

# THE VALLEY VOICE

## Chair's Corner - Woody Henry

Back in August, the article that I submitted was about Rev. Robert T. Weston, a prominent activist UU minister whose service in spanned almost five decades. In 1963, he published a small book titled *Seasons of the Soul: A Book of Meditations* through the UUA; it has been reprinted twice by the Cedar Lane UU Church in Bethesda, Maryland, where he last actively served. Because his books are currently out of print, I corresponded with his son, Rev. Richard Weston-Jones, also a UU minister, who suggested contacting the Bethesda church. I did. Their librarian graciously sent me a copy of his book and acknowledged that the author has given UUA member congregations permission to freely use his works for public worship, of course with acknowledgment of his authorship. Several of his writings appear in our hymnal, *Singing the Living Tradition*, and are widely quoted in UUA literature. I would share another of his poems with you, one that is in the exact spirit of where we are and how we may feel today.

### ***One Can Be Heard***

In times like these  
It is easy to be dismayed  
And easier still to shut one's eyes  
To the tensions and turmoil of the world.  
Too readily would I shut out  
The conflict of nations and clash of class with class  
The menace of human custom born in ignorance and darkness  
Or insulated in protected comforts and wealth,  
Deaf to the cry of the child  
Going to bed hungry at night  
Every night of its life.  
It is painful to look out into the suffering world  
And feel its responsibilities on my shoulders.  
What can one person do  
Against the pressure of forces that seem steadily to mount  
And are measured in millions of whatever units there be,  
Whether work hours or votes or bomb megatons?  
What can one person do?  
One can stand up and be seen.  
One can speak out and be heard.  
One can be a voice as of "one crying in the wilderness!"  
There was once one  
Who proved that a voice crying in the wilderness  
Might change the pattern of the world.



May 2011

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*Perhaps we should realize that our need is not to 'find something to believe'—but rather to discover that our lives indicate what we believe right now. This is the place to start.*

Edith Hunter, religious educator



Monthly Newsletter of the Billings Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 2032 Central Ave.  
Billings, MT 59102 406/652-1893 [www.uubillings.org](http://www.uubillings.org) [buuf@uubillings.org](mailto:buuf@uubillings.org)

## SUNDAY SERVICES

**Sunday, May 1 at 10:30 a.m.** for a reprise presentation of the Rev. Phlox Laucher's sermon on Zoroastrianism – at the behest of a service auction purchase by former member Don King – given first on July 9, 2000. What is Zoroastrianism? How does its influence affect the world's religions today? How did it influence Unitarian Universalism? What does it mean to you?

**Sunday May 8 at 10:30 a.m.** Terri Steinbrink, "*Mothering as a Spiritual Path*"

Mothering provides a beautiful opportunity for spiritual growth as does anything that has meaning for us. We will explore the stages of the spiritual journey and reconnect with the ancient mother rhythm that beats within us all. (If you have a drum please bring it for the drumming circle where we will drum the mother rhythm together).

**Sunday May 15 at 10:30 a.m.** Lisa Carnicom, "*Unconfusing Confucius*" Lisa Carnicom will present an overview of China's "Three Great Religions" (Taoism, Buddhism, and Confucianism) and will give particular attention to Confucianism because this is the least familiar to most people in the Western world. As if that is not entertainment enough, she will provoke side-splitting laughter as she attempts to pronounce a few Chinese words the correct way.

**Sunday May 22 at 10:30 a.m.** Intergenerational & Flower Communion service led by RE Director Anna Nentwig with performances by our amazing kids!

**Sunday May 29 at 10:30 a.m.** DVD of Rev. Abhi Janamanchi "*Faith in the Borderland*" We will watch a DVD of Rev. Janamanchi's presentation at a worship service at General Assembly in 2009. He is originally from India and is a UU Hindu, who serves as the minister of the Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater Florida. In a gentle and humorous way, he challenges us to be authentically accepting of diversity.

## Caring

On Wednesday April 20 we sadly lost a compassionate, wonderful member, Jim Taylor. He had a real zest for life and was talented in the arts. We loved his poetry and his singing with the choir and he was an accomplished painter. We will miss his smile, his laughter and his dry wit.

## May CRE

Anna Nentwig

I am reminded each spring how in-tune children are with nature. You can tell in their energy levels, attention span, and pitch. We're getting ready for summer fun, working on some projects, planning for a Spring SnUUzeFest, and rehearsing for the intergenerational Flower Communion service on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

This summer's theme is Our Spaceship Earth and I'm looking for a few ecology-minded individuals to lend a hand. Only have time for one class? Great! Could you volunteer to help for one month of the three? Superb! Whatever time and energy you could give is needed. Please call me at 696-2729 to talk about how you can be a part of the lives of future UU citizens.

## Hey! New Members' & Visitors' Potluck!

Cindy Hanley

Are you a new BUUF Member? Did you attend a recent Orientation? If so, you're invited to attend our first New Member and Visitor Pot-luck.

The Caring and Membership Committees are hosting a New Member and visitor potluck-get-acquainted-dinner on **Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at the Fellowship. After dinner, there will be time for new members to share and get to know each other.

