we know that many of our members are on fixed incomes and are not in a position to give much financially. We have a "fair share" guide for people to consider when making a financial pledge so things are equitable. With our current membership, we need to average \$2000/giving unit (member or family). Again, this is not a requirement, but it gives one an idea of the "cost" of maintaining our community with fair and just salaries for the staff. Many people start off with a small pledge and work their way up as they get more involved. Any amount is appreciated!

Steps for membership are described on the visitors' bulletin board in the social room, or you may contact Gary or Denise Martin. Gary regularly offers courses on "Finding your Way into Fellowship" but they are not required to join. You don't need to know everything about UU to join... you just need to commit to the principles and support the community however you can. I hope you will join us in keeping this community strong and welcoming everyone to be a part of it.

AFACT Rally for Medicaid Expansion

By Marie Rozak

The rally at Cuddy Park Thursday evening, April 16th, was a well-attended, positive event despite the chilly damp weather.

This was AUUF's first participation in an "action" since becoming a member of Anchorage Faith and Action Congregations Together. Medicaid Expansion is a moral issue supported by our own Unitarian Universalists Association.

I strongly encourage you to check out Alaska Public Media's link covering the rally.

<http://www.alaskapublic.org/2015/04/17/anchorage-church-officials-lead-rally-for-medicaid-expansion/> And, of course, continue the contact with our legislators through emails and phone calls.

Folks who tried to do a head count at the rally came up with 350 – 415. My own observation from a sign-up table a distance from the amphitheater was a view of a happy crowd come together with a common goal. People of life experiences from our own Dr. Gay to the little bundled up toddlers. Smiling faces, many shades of skin, multiple cultures, varying religions, working together with not simply tolerance, but with respect for one another and our larger world. For a moment in time, all was as it should be, and can be.

Social Justice Committee

By Dennis Arashiro

May Day. It connects in a number of ways to social justice. One goes back to 1886, when May 1 was set by the labor movement as the day the eight hour workday would be realized. The subsequent violence at Haymarket Square in Chicago led to May 1 being designated as International Workers' Day or Labor Day throughout the world. Another way we can connect that day to social justice is its designation as a universal cry of distress. It signals the same urgent struggle for workers' rights worldwide that continues today. Finally, there is the hope and anticipation celebrated on the traditional May Day as spring germination leads to summer flowering, the hope and anticipation that survived Haymarket Square. The Unitarian Universalist support for living wages, fair trade, and workers' rights to organize stems from our very commitment to social justice and are worth remembering from this May Day on.

The Social Justice Committee will focus on the issues May Day raises when it meets at **12:30 PM on Sunday, May 17, 2015**. You are welcome to join us as we direct our attention to workers' rights and economic inequality. If you cannot attend but still wish to contribute to the discussion and action, please call or email me with your thoughts, questions, and proposals. Dennis Arashiro at 277-7377 and elvischannel@yahoo.com.

Half Portions for Social Action: South Sudan Medical Relief

By Dennis Arashiro

Let me tell you about Monwiir, a nine year old boy in South Sudan who broke his leg while chasing a cow last year. Because the fracture never healed properly and the bone protrudes from an open wound on his shin, he needs surgery that cannot be done in his country. Jill Seaman of South Sudan Medical Relief spent many hours looking for and finding missionary doctors in Kenya able to perform the surgery at a reasonable price. Jill arranged for a charter plane, transit papers, security clearance, and someone in Kenya to act as a guide. That was the easy part. Monwiir had to walk from his village on his unhealed leg for twenty hours in order to catch the plane.

Monwiir's walk is routine for those who seek medical care in South Sudan. It is challenge enough in normal times, but the country doesn't know normal times. Newly free after fighting a successful but devastating four decade war of independence against Sudan, South Sudan is at the ground floor of building a medical infrastructure. This is why the Fellowship has supported Jill Seaman and her work over the years. This is why South Sudan Medical Relief is the May recipient of the Half Portion for Social Action.

UUSC-UUA Response to Nepal Earthquake

On April 25, communities in Nepal, India, and Bangladesh suffered a devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake. The UUSC and the UUA are launching a special joint appeal for Nepal relief work. UUSC will take the lead in distributing funds where they can do the most good, directing support toward people who are left out of mainstream relief efforts. To read more or donate: <http://www.uusc.org/updates/tragedy-in-nepal>.

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

It feels like our new church home has come full circle now. We have had several Memorial services, a 100 year old "Happy Birthday party", concerts, AA group who followed us across town, rented our building to a few couples to be married here, and now our first wedding of one of our own. April 28th Susan Orlansky and Jim Bouchard were married by Gary with a Sanctuary full of family and friends in the most special wedding that I have ever attended. Their hand written words, "Why I Want to Marry You", which they read to each other brought tears to several of us. A JOYFUL occasion. Congratulations to the happy couple. May you two have a wonderful life together.

Sad to hear about June Schlegel's recent death (around last days of April) when Assisted Living Home called Gary to tell him not to expect June coming to AUUF via Anchor Rides any more. June loved to come to our services, years at the Forum, then when she had to depend on Anchor Rides and they could not bring her so early Sunday mornings, she was brought to 11 AM service. We will miss her sweet presence.

As most of our congregation know by now, we were so sorry to hear of Rick Zimmer's passing in late March in the Seattle hospital, but we now have a date for his family and friends and this congregation to celebrate his life. Memorial weekend, Saturday, May 23rd there will be a big hike to his favorite spot in the nearby mountains to scatter his ashes and the following day, Sunday, May 24th here at AUUF at 2 PM there will be a Celebration of Life Service for us all with a reception immediately following. There will no doubt, be many of Teresa and Rick's families and friends joining many of us for that service.

Gratitude for all the wonderful pre-Easter programs that Gary and Rosene and Amy put together this year. All well attended with potluck food to share, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and a wonderful Seder which Deborah Bock hosted. I only made it to the Seder but was very glad I did.

Then of course, Gary gave us a wonderful service called Regeneration on Easter Sunday with a lovely choir singing special music. A very full week. Thank you to all who helped set up, move chairs, clean up etc. And of course a big thank you (as usual) to the fabulous Bruce Roberts who keeps us all in one piece. And another round of appreciation to our own Rosene Beachy who Gary said was a wonderful help to him with these extra services.

Grateful for AUUF joining AFACT who is such a help with many local "good works" projects organizing things for the good of our community which is good for us and wonderful exposure for AUUF. It is so thrilling to be part of interfaith projects. Gary is thrilled and I hope our Board is too.

What a wonderful Mystery Pal Party, Saturday afternoon at AUUF recently. We've never had so many children and adults for any other Mystery Pal Recognition party. The most adults, the most children, the best games, the most food (tacos with everything on them). A good time was had by ALL. Special thanks to Rosene Beachy and to her helper Susie Kobierowski who put it all together and all who helped set up, clean up and put the rooms back ready for services on Sunday. This is a great way to get to know each other. And we had plenty of room!

Grateful that two of our brave, intrepid, men from this congregation, Dennis Arashiro and Harry Crawford joined many other guys wearing high heels to 'Walk a Mile in Her Shoes' fund raiser for STAR the weekend of April 18th. We understand both Dennis and Harry suffered mightily that night. Hope someone gave them a good foot massage. Thanks to both of you.

R.E. Notes for May 2015

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

What a busy and wonderful month April was!

The excitement of Mystery Pals was tangible each Sunday! Notes and cards flowed both directions as children learned to know and connected with a special adult in the Fellowship! This month long experience concluded with a lively unveiling party with games, food and connecting moments between pals. Thanks Susie for all your hard work on this project, and thanks to all the pals who kept up the flow of notes and conversation all month!

Easter's Spring Fling and the pre-Easter week services that were held at the Fellowship concluded with a special Seder dinner which families were able to participate in. We're pleased to report that the kids all found the Afikoman!

We are also very excited to be hosting a District OWL training for Jr/Sr High class leaders in May, led by Eric Morrow from Kentucky and our very own Katherine Huffman! We have 8 volunteers from the Fellowship participating in this 3-day training. This will be a great start for a long held wish by our OWL team to expand the OWL offerings to our larger Anchorage community.

In these last busy weeks of RE before our Summer programming begins, there are lots of exciting things happening from cleaning up the neighborhood, planting seeds to transplant to our AUUF gardens, to our Sunday services noted below. A highlight of each week has become the playground activity; please watch for children as you are driving through the parking lot!

There is work to be done on the gardens and playground. If you are interested in organizing these areas, and how to improve them over the summer, please contact Bruce Roberts (gardens) or Kalen Saxton (playground) to join the planning.

Thanks to those who have expressed interest in the UU Peace Camp. Unfortunately, it will need to be postponed to next summer. I will be gone most of the summer on my Sabbatical. So, planning will continue next fall, and we would welcome your involvement in that process. Contact Rosene or Annie Belts if you would like to be in on the planning meetings.

Finally, we would like to congratulate all our RE seniors: Alex Devon, Yana Smith, Bridget Galvin, Aidan Boeckman, and Duncan Wright who are graduating and are taking on new challenges. They will be missed as leaders in the YRUU program.

Happy Spring, May the sunshine continue!

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

OUR PROGRAM

9:00 Services –Childcare ages 2-10,.

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

11:00 Service -

May 3 Childcare Activities 10-11 am, Classes 11 - 12 during the Annual meeting

May 10 –Mother's Day, New Member Recognition, Baby Dedication

Baby Dedication - A community dedication of the many new babies and toddlers in our fellowship. Please talk to Gary or Rosene if you are interested in participating.

May 17 – Celebration Sunday Intergenerational Service, - Children's Sharing, Youth Bridging, Teacher Recognition and Flower Communion. Join us for this very special Sunday.

Celebration Sunday – RE program, Flower Communion and Teacher Recognition! If you are an RE family you won't want to miss it! If you have no children in RE, you will want to be part of this celebration and see what is going on in our program that is usually tucked away downstairs. Flower

Please register your children and youth for next year's program! Registration forms will be available in the Social room every Sunday in May, downstairs at the RE info Spot, at our AUUF website

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!!**

COMING OF AGE

May 7 – 7pm Coming of Age Info meeting

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

We would like to invite 8th, 9th and 10th graders to participate in next year's Coming of Age program. The program will run August – May 2015-16, with a monthly meeting and a monthly activity. There will be an informational meeting about the program for interested youth and their parents at 7 pm on Thursday, May 7th in the Sanctuary. Call Rosene Beachy (441-6815) for more details.

Youth Topics

5/1-3 Youth CON!

...

6/24-28 General Assembly!

~ Eric McCoy 230-6915 or
AUUFCYP@gmail.com

RE SOCIAL ACTION PROJECTS

April Soup Sunday hosted by the Jr High class raised \$430 for "Be the Match"! Thanks for all the contributions in memory of Rick Zimmer!

CHILDREN & YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION COMMITTEE

The CYRE Committee would like to give a great big **SHOUT OUT** to all the teachers, helpers and volunteers who have helped out this year. We really couldn't have done it without you. Thank you!! The Committee is excited to be planning for a new RE Year, 2015-2016.

Since this is a cooperative venture and it can only happen effectively with the help of many hands, these are the needs that you can help fill:

CYRE TEAM - 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!

Sunday morning Classroom teacher – Yes - YOU Can Teach! Participate on a team of folks for our Fall/Winter classes with a focus in '15-'16 on Unitarian Universalism. We will be using some wonderful UU Tapestry curriculums. In the Spring, our multiage workshop style classes will be focusing on several of the World's great stories using the Workshop Rotational model. There will be a sign up list on the downstairs Bulletin Board for all these options!

We will need a cadre of 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! This is a wonderful opportunity to learn along with the kids! Sign Up to help out!

OWL PROGRAM

Exciting news for our Fellowship – we have a Jr High/Sr High OWL training happening in Alaska May 1-3, which will include 6 new OWL leaders from our Fellowship!

Elementary OWL leaders needed, especially males!

Become an OWL leader! Talk to Rosene about an OWL (Our Whole Lives) training for the Elementary levels that you could attend in the PNWD district in August in order to become part of this very enthusiastic and fun team of leaders! Are you interested in helping provide our UU Sexuality curriculum to children K-1 and 4-6? Sign up now!

Adult Programs – Spring 2015

ONGOING INTEREST GROUPS

Freethinkers at AUUF – Gathers Fridays at noon in the social room at the new fellowship. Meets from 12:00 – 1:30. Contact George Bryson for More information gfbryson@gmail.com; 250-5140.

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

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

Small Group Ministry – Connect to UU's on a deeper level. Small groups are a group of people who commit to meeting weekly or biweekly for a semester to discuss themes chosen by the group using a "Small Group" format.. Organized by Susan Orlansky on a request basis for the 2nd half of the year. Call Susan, 248-1141 if you would like to participate in a group.

May Birthdays, Best Wishes!

Birthdays are not published in our on-line version

Do You Tweet? We've established an AUUF Twitter account - @auuf49. If you Tweet, follow us!

From the Fellowship office:

Deadlines: The LOG deadline is the third Sunday of each month. Early entries are greatly appreciated. Wednesday 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.)

Fred Meyer Rewards Card: AUUF receives donations from the Fred Meyer's Community Rewards program. To help, 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).

Building Use: To book an event or meeting in the building please contact the administrator.

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

Take stock of your talents: Find Your Fit in May!

Whether you are new to the fellowship or an established AUUF member/friend ... spring is a good time to find (or expand) your fit into this vibrant and caring organization. AUUF is fortunate to have a hard-working and capable staff, but they cannot possibly accomplish all that goes into serving each other and the greater community. Rather, we all work together to meet collective and individual needs. How do we do it? Through volunteers like you who serve on the board, committees and teams. Our fellowship offers fertile ground to turn individual hobbies, skills and experience into fulfilling and fun action.

The Find-Your-Fit Fair on April 26 kicked off our annual effort to help members and friends understand how and where they can participate in AUUF. The effort continues into May. Look for the **Find-Your-Fit** display tables upstairs, where you'll find the Find-Your-Fit Volunteer Form/Talent Survey; Committee and Team sign-up sheets and information; and folks to answer your questions.

Everyone at AUUF can find their fit, whether pursuing a passion for children, teaching, singing, cooking, crafts, environmental conservation, energy efficiency, philosophy, politics, deep discussion, elder care, strategic planning and more. The teams, committees and other formal and informal groups at AUUF accomplish vital work, while satisfying personal interests. Here's a brief overview:

The Board of Directors sets policy and has fiscal and fiduciary accountability to the fellowship. Two vacancies will be filled by election/vote during the Annual Membership Meeting May 3. The Board gets help with governance by working closely with AUUF staff and several committees.

Governance-related Committees:

- **Nominating Committee** - helps to find volunteers to fill vacant positions
- **Human Resources** - helps guide personnel policy and resolve personnel issues. *(People with HR / personnel experience are needed to fill several vacancies.)*
- **Finance and Stewardship** - two closely-aligned committees that help with financial planning / budgeting/canvassing to support operations and capital needs.
 - Sub-committees include Planned Giving and Chalice Lighter *(Ambassador needed)*.

Ministry-related Teams:

- **Shared Ministry** - guides and coordinates relationships and interaction between ministry groups and the congregation as a whole
- **Pastoral / Community Care** - helps members in times of need, including lay chaplains, short-term care and the pastoral pantry
- **Event Planning** - organize and plan annual events (dinner/auction, lunches, picnic, etc.) *((New team needs chair and members))*
- **Social Justice** - coordinates AUUF support of various social justice issues and community efforts
- **Green Sanctuary** - promotes environmental stewardship and recycling and tackles environmental issues
- **Welcome and Membership** - helps with greeting during services; and orientation, mentoring, and materials related to new members
- **Worship Associates** - becomes trained, and leads worship services as part of a rotating team
- **Forum Planning** - suggests topics and secures speakers for 9:00 a.m. Forum Service
- **Communications** - assists with public and media relations tasks, including advertising, news releases, calendars and other social media opportunities *(New team needs chair and members)*
- **Technology / Internet** - develops and maintains AUUF web site, Internet search optimization, updates Facebook and investigates other Social Media forums. *(Help needed to enhance essential internet presence).*
- **Buildings and Grounds** - assists with janitorial and upkeep of the facility and property *(Spring/Summer brings many volunteer opportunities).*
- **Religious Exploration** - trains and teaches in support of RE classes and programs for Children, Youth and Adults. *(Looking to get the 2015 fall teaching team in place in May).*

Take Stock continued...

Independent Associated Organizations

Two associated organizations operate independently for the financial good of the fellowship:

- **Endowment Committee** oversees the Endowment Fund that will eventually grow it into a "permanent fund" that can provide interest income. *(Two vacancies will be filled by vote at the Annual Member Meeting May 3)*
- **The Alliance** is a non-profit established to raise money for smaller, specific activities (special events, memorials) and purchases. *(Need volunteers to participate regularly)*

Be sure to complete the Find-your-Fit Volunteer Form / Talent Survey if you are new to AUUF or simply want to change or add to the areas you are interested in. Turn it into the AUUF office or at the Find-Your-Fit Display. For more information, contact Stephenie Wheeler at 382-3327 or Ron Devon 301-1601.

Hungry Book Club News

by Shirley Dickens

About a dozen of us met at Pioneer Home Tuesday, April 14th to discuss April's "read", The Children's Blizzard, a carefully researched book about the horrendous Blizzard of 1888 in Minnesota, the Dakota territories and parts of Nebraska and Iowa, killing hundreds of people including many school children who froze to death going home from school. A very sad book, but 3 or 4 of us had grown up on stories of this devastating blizzard.

We have chosen as our next May and June read, a very thick book (we are dividing it into two sections), called The Long Walk to Freedom by Nelson Mandela. It should be easy to find, Title Wave, The Library, Amazon.com (I just ordered mine there) Barnes and Noble, etc. We will meet again at the Pioneer home the second Tuesday afternoon, 2 PM which will be May 12th. This is an open book club, all book lovers are welcome. Bring a simple snack (hopefully healthy) to share. Debbie will host us and Pioneer home furnishes coffee and tea.

KSKA Fund

Donate to our fund, find the KSKA Fund by pushing the donate button on our website then look in the sub groupings. All these funds go to KSKA. We use them to have announcements of our special events put on the air.

Friendly Recycling Tip: Look at home products that come in plastic. Can you change your habits? For instance, do you use shower gel that comes in a plastic bottle? Can you switch to a gentle bar soap?

Recycling Plastics: Our next recycling pickup is May 3. 5s only, some examples are yogurt and cottage cheese containers.

Alliance

by Shirley Dickens

The Alliance held an "Open House" for Consultant, Bill Clontz, Next Steps program (from The American UU Association) on April 25th Saturday with a beverage and snack at 4 PM in our upstairs social room. This was a chance to meet Bill informally for our congregants. He had been here all Saturday meeting with various committees and was at Sunday services on April 26th. He had been invited to come here by our Stewardship Committee to help us get ready for our Capital Campaign.

We will need lots of volunteers for our **annual rummage sale**. Please consider not only bringing things for us to sell, but coming back Saturday and volunteering some time that day and also helping us set up Thursday and Friday May 21, and May 22nd for the **all-day sale May 23, Doors open at 8 AM, May 23rd.**

Neighborhood Connection: Airport Heights Elementary is celebrating its 60th Anniversary with a reunion and party on Saturday May 9th noon to two at the school. AUUF is invited to attend. See the invitation and art work on the bulletin board in the social room.

Choir Schedule

Saturday, May 2nd: 10-12:30pm

Sunday, May 3rd: 9:45-10:30am

Wednesday, May 6th: 6-8pm

Saturday, May 9th: 10-12:30pm

Sunday, May 10th: 9:45-10:30 +
5pm-9pm

Saturday, May 16th: 10:30-12pm

Sunday, May 17th: 9:45-10:30am

About our Speakers and Services (see back page)

Gary Holthaus is AUUF's called minister.

Caitlin Shortell is an Anchorage lawyer. She was the attorney on the case of Hamby vs. Walker in the U.S. District Court for Alaska, which struck the Alaska Constitutional ban on same sex marriage. She is a champion of equal rights for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender community. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Comparative Literature from UC Berkeley and a J.D. Degree from Northeastern University School of Law.

Senator **Berta Gardner** is a member of our Fellowship and an Alaska State Senator representing midtown. She is the Senate Minority leader.

Mr. Whitekeys, also known as W. Keys, is a musician, recording artist, entrepreneur, writer, media personality and ornithologist in the U.S. state of Alaska. He was the owner and operator of a nightclub called the Fly By Night Club, located in the Spenard neighborhood of Anchorage, from 1980 to 2006. In part due to his flamboyant public persona and penchant for humor (and to a more limited extent, penchant for self-promotion), he figures prominently in the modern history and folklore of Spenard.

Burt Bomhoff is the author of "Iditarod Alaska, The Life of a Long Distance Sled Dog Musher". He has devoted much of his life to the Iditarod Race, and has finished the race 7 times. Burt has lived in Alaska for over 50 years. He is a professional engineer and a pilot.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Information

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

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

Staff Phones and Email

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

Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration, 248-3737, x 4

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

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

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

Contacts for AUUF Board of Directors and Committee Contacts are available on the Website

AUUF Board of Directors

Sam Cason, President; Erik Hill, Secretary; Carma Reed, Treasurer; Helen Nienhueser, Vice President;

Marty Freeman; Rod McCoy; Mindy Willis

Other Contact Persons

4As Lunches – Robin Hill

Alliance – Shirley Dickens

Building and Grounds - Bruce Roberts

Children and Youth RE – Deena Mitchell

Committee on Shared Ministry – Marty Herriott

Endowment – John Blaine

Forum Planning-Mindy Willis, Helen Nienhueser, Jim Wanamaker

Finance – Carma Reed

Green Sanctuary – Suzie Kobierowski

Nominating – Ron Devon/Stephanie Wheeler

Community Care – Mary Ann Eininger

Pastoral Pantry – Amanda Cash

Safer Congregation – Tom Stenson

Social Justice Committee – Dennis Arashiro

Small Groups – Susan Orlansky

Stewardship – Judy Engh

UUSC Coordinator – Dennis Arashiro

Welcoming Committee – Denise Martin

Whalecoast – Denise Martin

Worship Associates –

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

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AUUF SERVICES –May 2015

Sunday, May 3
9 am Breakfast
10 am Annual Meeting

Sunday, May 10 Mothers' Day
9 am Berta Gardner,
'Report from the Alaska Legislature'
11 am Gary Holthaus

Sunday, May 17 Celebration Sunday
9 am Mr. Whitekeys, 'Birding as a Religion'
11 am Gary Holthaus

Sunday, May 24 Memorial Day Weekend
9 am Burt Bomhoff, 'Stories of the Iditarod Race'
11 am Gary Holthaus

Sunday, May 31
9 am Caitlin Shortell, 'LGBT Equality for Alaska'
11 am Gary Holthaus

Regular Tuesday Evening Services

7 pm May 5, 12, 19, 26

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- May 2015

Sundays 9 am ~ Toddler Childcare.

Sunday 11 am ~ Classes for toddlers through high school

The LOG

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

June

2015

Gary Holthaus, Minister

May 2015 Board Report

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More details page 4

Gary Holthaus, Minister

It has been a great spring at AUUF. Our choir provided us with a great concert, and we got a great compliment on it from a person who did not even attend. The next morning one of our neighbors popped in and said, "I just came to say thanks." I looked blank and asked "What for?" And then he said that the previous night they had their windows open and we did too – "and we heard this beautiful music...it was so peaceful and beautiful, we listened to the whole concert! Years past when we had the windows open, the music was just an awful racket and we had to close them. So we're sure grateful you've moved in." Those of us who sitting inside were grateful too. The choir and Mary and Tamara did themselves proud. One of the things that has been pleasing to observe has been the improvement in the music they have provided the last couple of years.

It was also exciting that 13 folks chose to sign our membership book and be welcomed by our congregation. To add another high note to a great time, five babies were dedicated in a unique dedication ceremony created by Rosene.

Further, our membership in AFACT (Anchorage Faith and Action · Congregations Together) has enabled us to participate in numerous events in support of Medicaid expansion. Most recently AUUF was co-sponsor for a rally on the corner of 4th and H Street, and fully responsible for another gathering replete with signs and songs and opening and closing words and a reading in our Unitarian Universalist fashion. There were about 30 folks, mostly AUUF, who supported that rally from noon till 1:00. I also testified about the education, child abuse, and Medicaid bills before the legislature's special session. The Democrat Minority Caucus held the only open hearing where that could happen. I was great to see members Berta Gardner and Bill Wielechowski present at the hearing.

It has been exciting to see our congregation in such an active leadership role in these social justice issues, and I'm grateful to AFACT for opening the way for us to participate.

See You Sundays This summer! Gary

433-9311 cell



May 2014 Board Report

Sam Cason, President

What a spring we are having! Summer is upon us, and we held the May meeting of the Board the first Tuesday instead of the second Wednesday to accommodate busy travel schedules. Our annual meeting was two days earlier on May 2. That meant two newly elected incoming board members, Don Crandall and Amanda Mack, had a chance to attend and begin ramping up to take office at the July meeting. In addition to electing new board members, the proposed budget was approved and the Congregation voted overwhelmingly to take a public position encouraging the State of Alaska to implement Medicaid expansion. Subsequently, numerous UU's were spotted demonstrating on the topic in rallies at the Anchorage Legislative offices.

