



Mike Chambers '01

Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

# B·U·U·F News

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF BUUF

February 2007

volume 27, issue 2

## EverGreene

Reverend Elizabeth Greene

The big excitement at the moment is the Pacific Northwest District (Unitarian Universalist) Annual General Meeting (AGM), held right here in our own town! I hope you have registered.

Hundreds of UUs from around the District will converge upon us to partake of the wonderful offerings:

- Keynote speaker William Sinkford, president of the UUA, a rare visit by him to one of our “outlying” places (that would be Boise).
- Workshops on everything from church finance to Taoism and all kinds of things in between.
- A great Saturday-evening banquet, with the Fool Squad “roasting” Unitarian Universalists—worth the price of admission itself!
- An inspirational Sunday service, open to everyone, including the general public, hoping to let more people know about our great faith.
- Fellow UUs just dying to know “what it’s like to be a UU in a state like Idaho”—let’s tell them, “It’s great! We always know we’re needed.”

Our hard-working AGM Troika of Kathy Hall, Elton Hall and Suzanne Woodcock have rounded up a truly amazing team to help them do the work, and are looking forward with great enthusiasm to the fruits of their labor.

Be there or be square!

A sort-of-postscript: the national UU General Assembly will be held in Portland this year, in late June. For the first time in history, every single person attending a General Assembly will have the opportunity to participate in a gigantic process with thousands of other people, expressing our feelings about the purposes, nature and goals of Unitarian Universalism.

GA can be a little expensive, so start saving now—and stay tuned!

## Sunday, February 4 one service at 10 am

“Filling the Void,” The Rev. Elizabeth L. Greene

So many of us configure our lives so that we are full all the time: of activities, relationship, expectations. Are we trying to avoid looking at the empty spaces honored by some religious traditions? David Ward, service coordinator. Choir, directed by Carrie Bastian, music.

## Sunday February 11, 2007, 9 am and 11 am

“Come, Come,” The Rev. Elizabeth L. Greene

One of an irregular series of “reprise” sermons, Elizabeth will revisit a sermon about communication, community and forgiving ourselves and others. Gail Haldeman, service coordinator. Jo Douglas, Patti Raino, Charlotte Tompkins, music.

## Sunday February 18, 2007, 9:30 am at Grove Hotel

“Affirming Faith: When Opposites Drop Away,” the Rev. Alex Holt

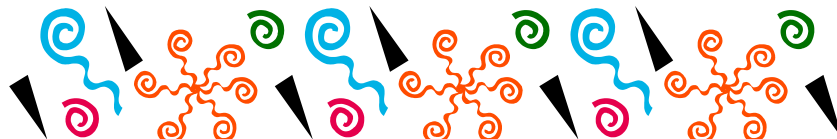
Join UUs from around the Pacific NW District at the Grove Hotel for the closing worship of AGM. Open to all; see article inside for details of children and youth participation and Rev. Holt’s sermon. Music from the AGM choir, led by Carrie Bastian and accompanied by Nuralima.

(NOTE: No Service at BUUF this Sunday.)

## Sunday February 25, 2007 9 am and 11 am

“And on the Seventh Day...” The Rev. Elizabeth L. Greene

Do you know that the longest of the Ten Commandments is the one about honoring the Sabbath and keeping it holy? However we feel about that fact, what would it be like to honor a Sabbath every week? Jay and Carol Wechselberger, service coordinators. Amy Tompkins, McKenzie Bauer, Charlotte Tompkins, music.



*minister*  
Elizabeth Greene  
344-7436  
uurev@pobox.com

*director of religious education*  
Jennifer Thrall-Thomas  
342-1196  
dre@boiseuu.org

*re elementary program specialist*  
Karen Raese  
853-3865

*music director*  
Carrie Bastian  
658-1710

*office manager*  
Gerry Morris  
658-1710  
office@boiseuu.org

*newsletter editor*  
Jennifer Grush-Dale  
343-8976  
send submissions to  
newsletter@boiseuu.org

*board members*  
president  
Wanda Jennings  
362-7563

vice president  
Emmie Schlobohm

past president  
Patti Raino  
336-2280

secretary  
Maggie Reid  
345-2989

treasurer  
Jim Geddings  
853-0822

at-large board members  
Loren Bergeson  
424-5146

Bob Huntley  
383-9545

Wendy Kirkpatrick



*contact us*  
6200 Garrett Street  
Garden City, ID 83714  
208-658-1710  
office@boiseuu.org  
www.boiseuu.org

## Wanda's Wonderings

Wanda Jennings, Board President

The BUUF Board has been busy lately. We have appointed several task forces to help us do the work that needs to be done. We have a task force to search for our new Director of Religious Education. We have a Sabbatical task force to make Elizabeth's sabbatical in January, 2008, go smoothly. We have a task force to balance the attendance between the 9:00 and 11:00 services. We have a visioning task force looking into the future for the next 5 years to help set the direction we want to go. Our Coming of Age youth are leading the way in becoming generous people. Our Stewardship Committee is gearing up to help us become a congregation of generous people to whom charitable giving should change our lives in some way.

We are looking forward to an outstanding Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Pacific Northwest District (PNWD) which we are hosting right here in Boise February 16-18. If you have not yet registered, I urge you to do so. This is an opportunity too good to miss.

Did you plant a tree in our 10 tree challenge? I am certain that as a congregation we have planted 10 trees. And there is still time to plant a tree this spring. Please let me know about trees you have planted so we can put BUUF's name on the list of those who are helping the environment in this way.

Thanks to all those who helped to clean up and spruce up BUUF. Things look much better now!

Elizabeth and I sent you a pink letter early in January asking for your generosity by helping BUUF in various ways. Thanks for filling out the pink form. If you have not yet sent it in, please fill it out and mail it to BUUF right away.

Thank you for your gifts which make this church possible!

You may be one last spark we all need to light the whole world.

## What is Stewardship Again? (Or Why Do We Keep Asking You to Pledge?)

Lynne Tolk

What is stewardship, and why is it important here at BUUF? Several of us, who wanted to know more about that, met to discuss the topic, covered in Michael Durall's book, *Creating Congregations of Generous People*. Here are some points that occurred to me.

First of all, stewardship is not about giving some money to a church. It's about giving whatever it takes, according to our abilities and resources, to ensure not only the well-being, but the growth and health of that church.

Secondly, our values matter. They matter not only to us, but to the well-being of the planet and all its inhabitants. I personally want to do all I can to further a positive vision of being human. And so I support the community and the institution that embodies that vision. There are many worthy organizations that work to save the environment, protect/regain civil liberties, obtain justice, alleviate suffering, etc. I belong to many of these. But Unitarian Universalism, as a religious movement, represents and promotes the values that would correct all these abuses. At the same time, it reminds me to keep exploring my own values and checking to see how well my actions are in sync with them.