Child care will be provided.

Please RSVP Donald Seibert at [seibert832@bresnan.net](mailto:seibert832@bresnan.net) or call 252-2818, by May 18<sup>th</sup>.

*Come and have a BALL with us!*

## ALTERNATE SERVICES

Alternate Services include refreshments and an informal atmosphere. We honor dialogue and debate. Questions are encouraged.

**Wednesday, May 4 at 7:00 p.m.** Eric Hanley, "Oil and Gas in the Northern Rockies"

**Wednesday, May 11 at 7:00 p.m.** DVD "Blue Gold: Running out of Water"

**Wednesday, May 18 at 7:00 p.m.** TBA

**Wednesday, May 25 at 7:00 p.m.** Margie McDonald 2011 Legislature

# Landscaping the Backyard: Volunteers & Donations Needed

Carolyn Boyd

The backyard now has a wonderful play area and toy, a pergola with an awning and chairs and benches. All that is missing are some flowers and bushes. We plan to create a couple of beds and would appreciate gifts of perennials, so if you find extra plants as you are cleaning your flower beds for spring, please contact Carolyn. Monetary donations to buy some annuals and pots would also be appreciated and if you would like to help dig and plant, let Carolyn know and you will be contacted for a work day.

## Change-for-Change to Computers for Kids

At the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the BUUF Board, we unanimously agreed to donate next quarter's (June–August) proceeds from our Change-for-Change collections to the **Computer for Kids (C4K) Program**, located here in Billings. This group acquires, recycles, refurbishes, and reuses computers from businesses, government, and other institutions and from individuals to provide needy Montana children with the hardware, software, and learning opportunities that will help them achieve measurable success in the modern age. C4K accepts donated computer equipment, both PCs and Macs, including drives, software, printers, wiring, and any peripherals. They ensure that everything is scrubbed (i.e., clean of personal data), functional, and loaded with appropriate basic software and find it a new home in the hands of a needy child. — To successfully carry on their work, they do solicit monetary donations.

Our Change-for-Change Program comprised of coins donated in the Sunday morning offertory and checks made through BUUF to the specific charity of the quarter, has been very successful. Thank you for your pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters to help BUUF with community and local-area outreach!

## Introducing Amanda Megyesi-McCave: BUUF Office Administrator

I would like to take the time to introduce myself as Billings Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's new office administrator. I have been working at the Fellowship since the beginning of April and I have felt very welcomed by all the people I have come into contact with.

I am a Billings native with a BA in Communication Arts with an emphasis in Theatre. I am currently pursuing my Masters of Education from MSU-Billings with an endorsement in Political Science and History. I am an active member of the Billings theatre community where I recently appeared in *The Diary of Anne Frank* and *Hair*. I also teach a theatre class at Venture Theatre. I have worked in a variety of fields, but my most memorable experience is as an AmeriCorps VISTA for the Montana Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs. It inspired me to continue to pursue employment with organizations with similar values and a sense of community. That is what brought me to BUUF.

I attended services here with my family on several occasions and enjoyed the message the Fellowship put forth. It is an honor for me to work for BUUF and I look forward to getting know everyone here.

### Billings Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Board

June 1, 2010 to May 31, 2011

**Chair** Woody Henry 628-6960

**Vice-Chair** Margaret English 245-0701

**Secretary** Susan Hills 256-3063

**Treasurer** Katherine Jabs, 254-2873

**Program Chair** Scott Prinzing 255-0940

#### Members-at-large

Colleen Johnson 656-2660

Christine Sopko 1-701-261-9090

Maggie Lough 697-5032

## Conservation Corner

*Jerry Nordstrom*

Only 5% of plastic containers are reusable and it is estimated that approximately 28,000 toys of various materials are accumulating in the world's oceans.

## Thanks

Thanks to Leila Farnum for enhancing the Fellowship Hall and the Art Wall with her artwork and to Pegee Haman for hanging it.

Thanks to Katherine Jabs for the new desk in the office.

Thank you to Katherine Jabs, Don Seibert, and Woody and Susie Henry, and Alf LeCaptain for donations for the new office computer.



## BUUF Announcements

*The following events take place at the Fellowship and are open to all unless otherwise noted.*