As we approach the new fiscal year, we are still hoping to amend our budget as discussed at the annual meeting. As you may recall, a number of steps were taken to balance the budget as presented. We were forced to reduce our expenses by cutting a position. We funded projected increases in our utility costs with a one-time draw from our operating reserves. Even with these measures, in order to balance the budget, and based on our experience of additional pledges coming in during the year over the last two budget cycles, we projected that an additional twenty thousand dollars would be raised. At the Board meeting Carma was happy to report that an additional eight thousand dollars has already been pledged. While it is not yet close enough to fulfilling the existing budget to consider adding the expense of a choir director back, it is a good start.

Stephenie Wheeler appeared for two purposes. First, she reported on efforts that are underway to revise and upgrade our web site. She and Ken Winterberger are working with a team to identify options and priorities, evaluate costs and resource requirements, and accomplish a major upgrade to our online presence. The Board provided both organizational and substantive feedback. Second, Stephenie and Ron Devon have agreed to organize the annual dinner again this year, and the Board confirmed that the default date for the Annual Dinner this year is Saturday, November 7.

Next, the Board took up amendments to the Board Policy Manual that had been proposed and approved for finalizing at prior meetings. Safer Congregations Committee chair Tom Stenson presented a report, and the board adopted amendments to the Safer Congregation policy concerning who will be subject to mandatory screening and training, and how allegations of misconduct are to be reported and transmitted internally. The board is very pleased to have this complete policy in place, and thanks all who have helped in this process.

After one more round of comments, the Board adopted our current Organizational Chart showing the delegation and reporting structure of our currently active committees. This represents a major step toward internalizing the shift that has been underway for several years away from a pastoral organization towards a programmatic one. Thanks especially to Helen and Marty who collected the data and diagrammed it into a very accessible visual depiction of our organization.

After proofing and minor corrections, final language implementing amendments to the Human Resource Manual concerning nepotism and the hiring of members for staff positions was also approved. Now if we can only complete our finance policies, and a conflicts policy, the board will have addressed the major policy issues we identified last summer!

As you probably know, in April we received a Chalice Lighter's grant to upgrade our boiler and hot water heating system. Bruce Roberts confirmed that the design-bid process is ongoing, and we will be seeing that project through over the warm summer months. He also reports there is a great deal of springtime interest in all of our outdoor spaces; playground, garden, compost, all the green spaces, parking, and access ways. Exposed concrete has been chipped, a new slide procured, and fence layout designed and started. By the time you read this there will have been another work party!

Finally, we considered what's next after the Next Steps Weekend. Our consultant Bill Clontz has issued a report. A link to it is on our website if you haven't seen it. While he was here, Mr. Clontz was generous with his praise. He observed that a move is very stressful on a congregation and congratulated us on continuing to have such a positive atmosphere. People who came to attend one session often stayed and attended another or several, which suggests that our involved members care deeply and are really engaged. He was somewhat concerned with the relatively high number of members (some one in four) who haven't made a substantial pledge to help fund the Fellowship. He encouraged us to emphasize both the need for, and also the feelings of satisfaction and pride that come from pledging. It is everyone's opportunity to be an important part of supporting our vibrant programs. Those programs keep all the folks who make attending our Fellowship such a joy coming back, and support our growing voice in the wider community. Green pledge forms are still available!

The next Board of Directors meeting is June 10, 2015 at 6:15 pm.

New Staff: Volunteer Coordinator

By Gary Holthaus, Minister

I am happy to introduce you to Doug Stewart, our new "Volunteer Coordinator" who will be helping us engage all members in activities that match their interests and talents. Doug brings a diverse background of experience to our Fellowship, and will be a great resource for our congregation.

Doug is enthusiastic about this new position and will be here on Sunday mornings and will also support Amy, Rosene, Eric, myself and the Nominating Committee to identify volunteers for critical Ministry Teams and other committees. He will also be developing our data base of skills, interests, and talents.

Doug will be working 65 hours per month. Have coffee with him in the social room between the 9 and 11:00 o'clock services or after the 11:00 o'clock, meet Doug and his family and give them a hearty welcome to AUUF.

Doug Stewart is the proud father of 4 boys - Jagger 10, River 7, Isaiah 5 and Elijah 3. He is married to the Brittany Broussard Stewart. They are originally from Louisiana. With his background in Psychology and Education he brings a wide variety of experiences to the Volunteer Coordinator Position. Doug also served as a consultant to churches in the areas of Youth and Family Ministry. Doug is active in the community in scouting and the PTA. He works full time as the event manager at the Alaska Zoo.

Doug was a National Motivational Speaker for 20 years where he traveled across the country and world delivering his message of hope and love to schools, churches and businesses. A quote that Doug authored and believes in: "Every person deserves to Smile - Every person deserves to be loved and Every person deserves to be accepted JUST THE WAY THEY ARE!!". *Doug's contact information is located on page 9.*

Adult Programs – Summer 2015

ONGOING INTEREST GROUPS

Freethinkers at AUUF – Gathers Fridays at noon in the social room at the new fellowship. Meets from 12:00 – 1:30. Contact George Bryson for More information gfbryson@gmail.com; 250-5140.

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

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

Small Group Ministry – Connect to UU's on a deeper level. Some years we have had interest in a summer small group. Typically, these meet once a week, usually on a weekday evening, for 8-10 weeks. Sometimes we've had an indoor group, and sometimes a small walking group that uses small group style sharing on a topic while we walk for about an hour on the coastal trail. I am willing to organize a group or groups, however, I am not available to host this summer. Contact me aorlansky@frozenlaw.com, 222-7117 if you are interested, or have questions.

Hungry Book Club News

by Shirley Dickens

A dozen book lovers met at Pioneer Home to discuss Nelson Mandela's "Long Walk to Freedom". We had read 1/2 of this monumental book for May and will finish it for June monthly meeting. Next book club will meet June 9th (second Tuesday in the month at 2 PM, again at the Pioneer home) where Debbie Cahoon graciously hosts us. Bring healthy snacks to share as we finish discussing this very well written book. We also have a homework assignment, to do a little research on the anti-apartheid movement and what brought about so many changes eventually in the South African culture. We may also show the DVD of the movie about Nelson Mandela there in the Pioneer home, 3rd floor social room. Call for directions, 563-4499.

Alliance

by Shirley Dickens

The Alliance met early in May to hash out details of our very intense and busy weekend coming up May 23rd (Rummage Sale) and the next day, Rick Zimmer's Celebration of Life service and reception. The bulk of time was spent discussing these two upcoming events. Hopefully by the time you have read this you have supported our Rummage sale and joined in for the Celebration of Life for Rick Zimmer.

Your Credit Card for Routine Donations:

If your credit card number or expiration date has changed please be sure to notify the office. (Call or leave a note in the secure pledge box.)~~ Amy, Church Administrator 248-3737 x3 auuf@gci.net.

Whalecoast 2015 Is Coming!

The Annual UU Whalecoast tour, where visiting UUs from around the country visit Alaska, is coming in July! The tour will be in Anchorage two nights: Wednesday, July 22 and Thursday, July 23. We are expecting a record number of guests: 38 total plus the 2 coordinators from Fairbanks. Our Fellowship earns over \$6,000 from this event. Plus it is FUN!! We need hosts willing to commit a spare bed for hosting guests on these nights, and to help prepare a fabulous banquet at AUUF on July 23. A downtown walking tour is being planned this year. Extra help with transportation is needed this year, and someone to coordinate this who has some free time that week would be very much appreciated.



So, please think about it! You can help in any or all of these ways:

1. Housing a guest or 2 (this is the most challenging part overall! We need at least 40 beds!)
2. Help with the banquet on Thurs. July 23. Kalen Saxton (kalensaxton@gmail.com) and Jane Gray (janeellengray@gmail.com) are coordinating this, please contact them.
3. Help with transportation. Many of our hosts are not able to perform all the driving that this event requires; and some shuttling from the Museum to the banquet may be necessary, plus a number of hosts offering their homes will be out of town when guests come through. Contact Annie if you're available to be a driver: anniebelts@gmail.com.
4. Walking Tours downtown. Depending on how much interest emerges, we may need some folks to help lead some walking tours. Contact Denise Martin if you're interested.

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

Please mark July 22 & 23 on your calendar, and email your coordinator, Denise Martin, at dulcimer.diva@gmail.com to let her know you are available. Call her with questions at 907-345-8787.

Next Steps Weekend Report

We have received the follow-up report from Bill Clontz, our UUA consultant, on the April 24-16 AUUF Next Steps Weekend. It was a stimulating three days, and we are very grateful to all of you who made the time to participate. Our AUUF covenant says "We strive to listen deeply and speak with one another ... with respect." There was a lot of listening and speaking with both respect and enthusiasm throughout the weekend.

The report is now available on-line at <http://bit.ly/1EdJbSL> or <http://www.anchorageuuf.org/pdfs/AUUF-AnchorageAK-NextStepsWeekendReport-APR2015-FINALREPORT.pdf>. It highlights many sources of pride for our Fellowship and challenges for further strengthening it. Happily, the report also contains sources of information on how to tackle the challenges, and examples from what some other UU congregations have done. The Board is eagerly digesting the report, and some committees are already working on the recommendations.

We look forward to hearing from you, too. If you would like to comment on anything in the report, or weigh in on priorities, please feel free to contact me (martyw@ak.net, 276-3749) or other Board members

Social Justice Committee

By Dennis Arashiro

"I believe in democracy, because it releases the energies of every human being."

-- Woodrow Wilson

It is time to release the energies of the entire Fellowship! It is time to live up to our Fifth Principle, which commits us to the democratic process. The Next Steps Weekend Report by outside consultant, Bill Clontz, specifically calls for democratizing the Half Portion for Social Action. Presently, the Social Justice Committee in conjunction with our minister chooses the monthly recipients. The Board of Directors decided on this process. This is already democracy in action, but it is indirect democracy.

Indirect democracy, where chosen representatives and leaders make decisions, may make sense when direct democracy is too time consuming and impractical. Yet, we need as much direct democracy as possible and practical to insure the greatest involvement of us all. That is why the Social Justice Committee will now establish a process--a democratic one!--to bring Half Portion selection to the full Fellowship. Because the devil (?) will be in the details, we need your ideas on the specifics of rules and procedures of direct choice. We will consider any and all ideas--even butterfly ballots and hanging chads! Join the discussion (!) at our next committee meeting at **12:30 PM on Sunday, June 21, 2015 at Gary's office at the Fellowship**. If you cannot attend, make your voice heard by phoning or emailing me. Dennis Arashiro at 277-7377 or elvischannel@yahoo.com.

Half Portions for Social Action: Alaska Literacy Program

By Dennis Arashiro

"Literacy and Beyond!"... perhaps that should be the name of the Alaska Literacy Program. It would certainly reflect more accurately what it actually does. Literacy is just the starting point. Consider IMPACT - Parents and Children Together, Family Literacy Program. This comprehensive service involves adult literacy instruction, early childhood education, developmentally appropriate activities, parenting skills, training and referrals to other community programs. Consider citizenship classes under the sponsorship of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. Consider one on one tutoring to build skills in math, reading, writing, and oral English, the stepping stones in realizing dreams and dreaming new dreams.

The Fellowship has been a supporter over the years through the Half Portion for Social Action, as it does this June. But, that's not all. Members of the Fellowship have supported the Alaska Literacy Program through individual financial contributions, volunteer tutoring and teaching, and leadership positions. Yet, that has not been enough to meet the needs of those who seek its services. You may be the very person to make the greatest difference. Learn how to get involved at alaskaliteracyprogram.org.

Legacy Moment

By Wray Kinard

A nice thing about leaving a legacy to the Fellowship is that it's so easy you don't even have to die to do it. A good example is a discussion I had years ago with Fred Hillman (man, do I still miss him) who told me he donated a vacant lot -- maybe two, I can't remember -- to AUUF when they were conducting a Capital Campaign back in the '80s to buy the building on Turnagain Street. He said he was short of money (um, aren't we all?) but he had this property he knew he would never use. So he transferred the title to AUUF and that was that.

While having extra real estate may not be the situation you are in, the lesson is clear. Everyone has stuff that's sitting around unused. For example, a junker car is an item AUUF can use to raise money. Almost everybody has living quarters that are "too small" and things unused and underfoot are at least part of the overcrowding problem. Look through a storage bin you haven't seen the inside of in years, or a garage/carport you haven't been able to pull your car into since forever; we all have things that're worth a second look as a donation to AUUF. Give it a try, then give the Fellowship a call!

Many Thanks! for all who have spent time in the garden, playground and the work party over this early spring. Still lots more to do and lovely sun to do it in. Many hands make light work!

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Grateful for our hard working Board of Directors for AUUF. They have put in a very productive and vital year in the life of this Fellowship and worked extremely hard this past year or two. Lots of gratitude and appreciation from all of us to all of them, and especially Sam Cason board president and Carma Reed, our treasurer. Also grateful for a well-run Annual meeting this year which was so well intended. It is a real "learning experience" to serve on our Board and a heck of a lot of work and responsibility.

Grateful for a lovely child dedication ceremony and new member recognition ceremony at recent Sunday service. It was thrilling to see several families with babies and children coming before the congregation to be recognized and honored as well as about a dozen new members who have recently signed the book of membership or signed it that morning. A lovely response was written in our Order of Service for both of these groups. Welcome children and families and welcome new members. May this be a wonderful addition to all these lives.

Glad that Rosene Beachy, our very hard working director of Religious Education will start her first "sabbatical" as of June 1st. We hear she had 3 trips planned, lots of studying and reading planned and we hope some down time to just do exactly what ever she wants. Loved hearing about the gifts each RE class gave her in a little ceremony at the 11 AM service recently. Have a safe and restorative summer, Rosene. We do so appreciate you.

Grateful for the 75 or so who hiked up to Wolverine Peak with Teresa Zimmer and her children to scatter Rick Zimmer's ashes, accompanied by a bag piper. Many friends and family were part of the group and many made it to the top. This was Saturday, May 23rd with only a little sprinkling of rain.

Very grateful for the huge turnout of family, neighbors, co-workers, friends and many of this congregation for the Celebration of Rick Zimmer's Life Sunday, May 24th, followed by a huge pot luck. There were at least 200 people who came together with tears and much laughter to share Rick's amazing life with each other. Included was lovely music by Tamara and our choir, a guitar solo from son Noah, a wonderful Libby Roderick song (sung and played on her guitar by Libby), a wonderful slide show of Rick's life by his brother, Paul. The Navy was there (along with a volunteer bugle player) to present a US flag to the family. After an amazing pot luck dinner, people lingered to visit and enjoy each other's company. A truly wonderful tribute to a very special man....

Summer is here, be safe, everybody. Enjoy our amazing outdoors whether it's fishing, hiking boating, gardening, exploring, whatever.

June Birthdays, Best Wishes!

Birthdates are not published in our online version.

Do You Tweet? We've established an AUUF Twitter account - @auuf49. If you Tweet, follow us!

Airport Heights Community Council

by Kalen Saxton

Join the neighborhood! Saturday - June 6 – 11-3 pm - Airport Heights CC Annual Picnic at Takishla Park near the playground. AUUF and Trinity Christian are loaning our tables. Bring pot luck dishes to share. Grills will be set up. Hot dogs and Hamburgers have been donated. All members and friends of AUUF are invited to join our neighbors!

Friendly Recycling Tip: Do you use liquid detergent? Can you find a dry detergent that comes in a box that you would be just as happy to use?

Recycling Plastics: Our next recycling pickup is July 12. 5s only, some examples are yogurt and cottage cheese containers.

R.E. Notes for May 2015

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

As our RE program switches to summer mode, many of you are already planning which countries you will lead our summer group to explore. As we learn about friends around the world this summer, we will help create a fair and peaceful world one idea at a time. When you are in town, resting from your summer adventures, be sure to stop in and join the fun on Sunday morning!

Summer Programming Coverage and for Questions

Eric McCoy, CYP will be the Summer DRE, 230-6915,
auufcyp@gmail.com
Deena Mitchell, CYRE Committee chair - 743-6017

Please register your children and youth for next year's program! Registration forms will be available in the Social room every Sunday in May, downstairs at the RE info Spot, at our AUUF website.

OUR PROGRAM

9:00 Speaker's Forum – No childcare during the summer

11:00 Service - Cross age program. Childcare for 1-3 yr. olds. Please join us when you are in Anchorage!

Summer Program Schedule:

UU World travelers

May 31 - Bon Voyage Party w/ Alison Hansen
June 7 – Kenya w/ Leslie Adams
June 14 - Guatemala w/ Leslie Adams
June 21 – India w/ Kate Lehn & Yolanda Meza
June 28 – Japan w/ Mary Gregory
July 5 – Egypt w/ Deena Mitchell
July 12 – Turkey w/ Cady Lynn Jenkins
July 19 - South Korea w/ Cady Lynn Jenkins
July 26 – Mali, Africa w/ Mela O'Brien
August 2 – Russia w/ David Snyder & Patty Trott
August 9 - The Cook Islands w/ Peggy Robinson
August 16 - Italy w/ Laura Krip
August 23 – Mexico w/ Alison Hansen
August 30 – Welcome Home Party

There will be lots happening at the Fellowship over the summer! Work on the playground and garden; work on the website, the Rummage sale Saturday May 25th, Whalecoast (our UU friends from the lower 48), and the Tuesday night services if you were out camping or traveling on the weekend! The best way to stay in touch is through our new Twitter account, the weekly blasts and discussions from the "Goggle" group, Facebook page and Website.

Recruiting – Class Leaders for 2015-16! Yes YOU Can Teach!

We have had a fabulous response to the call for joining teaching teams next fall. Only 8 spots left of the 26 class leaders we need! Joining a team to explore Unitarian Universalism Principles and ideas with a group of bright and enthusiastic children is an invigorating and enlightening way to spend 2 Sunday mornings a month! One Sunday prep to be the lead teacher, and the 2nd as an assistant for someone else on your team. We guarantee you will learn almost as much as the kids!

This is a large cooperative volunteer program and we expect and appreciate participation from all families in some way! If you have children in the program and have never volunteered, this would be a great year to begin! Team teaching is how we enable everyone, both the opportunity to participate in the upstairs services, about half the Sundays, and still be involved in the excitement downstairs. There will be a sign up poster downstairs until all spots are full.

Thanks to the generosity of the Board, and the capable people in support positions, **I will be on Sabbatical for 3 months** this summer, so will see you again in August. But not to worry, the program will be in good hands! If you have any questions, the following people will be able to help you:

Summer DRE – Eric McCoy ph. 230-6915 AUUFcyp@gmail.com

Childcare Coordinator & Playground Creator – Kalen Saxton ph. 277-0708 kalensaxton@gmail.com

CYRE Committee chair – Deena Mitchell ph. 743-6017 DeenaMitchell1978@gmail.com

Be well, be happy, and have a wonderful summer! Don't forget to bring back water from your summer adventures!

Thank You 2014-15 Teachers & Re Leaders

Our teachers this year!

Water Skippers – 1-2 Year Olds, Marie Rozak, Kalen Saxton, Gwen Perry Crawford, Dennis Arashiro

Wind Walkers – 3- 4 Year Olds, Leslie Adams, Paula Smith

Sun Catchers – K - 1st Grade, Tom Stenson, Amanda Mack, Jess Walsh, Kristin Nygren

Fire Keepers – 2nd grade, Jeanne Duryee, Laura Krip, Trish Meissner

Planet Keepers – 3rd - 4th Grade, Lauren Rench, Michal Bernier, Abigail Kean

Star Gazers – 5th- 6th Wendy Romberg, Angela Palmer, Carma Reed, Helen Westervelt

Moon Spinners – 7th-8th, Mara Hill, Kelley Hartlieb, Ron Devon, TK Kleiner

World Makers – H.S. Advisors - Ariel Herman, Kristi Taylor Bond

Support – Jackie Cason, Diane Smith

Additional volunteers (Hogwarts, snack) – Kathleen Dunning, Angie Harris, Mary Gregory, Elayne Hunter, Shirley Dickens, Sheilagh Menck, Alison Hansen, Alix McKee, Amy Westfall, Carol Nelson

Fall Jr. High School Owl Team - Ken Winterberger, Katherine Huffman,

Teresa Zimmer, Shannon Bell

Elementary K-1st /4th-5th Owl Team - Rob Lefebvre, Laura Greffenius,

CYRE Committee – Deena Mitchell, Martha Amore, David Mack, Annie Belts, Susie Kobierowski

Moving On . . . We extend our love and best of luck wishes to 2 of our families who are relocating: Tom Stenson and Nuala to Seattle and Nina Heyano and Rosa to Fairbanks. To 2 of our youth who will be studying in Germany next year – Cecilie Arroyo and Charlotte Mitchell. We hope you find a new UU family and we will miss you.

YRUU notes June 2015

The youth group chose the topic of poverty as their social justice mission. How that takes shape in action will be decided over the next two months, on June 12th and July 14th. Our initial 2nd Sunday Service of Action this Fall semester will be on Aug. 9th. If you have ideas, please pass them on to youth that you see, and they will bring them to group.

Like nature? Like friends? Like expressing faith with friends in nature? **We say we want to go camping, and we've come close, but this is the summer to make it happen.** We need six committed youth, and enough time for me to rustle up willing adult chaperones. If by Sunday you have six willing participants (and more is certainly encouraged) contact me and we can go the following weekend. This is going to be a great summer--let's not miss it!

The coffee cart is back and we have Kaladi Brothers to thank. They fixed it at the cost of the parts, which was a very kind gesture. We need a new crew of brew dudes! Please email adevon28@gmail.com (thanks, Alex) if you are interested in coffee training, and we will try to coordinate a time that works for everyone.

As mentioned above, I will be helping out with a few of the tasks associated with RE. We are looking for a few more teachers, and youth are welcome to help over the summer with World Travelers. Please contact me for any reason for information about RE or YRUU, auufcyp@gmail.com (907) 230-6915

Lastly, I'd like to thank everyone in the congregation, especially Alex and Yana and their families, for a beautiful **bridging ceremony**. You two have done so much for this congregation, and given so much to our youth group that I don't know what it will be like without you. I hope you carry the light with you always, and bring some home to us when you can. Thank you, Eric.

About our Speakers and Services (see back page)

Gary Holthaus is AUUF's called minister.

Rolando Guzman is in charge of film booking and programming at Bear Tooth Theatre. He has been involved in selecting provocative, thoughtful movies and documentaries for over ten years.

Mike Jipping was involved at the launch of Bear Tooth theatre in 2000. Mike worked at Moose's Tooth until becoming the Special Events Coordinator at Bear Tooth three years ago.

Bill Hall has been a volunteer coordinator for Let's Talk Anchorage which has just completed discussion and deliberations concerning Alaska's fiscal gap. Bill is from Cordova, where he was a commercial fisherman for over 30 years and where he served as a City Council Member and as Mayor. He has worked with the Alaska Commercial Fishing and Agriculture Bank, and the UAF Cooperative Extension Service. He has also served on the board of Alaska Common Ground. Bill will, at the request of Governor Bill Walker, be a participant in the statewide conversation convened by the Governor at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks for June 5 through June 7.

Delisa Renideo teaches nutrition and cooking classes in Anchorage and the Valley. She has been an RN and a Certified Food for Life Instructor through the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine. She holds a Certificate in Plant-Based Nutrition from Cornell University. She is also thrilled that when we choose the healthiest foods, we're also helping heal our planet.

Rev. Britt Johnston is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church. He holds a degree in Practical Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary. He is the son of long-time member Hal Johnston and attended as a child in the log cabin church.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Information

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

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

Staff Phones and Email

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

Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration, on sabbatical

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

Also Covering for Rosene Beachy this summer

Doug Stewart, Volunteer Coordinator 444-8382, douglasjstewart@outlook.com

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

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

AUUF Board of Directors

Sam Cason, President; Erik Hill, Secretary; Carma Reed, Treasurer; Helen Nienhueser, Vice President;

Marty Freeman; Rod McCoy; Mindy Willis

Other Contacts

4As Lunches – Robin Hill

Alliance – Shirley Dickens

Building and Grounds - Bruce Roberts

Children and Youth RE – Deena Mitchell

Committee on Shared Ministry – Marty Herriott

Community Care – Mary Ann Eininger

Endowment – John Blaine

Finance – Carma Reed

Green Sanctuary – Suzie Kobierowski

Nominating – Ron Devon/Stephanie Wheeler

Pastoral Pantry – Amanda Cash

Safer Congregation – Tom Stenson

Social Justice Committee – Dennis Arashiro

Small Groups – Susan Orlansky

Speaker's Forum – George Bryson

Stewardship – Judy Engh

UUSC Coordinator – Dennis Arashiro

Welcoming Committee – Denise Martin

Whalecoast – Denise Martin

Worship Associates – Marilyn Lee

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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Anchorage, AK 99508-3303

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AUUF SERVICES –June 2015

Sunday, May 31

9 am Caitlin Shortell, 'LGBT Equality for Alaska'
11 am Panel, The Sixth Principle

Sunday, June 7

9 am Rev. Britt West Johnston,
"Debt Forgiveness for Working People"
11 am Gary Holthaus

Sunday, June 14

9 am Delisa Renideo, " From Harm to Harmony:
How to eat to heal yourself and the world "
11 am Gary Holthaus

Sunday, June 21 Father's Day

9 am Bill Hall
"Insights Concerning Alaska's Fiscal Gap from 'Let's
Talk Anchorage'
11 am Gary Holthaus

Sunday, June 28

9 am Mike Jipping & Rolando Guzman, 'Feeding
Your Mind: Enlarging Your World at the Movie
Theater"
11 am Gary Holthaus

Regular Tuesday Evening Services

7 pm June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- June 2015

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

The LOG

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

July

2015

Gary Holthaus, Minister	1	Gary Holthaus, Minister
June 2015 Board Report	2	The week before the deadline for this Log featured a bleak tragedy and a rare triumph for the church. It made one think of Charles Dickens’ famous passage, “It was the best of times, and the worst of times...”
Adult Programs	2	
mUUsic Camp for Wee Ones	3	
Whalecoast	3	The worst, of course, was the shooting of an entire study group and their leader in a historic church which has a grand history of providing a base for folks helping America grow toward the great democracy it has yet to become.
Social Justice	4	We Western Europeans brought our racism with us when we first set foot on this continent and took the land of indigenous people and soon brought slaves from Africa to work the land we stole. We gave up our slaves grudgingly, killing whole armies of our own people to protect our right to own others. We weren’t the last to give up slavery, but we were far from the first despite our pride in our freedom for all. And we still have not figured out how to actually implement our own laws. We give the vote only to have many working still to take that right away. And the original violence against indigenous people and people of color continues unabated, too much of it stemming from the forces that are supposed to protect us from violence. It was a week of sorrow for all who cherish life and stand, as we UUs do, “to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person,” and cherish “the use of the democratic process in our congregations,” and who seek a “world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.” So it was a week of sorrow for such painful loss of life, and sorrow for our nation which has such a painful time living its own ideals.
Composting	4	
Ripples in the Larger Pond	5	
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Hungry Book Club	6	
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About July Speakers	9	
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July Services	10	
June 24-28 GA		Our world came closer to the best of times with the Pope’s encyclical in regard to climate change. We may not believe Pope’s are infallible, and there may still be beliefs and policies with which we do not agree, but this Pope is clearly more intelligent and does his homework better than some members of the U.S. Congress, and those corporate CEOs whose only interest is profit with no restraint and who continue ruinous policies that diminish our children’s future.
July 6-10 mUUsic Camp for Wee Ones		
July 12 Recycle Plastics		
WhaleCoast July 22-23		
		I’ve long had a deep appreciation for those Latin American Liberation Theologians who have stood with the poor and insisted that the Church must not only bless the poor, but “accompany them” as Archbishop Romero put it.
		Whether it was the best of times and the worst or not, weeping for our failures as a nation is appropriate and may lead us to do to better. And rejoicing in the courage and wisdom of one of the most powerful men in the world taking a step toward clarity in regard to our environment and our future is a pleasure indeed.
		See You Sundays This summer! Gary 433-9311 cell

June 2014 Board Report

Sam Cason, President

The June meeting was the last meeting that Mindy Willis and I attended as Board members. Mindy has also recently handed the baton of organizing the 9 am off to George Bryson. It has been a pleasure, a privilege, and a real learning experience for us to be allowed to represent you in helping be a community that cares, that is willing to believe in the best of people, and a community that is always ready to be amazed and delighted in the wonders that surround us. Thanks!

New chairs have been ordered so the folks in back won't have to sit on plastic and scrounge for hymnals. Bruce has a plumbing contractor putting in a high efficiency system so we will stay warm all winter cheaper. Policies and procedures are still being worked on, and new team of volunteers has been recruited for the Human Resources Committee.

Despite a vote several years ago to only serve fair trade coffee, we serve whatever we have, or can afford at the moment. All the documents sent as a result of the next steps weekend have been downloaded, and hard copies have been printed for many of them. If you think there is a topic that should be developed, this is a great resource that will help us keep in concert with what our UU bretheren are doing all across the country.

We have a lovely person named Rosene who is our director of lifetime religious exploration. Her work touches every child that eats a pretzel in RE. She has an uncommon knack for understanding what is appropriate for a given situation, and has adopted and adapted rituals from many different sources to embody and reflect our desire to recognize and celebrate shared events, and shared values. Thank you Rosene. And thank you Doug and Brandon, Erin and Delana for sharing her with us – AUUF is a place more people want to be because of your generosity in sharing this beautiful person with us.

As this is my last report after being president of the Board of Directors for three years, I feel entitled to have and express an opinion. In my opinion, this is the best and finest organization in Anchorage. I would like to say congratulations and thank you to every single person who has fulfilled a pledge, sung a hymn, or smiled at a child going downstairs – your “normal” is anything but ordinary, and we are a community that is rich, rich, rich in love. But that's just my opinion. While I will be off of the Board, I look forward to many new adventures in becoming fully human with my good friends and neighbors.

Aum mani padme hum, in the center of the lotus lies a pearl. Next month, a new voice! The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be July 8, 2015.

Adult Programs – Summer 2015

ONGOING INTEREST GROUPS

Freethinkers at AUUF – Gathers Fridays at noon in the social room at the new fellowship. Meets from 12:00 – 1:30. Contact George Bryson for More information gfbryson@gmail.com; 250-5140.

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

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

Small Group Ministry – Connect to UU's on a deeper level. Some years we have had interest in a summer small group. Typically, these meet once a week, usually on a weekday evening, for 8-10 weeks. Sometimes we've had an indoor group, and sometimes a small walking group that uses small group style sharing on a topic while we walk for about an hour on the coastal trail. I am willing to organize a group or groups, however, I am not available to host this summer. Contact me orlansky@frozenlaw.com, 222-7117 if you are interested, or have questions.

Whalecoast

By Denise Martin



As of LOG deadline, I have rounded up enough host homes to accommodate the record number of Whalecoast guests scheduled to arrive in Anchorage on July 22nd. While I'm still in the sorting process, I wanted to extend thanks to all the folks who are helping by offering to host, drive, and/or prepare the banquet that will give the visiting UU guests a wonderful stay! This annual event is a great opportunity for the Fellowship to get to know UUs from around the U.S., and at the same time raise some substantial funds for our operating budget. Thanks to: Shirley Dickens, Helen & Gayle Neinhauser, Susan Orlansky, Gwen Perry-Crawford, Kate Lehn & Yolanda Meza, Doreen Ransom, Jean Fischer, Ingrid Larson, Debra Addie, Rosene Beachy, Amanda Mack, Cindy & Ray Kinard, Carol Harris, Jeanna Duryee, Judy Eng, Bruce Roberts, James Dryden, Andrea Cordano, Joella & Steve Buswell, Koala Vandruff. Also, thanks to Kalen Saxton for organizing the banquet, and Annie Belts for coordinating transportation, and to all their helpers (too numerous to mention all!)

mUUsic for Wee Ones Musikgarten camp July 6-10!

I'm happy to say we will be continuing our mUUsic for Wee Ones Musikgarten camp this year for ages 0-5. We will follow a similar format but add some instrument exploration as well. This year there will be a registration fee of \$40 for the first child in a family and \$30 for each additional child. Please let us know asap if you are interested. See the schedule below. Can't wait to make music with you! Tamara

Monday

- 11:00-11:30am Intro and short class
- 11:30am Staff Clean Up and Travel time
- 12:00pm Field trip to see Fiddle Dee Dee [In Town Square in front of the PAC]

Tuesday-Friday

- 10:00am First Class Session (40 min: Babies optionally excused at this point)
- 10:40 Snack Break
- 11:00 Second Session (30 min: Craft session/instrument exploration and closing songs)

Dr. Tamara Bustamante McCoy, Music Director ~ Anchorage

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Phone: (907) 982-9777 Email: mccoypianostudio@yahoo.com



Doug Stewart is in now full swing as the Volunteer Coordinator. He is meeting with all Committee Chairs and Team Leads. Please contact him at 907-444-8382 to set up a meeting or you can meet him most Sundays after the 9am Service.

New efficient boiler, partially funded by Chalice Lighter Grant was installed June 23.



Social Justice Committee

By Dennis Arashiro

Let's view democracy as a process, a journey and not a destination. Each step leads to another step and each step matters. Now that the Social Justice Committee is planning to democratize the selection of the Half Portion for Social Action, let's look at the first step: nomination of recipients. Consider how the committee chooses nominees to begin with. With the exception of the Minister's Discretionary Fund all nominees are tied to tax exempt 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organizations. We view Charity Navigator ratings on reliability and effectiveness. We ask for recommendations by other Fellowship committees and individual members. We balance the continuing needs of past recipients with the urgent needs of new ones. We balance the schedule with local, statewide, national, and global causes. We balance the schedule with economic, social, health, educational, and environmental concerns.

What, if anything, needs to change? Should nominations remain with the committee or opened up to the entire Fellowship? Should the present standards for nominees be reaffirmed or altered? We look forward to your responses to these questions. You are welcome to share them with the committee when it meets at **12:30 PM on Sunday, July 19, 2015, in Gary's office**. If you cannot attend, feel free to call or email me with your thoughts and proposals. Dennis Arashiro at 277-7377 or elvischannel@yahoo.com.

Half Portions for Social Action: Planned Parenthood

By Dennis Arashiro

What if there were no Planned Parenthood? Scott County, Indiana, knows. In 2011 it had one of five Planned Parenthood clinics in rural Indiana. There was nowhere else to go for healthcare for many of the residents; mothers-to-be traveled 50 miles to see an obstetrician or gynecologist--if they could afford one. Then, Indiana's ruling Republicans declared war on Planned Parenthood, ending funding as part of their anti-abortion agenda. The Scott County clinic, which performed no abortions, was collateral damage. As a result the county lost its only center for HIV testing, prevention, intervention, and counseling.

Scott County now has an HIV epidemic so bad that even Indiana Republican leaders had to reverse its opposition to free needle exchanges and other public health interventions. The financial cost to confront this crisis there will be \$200 million; the human cost is incalculable. This is why we need Planned Parenthood. This is why the June recipient of the Half Portion for Social Action is Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest. Remember Scott County when the Sunday collection basket comes to you.

Come Compost at AUUF! Today's Garbage Can Become Tomorrow's Treasure! The AUUF composter is built and ready for you to use! When you come to AUUF bring your kitchen scraps to add, and Nature will do the transformation for us! There are marked containers in the kitchen areas both upstairs and down at the Fellowship- you can collect raw food scraps as you prepare food while there- just don't forget to dump them into the composter before you leave!

There's a list of "Do Adds" and "Don't Adds" tacked to the shed beside the composter to help get you started. Before you head off to the Fellowship with your scraps- here's that list of "Don't Add" : NO Meat, Bones, Fish Scraps (these attract bears!), NO Weeds (they will spread with the compost!), NO Cut Flowers (from florist), Banana Peels, Citrus Peels (these often contain pesticide residues), and lastly- NO Herbicide Sprayed Grass Clippings or Leaves (no point in making compost that will kill plants!). If you are SURE your scraps are OK- just add to the pile! But- if you're not quite sure, put them in the bucket under the list and the "Compost Keeper" will sort it out to add on Sunday.



With all of us adding a little now and then, by this time next summer we will have new "black gold" for our community garden- and for yours too!

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Grateful for the hard work from our planning committees for both the Forum and the 11 AM Worship Service. We have had some very special Sunday morning services this year in BOTH the Forum and the 11 AM service. Do you know how rare this is for a congregation of our size to have two such distinct services? Very rare. Usually, a UU congregation just repeats its main service two times, while this Anchorage group has had two very different services to offer the community. This has been happening for about 25 years or more and requires a lot more effort and people involved. But what a wonderful offering for ourselves and the larger community. Way to go AUUF!

Grateful that several of our "golden oldies" have had lovely birthdays recently. Judge Jim Wanamaker turned 80 June 2nd, Judy Whitaker turned 87 and 2 of her 6 kids were here to throw her a birthday luncheon for 12 and Judy looked really good (without oxygen tank being dragged around). We hear Pat Vezina (long time member) just turned 84. Happy Birthday to all our June people no matter what your age.

John Zappa, longtime friend of the Fellowship and widower of Dorothy Zappa, died in May at his home here in Anchorage. He was 100 years old. No service was planned and he was cremated. Rest in peace, John. Your friends remember you fondly.

AUUF will be well represented at General Assembly in Portland when it meets in June of this year. Rosene Beachy and Gary Holthaus, Don Crandall, Susie Kobierowski and son, Jakob (along with them will be Lucas, son of Ron Devon), Rev. Ruth Greenwood' Shirley Dickens, Eric and Tamara McCoy, Diane Smith and daughter, Yana, and possibly Charlotte. Am I forgetting anyone? There will be a July 11 AM service (a panel) telling of the wonderful experience of getting together with 3,000 other UUs. An inspiring event to be sure. We are all grateful to get to go to a "gathering of the clans".

Grateful that Cindy Kinard is recovering nicely at home from her recent hospitalization and she is very appreciative of all the care and concern shown to her and Wray.

Wishing each of you a lovely summer, good fishing, good gardens, be out in the sunshine (with sunscreen) all you can. Let's take advantage of this amazing land we live in. And be well and safe this summer.

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.



July Birthdays, Best Wishes!
*(Birthdays are not published in
our online version.)*

Do You Tweet? We've established an AUUF Twitter account - @auuf49. If you Tweet, follow us!

Wish List, Downstairs Kitchen: If you happen to be out at garage sales or cleaning out your closets, and run across these items, they would be helpful in organizing the downstairs: -Kitchen towel hooks, Magnetic clips, short phone cord to connect phone to wall, small bulletin board to hang next to the phone, spice riser shelving, gallon Ziplocs. Thanks so much! Alix

Hungry Book Club News

by Shirley Dickens

A New First for Book Club and Pioneer Home, DVD shown. The Hungry Book Club decided to show the DVD of Nelson Mandela's book, *The Long Road to Freedom* for our monthly meeting and about 9 of us enjoyed it. The only problem was that it was really long and took 2 and 1/2 hours to see it. I, personally was glad to see it but very glad I had read the book first as it's impossible to really get a grip on the man, Nelson Mandela and his lifetime commitment to being a freedom fighter from just the movie. It was very well done though. An ambitious undertaking on our part to show it and no time to discuss it afterwards.

Our July book is an Alaskan book by an Alaskan author, local Andy Hall, who recently talked to the AUUF Forum and was selling his book, "DENALI'S HOWL" about a real tragedy on Mount Denali when several lives were lost in a very unusual severe storm. It may be a bit harder to find, but between our library, Title Wave, Amazon.com, UAA library and borrowing it from each other, we should be able to find it.

We will meet again July 14th at the 3rd floor in the Pioneer home, on 11th and I street at 2 PM. Bring a healthy snack to share with each other. We are an open book club and all of AUUF's friends and congregation are welcome. Call Shirley (563-4499) if you need directions.

Community Offering: Meditation 101, a Four Week Series, Saturdays July 25 and August 1, 8, and 15, 10am to Noon. Held in the Gathering Room at AUUF. \$10 suggested donation at the door (no hassle, no donation required). The class will be appropriate and accessible to those with no meditation experience whatsoever, and also accessible to those with some or a lot of experience. Please join us if the topic is of interest. Contact Dana "Kojun" Lederhos for more information: anchorage meditation@gmail.com.

Your Credit Card for Routine Donations:

If your credit card number or expiration date has changed please be sure to notify the office. (Call or leave a note in the secure pledge box.)~~ Amy, Church Administrator 248-3737 x3 auuf@gci.net.

Alliance

by Shirley Dickens

The Alliance met June 14th to settle receipts from a few of us for various things purchased for the rummage sale and our help with reception for Rick Zimmer's Celebration of Life. We also chose the dates for our Christmas Sale in November. We will have the Christmas Sale November 15th and also November 22nd, before and between and after each service. Thank you notes were written to Tom Choate and Dennis Arashiro for their help with rummage sale and recent reception. We will send a thank you note to Teresa Zimmer for her very generous contribution to the Alliance funds. A BIG THANK YOU for all who brought things for us to sell in our annual rummage sale or came to buy from us that Saturday. We promise to use this money for the good of this congregation.

We are not planning on meeting in July or August unless there is something needed from us. Our next planned meeting will be September 13th (second Sunday) at 12:30 PM.

Friendly Recycling Tip: Buy a single serving set of utensils made of bamboo to carry to potluck. Get a set for each member of family. Or purchase miscellaneous eating utensils for potlucks from thrift shops

Recycling Plastics: Our next recycling pickup is July 12. 5s only, some examples are yogurt and cottage cheese containers.

Shared In April

by Jackie Cason

I think many of us attending the service at AUUF this morning enjoyed the credo statement Sylvia Short shared with all of us, cited from memory. It was followed by a round of applause:

"We believe that religion and life are one and that the spiritual world is part of the natural world. We take our stand with modern knowledge knowing it is fallible but knowing also that it supersedes a less enlightened path. We respect the timeless wisdom of those ancient teachings which continue to persuade us and revere the prophets of all ages and of every land. We honor the precepts Jesus taught as being original Christianity, but we remember that no matter what our heritage, it is the living truth that makes us free."

R.E. Notes for July 2015

Eric McCoy

Summer Programming Coverage and for Questions

Eric McCoy, CYP will be the Summer DRE, 230-6915, auufcyp@gmail.com

Deena Mitchell, CYRE Committee chair - 743-6017 DeenaMitchell1978@gmail.com

Childcare Coord. & Playground Creator – Kalen Saxton

ph. 277-0708 kalensaxton@gmail.com

Our World Traveler program is already underway! As we learn about friends around the world this summer, we will help create a fair and peaceful world one idea at a time. We kicked off from our beloved Alaskan home and we've been on safari to Kenya and made masks, and then on to Guatemala where we made worry dolls and authentic tortillas! Then we were off to play cricket in India and then we went to Japan! It's not too late-- come join us!

OUR PROGRAM

9:00 Speaker's Forum – No childcare during the summer

11:00 Service - Cross age program. Childcare for 1-3 yr. olds. Please join us when you are in Anchorage!

Summer Program Schedule:

UU World travelers

July 5 – Egypt w/ Deena Mitchell

July 12 – Turkey w/ Cady Lynn Jenkins

July 19 - South Korea w/ Cady Lynn Jenkins

July 26 – Mali, Africa w/ Mela O'Brien

August 2 – Russia w/ David Snyder & Patty Trott

August 9 - The Cook Islands w/Peggy Robinson

August 16 - Italy w/ Laura Krip

August 23 – Mexico w/ Alison Hansen

August 30 – Welcome Home Party

Please register your children and youth for next year's program! Registration forms will be available in the Social room every Sunday in May, downstairs at the RE info Spot, at our AUUF website.

I would like to thank three special people who have agreed to work with the YRUU group. These are new positions with specific areas of involvement. I know each of them will help make a positive youth group experience this next year. Thank you from myself and YRUU.

Service Work Sponsor--James Dryden

Special Events Sponsor--TK Kleiner

Social Justice Sponsor--Jeanne Fischer

There will be lots happening at the Fellowship over the summer! Work on the playground and garden continues, Whalecoast, our UU friends from the lower 48, and the Tuesday night services if you were out camping or traveling on the weekend! Thursday night YRUU services from 7-8:15p. The best way to stay in touch is through our new Twitter account, the weekly blasts and discussions from the "Google" group, Facebook page and Website.

Rosene is on sabbatical, but please feel free to contact any of us with questions or comments. Thank you!

Be well, be happy, continue enjoying! Don't forget to bring back water from your summer adventures!

Recruiting – Class Leaders for 2015-16! Yes YOU Can Teach!

We have had a fabulous response to the call for joining teaching teams next fall. Only 8 spots left of the 26 class leaders we need! Joining a team to explore Unitarian Universalism Principles and ideas with a group of bright and enthusiastic children is an invigorating and enlightening way to spend 2 Sunday mornings a month! One Sunday prep to be the lead teacher, and the 2nd as an assistant for someone else on your team. We guarantee you will learn almost as much as the kids!

This is a large cooperative volunteer program and we expect and appreciate participation from all families in some way! If you have children in the program and have never volunteered, this would be a great year to begin! Team teaching is how we enable everyone, both the opportunity to participate in the upstairs services, about half the Sundays, and still be involved in the excitement downstairs. There will be a sign up poster downstairs until all spots are full. Feel free to call Eric McCoy, 230-6915 if you'd like to get involved.

June Playground Progress

by Kalen Saxton

Climber/Swing set - The damaged beam on the north end was removed and replaced. One swing has been put back. The other swing will be replaced by a playground-quality bucket swing sized for one to four year olds. Some sealant has been applied, some sanding is done, more to be done. Harry Crawford, James Dryden and Bruce Roberts did the work. (The slide was replaced last month)

Crazy Fence - totally built with used wood. Kenneth Gregory dug postholes. Bruce and James were carpenters. Kalen's idea. This is for 1-5 year olds.

Vegetable garden raised beds - totally built with used lumber. Soil was provided by the Green Sanctuary Committee. James, Bruce, Harry and Don Crandall.

Three Vegetable Garden beds and three tubs have been planted, watered and weeded by Leslie Adams, and Koala VanDruff.

Sand box moved to more protected northeast corner of playground. Dustless sand is to be purchased. Two picnic tables moved to playground for seating by parents, grandparents or teachers supervising children on the playground, or the YRUU youth group holding a meeting. (Bruce, James, Eric McCoy, Yana Smith and Sarah Freeman.)

Removing dandelions, roots and whole plant, and quick grass...with a crowbar. (Bruce, Eric McCoy, Hannah and Wendy Romberg, and Kalen Saxton.)

Fence repairs are still needed. Some posts, rails or fence boards are rotted and need to be replaced. A gate near the vegetable beds has been requested. A front gate would keep young children safe inside the fence. The fourth side of the fence will eventually be added. June fence work was done by: Harry Crawford, Gordon Harper, Bill Sherwonit, Koala, Susan, Bruce Roberts, and James Dryden.

Two hanging baskets from last year, filled with extra soil from the gardens, and flowers on sale at a farmers market are by the front gate.

Thanks all for everyone's time and efforts. I wish safe play for all ages that use this area.



About our Speakers and Services (see back page)

Gary Holthaus is AUUF's called minister.

Ma'o Tosi was born in American Samoa and raised in San Diego, California. He came to Anchorage at age 13, attended Clark Middle School, and graduated from East High School. After excelling in basketball and football at Butler Community College and the University of Idaho, he played three seasons in the National Football League. Returning to Anchorage, he has since worked with at risk youth and families and presently manages the Northway Mall and Alaska PRIDE (People Representing Integrity and Diverse Experiences).

Allison Mendel received her law degree from U.C. Davis in 1980. She has been in private practice in Anchorage since the early 1980's, during which time she has been at the forefront of defining the legal rights of same-sex partners and their children. Alison was part of the legal team which secured same-sex marriage rights for Alaskans in the case of Hamby vs. Parnell--a case joined with the same-sex marriage case on appeal before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Matt Claman is the West Anchorage Representative in the current Alaska Legislature. He has served the Municipality of Anchorage as Acting Mayor, Assembly Chair and Assembly Member. Matt is an attorney in private practice in Anchorage. He is also a member and past-President of AUUF.

Jim Barnett is an Anchorage attorney. He has served as President of the Cook Inlet Historical Society since 1998, and he is the author of the book: "Captain Cook in Alaska and the North Pacific". Jim has served as Deputy Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources and has served on the Anchorage Assembly.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Information

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

Staff Phones and Email

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

Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration, on sabbatical

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

Also Covering for Rosene Beachy this summer

Doug Stewart, Volunteer Coordinator 444-8382, douglasjstewart@outlook.com

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

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

AUUF Board of Directors

Erik Hill, Secretary; Carma Reed, Treasurer; Helen Nienhueser, Vice President;

Marty Freeman; Rod McCoy; Don Crandall; Amanda Mack

Other Contacts

4As Lunches – Robin Hill

Alliance – Shirley Dickens

Building and Grounds - Bruce Roberts

Children and Youth RE – Deena Mitchell

Committee on Shared Ministry – Marty Herriott

Community Care – Mary Ann Eininger

Endowment – John Blaine

Finance – Carma Reed

Green Sanctuary – Suzie Kobierowski

Human Resources -

Nominating – Ron Devon/Stephanie Wheeler

Pastoral Pantry – Amanda Cash

Safer Congregation –

Social Justice Committee – Dennis Arashiro

Small Groups – Susan Orlansky

Speaker's Forum –George Bryson

Stewardship – Judy Engh

UUSC Coordinator – Dennis Arashiro

Welcoming Committee – Denise Martin

Whalecoast – Denise Martin

Worship Associates – Marilyn Lee

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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AUUF SERVICES –July 2015

Sunday, July 5

9 am Jim Barnett,

"Anchorage from First Contact to Statehood"

11 am Panel, The Sixth Principle

Sunday, July 26

9 am Matt Claman,

"The 2015 Alaska Legislative Session"

11 am Gary Holthaus

Sunday, July 12

9 am Allison Mendel, "Explaining the US Supreme
Court's Ruling on Same Sex Marriage"

11 am Gary Holthaus

Sunday, July 19

9 am Ma'o Tosi,

"Pacific Islanders: Making Anchorage Home"

11 am Gary Holthaus

<u>Regular Tuesday Evening Services</u>
--

7 pm July 7, 14, 21, 28

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- July 2015

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

The LOG

August 2015

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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



Gary Holthaus, Minister

June turned out to be an exciting month for AUUF. Nineteen members of our congregation turned out for our General Assembly in Portland, Oregon. I understand that is the “most ever!” It was an exciting time, interspersed with two announcements about Supreme Court actions upholding the constitutionality of President Obama’s health care program, which was received with a standing ovation and a second announcement a day later of the Supreme Court’s upholding gay marriage. That one was greeted with pandemonium: cheers, upraised arms, hugs and tears. What a celebration! About four thousand five hundred Unitarian Universalists, all in room cheering, crying, exulting together. One could be there and not be moved. LGBTQ and Transgendered folks it has been a long, difficult struggle. And, yes, there is a long way to go – but this was a step almost too good to be true. I know the talk was that the decision was going to be positive, but call me jaded; I was skeptical, so many decisions have been disappointing in recent years. This one took my breath away. Worthy of rejoicing...

And then there was our governor’s press conference at which he announced his decision to expand Medicaid for Alaskans. Once again it was an exciting moment. And because of our involvement with AFACT (Anchorage Faith and Action. Congregations Together) AUUF can justly feel that we made a solid contribution to the effort to secure that expansion. I saw at least 30 of you on the street corner holding signs during the daily rallies. Many others participated in the Cuddy Park gathering. *(more on AFACT page 5)*

It all paid off. Over 40,000 Alaskans who could not afford health insurance will now be able to receive

medical care. Your commitment to AUUF and to social justice helped make it happen. As with all our social justice concerns, we have a ways to go yet, but we’ve gained another step toward justice. We will have done our cheering by the time you get this, but I wanted to take this means to say thanks for your efforts. There are a lot of other folks out there who are grateful to you too!

Good on yuh!

See You Sundays This summer! Gary

Gary Holthaus, Minister

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Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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- Doug Stewart, Volunteer Coordinator 444-8382, douglasjstewart@outlook.com
- Dr. Tamara McCoy, Music Director, 982-9777, tamarialice@yahoo.com
- Amy Lundell, Church Administrator, 248-3737 x 3 or auuf@gci.net
- Bruce Roberts, Building and Grounds 952-9969 brucearoberts@hotmail.com

Board of Directors and Committee Contacts are available on our website

July 2014 Board Report

Marty Freeman, President

Happy New Year!

Years start in many ways – with the returning sun on the winter solstice, fireworks on January 1, Chinese celebrations later in the winter, the horns of Rosh Hashanah in the fall, or in midsummer at AUUF. As of July 1, I have the sobering honor to be the next AUUF president, following in the footsteps of the ever-cheerful and resourceful Sam Cason. Say thank you to Sam when you see him – on his watch we were able to sell our old church, buy our new one, and move into our new home without accruing debt. Most importantly, we did so with a lot of lively, constructive discussion at congregational meetings under Sam's skillful, good-humored chairmanship.

Other signs of the new year include the new Board members – Amanda Mack and Don Crandall are already contributing their thoughtful wisdom to Board meetings and special projects. I am grateful for their enthusiasm, and for the continuing dedication of our returning members – Helen Nienhueser (vice-president), Carma Reed (treasurer), Erik Hill (secretary), and Rod McCoy. Over the next few months, the Board will continue to work on updating our finance policies, and implementing recommendations from the Next Steps Weekend. The next Board meeting starts is 6:30-9:00 on August 12 in the social room. If you are curious about what the Board does, come listen in.

Our new fiscal year started July 1 as well, and I am delighted to report that new pledges are coming in from members and friends. We are very close to the full operating budget amount approved by the congregation in May. If you haven't yet joined the good work of AUUF by pledging, this is a great time to do so. As an added incentive, if pledges exceed the basic operating budget amount, we agreed at the annual meeting to use the additional money to 1) hire a choir director, 2) increase our payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) contribution to a more appropriate level for our new building, and 3) seed the sabbatical funds for our Minister and Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration.

Summertime has also brought out volunteers to work in the playground and garden areas. We still have planning and coordination work to do, but we are already seeing progress. Thanks to all who are contributing to the greening of our grounds. Indoors we have the new boiler – thank you to Bruce Roberts for overseeing this project. People are busy on-line, too – the Communications Team is working hard on redesigning our aging website. Thank you for helping us spread the word about AUUF. Lastly, we are excited to share the news that Eric McCoy has volunteered to initiate a new group for the young adults that are swelling the Fellowship ranks. Thank you, Eric.

Clearly, summer has its not-so-lazy times. I am enjoying both the richness and the lulls of the season. May our long summer days give each of us a chance to "breathe in peace/breathe out love." In fellowship, Marty Freeman

Outgoing Words.....

As Marty Freeman takes the reins as Board President, I would like to pause for just a moment and say thank you to the whole congregation for allowing me the honor and privilege of serving on the AUUF Board of Directors. I am grateful for each and every one of all the many words of encouragement and kindness during my tenure on the Board. It is difficult to articulate, and no-one seems to expect it, but I want to acknowledge and say that those friendly gestures, and the cheerful generosity of spirit of those participating in our many worthy programs, are the difference between the effort of participating on the board being a draining experience that uses up our enthusiasm, versus being an exhausting experience that deepens our commitment to this vibrant, welcoming community. I am proud to be a member of AUUF, and look forward to being here for years to come. Thanks! And thanks to the "new" board: Marty Freeman, President; Helen Neinhauer (SPELLING?), V.P.; Carma Reed, Treasurer; Eric Hill, Secretary; Rod McCoy, Amanda Mack, and Don Crandall, Members. "May the hair on your toes never fall out!" - Sam Cason

Friendly Recycling Tip: Take part in city wide effort to collect and reuse gardening pots. They are no.5 and can be recycled, but city does collect them and better to re-use than recycle.

Recycling Plastics: Our next recycling pickup is August 9. 5s only, some examples are yogurt and cottage cheese containers.

the aurora (Young Adults of AUUF)

by Eric McCoy

This is pretty exciting. For years, we've talked about (lamented?) the lack of a group dedicated to those that identify as Young Adults. Well, those days are past -- the aurora is here!

the aurora meets once a month at the fellowship between services for a meet n' greet we've title Pancakes and Handshakes. It makes for a great day because you can grab coffee, hit the forum, say hi, eat food, grab coffee, hit the worship, and by noon you are satisfied from your head to your soul. We have wonderful childcare and an amazing RE program, so bring the kiddos, and they will have fun, too!

the aurora out at nite is an off-site social event. In July, we went to an improv show at the Snowgoose downtown. We laughed. We cried. We actually only did one of those. Afterward, we hung out and ate bad food in good company. Where will we go in August? Get in contact and practice your 5th principle!

We are looking for fresh faces to take over some of our most honored service positions.

Ringleader-finds a 'sheepdog' per month who arranges for vespers

Party Smarty-finds a person a month to organize 'the aurora out at nite', or does it themselves

Peaceful Warrior-facilitates a (preferably year-long) social justice project

Sweeteners (2)-people ready to approach newcomers on Sunday

The Main Brain-a person to help with the facebook, twitter, email and phone list

If you are interested in getting involved, or simply getting in contact, email theaurora@gmail.com or call 907 230-6915. Find us on facebook and twitter @theaurora (QR codes here) and check out our new digital digs on the website!



Dates to remember:

August 16th -- Pancakes and Handshakes, 10:15-11:00 between services, Real. Maple. Syrup.

August 22nd -- the aurora out at nite, TBD

Celebrating our new boiler!

By Rod McCoy



Our new boiler has been installed, as was previously mentioned on Google groups. We like having high quality and efficient equipment. We like lowering our carbon footprint, doing our part. We like saving money.

This dramatic heating improvement and other successes bring us together in celebration of our capabilities and our new home, this mutual accomplishment builds our vision for long term success here. We join in community with the synergy from many that made this happen. Marty Freeman, our new Fellowship President, wrote the successful grant that was submitted to the Pacific Northwest District Chalice Lighters group that has many members from AUUF and all around the district. The grant pays over half our cost at

around \$17,000. Bruce Roberts and John Freeman led the bid and installation process. (Keep in mind, Bruce volunteers for the extensive work he does for maintenance and construction. He is on our staff only for cleaning. All other work is volunteer.) Susie, Yolanda, Michelle, George and others of the Green Sanctuary Committee have raised and contributed thousands of dollars to this cause, about \$2500. The rest comes from our undesignated reserves and significant recent donations from Helen and Gayle Nienhueser, and the Louise Gallop Estate.

Hospitality Teams -- A New Model For Welcoming Visitors

By Denise Martin



On behalf of the Welcoming Team at AUUF, I'm happy to report about a new way of doing things that the Welcoming Committee is developing as a result of the "Next Steps" denominational recommendations. It's also a result of a new member's input:

Ruth Lindeen has done hospitality work at a UU congregation in Iowa City, and has agreed to be co-chair with me on the Welcoming Committee at AUUF. Her experience in this area is going to benefit us a lot, as we strive to do a better job of giving our Sunday visitors an ideal welcoming experience.

Do you ever think about how first-time visitors feel, and do you know how important this is in having them consider returning? The more all of us can maintain this awareness, the easier it will be to "leave no visitor abandoned." I believe it is possible for us to all become accustomed to introducing ourselves to a stranger whenever the opportunity presents itself, and do what whatever you can to make them feel at home. Wearing your name badge is another way to help this process; it's more comfortable for visitors to wear a paper name tag if everyone has one.

The concept of creating "Hospitality Teams" is not new among many UU congregations, but as AUUF has started to draw new people among us, it's time for us to collectively develop a hospitable mentality. To help in this process, we are going to start creating teams of 5 or 6 people each, to be given tools and instructions for greeting, ushering, setting up the social room, and all other things hospitality-related, for both Sunday services. The tasks will be clear, and divided into easy-to-manage parts, in order to make it easy work for even newer members to commit, as well as those who already serve on other committees. The plan is that the teams will be assigned to only a few Sundays each year, (much like the Worship Associates group is scheduled). I hope you will consider stepping up if you are asked to participate -- it's not out of the question to imagine that nearly everyone at AUUF can be on a hospitality team at some point. Our goal is to have some teams up and running by September. We'll see how this goes and then I'll report back again! Thanks. Contact me if you have questions: Denise Martin 345-8787, dulcimerdiva@gmail.com.

Social Justice Committee

By Dennis Arashiro

It's an enticing thought that turning our state into a bastion of political liberalism would lead to the realization of social justice here. Well, wake up and face the real world. Having spent a week in Hawaii attending to family matters, I saw the challenges facing the bluest of blue states in living up to its values. The state's advances in solar energy face the threat of an electrical utility buyout by a Florida firm known for obstructing renewable options there. Businesses circumvent a plastic bag ban with heavier plastic bags labeled reusable.

Hawaii's aloha spirit welcomes Monsanto to cordon off huge swaths of land for GMO corn with high security fences and guards. The same aloha spirit does not apply to Hawaii's burgeoning homeless population, the result of high living costs, astronomical real estate values, and low wages. Ordinances prohibiting sitting or lying on sidewalks are used to shove the homeless away from tourist areas without providing adequate shelter as an alternative.

The realization that there are social justice challenges regardless of the political climate is a sobering one. There may never be a moment of arrival; there may only be new challenges. We can see futility in this and use this as excuse to do nothing, or we can live in the moment of every meaningful action we take to move the needle forward. Please join the Social Justice Committee in living that moment when we meet at **12:30 PM on Sunday, August 16, 2015, in Gary's office**. Please call or email me with thoughts you wish to turn into social justice actions for the committee's consideration. Dennis Arashiro at 277-7377 or elvischannel@yahoo.com.



Matsu UU

UUs and others are organizing in the Valley. As of now they are carpooling to AUUF at least once a month. To get connected to this growing group contact Ed Bostrom edbostrom@gmail.com, (907)745-1677.

Half Portions for Social Action: Identity, Inc.

By Dennis Arashiro

"Marriage was defined by God. No man can redefine it. We will defend our religious liberties." -Texas Governor Greg Abbott

Governor Abbott's reaction to the Supreme Court ruling on marriage equality is reason enough to temper our elation at this historic moment. The backlash to defend bigotry through religious liberty law is well under way. Human rights opponents zealously defend the present walls of discrimination and plan for future ones. They see no arc of the Moral Universe bending toward justice; they only see the straight line of their own path.

Our city has had decades of an unbending line against full human rights, despite our best efforts. Even a change now in our ordinances will only mean that the battle continues as hardened hearts and minds fight for the right to deny rights. That is why the August Half Portion for Social Action goes to Identity, Inc. to continue its work serving the LGBT community and the entire Anchorage community.

Hungry Book Club News

by Shirley Dickens

12 of us met July 14th at Pioneer Home to discuss local author, Andy Hall's book "Denali Howls", about the climb in July 1967 when 12 men started to climb Denali and 5 came down. Seven men died in one of the worst sudden storms to hit Denali that has ever been recorded. Invited guest, Gayle Nienhueser, also member of AUUF and former mountain climber, is mentioned several times in this book. He was happy to tell of his group which was a week behind the ill-fated climbers, and Gayle's group became the rescue group. Gayle discovered the first of the three bodies which were found. The other four were never found. A big THANK YOU to Gayle for coming to share with our book club. A very educational read.

We have chosen for August, Harper Lee's famous book (which all of us had read years ago) "To Kill a Mocking Bird". We met on the day that Harper Lee's new book hit the bookshelves, but none of us wanted to read that yet. We will meet again at the Pioneer home at 2 Pm on August 11th (second Tuesday of the month). We are an "open" book club and anyone who loves good books is free to join us. Call Shirley 563-4499 if you need directions. Bring a simple snack to share. The Pioneer Home furnishes tea and coffee.

Alliance

by Shirley Dickens, Chair of the Alliance

The Alliance is not meeting this month, maybe not in August either. But we will get back in the swing of things the second Sunday in September the 13th at 12:30 PM following the 11 AM service. WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS and would be very appreciative of new and younger members. Come check us out. We do good works for this congregation.

AFACT Update

By Marie Rozak

AFACT volunteers from the fifteen member congregations have worked very hard, beginning in January, in support of Medicaid Expansion. What a joy it was to be present to hear Gov. Walker make his announcement July 16th. Thanks to all of the AUUF folks who were able to support the effort these several months, particularly taking time out of your days to attend at the LIO.

Many of you have had the opportunity to meet with an AFACT staff member in a "one-to-one" visit. The next steps in our involvement since joining AFACT will be happening within the next few weeks. Gary will be announcing a meeting for those interested in learning more about AFACT's organization and process. Following that initial information session, two or three mini trainings will be scheduled.

AUUFs membership in AFACT is one avenue to being a part of the larger community in which we live; striving with other faith communities to create a more just society. Many beliefs, common purpose.

Summer Work Party!

Saturday, August 15 from 10 am to 2 pm. Tasks and projects for all abilities and interests, inside and outside the building. Let's ready the building and grounds for fall. Mark and date and bring your tools and work gloves. For more information contact Bruce Roberts 952-9969 or Doug Stewart 444-8382.

September 13th picnic and open house

Save the date! in honor of our one year anniversary in Airport Heights! Follows the 11 am Homecoming Service. Contact Doug Stewart 444-8382.

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Grateful for the 17 of our AUUF congregation who got to go to Portland in late June for the 54th General Assembly of the National Unitarian Universalists Assoc. This included Jana Smith and her mother Diane Smith, Charlotte Mitchell and her parents, Denna and Frank, Rosene Beachy, Don Crandall, Susie Kobierowski and her son Jake and also Lucan Devon, Renee Frost, Michelle Champion, Rev. Ruth Greenwood, Eric and Tamara McCoy, Rev Gary Holthaus, and me, Shirley Dickens. It was a wonderful experience for us all.

Congratulations to the hard working poet and librarian, Marie Lundstrom who completed her thesis this summer and graduates with a Masters in Fine Arts. We are so proud of you Marie, you have worked hard and you did it.

Thankful for the very complimentary article in recent newspaper about one of our own, the amazing Amanda Cash, chef, busy mother of three, main contributor to AUUF's meals to new mothers and the sick, choir member and now the owner and chief cook of her own food wagon called "The Magpie Kitchen". I hear from a person of great taste that her green fried tomatoes in a BLT are to die for. Let's all go help support her endeavor.

Charles (Charlie) Ledbetter, passed away June 8th in his home on Mercer Island, Washington state. He was 91 years old. Charlie played a major role in the early 1960's in the life of AUUF. Largely because of him (he was Board President at that time) the LOG Cabin church on 10th Street was purchased and AUUF had its first real home. We honor his memory and dedication to our congregation. He leaves his beloved Mary Lou, wife of 59 years and 3 children. The story goes that he would not let the members leave from a 'called' meeting until they had raised the down payment to purchase the Log Cabin.

Grateful to see Cindy Kinard back at services (after her recent "encounter" with hitting her head.) We missed seeing her smiling face for a few weeks.

Also grateful to see two of our elders coming to services without wheelchairs or walkers, Judy Whitaker and Ruth Sheridan walking now with canes and I think Ruth is driving again. Two tough ladies who can't be kept down. Way to go!

Grateful that Dr. Walter Johnson, beloved Alaskan physician, former member and longtime friend of AUUF had many interactions with this congregation. Although he had mostly lived in Homer for several years, he came to the Fellowship when he was in town on a Sunday. We learned of his recent death at age 92 here in Anchorage at his son's home. He was a Public Health physician for many years and helped with control of TB in Alaska. We honor his memory.

Wanted to share with all who knew him that Gerald "Jerry" Ganopole died in Portland recently. I believe it was July 12th. He and his wife, Muriel, were members of AUUF for many years and relocated to Portland, Oregon about 10 years ago. Jerry had been Board President of AUUF in the 90's for a term or two. He was 94 years old. His widow, Muriel, remains in Portland. Our Rev. Art Curtis, Minister Emeritus, will be officiating a Celebration of Life service in Portland August 7th.

Many of us are traveling this month far and wide. Hope you are all safe and enjoying your trips. Come back to us renewed, reconnected with friends and family. Others are out there in Alaska fishing, hiking, exploring, whatever you are doing, be well. Have a wonderful summer!

August Birthdays, Best Wishes!

Birthdays are not published in our online version

R.E. Notes for July 2015

*Rosene Beachy, DLRE
authored by Eric McCoy*

OUR PROGRAM

9:00 Speaker's Forum – No childcare during the summer

11:00 Service - Cross age program. Childcare for 1-3 yr. olds. Please join us when you are in Anchorage!

Summer Program Schedule:

UU World travelers

August 2 – Russia w/ David Snyder & Patty Trott

August 9 - The Cook Islands w/Peggy Robinson

August 16 - Italy w/ Laura Krip

August 23 – Mexico w/ Alison Hansen

August 30 – Welcome Home Party

Please register your children and youth for next year's program! Registration forms will be available in the Social room every Sunday in May, downstairs at the RE info Spot, at our AUUF website.

As we learn about friends around the world this summer, we will help create a fair and peaceful world one idea at a time. It's not too late to stop in and join the fun on Sunday morning!

Recruiting – Class Leaders for 2015-16! Yes YOU Can Teach!

Water Skippers (1-2 yo) 1 teacher needed

Sun Catchers (K-1) 2 teachers needed!

Fire Keepers (2nd) 2 teachers needed!

Planet Keepers (3rd) 1 teacher needed

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

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

This is a large cooperative volunteer program and we expect and appreciate participation from all families in some way! If you have children in the program and have never volunteered, this would be a great year to begin! Team teaching is how we enable everyone, both the opportunity to participate in the upstairs services, about half the Sundays, and still be involved in the excitement downstairs. There will be a sign up poster downstairs until all spots are full.



Playground Update--Have you noticed improvements to our wonderful playground and garden? We owe a huge thank you to Kalen Saxton, Bruce Roberts, James Dryden and many others who volunteered to make a wonderful space for the young and the young at heart. Thank you! It's the perfect time to get involved--contact Kalen Saxton (ph. 277-0708 kalensaxton@gmail.com) if you'd like to volunteer and offer your long range ideas for design and improvement.

Coming of Age is a wonderful program for 8-10th graders. Traditionally, societies have had a process which children are welcomed into adulthood. Many different cultures and faiths have this today, rituals that involve study and sacrifice and trial and triumph. Our tradition is Coming of Age, and unlike many other rite of passage programs, this one does not have a pre-determined destination--the youth cut their own path to adulthood and define their own beliefs. This involves individual meetings with a mentor and monthly meetings, both spiritual and social, with the group. There are four retreats that represent a journey inward. This program is valued by the youth who have participated. Please get in contact if you are interested in joining us.

Don't blink! **Fall Frolic** is just around the corner, September 18th-22nd. This is a treasured tradition where the whole fellowship is invited to Kings Lake Camp for food, fun, fellowship and Fall! The cost is reasonable and it includes cabin and food. Assistance is available. Register now to save your spot!

As always, we are very honored to work with the children and the youth of the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Please feel free to contact us for any reason. Thank you and, Welcome Back!

DRLE (after Aug. 16th) – Rosene Beachy ph. 441-6815 rbeachy@alaskalife.net

CYP – Eric McCoy ph. 230-6915 AUUFcyp@gmail.com

CYRE Committee chair – Deena Mitchell ph. 743-6017 DeenaMitchell1978@gmail.com

YRUU Notes August 2015

Eric McCoy, CYP

Thursday Evening Youth Services continue to be a success. Every Thursday, from 7-8:30 in the teen room, the YRUU gather and focus on the spirituality of play through games, music, art, dance and silly fun! Please join us! Need transportation? Contact Eric (info below) to participate in a ride share with other parents. Youth are offered a gas stipend (\$5/youth) for rides to and from in our new UUber program. Access is easy--dodging two high speed nerf balls at once--not so easy! :D

Kick-Off Lockin--Come shake off the back to school blues at our first lockin of the year on Friday the 21st, (three days after doomsday). Come when you can, dinner starts at 6, worship starts at 8.

AlasCON--We are excited to have our 4th annual AlasCON, our own statewide youth convention that runs parallel to Fall Frolic and Kings Lake Camp. Last year we had over 20 participants involved in our workshops and worship. This year we have invited youth from Fairbanks, Sitka and Juneau. Save the weekend of September 18th-20th for this fun and fulfilling experience.

Adults of YRUU--I am really happy to announce our team of adults that will be helping out with YRUU this year. **Kristi Taylor-Bond** is our returning veteran advisor. **Mara Hall** is joining us after working with the Moonspinners for two years. **Leanne Gray** is our powerhouse rookie. These three wonderful people will rotate Sunday mornings, assisting the youth-led program downstairs.

This year we have three new positions that will be a tremendous help to our program. Our Social Justice Sponsor is **Jeanne Fischer** and this year's area of focus is poverty. Our Service Work Sponsor is **James Dryden**, and he will help guide service to the Fellowship. Our Special Events Sponsor is **TK Kleiner** and she is going to help plan lockins, and final Friday events, as well as being an essential part of our Coming of Age program. Please help me in letting them know how very valuable they are to our youth program at AUUF.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, concerns or congratulations, please email auufcyp@gmail.com or call/text 907 230-6915

What a year it will be! Eric

About our Speakers and Services (see back page)

Gary Holthaus is a poet, author and minister. For the past three years he's served as the called minister of the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Originally ordained as a Methodist minister, Holthaus has also made a living as an educator and non-profit administrator. He's the author -- most recently -- of "Learning Native Wisdom: What Traditional Cultures Teach Us about Subsistence, Sustainability, and Spirituality" and "From the Farm to the Table: What All Americans Need to Know about Agriculture." In this latter work, through interviews with men and women who try to make a living farming in southeastern Minnesota, Holthaus examined the stark downside of international free-trade agreements that maximize multinational corporate profits at the expense of American farmers, wage-earners and the environment.

Vic Fischer is Alaska's preeminent elder statesman. He drove the Alcan to Alaska in 1950 and has been part of Alaska's history ever since. Among many other things he was Anchorage's first planner (responsible for the Chester Creek Greenbelt), a delegate to the Alaska Constitutional Convention, the first director of the University of Alaska's Institute for Social and Economic Research, an Alaska State Senator, and plaintiff in the successful lawsuit against the Pebble Mine. His recent book, "To Russia with Love", not only tells his story but also the story of Alaska since the 1950s.

Vicki Clark is the Executive Director of Trustees for Alaska, a nonprofit environmental law firm that defends Alaska's environment on behalf of Native groups, local and national conservation groups, and individuals. Vicki has worked as Executive Director, Legal Director, and as a staff attorney for Trustees for the past 12 years. Before that, she was a public interest environmental attorney in Santa Barbara, California. Vicki and her dog Loki enjoy romping around Anchorage trails and parks.

Carmen Gutierrez is an Anchorage lawyer with 25 years of experience in criminal defense. She has also served as a Deputy Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Corrections. While in Corrections, she served as Chair of the Alaska Prisoner Re-entry Task Force. She has continued to work on rehabilitation and re-entry strategies.

Julia O'Malley is an independent journalist living in Anchorage. She writes a popular blog about Alaska's people and culture and also serves as a correspondent for Al Jazeera America. Julia was recently appointed the Atwood Chair of Journalism at the University of Alaska Anchorage (for the 2015-2016 school year) and awarded a grant from the Pulitzer Center for Crisis Reporting to explore the effect of climate change on Alaska's wild foods. Before becoming a freelancer, Julia wrote a popular, twice-weekly metro column for the Anchorage Daily News and won several awards for her reporting on Anchorage's immigrant and ethnic communities. Her work has been featured on public radio and she has also written for The Guardian, National Geographic News and PBS.org.

Bill Sherwonit is a free-lance nature writer who lives in Anchorage. He's authored more than a dozen books on topics ranging from the Iditarod to Denali National Park. His most recent books include "Animal Stories: Encounters with Alaska's Wildlife" and "Living with Wildness: An Alaskan Odyssey." A former columnist for The Anchorage Times, Bill has contributed stories and photos to a wide variety of national publications, including Orion, National Wildlife and Backpacker. His essays have appeared in several anthologies, including Best American Science and Nature Writing, Best Travel Writing, and The Last New Land: Stories of Alaska Past and Present.

Robin Bronen is a human rights attorney and a senior scientist at the Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska, Fairbanks. She holds a doctorate in population adaptation from UAF and a Juris Doctorate from UC Davis. As executive director of the Alaska Institute for Justice, she and her organization have received many awards for their work with immigration, climate change, and community relocation.

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

Thank you to everyone who gave of their time and talents to AUUF this past year. We started a new fiscal year July 1, so please check your credit card statements for accuracy if your pledge changed. If you have not yet made a pledge, please fill out a green pledge form and put it in the locked black box in the office. Thank you!

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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Anchorage, AK 99508-3303

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AUUF SERVICES –August 2015

Sunday, August 2

9 am Robin Bronen, "Climate Induced Relocation:
Human Rights and Resilience"

11 am Bill Sherwonit,
'Nature, Myth and "the Green Man."'

Sunday, August 9

9 am Julia O'Malley "
Reporting Our Story to the World."

11 am Ruth Greenwood

Sunday, August 16

9 am Gary Holthaus, "Why I (Passionately) Oppose
the Pending Trans-Pacific Free Trade Agreement"

11 am Gary Holthaus

Sunday, August 23

9 am Carmen Gutierrez, "Reform of Alaska's
Criminal Justice System"

11 am Gary Holthaus

Sunday, August 30

9 am Vic Fischer and Vicki Clark, "Holding the
Pebble Mine to Alaska's Constitutional Standards"

11 am Gary Holthaus

Regular Tuesday Evening Services

7 pm August 4, 11, 18, 25

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- August 2015

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

The LOG

September 2015

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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



Gary Holthaus, Minister

First, a resounding thank you for all the good wishes and offers of help sent my way during my recent bout with vertigo. As I write this I still can't drive but my ears are clearing. My balance is still wobbly, but getting better and should be normal by the time you get this. It has all taken longer than I had hoped, so I am grateful for your patience and forbearance. And so grateful to my wife Lauren for her wonderful care. Our vacation wasn't quite what we had anticipated, but it was wonderful nevertheless because she was here.

So now it seems autumn is upon us. Two weeks ago there was a single bright yellow leaf in the green of our front yard. Last week there were myriads of them, yellow and many shades of brown, along the edges of the trail through Estuary Park. Given the changes in the climate here we may still have a long fall ahead, but the inevitable shortening of days will catch us.

But for AUUF the season of rich activities is just beginning.

- Welcome back to Rosene from her three month sabbatical and thank you to Eric McCoy for 'covering' for her this summer. I enjoyed working with Eric and Rosene has come back refreshed.

- I always look forward to Homecoming Service and the Mingling of the Waters. It is a fine gathering of old friends, sharing a bit of water from their summer adventures, and usually some new friends finding a home with us for the first time. RE begins too with kids everywhere.

- This year too, we'll be meeting our neighbors as well as one another. September 13 is our first ever Open House for members, friends, neighbors who'd like to get acquainted and see what we've done to this place and who we are.

- A week later, September 18-20 Fall Frolic is a special family event at Birchwood Camp. Rowboats, canoes, hikes, all kinds of crafts, songs and a labyrinth walk in a spectacular lakeside setting, all accompanied by great food make a great time for everyone.

Animal Blessing Sunday comes up October 4, and then things are in full swing and fall begins to really feel like a new season.

We're eager to see you soon! Gary

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Open House and Picnic September 13th

Join us in celebrating our one year anniversary in Airport Heights! We invite members and friends of AUUF & neighbourhood folks to come together for food & fellowship. Lots of activities for the kids. Live music provided by 'David Mack and Friends' The line-up of musicians includes UU friends Cy Two Elk, Brandon Kell, Dan Bigley, Michael Bahn, & maybe Karen Greenwood. Genres ranging from reggae, funk, rock 'n roll, & kirtan – a little something for everyone! Bring your family and make some connections to sustain you through the months to come!

(12:30 immediately following the Homecoming / Ingathering service at 11)

Bring salads and sides, meat will be provided.

To lend a hand contact Amanda Mack 342-9008; amdamack@gmail.com.

August 2014 Board Report

Marty Freeman, President

“Be well, do good work, and keep in touch.”

Those are Garrison Keillor’s words, but they are a good wish for AUUF, too.

Lots of good work is going on -- volunteers are working to beautify our indoor and outdoor spaces, we hosted another successful Whale Coast visit and the organizers propose to host two trips next year, we sent a check for \$ 798 to Planned Parenthood through our July Half-Portion donation, we enjoyed thoughtful Sunday (and Tuesday) services, and closed out our FY15 budget in the black. I am deeply grateful to all the pledging AUUF friends and members – at year-end, the amount received in pledges was 99% of the original pledge amount – an excellent record.

The building continues to buzz with ideas on how to move forward on many fronts. It is exciting to see so many initiatives taking flight, and to benefit from the energy of committees, ministry teams, worship associates, Forum moderators, and other volunteers. The profusion of good ideas and numerous centers of leadership are tremendous assets to our Fellowship and they require that we make an extra effort to “keep in touch.” Many people use our grounds and indoor spaces for a variety of purposes, and care deeply about our projects, programs, and services. As we grow, keeping in touch can get harder, but it’s worth the effort – our good work will get even better with the benefit of many minds.

If you would like to keep in touch with the Board, please feel free to contact us at any time. You are also welcome to sit in on Board meetings. The next one will be 6:30-9:00 on September 9 in the social room. Topics will include additions to the Endowment Fund, groundwork for FY 17 budgeting and stewardship, and liaisons between the Board and Committees.

In fellowship, Marty Freeman

99.9% of Operating Fund fulfilled from last year!!

By Judy Engh

We finished our last fiscal year on June 30th in excellent shape! While 97% of pledges were fulfilled, we received an additional \$14,384 from members and friends who gave without actually pledging. (This does not include the additional Sunday offering plate). Thank you to ALL for your steadfast commitment to AUUF!

Currently we have \$248,886 in written pledges for our current fiscal year with new pledges still coming in! The current budget passed with \$250,000 with some items cut out. We are still hopeful to get to at least \$260,000 to add those items back in including a choir director, increased funds for PILOT, sabbatical funds, etc. If you intend to give and have not filled out a pledge form, please do so that we can plan accordingly. I am continually inspired by brand new folks who have jumped right in and started supporting AUUF in multiple ways with time, talents, and treasures. Thank you!!

Bill Clontz coming back!

By Judy Engh

Bill Clontz, consultant with UUA, spent a weekend with us in April to learn of our strengths and areas needing improvement as we look to our future. He will be working with us this year specifically on stewardship issues as we continue to strengthen ourselves financially with the possibility of a capital campaign to make improvements including accessibility for all. We will be looking for many more people to get involved as we plan to do another every member canvass next spring. Brand new people can help! We will train. Contact Judy Engh to get involved.

the aurora (Young Adults of AUUF)

by Eric McCoy

September the 10th (2nd Thursday Gathering)--We will have a potluck dinner at Kelsie Kline's apartment, 3061 E 42nd Ave, unit 703, 970-481-3064 (pay special attention to getting the area code right, it's not 907!). Afterward, there will be a spiritual component, TBD by Kelsie.

September the 13th (Pancakes&Handshakes/Homecoming Sunday/Open House) the aurora will meet in Room 4 downstairs at 10:15. Be sure to bring some water, specifically from someplace special, or in mind of someplace special, for our gathering of the waters ceremony during the 11 o'clock service. After, there will be an Open House for the whole Fellowship. Please plan on being there if you can, because it won't be any fun without you!



September the 18th-20th (Fall Frolic)--Fall Frolic is our church camp at King's Lake Camp. Traditionally, there hasn't been a strong showing of Young Adults, but we can change that! #occupyfallfrolic

Put it on your calendar! **October 8th (2nd Thursday)**--Amanda and Cy are hosting a potluck at their home, 3009 Northwood Dr., 907 575-7473 Good grub and fun! Details TBA

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



Social Justice--we had a benefeed on the Parkstrip, Aug. 23rd. The Magpie served lunch from donated ingredients and the proceeds went to a local charity. We hope to host another benefeed soon!

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

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

Revitalized Pastoral Care Committee Needs Your (Occasional!) Help

By Robin Hill

As some of you may know, the Committee on Shared Ministry, with wise direction from Mary Ann Eininger, has worked for several months to redefine and bolster our Fellowship's **Pastoral Care Committee**. Under Mary Anne's expert guidance Gary and the group have worked very carefully to define the PCC's mission, adopt a new organizational structure and train a small group of lay chaplains to provide support, compassion and deep listening to folks associated with AUUF. In fact, these carefully trained listeners already have begun meeting with folks associated with our fellowship. The PCC also is setting itself up to provide more general services, including meal preparation and delivery, transportation and other hands-on tasks. But we need **your** help. Are you able to prepare a batch of soup, lasagna, or other freezable dish to share with a new mom or other family in need? How about stopping to pick someone up for church or getting them to a doctor's appointment? Do you have an hour to mow a lawn or help an older person with light housework? If you can offer any of these occasional hands-on services, please contact me by leaving a message on my home phone or by email. The sooner we have a group in place, the sooner we can respond to those among us who need our support. Robin Hill 243.3612; akhills@ak.net

Got Chairs? Social Room and Upstairs Updates

by Irene O'Brien, Interior Design Committee

Together...

We seek to be an open and welcoming community.

Our goal is to make our space more welcoming, inviting, and comfortable to our members, families, musicians, friends, visitors, and renters.

During our Fellowship work day on Aug. 15, we started making a number of changes to improve the flow and function of our spaces upstairs. On Saturday, we cleared out the upstairs bookcases to create space for **additional seating** in the Social Room; installed shelving in the large closet; modified and moved the name tag rack; and moved ***all*** the bookcases from the Social Room elsewhere in the building. The AUUF Library is now located in the Ante-Room by Gary's office, while the other bookcases have been moved to the RE Library for additional shelving downstairs. Our next big projects will be walling off the back of the Wiggle Room closet and turning it into storage for folding tables and chairs in the Social Room; installing permanent coat racks in both the Front and Back entryways; and carpeting the Wiggle Room.

Do you have some furniture that you would consider donating to the Fellowship? We are looking for a few good chairs. All furniture needs to be low profile, durable, comfortable, attractive, and easy to move. Any donated items must be in very good condition and work with our existing decor and carpet. ***Please: No ugly chairs, futons, or bulky /overstuffed furniture.***

Specifically, we are looking for:

4 to 6 occasional chairs and two small tables for the Social Room; a comfy chair for the Wiggle Room; a comfy chair for the Ante-Room by Gary's Office; two leather benches for the entryways; and replacements for the back greeters table and storage cube.

If you have items you could donate, please call me at 344-5874; better yet, email a picture to ireneandDavid@ak.net

Thank you to all of our upstairs makeover helpers: Jana Sudkamp, Marty Freeman, Mary Spalding, Kate Lehn and Yolanda Meza; Shirley Dickens, Marjorie Carter, Judy Engh, Doug Eby, Brendon Crowley, Joyce Laine, Sarah Freeman, George Bryson, Paul Wheeler, Helen Peters, Gayle Nienhuesser, Amy Westfall, and the Alliance; the playground work-crew who came in out of the rain move the bookcases; Bruce Roberts; and a **very big thank you** to David O'Brien who worked late into the night two weekends in a row.

Blessings, Irene



Playground Update--Have you noticed improvements to our wonderful playground and garden? We owe a huge thank you to Kalen Saxton, Bruce Roberts, James Dryden and many others who volunteered to make a wonderful space for the young and the young at heart. Major work on the north and east sides of the fence was completed in six hours by a dozen people on Saturday, 8/15. (Thank you James Dryden, Bruce Roberts, Mara Hill, Judith Anderegg, Maria Hildebrandt, Dave Pelto, Don Crandall, Mike McGrath, Tom Choate, Ken Gregory, Mary Gregory, Loren Hildebrandt, Mark Houston, and George Baker.) Final renovations and repairs will

continue as we move into the fall. Our last goal is to complete the fence and safely enclose the playground.

If you haven't yet, it's the perfect time to get involved--contact Kalen Saxton (ph. 244-8221 kalensaxton@gmail.com) if you'd like to volunteer and offer your long range ideas for design and improvement.

Social Justice Committee

By Dennis Arashiro

Two fish are swimming along when another fish passes by saying, "How's the water, boys?" After going along for a while, one fish says to the other, "What's water?" That explains our lack of awareness when something so completely surrounds us. Unfortunately, this also explains our lack of attention to injustice when it envelops us like the water fish swim in. Think of how poverty goes unnoticed when that is all we see. Think of how some took no notice of Jim Crow because it was their entire world. Think of how environmental degradation can be unseen because that is all one sees.

Sometimes the challenge lies in actually seeing the injustice that exists. That's why social justice cannot simply be assigned to a committee to deal with. We need everyone's eyes to bring attention to issues of social justice. No single one of us can see it all. That is why we welcome your contribution to the Social Justice Committee. We meet next at 12:30 PM on Sunday, September 20, 2015, in Gary's office. If you cannot attend, please call or email me with your thoughts and concerns. Dennis Arashiro at 277-7377 or elvischannel@yahoo.com. And tell me about the water.

Half Portions for Social Action: Food Bank of Alaska

By Dennis Arashiro

"Unlike curing cancer or heart disease, we know how to beat hunger: food." - Mario Batali

Once again, the Food Bank of Alaska is the recipient of the Half Portion for Social Action. We will have the opportunity to provide for those in need with our dollars in the Sunday collection; we will have the opportunity to provide our hands in assembling food baskets for distribution on a Volunteer Saturday at the Food Bank. We are accustomed to contributing cans of corn, bags of rice, and boxes of cereal because of their shelf life. Let's not drop these efforts.

But, did you know that you can contribute what you gather from your gardens in our short growing season? The Food Bank can and will store your leafy greens and root vegetables in its refrigerated space before sending them out to those who could use a healthy as well as adequate diet. Please consider sharing the fresh bounty from your own soil by bringing it to the Food Bank facility at 2121 Spar Avenue directly for prompt distribution to those in need. There can be no better harvest celebration.

AFACT Celebrates

By Marie Rozak

AFACT is hosting a Celebration of Medicaid Expansion Saturday, August 29 at St. Anthony Catholic Church, 825 South Klevin Street.

The event will begin with a prayer service at 11:30 offering prayers of thanksgiving, followed by the celebration at noon. The celebration includes a potluck meal, music and dancing. Our own wonderful AUUF music director, choir director and choir will be participating.

Whether you sent out positive energy waves of encouragement, vocally supported, wrote letters or rallied at the corner of 4th and H (LIO Bldg), we put a great deal of effort into this issue. Let's enjoy the Governor's decision and the fact that so many Alaskans will benefit from it.

(If you would like lend a hand in the good work of Anchorage Faith & Action Congregations Together (AFACT), of which AUUF is a member, contact Marie Rozak, Ron Devon, or Don Crandall.)

Matsu UU

UUs are organizing in the Mat Su Valley. For information about their activities contact Ed Bostrom 745 1677 or edbostrom@gmail.com.

Adult RE

Offerings for adults will be starting in October. Do you have ideas for courses or topics? Would you like to plan a course or one-time event? Contact Gary or Rosene to offer ideas or lend a hand in planning some interesting events. Gary: gholthaus@drtel.net; 433-9311. Rosene 441-6815; rbeachy@alaska.life.net.

Alliance

by Shirley Dickens, Chair of the Alliance

Although we did not formally meet in August there has been much communication between members regarding moving the bookcases out of the social room and cutting down on the amount of used books. The interior design team, (chaired by Irene O'Brien) who has helped make our new church home useful and attractive, wants this space in the social room for another seating arrangement. They had asked us to confine our recycled books to the storage shelves behind the closed doors in the north end of the social room. We would open the doors before and after services. After conversation The Alliance has decided to stop the book service. (We lost our most consistent customers when we moved from Turnagain as the several AA groups often bought books.) Thanks to all who have participated in our book sale over the years.

Choir Rehearsal Schedule

Saturday, Aug 29th 10:30-12:00pm
Saturday, Sep 12th 10:30-12:00pm
Sunday, Sep 13th 9:45-10:30am
Saturday, Sep 26th 10:30-12:00pm
Sunday, Sep 27th 9:45-10:30am
Saturday, Oct 3rd 10:30-12:00pm

Position @ AUUF Open

By Gary Holthaus

We are disappointed that Doug Stewart's time with us did not work out and he has resigned. We are beginning a new search immediately for a part time Program Associate. If you know of someone in the community, our posting is available on Craigslist.

Wish List

Thank you for the anonymous donations of copier paper, legal envelopes and other office supplies. Our cabinets are full for now, except we can always use forever stamps.

Hungry Book Club News

by Shirley Dickens

We all enjoyed re-reading To Kill a Mocking Bird by Harper Lee and had a very interesting discussion about racial change and Southern manners. Susie K had brought along a companion book that was a long history of Harper Lee and her book and how she came to write it. We have chosen a very different genre for September 8th read, a book of your choice by Dick Francis, the British crime writer who is an ex-jockey and has written 40 books about horse racing. I had always considered his books sort of "pulp fiction", not to be taken seriously but admit I had never actually read one. Boy was I wrong, they are very well written, and to my surprise, have an element of morality in each one of them. We decided to each read a different "Dick Francis" book and briefly discuss it at the September 8th meeting. Should be easy to find, they are all in the public library, I bet Title Wave has lots of them too, probably can still buy them at Barnes and Nobel and of course, the ever faithful amazon.com. Bring a healthy snack to share and your chosen Dick Francis novel and let's compare. We are an open book club and all are welcome who want to come. Again 2 PM at the Pioneer Home, Sept 8th 3rd floor behind the elevator. Coffee and Tea will be furnished.

Friendly Recycling Tip: Take your own dishware/utensils to barbecues/picnics/potlucks. Styrofoam and paper plates and cups and plastic silverware are NOT recyclable.

Recycling Plastics: Our next recycling pickup is October 11 - 5s only, some examples are yogurt and cottage cheese containers.

September Birthdays, Best Wishes!

(birthdays are not published in our online version)

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Grateful that a long time member of AUUF, Shirley Randall, is home from hospital with improving pneumonia and COPD and taking it easy. We are glad you are better, Shirley. I heard she welcomes phone calls and short visits and finds her cats great company. Be well, my dear.

Also grateful for the new energy happening with our new Hospitality Teams, which will replace the Welcoming Committee. So glad new member, Ruth Lindeen, has joined the old welcoming committee with a lot of experience in her much larger UU congregation in Iowa and is willing to share her experience with us. This is a WONDERFUL opportunity to join a AUUF volunteer experience (with not too much effort except good manners and willingness to help us grow and connect to each other.) See Denise Martin (still chair) or Ruth Lindeen or some of the rest of the team, like me, to answer questions about how YOU might get involved. There will be information in the LOG, I'm sure.

Thankful also for the Dozens of volunteers who turned out for the work parties sprucing the interior of the building and continued work on the playground. (*see page xxx*) Thanks especially for time and effort of leads Irene O'Brien, David O'Brien, James Dryden, Kalen Saxton, and Bruce Roberts.

Grateful that Dick Gay is in town and doing well. He is 95 now but in excellent health. He declines speaking to either the Forum or the 11 AM service because of anxiety issues, but we delight in his good health and glad he is around. He is our 1st Minister Emeritus for AUUF and Art Curtis who was minister here from 1988 until 2002 is our 2nd minister emeritus.

Grateful that our own minister is feeling much better (ear problems with loss of balance) and getting a good rest on his vacation. Viral infections can take some time to heal.

Rev. Beatrice Hitchcock has taken an internship with a UU Church in North Seattle and this time her husband, Jim Hitchcock gets to go with her. He has someone to manage his homestead north of Palmer. Beatrice was our minister for 5 years before Gary came.

Enjoy these lovely warm summer days. Pick some berries, catch some fish, hike and enjoy the wonderful place we live in. And especially enjoy your families and loved ones. Life is short, make the best of it.

A Legacy Moment

By Wray Kinard

An interesting thing about the concept of leaving a part of your estate to the Fellowship is that many of our members and friends are simply not willing to think about it; it involves facing your own mortality. So here's a news flash: thinking about the next vacation is a whole lot more fun than realizing no one, young or old, knows when or how soon the final day will come. Am I right?

Who Needs to Have a Will? Please know that most adults, single or married, with or without children, with or without wealth, need to stop and make a will. Only if you're one of the movie superheroes can you pass on a will (man, I bet you're impressing your grandchildren); otherwise, stop and make a few notes on what possessions you'd like to see dispersed where, then date and sign it. Nothing fancy, no notary, no witnesses.

How Formal Should it Be? While calling a lawyer should be the next step, in Alaska handwritten wills without a lawyer's involvement may be legal under certain circumstances. Also, for those of you who have wills already, please consider reviewing it at least every five years. It's amazing how documents become stale or inaccurate even if your personal life circumstances haven't changed a bit.

What Else? Finally, please remember AUUF in your last wishes. Your legacy, no matter how large or small, will live on; The UU concept has existed for centuries and with your help AUUF will solidify progressive religion in Alaska as far as can be seen into the future. Thank you!

R.E. Notes for September 2015

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

This long beautiful summer is almost over! Hints of autumn are in the Loon calls and the mist on the lake. Brilliant masses of flowers and garden produce will soon give way to the cold air from the north. The school bells call children and teachers back to the classroom.

I was so blessed to be able to take sabbatical leave this summer from May 17 – August 17. What an amazing and generous opportunity. Kayaking, sailing, hiking, and gardening and reading and time with family and friends made for an enriching and rejuvenating sabbatical experience.

Thankfully, program activities at the Fellowship were covered by numerous volunteers. Special thanks to Eric McCoy, and Kalen Saxton who kept the balls spinning and filled the summer with creativity and inspiration. I look forward to seeing each of you again and hearing your summer experiences

Homecoming and Gathering of the waters brings us back to our faith community. We gather together to not only connect with friends, but to be inspired to live a more fulfilled life, and to join with others to work for a more peaceful and just world. We want this for ourselves and we want it for the next generation. Whether or not you have children in the RE program, I invite you to think of how you will be connected with our faith community, Anchorage Unitarian Universalist fellowship this year. How will this connection make a difference in your life, and how will you make a difference to the life of our Fellowship. There are many options to participate, to create, to volunteer, to make this faith community a meaningful part of your family life! With your help and inspiration, we can learn and grow together this year.

Love and light, Rosene

Needed – K-1st, 2nd grade and 3rd grade class leaders!

Working in our RE program is a wonderful opportunity to gather in faith with the next generation. Joining a team to explore Unitarian Universalism Principles and ideas with a group of bright and enthusiastic children or youth is an invigorating and enlightening way to spend 2 Sunday mornings a month! One Sunday prep to be the lead teacher, and the 2nd as an assistant for someone else on your team. We guarantee you will learn almost as much as the kids!

This is a large cooperative volunteer program and we expect and appreciate participation from all families in some way! If you have children in the program and have never volunteered, this would be a great year to begin! Team teaching is how we enable everyone, both the opportunity to participate in the upstairs services, about half the Sundays, and still be involved in the creative energy downstairs.

Teacher Volunteer sign up list and applications available at the Parent Info Spot.

Contact Eric McCoy, CYP, Coordinator of Youth Programming or Rosene Beachy, DLRE, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration for information about any of these volunteer possibilities.

Let's dispel some myths about RE people may have.

1. The commitment is too big--working with a team of three or four, you will spend the majority of your year upstairs. Downstairs you will lead once a month, and support another time. There will be other adults to help prepare and continue the curriculum. Many hands make light work!
2. If I spend time with the kids, my adult relationships will suffer--many of our teachers actually improve their adult relationships at the Fellowship as working with others will do. The adults get to know the children, the parents of the children, and their fellow teachers. RE is a great way to get involved and in contact with the Fellowship.
3. I'm not good with kids--only a very small percentage of the population is incapable of building relationship across age definitions. Everyone has experience with children--even if it was being one! Many of our teachers don't have children in RE, yet share their gifts with the youth of tomorrow. You can give the greatest gift as well, the gift of your time, your spirit, yourself.

“Homecoming Sunday” September 13th.

Bring the water you have collected over the summer to the 11:00 service, for our Celebration of Community and Gathering of the Waters Communion.

Registration is happening for the next few Sundays in the upstairs social room. Please register before Homecoming Sunday.

Religious Exploration classes begin September 27th.

Childcare Orientation

Sunday, September 27, from 9:00 – 10:00 am in the, RE office. This is for anyone age 13 and up interested in being on the childcare call list for 9 am services and other RE and Fellowship events. Even if you have done childcare in previous years, please attend this refresher workshop. Application forms for new childcare helpers available at the Parent Info Spot!

THE OWL IS BACK!!

Our Whole Lives, age appropriate sexuality education classes will be starting up this Fall, with a **Jr. High School program and an Elementary 4th-6th, beginning in October**. Registration information will be mailed to families in each age group on our RE list from last year. If you are new this year or didn't receive an information letter & registration in the mail, you can pick one up at the fellowship. Please register ASAP.

OWL Information meetings will be held:

Elementary 4th-6th Parent Meeting will be on Mon, September 14th, 7-8:30 pm

Elementary Parent/child Kickoff on Saturday, Sept. 26, 1-3 pm,

Elementary OWL begins Sunday, October 4th, 12:30 pm

Jr. High parents (only) Orientation, Sept. 10 6:30-8:30

Jr High OWL Kick off (parents & youth)– 12 3-5 pm

FALL FROLIC - September – 18 -20th Our annual, much loved, Fall camp weekend at Kings Lake Camp in Wasilla is just around the corner. This is a treasured tradition where the whole fellowship is invited to Kings Lake Camp for food, fun, fellowship and Fall! A favorite of all ages no matter what the weather, we learn to know new friends, relax by (or in) the lake, hike, play and eat good food.

If you've never been, this might be the year to try it out! Workshops for everyone from Preschool to teens and adults. Crafts, outdoor activities and games, campfires, a labyrinth and great food are a few of the things you can expect! The cost is reasonable and it includes cabin and food. Assistance is available. Register now to save your spot! Please send in your registration form, and don't forget to sign up to volunteer on the back! (see *page x for more*)

YRUU Notes September 2015

Eric McCoy, CYP

Thursday Youth Services from 7-8:30. Please contact Eric McCoy if you are interested in attending or leading.

We're getting geared up for the **4th Annual AlasCON**. YRUU hosts a parallel event to Fall Frolic, September 18-20 at Kings Lake Camp.

Friday night: Weiners and S'mores, Youth Worship (Moonspinners and YRUU)

Saturday: Workshop A Youth Worship (YRUU only);

Workshop B: Youth Worship (Full Congregation)

Sunday: Congregational Worship; Farewell Ceremony (YRUU only)

Last year we had over 20 attendees and it looks to be another great time this year!

Feel free to contact Eric McCoy with any questions or ideas about our youth programs.

auufcyp@gmail.com 907 230-6915

**Folks have been asking -
WHEN is the AUUF FALL FROLIC WEEKEND RETREAT
September 18 – 20, 2015**

FALL FROLIC QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

When, where and how much?

Our annual AUUF retreat will take place at Salvation Army King's Lake Camp in Wasilla from 5 pm Friday evening, September 18th to Sunday afternoon, September 20th. All members and friends of our AUUF family are welcome. The cost for 2 nights and 5 meals will be \$80 for adults and youth, children age 3-10 are \$50, and wee ones 0-2 are free. **Max for a family is \$275.** One night is \$60 adults/\$40 children. Or come and enjoy only the day Saturday with meals – A -\$40/ CH -\$25. Please don't hesitate to come because of cost - Scholarship funds may be available by request.

Where is King's Lake Camp?

King's Lake Camp is located outside Wasilla at 3313 Lakeview Drive. It takes about 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 spend a Fall weekend in a lovely outdoor 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, sit around a fire or share a talent. There will be opportunities for meditation and movement as we create and walk a Labyrinth, or enjoy the Lakefront sunrise. If you prefer to spend most of your time enjoying the beautiful Alaskan Fall in your own way, you can do that also. There will be several Adult/Teen workshops other than crafts offered on Saturday.

What shall I bring?

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

What will we do if it rains?

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

Do I need to bring a tent?

YOU DON'T! But you can! You may either bring a tent or a trailer to camp, or, there are 15 heated and several rustic cabins (no heat). All cabins are shared! Each cabin contains 8 - 12 bunk beds and is good for 2 or 3 families to share. There are 2 large, heated, central bathhouses complete with hot showers and flush toilets. Cabins are chosen upon arrival. There is a Dining Hall and a large multi purpose activities lodge.

What about food?

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

What if I have more questions?

You can always call Rosene Beachy, DLRE 248-5318 or 441-6815. Or call the church office, 248-3737.
Camp Registration forms are in this LOG or available downstairs.

***Volunteers needed to help plan Fall Frolic**

There will be 2 Planning meetings: will be Tuesday September 1 6-7 pm, and Thursday September 10 at 7 pm downstairs at AUUF.

We need your help and ideas to keep Fall Frolic alive and continuing to provide a wonderful weekend each year for our Fellowship! Call Rosene for details and please fill out the volunteer portion of your registration!!.

About our Speakers and Services (see back page)

Gary Holthaus is our called minister.

Cliff Groh is an attorney and a lifelong Alaskan. He has served as a Special Assistant to the Alaska Commissioner of Revenue on oil tax matters. Also, he has served as a Legislative staff member and assisted in the drafting of the Permanent Fund Dividend legislation. Groh has been a board member of Alaska Common Ground for 15 years. He will be the Chair of Common Ground's Saturday Sept 19, 2015 Forum on Alaska's Fiscal and Economic Future.

Charles Wohlforth is the author of a new book: "From the Shores of Ship Creek: Stories of Anchorage's First Hundred Years." He will tell the stories of the adventures, missteps, and successes that turned Anchorage from a construction camp into a major northern city. Charles is a lifelong Alaskan, a former Anchorage Assembly member, an active volunteer, a community leader, and author of 10 books.

Anchorage attorney **Margaret Stock** is a nationally recognized authority on immigration issues. In 2013 she won the MacArthur genius grant for her work on three important immigration programs. She is a graduate of the Harvard Law School and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Margaret is also a retired Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army.

Lois Epstein, P.E., an Alaska-licensed engineer, is Arctic Program Director for The Wilderness Society, a national conservation organization. Her efforts focus on ensuring that onshore and offshore Arctic oil and gas operations are as safe and environmentally-sound as possible and protecting sensitive areas from new resource development. She is President of the board of the Bellingham, Washington-based, non-profit Pipeline Safety Trust, and has a masters' degree from Stanford University in Civil Engineering with a specialization in environmental engineering and science, and undergraduate degrees from both Amherst College (English) and MIT (mechanical engineering).

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Information

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

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

Staff Phones and Email

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

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

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

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

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

AUUF Board of Directors

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

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

Other Contacts

4As Lunches – the aurora

Adult RE – Vacant

Annual Dinner / Auction – Stephenie Wheeler

AFACT – Marie Rozak, Ron Devon

Alliance – Shirley Dickens

Building and Grounds - Bruce Roberts

Children and Youth RE – Deena Mitchell

Childcare Coordinator – Kalen Saxton

Committee on Shared Ministry – Marty Herriott

Communications – Stephenie Wheeler

Endowment – John Blaine

Finance – Judy Engh

Green Sanctuary – Suzie Kobierowski / Cathy Steen

Interior Design – Irene O'Brien / Cindy Kinard

Nominating – Ron Devon/Stephenie Wheeler

OWL – Katherine Huffman

Pastoral Care – Don Crandall / Robin Hill

Pastoral Pantry – Amanda Cash

Planned Giving – Wray Kinard

Playground Planning – Kalen Saxton

Safer Congregation – Vacant

Social Justice Committee – Dennis Arashiro

Small Groups – Susan Orlansky

Speaker's Forum – George Bryson

Stewardship – Judy Engh

UUSC Coordinator – Vacant

Welcoming Committee – Denise Martin

Whalecoast – Denise Martin

Worship Associates – Marilyn Lee

Young Adults (the aurora) – Eric McCoy

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

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AUUF SERVICES –September 2015

Sunday, September 6 Labor Day Weekend
9 am Cliff Groh, "Solving Alaska's Fiscal Gap",
11 am Gary Holthaus

Sunday, September 13 **Open House and Picnic**
9 am Charles Wohlforth,
"Searching for the Heart of Anchorage",
11 am Homecoming / In Gathering
12:30 Open House and Picnic

Sunday, September 20
9 am Lois Epstein,
"Drilling for Oil in the Chukchi Sea",
11 am Second Harvest Ritual, Madon

Sunday, September 27
9 am Margaret Stock,
"How Immigration Enriches Alaska"
11 am Gary Holthaus

<u>Regular Tuesday Evening Services</u> 7 pm September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- September 2015
Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare beginning Sept 13th
Sunday 11 am ~ Childcare & Classes for toddlers through high school

AUUF FALL FROLIC WEEKEND RETREAT

September 18 – 20, 2015

at 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 18th to Sunday afternoon, September 20th. All members and friends of our AUUF family are welcome. The cost for 2 nights and 5 meals will be \$80 for adults and youth, children age 3-10 are \$50, and wee ones 0-2 are free. **Max for a family is \$275.** One night is \$60 adults/\$40 children. Or come and enjoy the day Saturday with meals – A -\$40/ CH -\$25. Please don't hesitate to come because of cost - Scholarship funds may be available by request.

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



FALL FROLIC 2015

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

6:00 pm Friday, September 18th through 1:00 pm Sunday, September 20th

Kings Lake Camp



Family Name: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Frolic Fees

- Food included in 1 or 2 night fee is 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 1 dinner.
- Food included in day fee is 1 breakfast, 1 lunch and 1 dinner.

Age of
Frolicker
over 10
3 to 10
zero to 2

Day only
(No lodging)
\$40
25
0

Cabin or
tent for 1
night
\$60
40
0

Cabin or
tent for 2
nights
\$80
50
0

Please indicate the name and age of each participant. Mark one box for the type of stay and one box for the number of nights. Please register by Sept. 10th. Please also volunteer how you will help on the back! Keep the map & gear list for your information! Family max \$250. Scholarships available.

Name	Age	Type of stay			Number of nights			Cost Each
		Day only	Cabin	Tent	Friday only	Saturday only	Friday and Saturday	
						Total amount		_____



For administrative use only.

Date payment received: _____

Total verified: _____

Please mark number of people for each item below:

Special meal requests: gluten free_____ vegetarian_____ dairy free_____
_____We will not be at Sunday's lunch

Special Housing Requests _____

Scholarship needed _____ I will donate an extra \$ _____ to the scholarship fund.

In order to make this a weekend of fun and fellowship for everyone, please remember this is an AUUF Community effort which works best and is the most fun with everyone's involvement even if in a small way!. We would like all participating adults to contribute in some way to the program or activities. Please sign up below how you might help. Either let us know your ideas of what you might do, or just pick an area and we'll give you the plan!

I'LL BE GLAD TO HELP WITH:

I can attend one of the planning meetings - August 23 & Sept. 2 _____

Children's Outdoor Activities _____ Afternoon games/ relays _____

Crafts or Mini Workshops _____ Idea _____

Adult Discussion Group Facilitator _____ Set Up Labyrinth _____

Preschool activities _____ Tweens Activities _____

Tweens Canoe Hike _____ I can bring a canoe to use _____

Food Prep _____ Meal _____ Clean Up _____ Meal _____

Friday Evening: Campfire cookout _____ Table Games _____

Saturday Eve Talent Show _____ "Skill" _____

Mealtime songs and jokes _____

Worship Service _____ Music _____ Instrument _____

All ages and musical ability welcome to participate _____

Land and Water Safety Supervision _____ I am a certified lifeguard _____

Earliest Possible registration will help us with our planning. Complete this form and send it with your check (payable to AUUF) and bring or mail to the Fellowship. AUUF - Fall Frolic, 3201 Turnagain St, Anchorage, AK 99517. Deadline for registration is Homecoming Sunday, September 14.

The LOG

October 2015

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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



Gary Holthaus, Minister

What a great fall we've had so far. A couple of weeks of rain (which I love), and the leaves shifting to bright yellow as clear skies returned. The sun makes the leaves look like they are bragging, preening for their public display.

And our AUUF year came in just as the leaves are going out. Fall frolic was as beautiful as I have ever seen at Kings Lake which is saying a lot since there has never been five minutes when that place was not beautiful... A fleet of candle-lit vessels sailed serene as swans on the mirrored lake as the sun set Saturday night.

"Homecoming and the Gathering of Waters," our first full service of the beginning year, was beautiful. The choir was back with strong voices. Religious Exploration orientation and training took place and the RE classes began just last Sunday. Between Thursday and Sunday I think Rosene put in about a million hours readying materials for RE teachers, and both RE veterans and newcomers gathered for orientation and a Sunday morning Dedication in our still new sanctuary.

And there is much more to come. As you will note in other articles in this Log, our Committee on Shared Ministry will focus on mental illness during the month of October, and our Stewardship Committee has begun planning a full year of continuing AUUF's progress toward fiscal sustainability. Since my early participation back in the late Sixties – Eighties, I have always been proud of AUUF for several reasons. An especially satisfying one has been that our congregation has always been fiscally responsible. We've paid our bills, supported social justice efforts, and paid taxes from back in the days before the City and the Borough became one.

And on November 22 we'll be celebrating our Sixtieth AUUF Anniversary. We will have a special joint service combining the 9:00 o'clock Forum and the 11:00 o'clock service all to be held at 10:00. Reverend Richard Gay will be here, and Beryl Johnson, now 96 years of age and one of our earliest founding members will share a panel with me on AUUF experiences over the years. We'll be looking to all of you to sharpen your memories whether from early days or just last Thursday, and help us make this a memorable event! This will be an intergenerational event too, for the RE kids will be with us for part of the service. And there will Birthday Cake for all...

Let the good times roll! Gary

Calendar Highlights

Oct 1 and 8 AUUF / AFACT
Oct 3 RE Winter Game Nite!
Oct 11 Plastics Recycle
Oct 18 Newcomer's Luncheon
Oct 15 and 22 Finding Your Way into Fellowship
Oct 25 Soup Sunday
Nov 7 Annual Dinner and Auction
Nov 22 60th Anniversary
Nov 22 and 29
Alliance Christmas Bazaar

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Board Letter

Marty Freeman, President

I just returned from a wonderful Fall Frolic, capped by spectacular northern lights flowing, shimmering, and waving overhead. As people stood in awe on the beach, pockets of laughter erupted out of the sheer joy of the moment. Besides laughing at the aurora, what has your Board been up to this month? We've been working on a number of issues that we hope contribute to the long-term health of AUUF in several ways. On the fiscal front,

- After consultation with the Endowment Committee, we committed gold and silver valued at approximately \$49,000 to the Endowment Fund. The gold is yet another part of the remarkable gift we received from Louise Gallop in her estate. Along with the contribution of gold and silver, the Board challenged the Endowment Committee to work with the congregation to match these contributions with \$100,000 in newly documented commitments to the Fund from our many members and friends. The Board is also challenging itself to be part of those commitments. The gold, silver, and new commitments bring the endowment much closer to the level at which it can be used to benefit our mission for generations to come.
- Restarted our review of draft finance policies with a goal of adopting final policies this fall. These policies address how we manage our Fellowship's assets and liabilities, prepare our budget, and conduct audits.
- Renamed the restricted fund #243 "Seminarians" as "Unitarian Universalist Development." Money in this line item has not been used in some time. The new name allows the funds to be used to support the development of UUism in Alaska including but not limited to sponsoring travel and visitation between and amongst Alaska's UU congregations, as recommended and approved by the Minister.
- Recognized that, thanks to your pledges and to a very successful Whale Coast program, we have reached the threshold set last spring for adding \$4,000 to the budget for the music program. At the annual congregational meeting last spring, we identified this as the top priority if we were able to raise additional funds. We are grateful to all who have pledged, and to Denise Martin, Annie Belts, Kalen Saxton, and all the other volunteers who made Whale Coast such a success last summer. If additional funds are raised, the next priorities identified by the congregation were increasing the payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) amount to recognize the increased value of our new building, and starting to build up the sabbatical fund for our minister and Religious Exploration director.

On the Social Justice front, we unanimously passed a resolution of support for a municipal ordinance establishing LGBTQ civil rights, in keeping with our history as a Welcoming Congregation, positions of the national UU Association, and our first principle as UUs.

Recreation is important to our long-term health, too, and on the fun front, we enjoyed the open house celebrating our first year in our new home, and opening our doors to the community – many thanks to Amanda Mack for spearheading the event, and to all who cooked a dish to share, moved chairs and tables, did dishes, and chatted with our neighbors.

Lastly, we look forward to important events coming up. The first week in October is National Mental Illness Awareness week. Through services and other events we'll have a chance to think about another aspect of health – mental health and how to be a welcoming congregation for people with mental illness, and to do so in a way that is healthy for the whole congregation. This is part of the challenge in the UU first principle: To respect the inherent worth and dignity of every person. It promises to be a worthwhile, thought-provoking month at AUUF. Come join in.

In Fellowship, Marty Freeman

Newcomer's Luncheon Oct. 18 On Sunday, Oct. 18th, we are inviting any newcomers at AUUF to stay after the 11:00 a.m. service, and be our guest for lunch starting about 12:30. This will be an opportunity to learn more about our Fellowship, and Unitarian Universalism. There will be a few long-term members present; some will be providing short presentations. You will also have an opportunity to ask questions. If you have children, they are welcome, we are happy to provide a special program for them. For those bringing children, please RSVP so we can prepare age-appropriate activity: Kalen Saxton 244-8221 kalensaxton@gmail.com, or Denise Martin 345-8787. You can also reserve your spot by signing up on the bulletin board in the social room.

Mental Illness and the Church

Whether we recognize it or not, all of us are likely touched in some way by mental illness. Perhaps you struggle with varying levels of depression during long dark winters. Or maybe you've noticed a work colleague who seems to have severe mood swings and isn't as productive as they could be. Maybe a relative has fears or compulsive behaviors that seem beyond the norm. The topic of living with mental illness – and of making AUUF more aware and welcoming to those who live with these issues -- has been a focus of the CoSM for the last several months. As a result, we've planned some special events for October to raise awareness and begin important conversations. On Sunday, Oct, 11, Francine Harbour, Executive Director of the local chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Health will speak at the 11 AM service. Her presentation will focus on different aspects and come just after National Mental Health Awareness Week. Following the 11 a.m. service the CoSM will also hold a Listening Circle for anyone wishing to discuss these issues further. In addition, during October, the half portion for benevolence will go to NAMI's Anchorage chapter. Other events and activities on living with mental illness likely will follow. Please join us Oct. 11, as together we begin this important exploration.

~AUUF Committee on Shared Ministry. Robin Hill, Mary Spalding, Michelle Champion, Marie Rozak, Jiri Biciste, and Chair, Marty Herriott

Social Justice Committee

By Dennis Arashiro

"Genuine equality mean not treating everyone the same, but attending equally to everyone's different needs." -Terry Eagleton

Airport Heights Connection: Would you like to assist with children at Airport Heights Elementary? Sharon Harris, PTA Treasurer is looking for Halloween Carnival Volunteers. Helpful hands are needed Oct 30 from 4 to 8 and Saturday October 31 9 am for setup and 3-5 pm for the carnival. Contact: Sharronahcc@gmail.com.

Dandelions and orchids. Cultural commentator Mark Roeder places us in one category or the other. No, no, no! Not in terms of our appearance or our assumed place in the garden hierarchy. In terms of our response to life challenges. Those of us who are dandelions are hardy and resilient enough to flourish under a multitude of conditions. Those of us who are orchids are environmentally sensitive and need a specific set of conditions to not only survive but to flower magnificently. Of course, most of us are not one or the other; most of us are unique mixes of the two. This is why social justice is not about a simplistic cookie cutter version of fairness but the recognition and application of the different policies and actions needed to allow all of us to reach our full potential.

Having just spent a month teaching at Highland Tech Charter School and having taught in other alternative programs, I see much more clearly the need to identify, appreciate, and meet the needs of the marginalized and needy--the orchids among us and within us. The Social Justice Committee has a role to play in this, a role that you can help with. Join us when we meet at **12:20 PM on Sunday, October 18, 2015**. If you cannot attend, feel free to call or email me with your questions, thoughts, and proposals. Dennis Arashiro at 277-7377, cell 444-4324, or elvischannel@yahoo.com.

Half Portions for Social Action: National Association on Mental Illness

By Dennis Arashiro

Speaking of orchids, many of us find the challenges of life overwhelming because of mental illness. What some can withstand and survive, others cannot without help. Who knows what accomplishments and triumphs await those of us who need that help; who knows what benefits await humankind when all of us have the chance to be all we are meant to be? That is what ignites the passions of those who work for and with the National Association on Mental Illness, a nationwide grassroots advocacy group that represents individuals and families affected by mental illness.

Providing peer directed education, support groups, and community outreach, NAMI works to eliminate the stigma attached to mental illness, provide needed avenues for meeting mental health challenges, effect positive policy change in available services and increase public and professional knowledge of the subject. That is why the Committee on Shared Ministry and the Social Justice Committee designate NAMI as the October Half Portion recipient--to make orchids bloom.

AFACT

By Marie Rozak

The AFACT celebration held August 29 to celebrate the work done in support of Medicaid expansion in Alaska was both an emotionally moving and a fun day. For those of you who missed it, the prayer service in gratitude was led by individual pastors from the various congregations including our own, Pastor Gary, and Pastor Julia Seymour (Lutheran Church of Hope). Pastor Julia compared the Medicaid expansion gap in Alaska to the “junk drawer” most of us have at home. If you missed Chris Thompson’s article in the ADN on September 5, it’s on the bulletin board. But, be sure you also read the accompanying letter to the editor written by AFACT board member, Kay Gajewski.

After the prayer service we moved outside for grilled burgers and hot dogs as well as lots of side dishes. The celebration continued with recognition of the work and support of Commissioner Valerie Davidson, Rep. Harriet Drummond and Rep. Geran Tarr who were present. The Samoan congregation honored them, as well as Father Fred Bugarin, with a cultural ritual of preparation and sharing with them of a tea and singing as a portion of their dance. Several congregations, including the AUUF choir, provided music and dance during the afternoon.

If you are interested in exploring how we, as a congregation, can move forward on issues reflecting AUUF values, there will be a meetings October 1 and 8, at 7:00 PM here at the Fellowship. AFACT’s Director, Chelsea Gulling will join us.

Welcome Home

by Irene O’Brien, Interior Design Committee

Over the two months, there have been a number of renovations and improvements made here at the Fellowship, just in time for our Celebration Sunday on Sept. 13.

First and Foremost – A number of volunteers have made multiple trips to Good Will, Title Wave and the dump, as we cleared out **a whole herd of ugly (and broken) sofas**, bad shelving, old books, a random bed, broken chairs, and a whole bunch of random, unloved or broken stuff all over the building. Clearing out the excess clutter has really opened up the possibilities of all of our spaces.

Check out the Junior and Senior High rooms. The Free-Thinkers Group, which had previously been meeting in the Wiggle Room, likes the improvements to the Junior High room so much, that they have requested to move all of their meetings there!

Upstairs our entryways have become more inviting with coat racks, benches and a clean layout. Both of the Social Room closets have had a makeover, creating functional shelving and much needed storage for our folding chairs and tables. This is especially important now that the 40 new chairs that the Board ordered last spring have arrived.

The most dramatic change is in the Wiggle Room, which is now a **Shoe-Free Zone**. The new carpet that was installed was “leftover” carpeting from the risers in the Turnagain building. The Wiggle and Toddler Rooms are now attractive, comfortable spaces for our families with babies, toddlers and young children. Rocking chairs were donated by Bruce Roberts and Kalen Saxton. A baby changing table has been installed in the Ladies bathroom upstairs.

We had a number of volunteers who helped with the renovations in ways large and small. A big Thank You to my number one handyman, David. We couldn’t have done it without you.

Peacefully in Fellowship, Irene

the aurora (Young Adults of AUUF): A group dedicated to those that identify as ‘Young Adults’. To get connected call 907 230-6915 or email theaurora@gmail.com. Find us on facebook and twitter @theaurora.

Hungry Book Club News

by Shirley Dickens

The Hungry Book club met Sept. 8th at the Pioneer home with 8 faithful members for an excellent discussion of Dick Frances's books. None of us had read him before this month and many of us had read at least one and someone had read seven. We each discussed our read/reads. We all (except one) enjoyed them and decided Dick Frances was a good writer and has a mass following over many years around the world. I loved that there were many aspects of the horse racing world discussed, different with each book. The English take their horses seriously and the placing of bets is BIG business. I loved that the author had a moral element in each book and the good guy prevailed and justice was served. But then, I am an incurable romantic at heart.

We have chosen a fairly new book for October 13th, (second Tuesday in the month). called "All the Light We Can Not See" by Anthony Doerr. Again, we are meeting at 2 PM on the 3rd floor of the Pioneer home at 11th and I street and Debbie Cahoon will host us. All are welcome who love to read and discuss good books. We bring a healthy snack to share. Our book can be found at the library, Title Wave, Barnes and Noble and the ever faithful Amazon.com.

In Fred's Name, Part 2

October 23rd 7 PM at the Dena'ina Center in downtown Anchorage, our AUUF sponsored team will compete in the annual BIZBEE spelling contest. This is one of two major moneymaking events that the Anchorage Literacy Program sponsors each year. Alaska Airlines donates 2 tickets to anywhere they fly to Literacy and Literacy sells these chances as tickets for \$5.00 each or 5 tickets for \$20.00 (5 in a packet). Marilyn Lee, Jeanne Fischer and Shirley Dickens are volunteering to teach this fall at Literacy (English as a second language). We three will try to sell tickets to this congregation in support of our "Fred's Name" team. The team consists of Gavin Kentch (Susan Orlansky's older son), TK Kleiner and Rev. Ruth Greenwood (my daughter), a smart team indeed. Please support literacy in Anchorage by purchasing some tickets. Thank you for generosity. Our beloved Dr. Fred Hillman taught at Literacy 20 years after he retired and encouraged us three to volunteer there. He would be so proud of our continuing support of one of his favorite causes. You may come (free) to watch this fun event that night and cheer our team on. Literacy is giving us plenty of room for supporters.

Alliance

by Shirley Dickens, Chair of the Alliance

The Alliance met one week late this month because of the annual picnic and open house. We did get a lot of business done, namely paying annual dues, election of officers, and accepting Debbie Cahoon's resignation as treasurer for the past 3 or 4 years.

Marjorie Carter has ordered the plaques to be placed under the minister's pictures; Bruce Roberts will hang them when we get them. Thanks to Mary Spaulding, a friend of hers has donated 17 boxes of very nice stuff (moving out of state and her son's household is also moving). Fortunately Marjorie had room in her garage to store them. So we are set for the next rummage sale in the spring. Doreen Ransom is also donating several pairs of her handmade earrings to the Alliance for our Christmas sale coming up in mid-November. We will give these people a receipt for tax purposes. Also, Tom Choate gave us a bunch of jewelry from Charlu's, (his deceased wife) things for us to sell at the Christmas sale. So we have quite a lot now for both upcoming sales. Thanks to Joanne Anderson who now has some room in her renovated garage and will take other things from Tom Choate to store for rummage sale. We meet again October 11th (second Sunday in the month). We were happy to welcome a new member, our own Gwen Perry Crawford.

Choir Rehearsal Schedule

Saturday, Oct 3rd 10:30-12:00pm
Sunday, Oct 4th 9:45-10:30am
Saturday, Oct 10th 10:30-12:00pm
Saturday, Oct 17th 10:30-12:00pm
Sunday, Oct 18th 9:45-10:30am
Saturday, Oct 24th 10:30-12:00pm
Saturday, Oct 31st 10:30-12:00pm
Sunday, Nov 1st 9:45-10:30am

Green Sanctuary Committee meets October 4 at 12:30 in the choir area of the sanctuary. The November meeting will be November 1. Come join us!

Adult RE

Do you have ideas for courses or topics for adults? Would you like to plan a course or one-time event? Contact Gary or Rosene to offer ideas or lend a hand in planning some interesting events. Gary: gholthaus@drtel.net; 433-9311. Rosene 441-6815; rbeachy@alaska.life.net.

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

So grateful that our beloved minister, Gary Holthaus, insisted we get involved and join AFACT a couple of years ago. AFACT stands for Anchorage Faith & Action Congregations Together. 15 different congregations form this very active nonprofit corporation. Together this is a very strong voice for working on issues that transcend denominational differences for the good of all Alaskans. We are proud of our part in supporting this group and thrilled that we can work together with all these denominations for the good of the community. We are grateful that Gary saw this opportunity for our Fellowship to get more active through joining AFACT. There is a wonderful article in the summer, 2015, edition of AFACT (picture of Gary and article called "The Gift AFACT Gives Us"). See the copy on a bulletin board in our social room at AUUF. Check it out if you haven't read it.

Grateful for the one day of sunshine (in a week of rain) for our annual picnic and open house (we invited the neighbors too). We had lots of people, fabulous food, many children on our spruced up playground, AND SUNSHINE. Who could ask for anything more! I think a good time was had by all. Lots of talking, live music, lots of fun. The best picnic ever.

Gratitude for the healing going on with a couple of folk, Shirley Randal is better, no oxygen needed now. Mary Ann Eninger is recovering from her back surgery at home and with physical therapy is doing better. We send healing energy to both of you and you are missed.

Grateful for the annual FALL FROLIC weekend in the valley around a lovely lake and the many of us, especially families with children in RE who take advantage of this special time with many activities for children, adults, families. Hurrah for the RE department, and especially Rosene Beachy and her helpers who organize this beloved event. I know you are having a great time together. (I'm writing this in the middle of the weekend of the event). We will hope for some SUN and less rain this coming weekend when you many will be in the Valley.

Grateful that our Beloved Community has so many dedicated and committed people like George Donart who wrote a recent article for the Alaska Dispatch News about Climate Change and how our U.S. Senators need to show their concern by passing meaningful climate legislation. Thank you George for all your work and dedicated perseverance on this subject.

Loved seeing former members revisiting us and loving our new building (like Mim Chapman who now lives in Santa Fe New Mexico). Also seen recently visiting was Kathyryn Price back for a visit. We love it that you missed us and wanted to reconnect.

We are so proud of our own Charlotte Mitchell who was recognized as a Luminary Leader by the UUA.

Sending this congregation's collective healing energy to new members, Melanie and George Baker, as she faces the challenge of so many of us, battling a major health challenge. We will hold you both in our hearts. We appreciate that you both have jumped in so quickly to help us when you can.

Stay well, dear people! Enjoy our short "autumn". Winter coming soon...

October Birthdays, Best Wishes!

Birthdays are not published in the online version of the Log.

Matsu UU

UUs are organizing in the Mat Su Valley. For information about their activities contact Ed Bostrom 745 1677 or edbostrom@gmail.com.

A Legacy Moment

By Wray Kinard

This is a quick comment to those who, because they are young or in the prime of their lives, feel they have no need for a will or estate plan for the moment. Please know that if something tragic happens, the state of Alaska will probably step in and attempt to apply an all-purpose “will.” A standard plan typically results in:

- Someone you don’t know may be appointed to settle your affairs.
- Your property will be distributed with the assumption that you wish to treat family members equally, regardless of individual need or other factors.
- A court will appoint a guardian for your minor children without knowing who you would have recommended.
- Gifts to friends or charitable wishes will not be considered, regardless of your friendships or philanthropic interests.

It’s much better to make your own plans, isn’t it? Please consider making a will. Once in place it gives you peace of mind, just like a drawer full of warm socks!

Recycling at AUUF

By Cathy Steen, Green Sanctuary

New recycle bins are in the Social Room as well as in the downstairs kitchen for recycling of wastes generated in the building. The bins are clearly marked as to what can go in them, based on the Municipality’s curbside recycling program. These bins are not meant to collect household recyclables brought in from off-site.

The AUUF recycling programs that are meant for household recyclables are the electronic recycling event held twice a year by the Green Sanctuary Committee, and the #5 plastic recycling conducted by David Pelto and Judith Anderegg. For these programs, we request that you bring your recyclables only on the announced dates. We do not have an area to store these items between events.

Compostable materials will also be collected periodically, but once the pile is built, we will not be adding to it. Announcements will be made each time a new pile is planned so that people can bring in their contributions. Coffee grounds from the AUUF coffee pots are collected in the kitchen area, but other compostables will not be, as we don’t want to smell up the area or attract flies in between the compost pile building events.

Hazardous Material Disposal

Batteries and light bulbs can be brought in to the AUUF electronic recycling event, however they may also be taken to the Anchorage Solid Waste Services sites that collect household hazardous wastes (addresses and operating hours are shown below). As a householder in Anchorage, this service is FREE for you to use. It IS NOT free for AUUF to use, as we are considered a business. So please keep these items at home until the designated recycling day, drop them by the municipality facilities, or call the municipality for a waste pickup.

Hazardous household materials that may be dropped off include paint, gasoline, batteries, fertilizers, cleaners, pesticides, herbicides, oil, antifreeze, and much more. Drop-off services are FREE for households only (40 pounds or less limit). A hazardous waste pick-up service also is available on a call-in basis. Please call 428-1742 or 343-6262 for further information.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers

Anchorage Regional Landfill, at the intersection of the Glenn Highway and Hiland Road. Take the Glenn Highway to the Hiland Road exit. Turn west on Hiland Road and follow the signs into the Landfill. Hours of Operation: Tuesday through Saturday -- 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Reuse items available during all operating hours.

Central Transfer Station (CTS), at the intersection of E. 54th and Juneau, east of the Old Seward Highway. Hours of Operation: Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday -- 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., reuse items only available from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on days of operation.

Thank you for your help in keeping our sanctuary clean, uncluttered and safe by appropriately disposing of your hazardous and recyclable materials.

Let's "Fill the House!" During AUUF Annual Dinner-Auction November 7

Planning for the 2015 Annual Dinner / Auction is underway and the organizing committee needs your talents and treasures to make this year's event successful and fun.

- Location: Our home at 2824 E. 18th Avenue
- 5:00 - 9:00 p.m., Saturday, November 7, 2015

The event will start with a reception and time to preview the silent auction tables. Dinner will be served shortly after 6:00 p.m., followed by silent auction table closures, raffles, door prizes, a limited live auction and a few surprises. The Committee will be highlighting items up for bid on the AUUF Facebook page. Check it out...

www.facebook.com/anchorageuu > click on Events.

- Families WELCOME! On the lower level, we will have a children's auction, some fun activities, and child care on-site for ages 1-12. Space for childcare is limited, so be sure to sign-up by **November 1** with Kalen Saxton, 244-8221 kalensaxton@gmail.com. Teenaged youth are welcome to join in the dinner, and if enough teens attend, we'll have a Teen Table.

Everyone is encouraged to contribute in whatever way they can. Here's how you can participate:

- **Volunteer!** We need lots of hands to help set-up, decorate, collect auction items, care for toddlers, assist with the live auction, clean-up, monitor food tables, and more. Look for the volunteer sign-up sheet during Sunday services, beginning mid-September. Contact event Co-Chairs Ron Devon or Stephenie Wheeler.
- **Contribute an auction item!** Contact Auction Co-chairs Kalen Saxton, 244-8221, kalensaxton@gmail.com or Cathy Steen, 440-6540, csteen@gci.net. They are seeking items that will encourage generous bids—recreational activities, retail / restaurant gift certificates, high-value artwork, professional and helping-hand services, and more.
- **Join in the fund-raising fun at the event!** Plan to buy a raffle ticket. Come early and check out the silent auction items. Get into the live auction with bids on great packages. Join your table in vying for a delicious dessert after dinner.
- **Bring your favorite dish!** Share one of your favorite recipes with the fellowship. We need all types of menu items — hors d'oeuvres, entrée dishes, warm side dishes, salads, breads or rolls, and desserts! Several desserts will be for bid at the end of the dinner hour, so bring your most appealing recipe. At press time, we are still seeking a Dinner Menu Coordinator, but in the meantime, please look for a Dinner Menu sign-up sheet during Sunday services, and/or let Stephenie Wheeler know what you intend to bring.
- **Offer your fellowship!** Come share yourself with members and friends of AUUF. Use this relaxed informal atmosphere to get to know new faces and/or engage with familiar friends.

If you have any questions or suggestions, or would like to volunteer, contact Ron at 301-1601 or Stephenie at 382-3327, msgmaker@gci.net.

Hospitality Teams Begun

By Denise Martin

AUUF has begun creating teams of 7 people to handle Sunday morning greeting, ushering, setting up the social room, and other things hospitality-related, for both Sunday services. These hospitality teams divide and handle easy-to-manage tasks, in order to make it easy work for even newer members to commit, as well as those who already serve on other committees. The plan is that the teams will be assigned to only a few Sundays each year, (much like the Worship Associates group is scheduled). It may take a while to get enough teams to cover every Sunday on the calendar, but as we gain momentum you will start to notice the folks wearing the badges that identify team members. I hope you will consider stepping up if you are asked to participate, or indicate your interest by signing up on the bulletin board.

R.E. Notes for October 2015

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

*Let us give thanks for food that we share
Let us give thanks for people who care.
Food fills the body and love makes us whole
Let us give thanks down deep in our soul!*

Can you sing a UU song? You had to know one to win the team event in the UU Pentathlon, back by popular demand at the Fall Frolic. What awesome weather for spending a weekend at Kings Lake with a great group of people. Not only could we thrill to the early morning beauty of mist on the lake, we had quite a big group of early morning Polar plungers! The fish T-shirts, recycled paper books and moon lanterns were crafts enjoyed by all. The hungry Hippo game is destined to become an annual favorite; the fairies left fairy dust on the homes the children built in the woods. We dined on great food, enjoyed many talents shared and gazed at our beautiful Moon lanterns bobbing on the lake as the light faded.

Thanks to everyone who helped in the kitchen with our skilled chefs, Ken Gregory and Tim Flesher, and led activities to make this a wonderful weekend! I was touched by the love and caring of this community shown throughout the weekend from the many adult-child shared experiences, to the youth led worship and the comforting touch of a child to another child. Our church family fills a special place in our lives that honors the individual and makes us all stronger. What a powerful start to our new year of growing in light and love.

Love and Light, Rosene

Our Program

October 4th will be a Multigenerational program during the 11:00 service 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! Toddlers and Preschoolers will go to their classes during the latter part of the service.

November 1st 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 away.

Our Classes

11:00 Service

Our children and youth begin the 1st and 3rd Sundays upstairs at 11:00 with everyone. On 2nd and 4th Sundays, Jr & Sr youth and toddlers begin in their classrooms, and the rest of the children begin downstairs in the Gathering room for our Chalice Circle. Classes end at 12:15. Please try to refrain from picking up your children early. Teachers will be trying to finish the class activities with a cohesive class ritual. Enjoy some coffee and Fellowship if you have a few extra minutes!

Every week, children will enjoy a variety of activities, sometimes going outside. Please dress your child in footwear and jackets appropriate for the weather so they can enjoy the class activities! Teachers will be sending letters home via email to keep you updated on what the class topic and activities were, so if you missed a Sunday, you can still share those interesting activities with your kids.

9:00 Service

Toddlers and School age children have childcare with our fun and lively childcare team; Jr and Sr youth are welcome to join the “**Early Birds**” group hanging out in the teen room.

Our Whole Lives

The **Elementary 4-6th OWL** will meet every Sunday afternoon 12:30 – 1:30 through November downstairs in room #2.

The **Jr High OWL** class will meet most Sundays and some Saturdays in the Jr Youth room at 12:30, following the 11:00 service through November.

Our teachers this year!

Water Skippers – 1-2 Yr Olds - *Kalen Saxton, Michelle Wasson, Dennis Arashiro, Marie Hildebrandt*

Wind Walkers – 3 & 4 yr. olds – *Cady Lynn Jenkins, Frank Mitchell, Bonnie Moore*

Sun Catchers – K & 1st - *Paula Dobbyn, Nadene Reichert, Lauren Rench*

Fire Keepers - 2nd Grade - *Kristin Nygren, Erika Bennett, Trish Meissner*

Planet Keepers – 3rd Grade, *Laura Krip, Sheilagh Menck, Martha Amore*

Star Gazers – 4th-5th – *Michal Bernier, Abigail Kean, Terry Antrobus*

Moon Spinners – Middle School Youth, 6,7,8, *Helen Westervelt, Jess Walsh, Ron Devon*

World Makers – H.S. 14 And Up, Advisors – *Mara Hill, Kristi Taylor Bond. Sponsors Jeanne Fischer, James Dryden, and TK Kleiner*

Jr/Sr High School Owl Team – *Sam Cason, Shannon Bell, Laura Greffinius, Sarah Taygen, Kelley Hartlieb, Doug Eby, Christy Morgan, Eric McCoy, Katherine Huffman*

Young Adult OWL Team: *Ken Winterberger, Mara Hill*

OWL Elementary K-1st /4th-5th Team - *Bethany Buchanan, Kelsie Kline, Abigail Kean*

Coming of Age Facilitators – *Eric McCoy, Kate Lehn, TK Kleiner*

Coming of Age Mentors - *Tim Huffman, Denise Martin, Jim Kerr, Ruth Greenwood, Bill Jamison, Lauren Rench, Elayne Hunter, Bev Grogan, Diane Smith*

Our Activities

Soup Sunday

Next Soup Sunday is October 25th. September's Soup Sunday was coordinated by the Children & Youth RE Committee for scholarships for our events.

Coming Of Age

Our 1st Coming of Age Mentor and Mentee meeting will be Sunday September 27th, 12:30 – 3:30.

Our next activity will be Rock Climbing on Sunday afternoon October 4th.

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 David Mack 342-9500.

Our first Buddy Tea will be Sunday, November 8th, at 12:30 following the service.

Cyre Family & Friends Game Night Oct. 3rd - 5:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M.

The CYRE committee is kicking off the new RE year with a fun party on Saturday, Oct. 3rd, spaghetti, Games, and NEW this year - a neighborhood scavenger hunt! The fun starts in the upstairs social room at 5 p.m. Bring a salad or desserts and get to know some folks, and meet your Buddy family if you are new to the Fellowship. We'll be setting up different games, so bring a family favorite for after the scavenger hunt! Remember this is not a child-supervised event; it is for families to do together! No matter how chilly it is outside, it's always warm and cozy wherever our voices are raised in laughter over good food in great company! For further info, or if you have a passion for scavenger hunts and would like to help plan it, please call Deena (743-6017).

Friendly Recycling Tip: Don't forget. Carry your own "to go" cup whenever out of the house. Then it is always available for those quick stops. Paper coffee cups have a plastic resin liner.

Recycling Plastics: Our next recycling pickup is October 11 - 5s only, some examples are yogurt and cottage cheese containers.

About our Speakers and Services (see back page)

Gary Holthaus is our called minister.

Bill Wielechowski has served as an Alaska State Senator since 2007, representing East Anchorage. Bill has a law degree from Seton Hall University. He serves on the Resources Committee of the Alaska Senate and he has gained considerable expertise on oil and gas issues. Bill is a member of our Fellowship.

Dr. John Mouracade is an Associate Professor of Philosophy and Interim Dean of the University Honors College at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Dr. Mouracade received his doctorate in philosophy in 2000 from the University of Rochester and is teaching his 11th year at UAA. Dr. Mouracade's area of specialization is Ancient Greek philosophy. He has published scholarly works on Plato, Aristotle, and the Stoics, as well as a logic textbook.

Francine Harbour has been the Executive Director of the local chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Health for thirteen years. She has personal and professional experience with mental illness.

Neal Fried is an economist with the Alaska Department of Labor. He has held that position since 1978. He produces economic data and analysis of economic issues facing Alaska. He holds a degree in Economics from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

A career economist with a master's degree in economics, **Eric Larson** worked several years at the Institute of Social and Economic Research at UAA and currently works part time at the Municipality of Anchorage as the city's revenue analyst. Since completing an MFA degree in creative writing at UAA four years ago, he's been working on a memoir about walking in Anchorage. Eric Larson has never owned a car. His avocation is walking the city to explore its topography and neighborhoods.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Information

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

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

Staff Phones and Email

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

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

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

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

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

Other Contacts (see Fellowship Address Book or email links on website)

Board of Directors - Marty Freeman, President; Erik Hill, Secretary; Carma Reed, Treasurer; Helen Nienhueser, Vice President; Amanda Mack; Rod McCoy; Don Crandall

4As Lunches – the auurora

Adult RE – Vacant

Annual Dinner / Auction – Stephenie Wheeler

AFACT – Marie Rozak, Ron Devon

Alliance – Shirley Dickens

Building and Grounds - Bruce Roberts

Children and Youth RE – Deena Mitchell

Childcare Coordinator – Kalen Saxton

Committee on Shared Ministry – Marty Herriott

Communications – Stephenie Wheeler

Endowment – John Blaine

Events - Vacant

Finance – Judy Engh

Green Sanctuary – Suzie Kobierowski / Cathy Steen

Landscaping/Gardening– Syd Atwood and Sharon Cissna

Interior Design – Irene O'Brien / Cindy Kinard

Matsu UU – Ed Bostrom

Nominating – Ron Devon/Stephenie Wheeler

OWL Coordinator – Katherine Huffman

Pastoral Care – Don Crandall / Robin Hill

Pastoral Pantry – Amanda Cash

Planned Giving – Wray Kinard

Playground Planning – Kalen Saxton

Safer Congregation – Vacant

Social Justice Committee – Dennis Arashiro

Small Groups – Susan Orlansky

Speaker's Forum –George Bryson

Stewardship – Judy Engh

UUSC Coordinator – Vacant

Welcoming Committee – Denise Martin

Whalecoast – Denise Martin

Worship Associates – Marilyn Lee

Young Adults (the auurora) – Eric McCoy

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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AUUF SERVICES –October 2015

Sunday, October 4

9 am Neal Fried,
Alaska's Fiscal and Economic Future'
11 am Blessing of the Animals, Gary Holthaus

Sunday, October 11

9 am Bill Wielechowski,
'State Participation in the Natural Gas Pipeline'
11 am Francine Harbour,
NAMI, Committee on Shared Ministry

Sunday, October 18

9 am Eric Larson, 'An Anchorage explorer's step-by-
step search for the headwaters of Fish Creek'
11 am Gary Holthaus

Sunday, October 25

9 am "The Lucretian Atom Bomb: How Ancient
Materialism Exploded into Modern History", Dr. John
Mouracade discussion of the book "The Swerve" by
Stephen Greenblatt
11 am Gary Holthaus

<u>Regular Tuesday Evening Services</u> 7 pm October 6, 13, 20, 27
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CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- October 2015

Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare

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

The LOG

November 2015

AUUF monthly newsletter

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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



Gary Holthaus, Minister

Time to Celebrate! Mark your calendar! This month is special and we plan to celebrate (modestly of course) –

November 7 our Annual Pot Luck Dinner and Auction will be held here in our social room and sanctuary. It will be the second time in our new building, and can begin in our minds as you read this and remember how beautiful the setting was in our new space. How fortunate we are to be here! And to have new members and friends to join us...

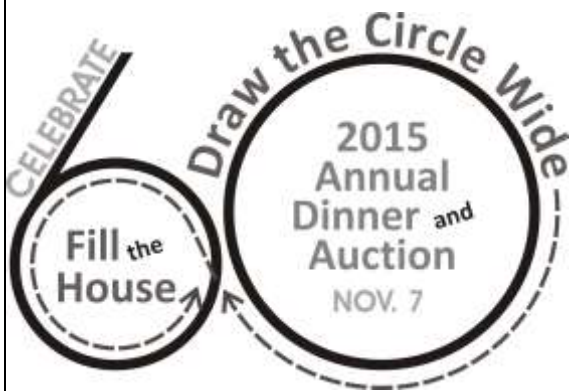
November 22nd is the Sixtieth Anniversary of AUUF and some of our earliest members are still here to tell us about it. To make the day special the 9:00 a.m. Forum and the 11:00 o'clock service will combine their programs and meet together at 10:00 a.m. We'll share some memories of early days, and have some comments from recent arrivals too. That's our "Soup Sunday," so there will be our traditional after-service lunch, and, of course, a grand Birthday Cake. Sixty years is relatively long time for an Anchorage institution to have provided continuous service to our community and our state. Our forbearers have left us a legacy of social/political activism and we can be grateful for their service to our AUUF family, our community, and our state.

We have asked Sylvia Short and Beryl Johnston to join me in reminiscing about the earliest years of AUUF's development and growth. Please come join us on the 22nd. You'll hear some stories from our past that you may not know –

As you may have heard Rev. Richard Gay's health has taken a turn and he is moving to his daughter's house earlier than expected this year to be closer to his family. At 95 years of age Dick is still very clear minded and articulate. He says he has had a wonderful life, and his love for Alaska is very evident. His spirits were good when I saw him in the hospital here. Dick's connection to AUUF is profound, and his service to our Fellowship has meant a lot to many of us. We will miss his presence here for our Annual Dinner and this 60th birthday celebration of AUUF, but we wish him well as he heads south.

This November is a special time for us all...

See you here...
Gary



Calendar Highlights

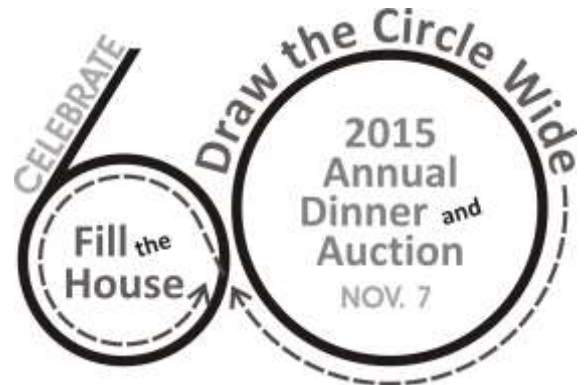
Nov 7 Annual Dinner and Auction
Nov 8 New Member Recognition
Nov 22 60th Anniversary
Nov 15 and 29
Alliance Christmas Bazaar
Dec 5 Mental Health First Aid

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Plan to Attend the Annual Dinner-Auction November 7

Join us for the fellowship gathering of the year! Draw the Circle Wide and Let's Fill the House as AUUF celebrates 60 years during our Annual AUUF Dinner-Auction on Saturday, November 7.

- 5:00 p.m. Reception / Silent Auction starts
- 6:15 p.m. Potluck Buffet Opens
- 6:30 p.m. Comments and Special Presentation
- 7:30 and 8:00 p.m. Silent Auction closures
- 8:00 - 8:30 p.m. Live Auction
- 8:30 p.m. Raffle winners and Door prizes



- **Family Fun!** On-site child care is provided for ages 1-12. Be sure to sign up by **November 1** with Rosene Beachy, 248-5318, rbeachy@alaskalife.net. Plus, look for a children's auction and other fun activities downstairs. Youth welcome upstairs at a Teen Table.
- **Pre-Register for Auction Action!** At check in, consider pre-registering your credit card, so when the time comes to check out with the items you won, you won't need to stand in line to pay. Pre-registrants will get a gold star on their bid number card. Questions? Contact Carma Reed, 274-5259 or carma.reed@hud.gov.
- **Auction Sneak Peak!** On November 1, Auction Co-chairs will set up a table with some great silent and live auction items to peruse and put in an early bid! We should have a proxy bid system in place for folks who can't make the event, but who want to participate in the auction. Questions? Contact Kalen Saxton, 244-8221, kalensaxton@gmail.com or Cathy Steen, 440-6540, rsteen@gci.net. The Committee will be highlighting items up for bid on the AUUF Facebook page. Check it out... www.facebook.com/anchorageuu > click on Events.
- **Fodder for Foodies!** Judging by the Potluck sign-ups, the buffet promises to be delicious, with variety sure to please everyone at the table. Didn't get a chance to sign up to bring a dish? Surprise us! Every contribution adds to the color and fun in trying something new. Plus everyone who contributes an item gets a free raffle ticket.

For questions about the event, contact Ron at 301-1601 or Stephenie at 382-3327, msgmaker@gci.net.

Board Letter

Marty Freeman, President

Is it November Log time already? November is flying past, and AUUF is as busy as ever. We are fortunate to have so many people contributing to the Fellowship in so many ways. We welcome the new Human Resources Committee (Peggy Robinson, Jackie Cason, and John Blaine) and already appreciate their work on tasks that help keep AUUF on a solid foundation. As I write this, we are also looking forward to the first meeting of our Safer Congregations Committee since our excellent past chairman, Tom Stenson, moved out of state. We are grateful to have two continuing members – Kate Lehn and Mary Ann Eininger – are three excellent recruits: Amy Westfall, David O'Brien, and Jackie Cason.

At the November Board meeting, we continued reviewing draft finance policies, and endorsed an outline that committees and ministry teams can use to adopt or update their charters. The policies and charters can help introduce newcomers to the work of the Fellowship and provide continuity when Board, committee, and team members change over time. Thanks to Board member Rod McCoy, we also started work on a volunteer recognition program. As Rod noted, when we recognize a volunteer, we are also honoring all who volunteer for AUUF.

Rod also reported on a visit to the Fairbanks UU fellowship, and encouraged us to find ways to interact more with other Alaska UUs. We hope to find many opportunities for interchange and welcome ideas that you may have.

And now I look forward to our annual dinner on November 7. It's a great event for fund-raising – and fun-raising. As Robert Frost, said, "You come, too."

In Fellowship, Marty Freeman

Social Justice Committee

By Dennis Arashiro

Silos. Great for corn. Not so much for the Fellowship. When I first chaired the Social Justice Committee, I admit to a bit of a silo mentality. I focused so much on the committee that I ignored much of what was happening in the Fellowship as a whole. If every committee chair had my mentality, the congregation would have been a lot of left and right hands not knowing and not caring what the others were doing.

Conduits. Not much to do with storing corn. Good for the Fellowship. Communicating with other committees and coordinating common efforts serves the Fellowship better. Informing the Forum Planning Committee and the Worship Associates in advance of the Half Portion schedule opens up guest speaking possibilities at our services. Working with RE gives our young people opportunities in social justice. Listening to recommendations on the Half Portion from other committees serves us well. We can thank the Safe Congregation Committee, Green Sanctuary, and Shared Ministry for Half Portions in March (STAR), April (Climate Change Education Corps), and October (National Alliance on Mental Illness).

We welcome your thoughts on how we can create even more common efforts. Let's leave silos for corn--non GMO corn. We meet next at **12:30 PM on Sunday, November 15, 2015, in Gary's office**. If you cannot attend but still wish to share your thoughts with the committee, call or email me. Dennis Arashiro at 277-7377, 444-4324 (cell), or elvischannel@yahoo.com.

Half Portions for Social Action: CSS Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services

By Dennis Arashiro

"No defensible moral framework regards foreigners as less deserving of rights than people born in the right place at the right time." - Alex Tabarrok

There is no justice in the circumstances of birth. Being born in the wrong place at the wrong time can mean the denial of the right to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. That is why Catholic Social Services Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services is the November recipient of the Half Portion for Social Action. RAIS provides the means by which those fleeing persecution and war in their lands of origin can build new lives here. By meeting immediate life needs in the short term and offering such services as case management, life skills orientation, and job readiness classes in the long term, RAIS plays a crucial role in giving its clients a place in our community.

Beyond the Half Portion the Fellowship can help by contributing food, household goods, and volunteer hands. Visit the website of Catholic Social Services (<http://www.cssalaska.org>) and click on "Programs" to find out more about Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services. Check out the RAIS wish list and see what food and household goods you can provide. Join in the upcoming activities of the Social Justice Committee in support of the November Half Portion. Our new neighbors need us.

AFACT

By Marie Rozak

AFACT Director, Chelsea Gulling, recently led a large group of AUUF members through three 1 hour exploratory meetings to initiate understanding of AFACT objectives and organization. At the end of this process, those attending voted to establish our own Local Organizing Ministry (LOM). This committee may bring forward and, if decided there is a need, serve issues of importance to our congregation and neighborhood using the AFACT organizing structure.

The first meeting held as a LOM, October 19, had Chelsea offering training to those present. The next meeting will be a follow-up of that action. This one hour meeting will be held November 3, at 5:45 in the Social Room allowing for those who attend Tuesday evening services to do so without conflict.

Three AUUF members, including Pastor Gary (as AFACT calls him), completed the AFACT organizing training a year ago. Two others did so recently, in September. Since the time AUUF officially joined AFACT, members of our congregation have become more familiar with that faith-based organization's activities. Approximately 60 people participated in our recent AUUF/AFACT training that will help us create a closer community and identify potential issues we may wish to address, either as a congregation or with other AFACT faith communities. Come join in November 3rd 5:45 p.m.

Half-Portion for Social Action – August 2014 to September 2015

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

Minister's Discretionary Fund	Designated services	1,166
Alaska Innocence Project	August 2014	711
UU-Uno LGBT Uganda Fund	Sept 2014	1,087
Food Bank of Alaska	October 2014	976
Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest	November 2014	1,198
Project Homeless Connect	Dec 2014	1,051
Minister's Discretionary Fund	Christmas Eve (full collection)	737
UUSC-UUA Ebola Emergency Relief	January 2015	1,083
Brother Francis Shelter	Feb 2015	932
Standing Together Against Rape	March 2015	939
Citizen's Climate Education Corp.	April 2015	1,185
Sudan Medical Relief Project, Cross Currents Int'l	May 2015	937
Alaska Literacy Program	June 2015	692
Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest	July 2015	798
Identity Inc	August 2015	909
Food Bank of Alaska	September 2015	1,060

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

November Birthdays, Best Wishes!

Birthdays are not published in our online version.

Matsu UU

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

Neighborhood Connection: Airport Heights community council is hosted by AUUF this year while the school is remodeled. **Next meeting is Nov. 19 7 – 9 pm.** For information on their many many activities contact Kalen Saxton 244-8221.

Adopt a table/ornament for Winterfest - Ornament Sunday!

Sign-up Now! It's never too early to get in the holiday spirit. We have lots of ideas and supplies, or you can let your creativity shine and come up with your own design. You can do this solo, or with a friend. We will also need donations of undecorated sugar cookies in festive shapes for our cookie decorating station. **Ornament Sunday is on December 6, from 1-3 pm.** We hope to offer a range of ornaments, from the simplest (think paper chains) on... This is a fun event for all ages and abilities. Please contact Kelley Hartlieb (KelleyHartlieb@gmail.com; 244-6371) for more information or to volunteer. *(more on Winterfest page 8)*

Did You Know?

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

Hungry Book Club News

by Shirley Dickens

Ten book club members met Oct. 13th to discuss "All the Light You Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr. It took him 10 years of research and writing to be published but we were very glad we read it. Word War 2 story brought a German orphan boy and a French blind girl together for a fateful meeting. We have chosen a nonfiction book for November, "The Man Who Mistakes His Wife for a Hat" by Dr. Oliver Sacks, Neurologist and author of many books. He is known as "The Poet Laureate of Medicine". Actually he died the day we met and chose his name from a basket. He was 82 years old. I know the library will have this, probably Title Wave, Barnes and Noble, and of course, the ever faithful Amazon.com. We will meet again November 10th at 2 PM at the Pioneer Home, downtown at 11th and I street. Debbie Cahoon will host us and Pioneer home will furnish the coffee and hot water for tea. We will all bring a "healthy snack to share. Remember 2nd Tuesday in the month is our standard meeting time. Call Shirley 563 4499 for more information.

Looking for the Perfect Gift?

Our Sanctuary has several new wooden chairs with a wonderful "match" in fabric to the existing ones. These offer several things to our congregation, a more polished look, comfort, and an opportunity to our congregation and to the Alliance. In the past, the Alliance supported our members purchasing a plaque for the back of a chair to honor someone, or something. The Alliance took the order, bought the plaque and Bruce (bless his hard working heart) mounted them when we received them. A win/win for all of us, for \$200.00 which was divided (\$100.00 to the Fellowship coffers, \$100.00 to the Alliance). Many of us, in the past ordered one or two, honored our parents, a dear friend, a beloved spot in Alaska, a pet whom we adored, etc. We would like to offer this opportunity again. If interested, please see an Alliance member or let Amy (Church Administrator) know. Think about it. Would make a nice gift. Helen Peters, Marjorie Carter, Joanne Anderson, Stephanie Koonz, Gwen Perry Crawford or Shirley Dickens would be happy to take your order. The holidays are coming too, and so is our Christmas Sale (in November) where you can buy nice Christmas gifts and nice recycled toys, scarfs, jewelry, ect. We will be selling orders for plaques there too.

Alliance

by Shirley Dickens, Chair of the Alliance

Six of us met Oct. 8th to confirm new officers, Shirley will serve one more year as chair, Helen Peters will serve one more year as secretary, Mary Kulawik will take over from Debbie Cahoon as treasurer.

Old business, the plaques are being ordered, The place that makes them has been very busy and has not made our name plaques yet but will get to them soon. Most of the meeting consisted of jointly coming up with the best solution for our Christmas sale since November 7th is our annual dinner and November 22 is our special 60th Anniversary as a Fellowship, We decided to set up November 14th Saturday at 3 PM in social room, run the sale before and between and after the services next day, Sunday, November 15th. Then pack up, store (somewhere) our stuff until November 28th Saturday, set up again for the following day, Sunday, November 29th and repeat the before, between and after services.

We will need good Christmas stuff to sell; again you get to set the price for things you purchase. We appreciate your purchases; **we could use some helpers, especially setting up.** And, always, we are here for the good of the church community and that's where our money will go. Thank you in advance for all the support you give to the Alliance. Next meeting will be November 8th.

the aurora, Young Adult Group

the aurora is holding our second potluck worship on November 11th at 6 o'clock PM at 709 Winter Haven street. Come for the food, stay for the fellowship, leave uplifted in faith. Participation in the worship following is not obligatory. Bring food if it's easy. Childcare provided. Contact Kelsie 970 481-3064 with questions, or Eric 907 230-6915 for directions.

If you are interested in helping the aurora host the 4 A's 2nd Friday luncheon, please contact Mara Hill, 907 632-5909.

If you'd like to help start a young adult library at AUUF, contact Randy Waggner, 907 304-0140.

Find us on facebook and twitter @theaurora

Ideas? Ideals? 'I'd eat's? Call Eric 907 230-6915.

Circle of Life: Ripples in the Larger Pond

Shirley Dickens

Delighted to hear that Charlotte Mitchell has been recognized as a Unitarian Universalist Association Luminary Leader demonstrating outstanding service and leadership in UU communities. These leaders have devoted tremendous time and energy to youth communities, congregations, district leadership programs. We are extremely proud of Charlotte's accomplishments and totally support her and all our youth who step out and embrace this Luminary Leaders program which the larger UUA encourages. AUUF is very proud of all our youth and encourage them to become leaders and explore their own talents.

We couldn't have asked for better weather for the annual Fall Frolic than we had this year. With rain most all of the week and suddenly clearing on Saturday morning, everyone who went (or even those of us who didn't) were very appreciative of sunshine, clear skies and NO RAIN. I understand everyone enjoyed the fellowship, food, activities so much and were glad they went. A great way to start the Religious Education year.

Grateful that Rev. Richard Gay, our first minister emeritus, did not need to be in Providence too long and a reason for his back pain was found and treatment is underway. We hear he appreciates all the food sent his way as he is not driving right now. Dick, we wish you healing and comfort and send you many blessings and good wishes. We appreciate all you have done for this religious community down through most of our 60 years of being a Fellowship.

Grateful that the larger community (her state representative) did give Ruth Sheridan a certificate from the state house in Juneau to honor her as a "Arless Sturguleuski winner of Women of the Year in 2014 for her untiring efforts to promote Peace and Justice in Alaska. She was further honored with this presentation at the Forum this month. The congregation gave her a "standing ovation". We are so proud of her and her lifelong commitment to make the world a better place.

Delighted to hear that our own Helen Nienhueser, already a receiver of "Woman of the Year Award," has now been given "The Lifetime Achievement Award" and honored at a Buffet lunch (along with a few others). This was given by the Alaska Conservation Foundation in their 2015 Achievement Awards. Down through the many years in Alaska, Helen has devoted many hours to helping establish the Alaska National Lands Conservation Act as well as helping start several parks. Read about her many contributions from the article posted on bulletin board in the social room. We are very proud to have Helen and her husband Gayle among us local UUs.

As we go to print, I just talked to Dick Gay and one of his four daughters who is here for a week to be replaced by another daughter from Seattle area. He is feeling much better and will be going outside in a few weeks to extend his "winter snow bird" visit with his large clan. He regrets that he won't be able to be part of our 60th Anniversary celebration.

Grateful for all the support, Marilyn, Jeanne and I received for "In Fred's Name" spelling bee team for Literacy, those that bought tickets, came to cheer our team on, or sent contributions to Literacy. Dr. Fred Hillman would be so grateful that we are supportive of one of his favorite charities. Thank you so much

Nov. 8 New Member Recognition

New Members (since May of this year) or those ready to enroll at AUUF: We will be honoring our newest members at the 11:00 a.m. service on Nov. 8th. If you have been thinking of joining, now is an excellent time, and you are invited to become an official member. Please contact the minister, or Denise Martin 345-8787 for more information.

Choir Rehearsal Schedule

Saturday, Oct 31st 10:30-12:00pm

Sunday, Nov 1st 9:45-10:30am

Saturday, Nov 7th 10:30-12:00pm

Saturday, Nov 14th 10:30-12:00pm

Saturday, Nov 21st 10:30-12:00pm

Sunday, Nov 22nd 9:45-10:30am

R.E. Notes for November 2015

Rosene Beachy, DLRE

Our Classes

Regular age group classes will continue through November. Please check with your child's teachers as to needed class helpers. We have large, enthusiastic classes this year, with many exciting activities planned which may need extra hands. If you are not a regular teacher, we hope that you will sign up to help in a class once a month. A big 'Thank you' to all our volunteers who are helping in the classrooms from toddlers to tweens.

We would like to invite any of our adult members in the Fellowship who don't have children and don't [really] know what is happening downstairs to take a break from sitting in a comfortable seat and volunteer in a class for a Sunday to have some fun and learn to know some of our wonderful kids! You may be surprised how much fun it is! Volunteer sign-up sheets for each age group are on the classroom doors. Talk to Rosene or a classroom teacher if you have questions about volunteering!

Top 10 Ways to make this a great RE year

- ❖ Check out a UU website
- ❖ Read stories related to our current UU theme
- ❖ Check out some of the great books in our library! For parents and kids!
- ❖ Sing RE songs at home
- ❖ Learn to know your child's RE teacher
- ❖ Be involved in your child's class, discuss the class experience with your child.
- ❖ Participate in the Social action projects as a family
- ❖ Get together with RE friends outside of Sunday
- ❖ Join in fellowship activities – come to an RE Family and Friends Game night
- ❖ Commit to regular attendance!

November 1, the children will be upstairs for a Multigenerational service for All Souls. Preschool through first grade will go downstairs later in the service with their teachers. 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 on Sunday mornings. Intergenerational relationships are one of the keys to building lasting faith in children and youth.

RE Social Justice

November 22nd Soup Sunday will be hosted by the Fire Keepers (2nd grade). October's Soup Sunday by the Planet Keepers earned \$ 290.67 for their social justice project.

November 15th - Guest At Your Table (GaYT) - This annual collection by the National Unitarian Universalist Service Committee aids women and children's projects throughout the world. You simply place your colorful Guest At Your Table box on your dining table, and at mealtimes, "feed" the box with coins or bills throughout the holiday season. You will also get some activity sheets and a calendar of ideas for how to feed your box. On a day of your choosing after Christmas count the coins with your kids and convert your coin and cash total into a single check made out to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee ("UUSC") and put it back in your box. **Bring the box to church on Sunday, January 17th.** Youth/student donations that add up to \$10 or more, and adult donations that add up to \$40 or more automatically earn a membership with UUSC.

How about "Dine In" for Hunger, feeding the box the money saved by eating a simple at-home meal? Donation envelopes and information can be picked up at the Downstairs "Info Spot", along with activity sheets on how to feed your GaYT container!

OWL

Jr High School OWL and Elementary 4-6 OWL classes continue through November.

Our Activities

Annual Teacher Retreat November 14th, 2-6 pm.

Annual Dinner November 7 at the Fellowship 5-9 pm— There will be childcare for Toddlers – 5th grade in 2 age groups. Please email Rosene Beachy, DLRE rbeachy@alaskalife.net to reserve your child (ren) so we have the appropriate number of caregivers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Buddy Families! We have many new families this year and extend a hearty welcome to all of you. If you are a new family and have not been contacted through our Buddy Family program, or, if you are a current member family and would like to participate by being matched with a new family, please contact David Mack for more details, drolandmack@gmail.com.

Our first Buddy Tea will be November 1st, 12:30 – 1:30 for new families and the Buddy families.

Childcare is available during Saturday and Sunday morning programs, many congregational events, meetings and classes. Youth and adults welcome to be on the team. (\$10 /hour). There will be another **Childcare Orientation** scheduled as needed. **Please contact** Rosene Beachy, DLRE, or Kalen Saxton, 244-8221 if you have questions or know someone to recommend for the childcare team.

TUESDAY Night Services at the Fellowship If you didn't make it on Sunday, or want an intimate, peaceful hour of inspiration and reflection please come. 7:00 – 8:00 with coffee and snacks to follow. Childcare is available if prearranged.

Winterfest - Sunday, December 6th

An Ornament Making party And Alternative Gift Fair for All ages

Mark your calendar now for our annual holiday party for all ages! Catch the holiday spirit and Make a day of it – Have some soup downstairs, and then jingle your way back upstairs to make ornaments, decorate the tree, maybe even sing some Christmas carols! **After the 11:00 service, 12:45-3:00 p.m.** (To sponsor a table see page 3.)

Mitten Tree December 6th

Start your knitting (or shopping!) Remember to bring NEW mittens, scarves or socks to decorate our Mitten Tree during the 11:00 service! They will be donated to a local family Shelter, so all sizes are welcome. We will also collect gently used items.

YRUU

NOVEMBER 15th! Save the date! The teens take over!

What has become the event of the season, our YRUU group will lead worship at the 11 o'clock service. They will be returning from UU rocks! the PNWD youth con, full of fire from this year's theme: Luther Adams' Five Smooth stones. Plan on attending and bring your glitter!

Special thanks to Jeanne Fischer and Belle Nygren who served food at the Brother Francis Shelter on October 22nd. We are looking forward to more social justice efforts. If you're youth feels called to service, give Jeanne a call and we will get them on the list, 907 891-0557.

Does your committee need a breath of fresh air? Youth serving on committees and in leadership positions offers a broader perspective, creates a more inclusive Fellowship, strengthens intergenerational relationships, allows youth to give to the community in a meaningful and memorable way, and prepares our UU leaders of the future. Contact Eric, 907 230-6915 and he will see if there is a youth that would be a good fit.

Mental Health First Aid Training: Saturday December 5, 2015

What does depression look like? Or anxiety? What would you say to a person who says they are thinking about suicide? Mental Health First Aid is an eight hour course that teaches you to help someone who is experiencing a mental health difficulty. Learning the signs and risk factors of mental illness and gaining tools to help individuals and families increases confidence to help and reduces social distance. As part of AUUF's goal of being a welcoming place to persons with mental/emotional difficulties, the Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM) has contracted with the Center on Human Development at UAA to provide this training at our fellowship on Saturday, December 5th from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. If you would like to attend, please reserve your spot early. Contact Marty Herriott (mherriott@aol.com or 907.279.8111).

About our Speakers and Services (see back page)

Gary Holthaus is our called minister.

Chuck Sassara arrived in Anchorage in 1955 with a freshly minted degree from UCLA. On his first day, he obtained a job with Pacific Northern Airlines. Six months later he started his own bush plane operation, flying from Big Lake. He has been a pilot for 60 years. Chuck served in the Alaska Legislature from 1964 to 1971. He has recently written a book entitled: "Chuck Sassara's Alaska--Propellers, Politics and People."

Cathleen McLaughlin is the Director of the Partners for Progress Reentry Center. She advocates for programs that bridge the gap between prison re-entrants and community.

Francine Harbour has been the Executive Director of the local chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Health for thirteen years. She has personal and professional experience with mental illness. Francine was raised as a Unitarian.

Lois Epstein, P.E., an Alaska-licensed engineer, is Arctic Program Director for The Wilderness Society, a national conservation organization. Her efforts focus on ensuring that onshore and offshore Arctic oil and gas operations are as safe and environmentally-sound as possible and protecting sensitive areas from new resource development. She is President of the board of the Bellingham, Washington-based, non-profit Pipeline Safety Trust, and has a masters' degree from Stanford University in Civil Engineering with a specialization in environmental engineering and science, and undergraduate degrees from both Amherst College (English) and MIT (mechanical engineering).

Bill Sherwonit was born in Bridgeport, Conn. and has called Alaska home since 1982. He has contributed essays and articles to a wide variety of newspapers, magazines, journals, and anthologies and is the author of more than a dozen books. His newest book is a collection of essays, *Animal Stories: Encounters with Alaska's Wildlife*, published in September 2014. His website is www.billsherwonit.alaskawriters.com.

Friendly Recycling Tip: Take your own silverware to restaurants that provide plastic.

Recycling Plastics: Our next recycling pickup is December 13. 5s only, some examples are yogurt and cottage cheese containers.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2824 E. 18th Ave. Anchorage, AK 99508

907-248-3737, auuf@gci.net www.anchorageuuf.org

Staff Contacts

- Gary Holthaus, minister of AUUF, (907) 433-9311, gholthaus@drtel.net
- Rosene Beachy, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration, 248-5318
rbeachy@alaskalife.net
- Eric McCoy, Coordinator of Youth Programing and Young Adult Facilitator 230-6915, AUUFYCYP@gmail.com
- Dr. Tamara McCoy, Music Director, 982-9777, tamaralice@yahoo.com
- Amy Lundell, Church Administrator, 248-3737 x 3 or auuf@gci.net
- Bruce Roberts, Building and Grounds 952-9969
brucearoberts@hotmail.com

Board of Directors and Committee Contacts are available on our website

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AUUF SERVICES –November 2015

Sunday, November 1

9 am Chuck Sassara, Propellers, Politics and People

11 am All Souls

Sunday, November 8

9 am Cathleen McLaughlin, "Helping Discharged Prisoners Re-enter the Community";

11 am Bill Sherwonit, "Different Ways of Knowing"

Sunday, November 15

9 am Lois Epstein, "Shell's Decision and Its Implications"

11 am Youth Sunday

Sunday, November 22

10 am 60th Anniversary Service, "From the Log Cabin to Spenard to Airport Heights"

Sunday, November 29

9 am Francine Harbour, "Exploding the Myth of Mental Illness and Violence";

11 am Gary Holthaus

Regular Tuesday Evening Services

7 pm November 3, 10, 17, 24

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS- November 2015

Sunday 9 am ~ Childcare

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