And so (my point!) BUUF is not just an organization deserving a donation. It is a religious community embodying important values that deserves our stewardship. So please think of what it really means to you when you are asked to contribute an annual pledge of financial support, or when you hear of a committee or task that could use your time and skills.

## EnThralled With RE

Jennifer Thrall-Thomas

The New Year is off to a busy start for all of us at BUUF, and there are so many positive things happening in our congregation and in RE. I hope everyone will read the enclosed Pay it Forward insert about the challenge that the Coming of Age group completed last month. And, I hope you will continue to support the effort of our Boston Bounders who will continue to fundraise at full throttle in February. Airline costs have increased dramatically and they are working very hard to insure that everyone who wants to go on the trip can and won't be left out for financial reasons.

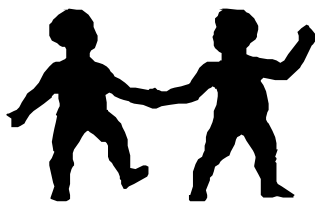
Update on my move status. I am going to be staying in my position as DRE for the remainder of the program year which ends June 30, 2007. This is not a change in plans for my move. We are still expecting to move sometime in June, but since I had already decided to complete the work with the Coming of Age group and take the Boston Bounders to Boston, Elizabeth encouraged me to stay with the rest of the program too. This will be a difficult parting for me, so I am grateful to postpone the inevitable.

There is a lot going on in February for RE! First of all the posting for the DRE search will begin. Please see the BUUF website for details on the job posting. You will also notice that the RE committee and the DRE search committee is making a marked attempt at highlighting the RE program at BUUF as we work to find a replacement DRE for BUUF.

February 11 is the official RE Guide/Teacher Appreciation day. I hope that all of our dedicated volunteer guides will be on hand to be honored at the 11:00 service. And I hope that all families will make a point of to acknowledging the work of our guides.

## Reflections

The DRE Search committee is coordinating the RE Reflections portion of the service for the next month. These are moments to briefly present thoughts, ideas, memories of our Religious Exploration Program in an effort to highlight the importance of RE in the life of this Fellowship. If anyone wishes to participate, please contact Roger Sherman, Wendy Kirkpatrick or Cathy Carmen.



## No RE on February 18, 2006

In February the BUUF will be hosting Pacific Northwest Unitarian Universalists at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) February 16 – 18. Please note that there will not be any Sunday service or religious exploration on the February 18. All services will be taking place at the AGM site at The Grove Hotel. Nursery and childcare for children infant to age 8 will be provided. All other children and youth are invited to attend this intergenerational service led by Rev. Alex Holt from Woodinville, WA. See you there!

## The Search for a New DRE Goes Public

Cathy Carmen, DRE Search Committee Chair

Beginning January 31 the DRE Search Committee will post the job description/listing for our next Director of Religious Exploration! This is a huge step in the process as we continue to envision what the future will be. For the past seven years our current DRE, Jennifer Thrall Thomas has inspired, nurtured and guided us in building an impressive program that serves youth - infant through high school. Now what is next as we prepare to say good bye while setting our sights on who and what the future may hold? Advertising the position invites interested applicants to check us out. It also allows us to evaluate what we have and highlight how far we have come. So the DRE Search Committee is busy working on many fronts. We expect to field inquiries, sharing who we are and what we're about. We will also ask all BUUF members and friends to reflect upon the importance of the youth RE Program in the life of the Fellowship by offering RE Reflections during the 9 and 11 a.m. services through the month of February. Finally, we will join in the honoring of our wonderful classroom RE Guides on February 11. So please, open your mind, your eyes and ears and be more aware of what our children are saying and doing on Sunday morning. Take a moment to reflect upon the richness that our youth RE Program brings to the life of the Fellowship – even if you don't have a children enrolled in the program! Then, if you're really motivated, take the time to say thank you to Jennifer, her able assistant Karen Raese or any of the 35 + volunteer guides/youth advisors or nursery care givers who share their talents with us.

The job posting will be a couple of places. The Liberal Religious Educators' Association (LREDA) has a link on the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) website; [www.uua.org/lreda](http://www.uua.org/lreda). We hope to have a link to this from our own Fellowship's website at [www.boiseuu.org](http://www.boiseuu.org). Check it out and let us know what you think!

## Call to Young Artists!

Melissa Chambers

If you are a child registered in BUUF's RE Program (Pre-K - 12th) and would like to show a piece of your art at the PNWD Annual General Meeting Feb. 16-18, then listen up!

I will be collecting work on Sunday Feb. 11 at BUUF. Choose your ONE favorite, best, most wonderful piece. If it is on paper it needs to be framed and ready to hang. If it is a painting on canvas it needs a frame if the edge of the canvas is unfinished. If it is a sculpture and requires a special stand then be sure to include that as well. I'll also need to know your name, age and the title of your artwork.

I'm setting up a display in the big room at the Grove Hotel where all the main events will take place, so lots of people will have the chance to admire your art. Call me if you have questions. Melissa Chambers 323-9486.

Ready? Set! Draw!!

## Pastoral Care Team Report

Despite the recent bout of cold weather, BUUF PCT remains a cheerful bunch. I'm sure this frigid weather brings out strength of character; however, if you feel some waning, give a PCT member a call. At our January meeting, Frank Shuff took the yearly group photo in which you can see the changes in membership. Our thanks go out to Frank for this and all of his great photography throughout the years. Joan Bellamy, Joanie Bear Otero, and Dena Duke will provide their contribution of wisdom and caring expertise to the 2007 team. Their dedication and service is much appreciated. The team picture plus phone numbers of members is placed in the church office across from Gerry Morris' desk for your information.

Cold and flu season continues and seasonal affective disorder is on the prowl. Even small tasks seem formidable. BUUF PCT is available; we can listen, care and perhaps provide some emotional support in a time of need. You may either call a team member or drop a note in the request for assistance box located in the office.

I notice the days are brightening, the lyrics to a new song are filling my heart. Take care and enjoy the rest of winter; it, too, is a beautiful season.

## In Memory of Linda Sutherland

Linda's partner, Eric Wallace, and her sons, Dan Perry and John Perry, thank all those who sent memorial gifts in Linda's name to BUUF and to national and international human rights and service organizations. The family plans to further honor Linda Sutherland this spring by placing a memorial bench in the BUUF courtyard. "The bench will be both attractive and comfortable," says Eric,

"and when people rest on it, perhaps they will feel Linda's bountiful love and grace surrounding them."

## Meszko Partner Church News

Cynthia Alleman

Thank you, thank you for your generous December social outreach collection that went to Meszko. We are sending \$1510.00 to contribute to the parish house renovation. If you are getting the BUUF newsletter on line, see these before and after photos. We are working on posting the photos to the BUUF website, so stay tuned.

The partner church committee and Deb Smith are presenting "Letters from Christine" at AGM, early Saturday evening, February 17. This one-woman play tells of life in Meszko, Transylvania in the 1930's through the eyes of Christine Fredericksen Balazs, the wife of Unitarian minister Francis Balazs. We are excited to share this story with you and other UUs!

Boise UU pilgrims traveling to Meszko this summer are beginning to dream of their travels and book flights and hotels. It's not too late to include you! Contact Cynthia Alleman if you realize that this is something you always wanted to do (344-8253 or email [ckalleman@cablone.net](mailto:ckalleman@cablone.net)). Travel grants are still available for first time travelers.

I close with holiday greetings and a photo from our friends in Meszko:

Dear Friends,

In the name of the Meszko people and in the name of my family I wish you all a Merry Christmas. May all your dreams be fulfilled, may all of you meet the silence, friendship and love at this time of the year.

With warm greetings,  
Reka, Dalma, Mátyás, Robert  
and the Meszko Congregation



## Whittier School Projects

Besse LaBudde

The cap and glove drive for Whittier Elementary School amassed 84 caps, 80 pairs of gloves or mittens and 12 sets of cap and gloves (with sometimes a scarf too). We are moving directly into our next Whittier project with the collection of items for the spring hygiene kits. This project is popular because it allows us to put to good use all those small hotel/motel toiletries we brought home over the past year. (As a charter member of the magpies, I brought a great cache of combs from the hotel in Spain!)

We plan for each kit to contain the following items: Small bottles of shampoo, conditioner, and lotion; comb; book (grades K through 6) and a small toy or hair-care ornament. CAUTIONS: do not bring toothpaste or brushes: these items are sent directly to the school by the manufacturers and will be added by the school nurse. We have on hand a large number of books for older children, so please concentrate on books for younger readers. Small metal cars are great for boys, and hair ornaments come in myriad forms. **NO FULL SIZE BOTTLES, PLEASE, AND NO BIG TOYS.**

## Fight hunger in February

Julie Fanselow

Did you know that Idaho ranks among the hungriest states in America? According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, between 2002 and 2004, about 15 percent of Idaho families worried they could not afford food, and nearly 4 percent of families had members actually go hungry. This made Idaho the 8th hungriest state in the country during that period.

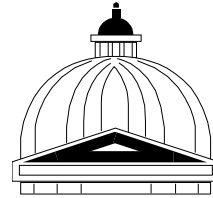
This month, we at BUUF have an opportunity to help. The Idaho Foodbank is February's recipient of our congregation's social outreach offering, meaning that 25 percent of this month's non-pledged collection plate donations will go to help the Foodbank. In addition, on Sunday, February 11, we are asking everyone to bring at least one can of food (or boxed non-perishable food item) to help replenish the food bank's supplies. If you like, write a check to the Idaho Foodbank, wrap it around your can with a rubber band, and 100 percent will go to the cause.

Since 1984, through community partnerships, the Idaho Foodbank has distributed 50 million pounds of food. The food bank serves a network of more than 200 smaller agencies, including church pantries, kitchens, and senior centers, all of which distribute food to those in need at no cost to the recipient.

Two of every three people who rely on the food bank are either children too young to work or seniors who have already worked all their lives. More than 40% of households that

receive food from the food bank currently have at least one person working, half of them in full-time jobs.

Food pantries often run low in late winter, after the holiday outpouring of gifts runs out. Let's help them restock their shelves and combat food insecurity in Idaho. Thanks for your donations – and remember to bring your can of food on February 11.



## What's up at the Statehouse?

Julie Fanselow

The Idaho State Legislature is now meeting in its 2007 session. Here are a few social justice issues of possible interest to the BUUF community:

**Grocery tax** – There is bipartisan support for cutting the tax on groceries. Gov. Butch Otter has proposed a grocery tax rebate aimed at lower-income families, while Democrats have proposed eliminating the tax on groceries outright.

**Local option taxing authority** – Idaho communities do not have the authority to ask voters for a local option tax to fund better public transportation to counter worsening air quality and traffic. Boise-based legislators are solidly behind this idea. If you live in western Ada County or Canyon County, tell your legislators how you feel about giving local communities the right to vote on transportation needs.

**Community colleges** – The Governor has expressed support for allowing localities to vote on whether to fund a community college and for lowering the approval rate to 60 percent. Ours is the largest metro area in the U.S. without a community college. Tell your legislator your opinion about funding new community college districts.

**Minimum wage** – Although the U.S. House has passed legislation raising the federal minimum wage for the first time in 10 years, Idaho needs to act as well. Let your legislators know how an increase in Idaho's minimum wage that is indexed to inflation and includes changes for workers earning tips and young employees will affect you.

The Idaho State Legislature website at [www.legislature.idaho.gov/](http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/) has tools to help you track legislation and contact your senator and representatives. You can also follow the action from a progressive point of view via United Vision for Idaho's weekly "Eye Opener" column, written by BUUF's own Roger Sherman. Read it at [www.uvidaho.org](http://www.uvidaho.org).

## BUUF Annual Auction

Harriet Shaklee

BUUF Auction: Mark your social calendar for Cabaret on April 21, BUUF's night of food, auction, and entertainment. Now is a good time to start thinking of a donation you can make for fellow BUUFers to bid on. A candlelight dinner? A picnic in the foothills? An afternoon of yardwork? A weekend at your cabin? Forms will be available soon for your donations.



## March Forth with the One Hour Choir

Tom von Alten

Last month, I told you the best time to join the BUUF choir is "at our next rehearsal," Wednesday evening at 7:15pm in the Sanctuary. That's still true, but the *next* best time will be Sunday, March 4. We're going to try something special, an idea that came to us from the UU Musicians Network mailing list.

We're offering a one-time, self-contained, show-up-that-morning, open-to-all experience of singing in the choir. Join us at 8:45am on March 4th to learn one song on the spot, and perform it at the 10:00 service with the "regular" choir. No excuses, just the pleasure of making music together. If you've been wanting to try us out without the Big Commitment, this is your chance. CAUTION: you may like it so much you'll need to clear your Wednesday evening calendar after all.

Contact our Choir Director, Carrie Bastian, at 283-4152 or cariesu@yahoo.com or Music Committee chairman Tom von Alten at 378-1217 or tva@fortboise.org for more information.

## Pacific Northwest District Hosts the UUA General Assembly

The UUA General Assembly (otherwise referred to as GA) comes to our District this year and with it the opportunity for more of us than ever to join as many as 5000 UUs in celebration of our community. GA will be in Portland at the Convention

Center from, June 21-24. If you think you might like to attend, talk now to someone who has been before. And then consider volunteering. If you volunteer to work for 24 hours, or 16 in the children's program, you will receive free registration.

Volunteer applications will be available by March 1 and must be sent to Rosie Hamilton (rosiephilh@msn.com), in Portland, between March 1-31.

What do General Assembly Volunteers do?

- greet people arriving at the GA site
- provide information about the local area
- assist UUs with mobility difficulties and other needs
- care for young children or help with field trips for older ones
- staff the local GA office
- register attendees
- act as ushers at events
- count votes at plenary sessions and mini-assemblies
- have a great time welcoming UUs to our district

Please contact Rosie Hamilton – 503-293-5453 or rosiephilh@msn.com for more information. Hope to see you at GA.

## All You Wanted to Know About Humanists

Jeanette Ross

Final preparations for our workshop at the upcoming Annual General Meeting of UUs will continue at our regular meeting February 11, 9am in the senior high room. Ever wonder what Tim LaHaye and John Dewey might say to each other? Bertrand Russell facing off with Ayn Rand? Want a turn of your own on our genuine soap box? Join us. Contact Rick Groff or Jeanette Ross with any questions.

## The Other Book Club

The Other Book Club meets on February 11 at 7 pm to discuss *Mountains Beyond the Mountains*, by Tracy Kidder, the inspiring story of one man's medical dedication. February's book club meeting is at the home of Mary Osterman, 4991 Contour Way in Boise – call Mary at 385-9950 to RSVP or for directions. The author of the book will be speaking at BSU at the end of February. The March meeting of the Other Book Club features *The Beet Queen* by Louise Erdrich, if you'd like to read ahead.

### Do you know?

That Unitarians and Universalists in this country, merged in 1961? Hence our 15-syllable name.

*History Keepers*



BOISE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP + AGM 2007

## Join Us at the Grove!

On Sunday, Feb. 18, BUUF members and friends will gather for worship with Unitarian Universalists from all over the Pacific Northwest District at the Grove Hotel in downtown Boise, the site of this year's Annual General Meeting. **There will be no Sunday service at our fellowship that morning.**

Please join us for an inspiring service conducted by the Reverend Alex Holt, "Affirming Faith: When Opposites Drop Away." We hear fervent voices say humans are inherently sinful. We hear hopeful voices say humans are inherently good. Are these the only choices? Is there a way to affirm faith in such a way that our knowledge and our love can transcend opposing sides?

The service begins at 9:30 a.m. and is open to all, whether you are participating in the conference or not. Children of all ages are invited to this intergenerational Sunday service. The Planning Committee would like to encourage Middle-schoolers to sit with their parents. Senior High Youth will sit together. Nursery care will be provided in the AGM Nursery Suite for infants and toddlers through age 3. Four to seven year-olds and their parents may visit the Childcare Suite for snacks and guided activities. Additional details will be included in the Order of Service.

Parking is available in the hotel's garage (come early!), in the garage across Front St., or on the street (free).

## Still Time to Be Part of AGM

Registration is open, but must be postmarked by Feb. 3 if you mail it in. Register online at [www.pnwd.org](http://www.pnwd.org) until Feb. 7. (Adults can also register on-site at the conference for a higher price, but children/youth must be registered in advance.) Contact our registrar for the Annual General Meeting, Ed Davis at [agmregistrar@boiseuu.org](mailto:agmregistrar@boiseuu.org) or 378-8326 if you have questions.

## Volunteers for Childcare at the Annual General Meeting

Sue Philley

BUUF Volunteers Support Childcare at Annual General Meeting (AGM) Many thanks to Kristen Cheyney and Dick Sevier, Claudia Fernsworth, and Lina Chambers who have taken the lead organizing childcare for middle school, elementary, and nursery age children, respectively, at this year's AGM. We are fortunate to have two expert youth leaders from Oregon (an adult, Jack Brand and a youth, Allison Krause) who will advise the Senior High Youth and help them prepare their highly anticipated Youth Service Saturday evening.

Lots of fun activities are planned including making and parading a Chinese Dragon through the Grove Hotel and touring some of Boise's many nearby educational sites using a walking tour prepared by BUUF writer and resident travel expert Julie Fanselow. Becky and Rick Groff, Cathy Carmen, Steve Thomas, Barbara Morledge, Sandy Cruise, Deanna Smith, Ellen Morfitt, Sue Stadler, and Sue Philley are supporting the program. Their roles include coordinating, chaperoning, helping, buying supplies and transporting toys and tables. Other volunteers will be signing on—we still need helpers, but too late for mention in this edition of the newsletter. For more information, contact Sue Philley 340-9450 or email [sphilley@cableone.net](mailto:sphilley@cableone.net)

## What Membership Means to Me Becoming a Buufer

Debbie Espen

I am cautious. I have felt burned before by bad church experiences. But this 'U.U.' denomination sounds different. I am curious. I visit.

Euphoria!

But I have to be sure. I'll wait out this "honeymoon" period to see if it has staying power. I keep attending.

A year passes. I begin to get involved. Another six months pass. I am making connections, getting even more involved. I become a Participant, not just an Attendee. This is definitely 'it'. When is the next Joining Day?

Another six months pass. Joining Day arrives! I am ready to make the commitment, to help nurture our Fellowship and to help it grow.

This is what membership means to me.



## Senior Sages Want YOU

We want you to join us that is, on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. We have lively discussion of a variety of topics over a no-host breakfast at the Kopper Kitchen on Airport Way. On Thursday, Feb. 8, 9:30am, Coston Frederick presents "Music Hath Charms... or not." On Feb. 22, BSU Adjunct Professor of Spanish Fatima Cornwall will describe "The Role of the Court Interpreter." For more information, or if you have a topic you'd like to present or hear, contact Tom von Alten at 378-1217 or tva@fortboise.org.

## Thanks for Your Help

Dale Winke

The Interiors Committee would like to thank all those who have worked to make the ever evolving Vestibule (& Sanctuary) use policy an on going success. Individual congregants and various committees have been signing up as requested for use of space, setting up and tearing down tables, and keeping traffic areas open and free from clutter and mess. Many people have commented how well things look, and this is the result of everyone's effort to work together towards a common purpose and goal.

On Saturday January 13, a single box of the Teragren Synergy bamboo flooring material was installed in front of the lectern in the Fellowship Hall. This is the material that the Interior Committee recommended to, and which the Board accepted. The Committee hopes that this glimpse of what the future holds for the space will encourage overwhelming participation by the congregation at the Auction this spring, when a special call will be made to finish the financing of the floor project. Again, with everyone contributing to a common goal, success is achievable! The demo floor will remain in place for several weeks, and an information board in located nearby to aid in answering questions. The Committee welcomes your feedback, so feel free to contact Erin Logan, Sarah Bratley, or Dale Winke with any additional questions, comments, and the like.

## "These are my People"

Debra Smith for the Membership Committee

You have come to visit the Boise UU Fellowship because something is missing in your life. You are weary of the incessant materialism in our culture and you hunger for more significance. You want this hunger acknowledged, yet you have not been nourished by the simple answers you've received elsewhere. Perhaps this place will nurture the quiet confidence you have that doubt and questions are as important to the religious experience as faith and intuition.

Or, you have come to visit the Boise UU Fellowship because you want your children to grow up both tolerant and principled in a world that will depend mightily upon those qualities as they mature.

Perhaps you have come to visit the Boise UU Fellowship because you have run "smack dab" into the realization that you need other people in a way that you have underestimated until now. Maybe it was the death of someone near, or an illness that robbed you of your security. You awoke one morning well before the alarm went off and discovered that you were, after all, vulnerable: a mortal, and therefore fragile, human being. And so you began the slow journey to rediscover your need to be with people who agree to be with you in mutual need.

You have come to visit the Boise UU Fellowship because it is a place where people put their faith and their works in this world, now. It is a place where redemption is not limited to the Son of God, but remains a responsibility for each of us, and that redemption is possible whenever a person chooses to act out of love and forgiveness rather than pettiness and revenge.

If you feel you have found, in the words of a cherished poem hanging on the wall of our sanctuary, that "these are my people," then perhaps it is time to become a member of this fellowship of doubters, lovers and seekers, and to make a commitment of your time and resources.



## BUUF ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM SPRING 2007

Life-long Learning  
Spiritual Growth  
Building Community

### Cosmos and Psyche Salons & Conference

Philosopher, cultural historian, and internationally acclaimed author Richard Tarnas (*Passion of the Western Mind*) will discuss his new book, *Cosmos and Psyche: Intimations of a New World Order*, at a two-day conference at BUUF. The author will challenge our understanding of history at its very foundations, suggesting a synchronistic connection between the structure of the world and the psyche that pervades it. Four intimate salons (January through March) will precede the April conference.

**Leaders:** Reverend Elizabeth Greene, Bill Renwick, Elton Hall, Susan Wildwood

**Schedule and location:** 4 monthly salons, Fridays, January 5, February 2, March 2, April 6, 7-9 p.m. in the Jr. High room. Two-day conference featuring Richard Tarnas, Friday, April 27, 7-9 p.m., Saturday, April 28, 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., in the sanctuary.

**Registration fee:** The Conference Friday evening session is \$10 for those who pre-register, or \$15 at the door; the Saturday session by itself is \$40; Pre-registration for both days is \$40!

Monthly salons are \$5 per salon or \$15 for all four; pay at the door. Call Gerry Morris at 658-1710 to reserve your place in advance.

### The Great Turning: Book Study and Discussion Class

One of the progressive sages of our time, David Korten was at BUUF on January 19 to discuss his new book, *The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community*. Theologian Matthew Fox praises this epic work as “a tour de force... a revelation of where we might travel if we have the moral imagination and the courage to choose and act wisely.” Now we have an opportunity to participate in *The Great Turning* book study and discussion class, drawing on materials from David Korten’s website. We’ll share insights with one another and apply new understanding to living our UU principles.

**Facilitators:** Mike Philley and Mason Morfit

**Schedule and location:** 5 sessions; Thursdays, 7-9 p.m., February 8, 15, 22; March 1, 8; Jr. High room.

**Registration fee:** \$15

**Maximum enrollment:** 12

### Meditation Practices for All

Many people have found that meditation helps in staying balanced in a busy and sometimes unbalanced world. To aid that equilibrium, this class will practice some basic meditation techniques as well as discussing obstacles that can arise. We will explore silent meditation, breathing meditation, chanting meditation and movement meditation. Anyone can do these!

**Leader:** Reverend Elizabeth Greene

**Schedule and location:** 3 sessions; Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m.; March 13, 20, 27; Sr. High room.

**Registration fee:** \$10

**Maximum enrollment:** 20

## Back to Natural Health

In this workshop, we will explore what it really means to be healthy and how the alternative approaches of Oriental Medicine and modern nutritional therapy can help us grow healthier naturally. Topics will include acupuncture and herbal medicine, stress management, overcoming chronic degenerative disease, how to grow *younger*, and how to minimize toxicity exposure. We'll also learn a simple technique that will always tell if a food or supplement (or drug) is beneficial or not. It is possible for *anyone* to have powerful breakthroughs in their health! This workshop will give you tools to make a quantum leap toward greater health and vitality.

**Leaders:** Hector Perez and Frances Towle, Licensed Acupuncturists, Masters of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine

**Schedule and location:** 1 evening session; Monday, 7-9 p.m., March 5; Sr. High room

**Registration fee:** \$5

**Maximum enrollment:** 20

## Spiritual Cinema

Watch an inspiring (perhaps enlightening!) movie or documentary at Spiritual Cinema gatherings on Tuesday evenings. We'll go beyond being merely entertained as we actively discuss a film's meaning and relevance to our liberal religious values and spiritual sensibilities. Many of these films have never been released commercially because Hollywood distributors don't believe there is an audience (hence profit!). Several selections come from the Spiritual Cinema Circle, an organization that encourages independent filmmakers to create films "that matter," and makes them available to wider audiences.

**Leader:** Nuralima (for more information, contact Nuralima at 378-1412)

**Schedule and location:** 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7-9 p.m., beginning January 16 through May 15; Jr. High room

**Registration fee:** None. We suggest a \$5 donation for drop-in film viewing and discussion

**Maximum audience:** 24

## Cinco de Mayo "Light"

Chef extraordinaire Bryan Jennings will tantalize our taste buds in this hands-on, low-calorie Mexican cooking class. Learn how to prepare his famous chicken enchiladas and other delectable dishes from south of the border. Celebrate *Cinco de Mayo* (Mexico's Independence Day) while observing and learning from the master. We'll prepare healthy recipes using fresh (and possibly secret) ingredients, and share the outcome in a group *fiesta*!

**Leader:** Bryan Jennings

**Schedule and location:** Saturday, May 5, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; kitchen/sanctuary

**Registration fee:** \$10

**Maximum enrollment:** 10

## Voluntary Simplicity

Offered by the Idaho Earth Institute, this 8-week discussion course can be the catalyst for simplifying your life. It may help you begin to slow down and enjoy the things that really matter. You'll examine your lifestyle and values in the company of others who also wish to simplify—a process that can lead to new insights and understanding. You may see through old conflicts that you can now resolve, recognize limiting habit patterns you can change, and create new routines for a more satisfying and fulfilling life. All this while minimizing your ecological footprint on the Earth!

**Idaho Earth Institute Mentor:** Claudia Fernsworth

**Schedule and location:** 8 sessions, Sundays, 5-6:30 p.m.; March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1, 8, 15, 22;

Sr. High room

**Registration fee:** \$25 (includes \$15 cost of guidebook with readings and discussion questions)

**Maximum enrollment:** 12

## BUUF ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM SPRING 2007

To register for classes and workshops, simply fill out this form, attach a check, and deposit in the “drop box” at the Adult RE information table at the rear of the sanctuary. You may also return registration forms and fees directly to the BUUF office:

**Boise UU Fellowship (Attention: Adult RE)**  
**6200 N. Garrett**  
**Boise, ID 83714**

You may register for more than one class. Your registration will be confirmed with a call to remind you of the start date for the classes or workshops you have selected. If the class is full, we will contact you and refund the fee.

*\*\*\*The registration fee will be waived for anyone requesting financial assistance*

Name, phone, e-mail	Course or Workshop	Fee
	<b>TOTAL FEES</b>	

Childcare Needed? YES NO

## Adult RE Spring Program Begins!

Check out the exciting line-up of classes, workshops, and special events at the Adult RE Information Table at the rear of the sanctuary. For your convenience, there is a “drop box” for depositing registration forms and fees (checks are preferred, made out to BUUF). The spring program bulletin and registration form can also be found in the February newsletter. Register early to reserve your space!

## Sanctuary Flooring

Whereas it is desirable to have better flooring in our sanctuary and

we need a floor with smooth transitions  
we need a floor that has strength and durability  
we desire an environmentally green bamboo flooring  
we desire beautiful flooring  
the Interiors Committee has researched and investigated thoroughly.

Therefore the BUUF Board accepts Teregren Bamboo as the product for our sanctuary flooring and

we are asking you to help choose the look.

Watch for your chance to select your preference.



*Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship*  
6200 Garrett St.  
Garden City, ID 83714  
1.208.658.1710

Non-Profit  
Organization  
Postage  
**PAID**  
Boise, ID  
**PERMIT NO. 523**

# Pay It Forward Challenge

## BUUF Coming of Age 2006-07

Last December the BUUF Coming of Age group was issued a Pay It Forward Challenge by a generous anonymous donor from BUUF. Each mentor/mentee pair was given \$100 to use to make the world a better place in some way. The hope was that this good work would reach out and create a ripple effect across the community. This project fulfills the Coming of Age requirement for service.

At the Coming of Age meeting on December 13, the group brainstormed ideas without knowing that they would actually be given the money to complete the projects. Then I pulled out 17 one-hundred dollar bills and fanned them out for the entire group to see! What fun!

Part of the challenge agreement was that each team had to complete the project within 30 days, had to write a 300-word essay on their project and had to sign a challenge agreement. The teams had to have an actual plan in place before accepting the money. Almost every team developed a plan and walked out that night with \$100 and a lot of enthusiasm.

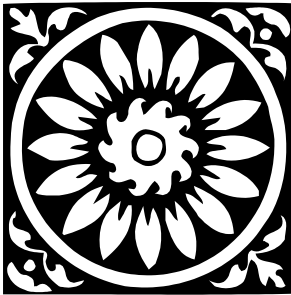
I am happy to report that all projects were, in fact, completed within the 30-day requirement and the group, as a whole, doubled the original donation to \$3475! Projects reached out to senior citizens, dogs and cats, the rainforest in Mexico, villages in Africa, orphanages in China, several local community organizations, Whittier Elementary, AND we were featured in a Statesman article on December 23, 2006.

Following this article, you will find the essays from the Coming of Age youth who participated in this project. Thank you to the anonymous donor for making this possible. Many lives were touched by this act of kindness.



## **Morgan Cheyney and Miriam Woito**

My mentor and I both have a knack for art. So we decided to do an art related project. We chose mosaics. We scheduled a time to get together at Mosaic Essentials and make mosaics to sell at the art show occurring that Saturday. I made a couple mirrors, a small mural and a lazy susan. My mentor made mirrors and also donated some other art work that she had made in the past. So far we have made \$245 total including the original \$100. We still have mirrors to sell and have signed up to sell them at church on Jan. 28th. I had a fun time with this project. I am glad that it was art related. We chose to donate the money to Make a Wish.



## **Kittens and Puppies and Rabbits, Oh My! - Jade Duffy and Kit Brown**

Many thanks to the anonymous donor!

We decided to help the Humane Society. First, we called Chris, the Humane Society donations manager, who said they needed: kitten food, kitty litter, puppy food and rabbit food.

Next, we called different pet supply places to see if they would match our \$100. Art Gregory from Zamzow's said they would give supplies. The others were not able to help us. It was interesting calling the different stores because I had never done it before. With the script we wrote, it was like acting.

Today, we went to the Zamzow's on State Street, and spent the \$100 on 4 bags of puppy chow, 4

bags of kitten chow, 2 bags of rabbit food, two 25 lb. bags of kitty litter, 2 bags of puppy treats, 2 bags of kitten treats, and 2 bags of rabbit grass. We haven't received the coupons yet, but we should get them this weekend, and will then finish the project.

From this project, I learned that the Humane Society needs a lot of help from the community to get the supplies they need, and the money doesn't go as far as you think it will. Some companies would rather have their own fundraisers. Zamzow's was different because they do a lot of stuff with the community, so they have a manager for donation requests. Unless you call, you don't know if the group needs help or not, so it's a good idea to ask first. If you help someone, it spreads. By helping the Humane Society, all those animals will go to families who love them. It's a chain reaction; you get helped, then you help someone else, and so on

## **Sam Schlobohm and Craig Raese**

Dear Anonymous Donor :

Thank you for the opportunity to spend \$100 toward helping the community. It is a wonderful experience to experience.

My original plan was to donate \$50 to Idaho Food Bank and \$50 to help the local Katrina refugees. But I discovered that the local Katrina refugees didn't need money, they just needed people to be their friends. They needed community. So now my project is to donate \$50 to the Idaho Food Bank and \$50 to The Nature Conservancy.

I came up with the idea of the Food Bank because it was the first organization suggested by Coming of Age leaders. Every dollar donated is worth more than a dollar's worth of food. The way I came up with helping the local Katrina refugees is through contacts I have at my school – Anser Charter School. The reason I chose the Nature Conservancy is that I really feel for the environment, and they were the first organization I

thought of that works to protect the environment.

The way that we are planning to get these groups the funding is to send them a check.

I wasn't disappointed that the Katrina family didn't need money and instead just needed time, because I figured I'd be able to put in that kind of time later.

I feel like I am some random person giving money to an organization. I feel disconnected from them, but I am glad I can help. With more time, like another month, I think I could have made these connections.



### **Jade Nissl and Emmie Schlobohm**

I chose Half the Sky (HTS) and International Children's Surgical Foundation (ICSF) for my two charities. Half the Sky helps build infant and preschool programs for children in the orphanages in China. ICSF helps children who need surgery for cleft lips, burns, or other facial deformities.

I have everything I need in life – more than I started with as an orphan in China. I want to help other children in need with the donations so they may suffer less and have more joy in their hearts.

ICSF helps kids be more open to the world without people being scared to look at them.

Many orphans that HTS helps nurture get adopted and get a second chance at new life.

It feels great when I get a response back from these charities that my money helps a lot. HTS sends you a picture of the child you are helping and a report on their progress.

### **One Good Deed Deserves Another - Brad Schaff and Steve Thomas**

The idea one good deed deserves another can be put into simple terms as pay it forward. Pay it forward is the hope that if you do something nice for someone they will pass another nice favor to another person making a chain of godliness niceness. It was in the wee hours of the morning when I heard the computer beep. The message, oh yes it was "My Mentor"! Sitting at the desk now I read the message. It is something about being somewhere at sometime. I scan the details a bit, oh Jim Lyons house at.....900 in the morning. Now where is the date... oh December 23, 2006. Ok, got all the details now what is today? Oh look at that it is December 23, 2006. Realizing I am already a few minutes late we hop into the car and begin the scariest drive of my life driving to Fred Meyer on Orchard Street. This is where I learned to pay it forward. I really felt a good deed coming everyone so kind and generous. We stood with the bell ringers a wad of cash in one hand and a bell in the other. Gabe Hess and I challenged people to donate and then matched their donations. I noticed that more people donate than don't and it gave a sense that most people are good.. After matching 200 dollars to make 400 for the Salvation Army we were done. We were given 100 dollars each to pay forward by a gracious donor. We made 100 dollars 200 while donating to the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army will do something good for many that will create a chain of people doing kindly things for one another. This chain was not created by us, it was started by a gracious donor that was kind to us.



## Dixon Minnick and Tom von Alten

We considered what we might be able to finish between early December and January, and made a list of organizations with programs that give people the tools they need to improve their lives.

Three we considered were UU Service Committee (with matching grants from The Shelter Rock Congregation), "Oxfam Unwrapped," enabling gifts of things like livestock and tools, and the Village Bicycle Project of the Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute. The VBP takes used and discarded bicycles, parts, and tools to Africa, and holds training to help people learn how to build, maintain and repair bikes. The project is the brainchild of a good friend of Tom's and fellow bicycle activist in Moscow, Idaho.

We both want to do what we can to reduce the number of SUVs in the world, and to help people enjoy healthy transportation.



## Calakmul Biosphere Reserve - Abby Sevier and Karen Raese

For our Pay it Forward project we chose to donate our money to an environmental charity called Calakmul Biosphere Reserve. Together with Rhonda Schaff and Sarah Otero we were able to donate 200 dollars which saved over 10 acres of the rainforest in Mexico.

Calakmul Biosphere Reserve is an organization that conserves land and prime jaguar habitat in the Mexican Rainforest. This organization is the second largest such charity in Mexico. Its goal is

to save 350,000 acres of threatened jaguar habitat. How this organization works is that donated money is used to sign conservation contracts with community land owners. They "offer landowners a better economic alternative than logging companies would have and these contracts are permanent." They make sure that the land is being protected via the yearly survey that checks that no human destruction is present.

We chose this organization because of many reasons. Abby has done a large project on the Amazon Rainforest and was drawn to the idea of helping preserve it further. Other reasons include that the organization supports on-going research and monitoring on jaguar ecology. They also promote environmental education about the rainforest. Local communities receive the benefits of jaguar conservation. It feels wonderful to protect some of our precious earth!



## Gabe Hess and Jim Lyons

In Gabe's words:

"The Pass it on project was a lot of fun! The whole group had a lot of fun donating money, along with the Kiwanis Club, for the Salvation Army. It was also a lot of fun to try to get people to match money and getting all the money we possibly could. Overall it was a very rewarding experience and it was good to help out around the holidays."

In Jim's words:

"Gabe and I teamed up with Brad and Steve and decided to help the Salvation Army in their "red kettle bell ringing" drive that they do around the Holidays. The idea was to encourage people walking by to either give more, or give at all, with the incentive that we would match their donations (of at \$1) and put an equal amount into the kettles. Steve coordinated with the Salvation Army leadership and decided we would best be deployed on Saturday the 23rd of December at the Fred Meyer store at Franklin and Orchard in Boise. Gabe and Brad joined the Gem State Kiwanis as volunteer bell ringers, and the Kiwanis members helped promote the matching idea. In less than an hour, our \$200+ was gone and we estimate we helped raise at least an additional \$150 that came from people who either gave or increased their donation because of the matching. This is assuming some of the people would give even if we weren't there.

In addition to being a lot of fun and a good way to help increase the Salvation Army's contributions, it was a good way to spread the word that BUUF is a caring and giving organization with some very dedicated youth members!"



### **Operation Help Animals - Janelle Riley and Marcia Lyons**

With our \$100, we decided we wanted to do something for animals, and we chose a variety of activities.

First, we went shopping! We bought rawhide treats for dogs at the Humane Society—we wanted to do something to make their days a little better while waiting for adoption. Also, we col-

lected some old towels for bedding for the cats and the dogs, thinking again that helping their comfort was a good idea.

And, our two teams gave \$90 cash of our \$200 total to the Humane Society.

Another program that we donated to was Seasons of Suppers, which provides low income seniors receiving Meals on Wheels deliveries of pet food, too. We contributed about \$40 in pet food there and \$60 to the Banfield Charitable Foundation to help low income families with veterinary care.

Marcia: I think the "pay it forward" part of our project was benefiting seniors, and poor families to care for their pets, in addition to helping animals. I like thinking about how much pets contribute to us—companions to the elderly, companions to children, companions to empty nesters (like me!) and so on!

Janelle: I love pets so doing this project really was fun for me. I care about pets very much! In my household we have two pets so they have a very big impact on my life! I care a lot out people too. So in this project I could help two of my most favorite things! We helped the Human Society by donating towels and rawhides for the cats and dogs. Plus we donated pet food and money to seniors that need pet food. This project was a lot of fun because I could help people as well as animals!

### **Maclean Morledge and Claudia Fernsworth**

Pay it forward means to contribute to the future. We got \$100 and Ole and I could not agree about how to spend it. So Ole, Mom, Claudia and I decided to donate it to the school charity. The Kuna High School student council was collecting money for families who did not have enough money to spend for Christmas. Now that family has a Christmas. Christmas is about giving to each other. Teen-agers are not really bad. Most of them are quite good and help the world. Thank

you to the secret donor who made this possible. It made me feel just as good as if I had donated it to the preservation of the rain forest. In the future, I wish to make that wish come true. I hope to be a more generous person.

### **David Pinkerton and Wendy Kirkpatrick**

To maximize the amount of money we had for this project, Wendy and I joined with Marsha and Janelle. With a total of \$200, we decided to do a project to help animals. First we bought toys from pet stores and collected towels for cat beds. We bought dog and cat food and donated it to the Humane Society. Then we donated pet food to homebound seniors who can't feed their pets.

We did a combination of selecting the toys and donating directly to the store. Although this was simple, it helped people keep care of animals they have and will help them keep care of future pets.



### **Anthony Trakas and Mike Butts**

Thanks to the generous and anonymous giver of the \$1,700 all of our groups were able to give to others in need. Mike and I had a rough time deciding on what to do for our pay it forward project. Mike had heard me mention something about the animal shelter, so when he saw something in the paper that said the Humane Society was giving out free dog houses to people who needed them, we jumped at the chance. We found out that Zamzows had the cheapest doghouses so we headed down there one Saturday morning. The employees gave us a discount on

the dog houses because we told them that it was for a pay it forward project through our church. We bought three doghouses this way and loaded them into the back of Mike's car. Then we brought the doghouses down to the Humane Society and helped them unload them into their storage building behind the main building. There were quite a few doghouses already there but most of them were pretty ragged looking. Ours were some of the best in the yard and I'm glad that they will go to people who really need them for their pets. Hopefully more people will learn about these free doghouses and will receive them if they need any.

### **Alex Smith and Greg Otero**

I arrived in the classroom and expected to just be talking to my mentor like usual. But instead a really strange thing happened. We were all sitting down and discussing different projects and what not. All of a sudden Jennifer Thrall-Thomas pulls out \$1700 I was shocked. It is not everyday you're sitting with a bunch of people and someone randomly pulls out \$1700! I sat there and stared and people were laughing and taking pictures. I'll admit I thought it was really weird. But then I got confused, cause I mean why would someone just pull out \$1700. dollars at a church meeting. I'll tell you why? What they had come up with was the idea that the mentor and mentee would receive one hundred dollars. We would try to invest it and make more money for a needy cause like the food bank etc. There were a ton of ideas. It was overwhelming. I decided that me and my mentor could work with another group and have \$200 to invest. I thought more and more until finally it hit me while me and my mom were down town having coffee night (like we have every once in a while). We were strolling downtown and I had happened to run in to a gigantic tree known as the giving tree. It had flyers on it to donate to certain places that wished they had things like WCA wanted a coffee brewer and cups. And then it came to me!

Why not just do that but in a mini version. We decided to buy a small tree. And we wrapped a box in wrapping paper, put a slit in it and put instructions on it. We also made flyers to pass out. We put lights and cards for the non-profit organizations on it.

On January 7th, we counted our donations. They totaled \$570. We almost tripled our money. Thank you to the donor.

### **Natalie Whiting and Wanda Jennings**

Each mentor and coming of age member group was given one hundred dollars to donate to any charity or use in other ways to make the world a better place. Some groups got together to brainstorm different ways to help the community and the world. My mentor, Wanda Jennings, and myself, Natalie Whiting, decided to donate our money to the Whittier School music project. We got the idea from Gus Tate and Coston Fredrick. First, we collected extra donations from the church to add to our one hundred dollars. I also contributed twenty-five dollars of my own money to the charity. We came up with a total amount of three hundred and thirty-five dollars. I am really happy that we chose to donate to this cause because I am in band and I love music. I do not want anyone to be denied the opportunity to be able to study music because it is an absolutely wonderful thing to have knowledge about.



### **The Giving Tree - Andrew Martens and Joe Wechselberger**

Two groups joined together to work on this project and our goal was to give back by helping the community. We created a giving tree. The tree was set up in the church lobby and donation envelopes were hung on the tree like ornaments. Church members, friends and visitors were able to make donations to four different charities by selecting the envelope(s) of their favorite charity and placing money into the envelope, which was then deposited into a box at the base of the giving tree.

With the giving tree, we accumulated a total of \$570 in donations, distributed as follows:

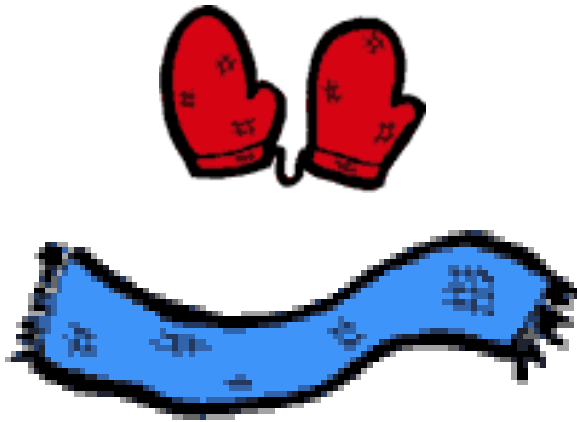
Make a Wish- \$70  
Idaho Food Bank-\$211  
Women's and Children's Alliance-\$145  
Nature Conservancy-\$144

The giving tree concept was an excellent idea because it assisted several community projects. This idea was successful due to the effort and generosity of many people. It seemed that all of us had fun making the giving tree and setting it up each Sunday. This was a project that not only benefited the charities but the two groups that put it together, as well.

### **Gus Tate and Dr. E. Coston Frederick**

In my experience, this project was an interesting one. We chose to solicit money from companies for the Whittier school music program. My mentor and I are both musicians. I'm a cellist and Coston plays the piano and drums. This money will help the students there who might not be able to otherwise afford to take part in it. Instead of my initial intentions to interview people in person I

had to interview over the phone because I broke my leg. I was really happy with the results we got. Everyone I spoke with was very generous. No one said they wouldn't contribute. We started with the \$100 and ended with \$320 to be donated! I thought this was a great project because it gave others the gift of music!



### **Sara Otero and Rhonda Schaff**

For our Coming of Age project, we were given \$100 to make the world a better place. We had many ideas, but we chose (with half the money) to buy and make warm knitted hats, scarves, fuzzy

mittens and earmuffs. We decided to give the items we bought and collected to Whittier Elementary, one of the poorest schools in Boise, after meeting a sixth grade teacher who teaches there at church one Sunday. After we collected and made the items, we decided to go to Whittier one day after school and talk to them about our project. When we went to the classroom, there were about 30 kids that looked really thankful to be able to have warm hats and scarves for the winter. We told them that we took our time to make and buy these things for them and their teacher told them that when they grow up, they should do the same to children that they don't know and who need to keep warm during the winter. It felt really good to see the smiles on their faces and to know that they appreciate us getting all of the stuff for them.

With the other half of the money, we gave it to another team who is using their money to buy a piece of land in the rainforest so it won't get cut down or destroyed. I think that this project was a good start to the New Year and helped a lot of people, and one planet.