**Compassion Group** will meet on Sunday, May 1 at 9 a.m.

**The Board** will be meeting on Tuesday, May 3 at 6 p.m.

**Common Security Club** will meet Thursday, May 5 at 6 p.m.

**Interfaith Breakfast** will be held on Friday, May 6 at 7:30 a.m. at the Dharma Center.

**Peace Circle Meditation** will meet Saturday, May 7 at 9 a.m.

**Common Security Club** will meet Thursday, May 12 at 6 p.m.

**Peace Circle Meditation** will meet Saturday, May 14 at 9 a.m.

**Dances of Universal Peace** will meet Sunday, May 15 at 4 p.m.

**The Membership and Caring Committee** will meet on Tuesday, May 17 at 6 p.m.

**Professional Leadership Committee** will meet on Wednesday, May 18 at 4 p.m.

**Common Security Club** will meet Thursday, May 19 at 6 p.m.

**The Valley Voice** deadline is Friday, May 20.

**Peace Circle Meditation** will meet Saturday, May 21 at 9 a.m.

**Professional Leadership Committee** will meet on Wednesday, May 25 at 4 p.m.

**Common Security Club** will meet Thursday, May 26 at 6 p.m.

**Peace Circle Meditation** will meet Saturday, May 28 at 9 a.m.

**Program Committee** will meet Tuesday, May 31 at 5:30 p.m. at the Good Earth Market.

## April Board Meeting Minutes

*Susan Hills, Board Secretary*

The new Administrator, Amanda Megyesi-McCave, was introduced and she gave her report, announcing that a new computer has been purchased for the office. She is continuing her training with Linnea Forseth, Katherine Jabs, and Lyda Adair.

### OLD BUSINESS

The Secretary's report was presented and the minutes for the March Board meeting were approved.

Katherine Jabs presented the Treasurer's report. She will be sending out letters to remind those who have not paid their pledges for the fiscal year ending May 31. Pledges for the next year are down somewhat but so are expenses.

### NEW BUSINESS

Katherine Jabs reported that the pledge drive was a success and that we have received pledges for \$45,660 and expects about \$3,000 more. From this information, a tentative FY 2011-2012 budget will be presented at the May 3 Board meeting. She requested an audit of the books before the new fiscal year, and the Board agreed to ask Jerry Weitz or Maggie Lough to conduct the review of the books.

The Professional Leadership Committee will continue researching possible candidates that might provide additional ministerial services. Their report will be presented at the May 3 Board meeting. No action will be taken without membership discussion and approval. A congregational meeting might be convened soon to find out if this is something BUUF members want to pursue and if we can raise additional funds that would be needed.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Computers for Kids (C4C) will be the next recipient of the money collected in the Change for Change program.

## Humanists of Billings

### Announcements

*We do not see things as they are. We see them as we are. - Talmud*

**Sunday, May 1, 1:00 p.m.** Jack Warne "Are you an Epicurean Hedonist?" In the 4th century B.C.E. Epicurus developed a philosophy that is remarkably close to modern Humanism. How different is it from yours?

**Sunday, May 8, 1:00 p.m.** Book club "The Greatest Show on Earth" by Richard Dawkins. Chapters 8-10.

**Sunday, May 15, 1:00 p.m.** Socrates Cafe discussion "Is Altruism a Fiction?"

**Sunday, May 22, 1:00 p.m.** We will continue the Justice DVD with Michael Sandel. Topics covered will be "Arguing Affirmative Action" and "What's the Purpose?"

**Friday, May 27, 5:30 p.m.** BAH get together for conversation and beer at the Briarwood Country Club and Restaurant, 3429 Briarwood Avenue.

**All meetings are at 1:00 p.m. at First Congregational Church, 310 North 27th Street downtown unless otherwise noted. You are cordially invited.**

# Billings Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2032 Central Avenue, Billings, MT 59102  
Founded 1958  
Services every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

### Our Mission:

We, the members of the Billings Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, covenant to provide a liberal religious haven where people with diverse beliefs respect and support each other's process for seeking meaning, truth, and spiritual growth. Our mission is to integrate our principles and actions within ourselves, with other human beings, and with the world.

To receive e-mail updates and our newsletter,  
please write or call

PO Box 20615, Billings, MT 59104  
[uubillings@gmail.com](mailto:uubillings@gmail.com)  
406-652-1893

Administrator: Amanda Megyesi-McCave  
Office hours: 10:00am-12:00pm M-F

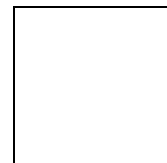
Website: [www.uubillings.org](http://www.uubillings.org)

Listserve: [uubillings-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:uubillings-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

## Committee Chairs

- Adult RE** Jaq Quanbeck & Barbara Gies
- Aesthetics** Carolyn Boyd
- Alternate Service** Leila Farnum
- Building/Grounds** Jerry Weitz & Neil Gunderson
- Caring** Susie Henry & Christine Sopko
- Chalice Table** Barbara Gies
- Children's RE** Christine Sopko & Nikki Tetrault
- Finance** Katherine Jobs
- Future Facilities** Woody Henry
- Hospitality** Colleen Johnson
- Lay Leadership** Donald Seibert
- Membership** Donald Seibert
- Music** Kris Prinzing
- Newsletter Editor** Anna Nentwig [onebead@yahoo.com](mailto:onebead@yahoo.com)
- Planned Giving and Bequests** Katherine Jobs
- Professional Leadership** Lyda Adair
- Program** Scott Prinzing
- Social** Colleen Johnson
- Social Justice** Sue Reymer
- Sound/Light** Jerry Weitz & Neil Gunderson
- Calendar** Amanda Megyesi-McCave  
[uubillings@gmail.com](mailto:uubillings@gmail.com)
- Deadline for April newsletter:**  
Midnight, May 20

Billings Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED