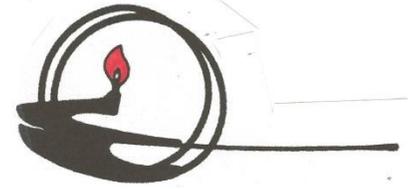




Chalice Flame

First Unitarian Society of Pueblo



APRIL 2015

MEMBER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

VOLUME XV, ISSUE IV

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR APRIL

SERVICES ARE HELD FROM 10:30 AM TO 11:30 AM

APRIL 5: STEVE ACKER

"Cycles"

"To everything there is a season..." Easter marks the season of rebirth, renewal, and resurrection. We are intimately tied to the natural world and their cycles mirror our inner journey of birth, growth, and death. Steve will share some of his experiences working on a dairy farm while in his teens and how those experiences have shaped his outlook on the cycles of our lives.

Service Leader: Kathryn Ackier

APRIL 12: DR. ANN COURTRIGHT AND LOUISE BURG

"Single Payer Health Care: Bi-partisan Support for Universal Health Care"

What if we all had equal access to a health care system that saved the country \$243 billion per year? Why is the U.S. the only developed country in the world without universal health care? *Health Care for All Colorado* is a group dedicated to enacting a Single Payer health plan in our state - and, we hope, nationwide. It's part of a grass-roots movement to cover absolutely every resident from birth to death. Bring your questions.

Service Leader: Don Bruestle

**APRIL 19: DR. MARC PRATARELLI, PROFESSOR OF
PSYCHOLOGY, CSU - PUEBLO**

"Our Earth"

In honor of Earth Day, Marc will talk about aspects of caring for ourselves and our earth.

Service Leader: Midge Birgers

APRIL 26: JAN BUTORAC

"Unitarian Universalism's Selma Awakening"

Based on the new book *Selma Awakening* by Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed, the foremost scholar on African-American Unitarian Universalist history, Jan will shed light on why and how, in answer to Dr. Martin Luther King's call to action in 1964, the UU denomination shifted from passing earnest resolutions about racial justice to putting their lives on the line for the cause, some even dying for it.

Service Leader: Dorie Silverman

Change in Leadership

It is with regret that we announce that Steve Acker has resigned as President of the Board of Directors, due to health issues.

Midge Birgers, former Vice President, has now assumed the duties of President. Thanks, Midge!

Steve will remain an active member of the Program Committee and will continue to lead the Philosophy at 4:00 group.

Thank you so much for your service, Steve, and we hope your health continually improves!

First Unitarian Society Board of Directors

ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE APPROACHING!

We used this space last month to provide preliminary information about our annual canvass coming up in May. Our effort is to keep the congregation informed about the process and the purpose of the canvass, and the critical role the current year (FY 2014 – 2015) is \$18,700—what's termed a "shoestring" budget. The Board has been very careful about spending this money, and we have been able to remain within budget for the year so far. However, we have not been able to meet our commitment to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the Mountain Desert District (MDD) to send them \$84.00 per member per year so they can keep their own programs going. This per-member commitment by all UU churches worldwide is the UUA's only source of operating funds. We also need additional funds for some anticipated repairs to our HVAC system and other building requirements, as well as expanding programs to include more paid speakers.

To Pledge or to Donate to the Plate? The act of pledging helps so much in our ability to predict when and how much money we will have in our coffers. The act of making the pledge also causes one to think more deeply about the level of commitment and the level of one's ability to support the church monetarily.

Fire of Commitment. The following is taken from the Reverend Vail Weller of the Unitarian Universalists of San Mateo's stewardship sermon, (which won the *UUA award for Stewardship Sermon of the Year* in 2011), "The Fire of Commitment."

"Listen. Money is simply energy and nothing more. Money can be stuffed in the mattress, or kept in an offshore bank account, to provide a sense of security, or to move us just a bit closer to that ever-elusive sense of "enough". Money can also be used to do great good in the world. I believe that this church changes lives for the better and that we're only getting started. We need to be a congregation of stewards, who understand that the church needs our strong support in order to fulfill our shared mission of transforming ourselves and the world. As stewards, we are caretakers of this institution for a future we will never see, just as our founders had the vision to build and strengthen a congregation that we now benefit from.

A few of you may be wondering about the invitation that we make to you to give 5% of your income to the church, worrying that there are surely those who can't afford to give at such a level. Studies show it is low-income working families that are the most generous group in America, giving away about 4.5 percent of their income on average. This compares to about 2.5 percent among the middle class, and 3 percent among high-income families.

We hope that the fire of commitment will be growing in you over the next few weeks, and that you'll be inspired to do something truly generous. And please hear this: **whatever** your gift to FUS may be, we celebrate and appreciate it.

As we approach our pledge campaign, let's each look inside for what it is that we most treasure and value about FUS and make a personal commitment—as we are each able to do so—to empower those values in living community. FUS needs all the support that you can give!

Schedule of Events: Here's a high level schedule of activities for our stewardship campaign for 2015 - 2016.

April:

- ✚ Committees submit budget requests to the Treasurer and Finance Committee
- ✚ The Treasurer and Finance Committee formulate a proposed budget for 2015 – 2016, based on the requests by the various committees, and present it to the Board.

May:

- ✚ Stewardship Dinner, May 16: We gather for a super pot-luck dinner to simply enjoy each other's company as a celebration of FUS. You will be treated to a brief slide show about our financial circumstances and budget, with pledging information.
- ✚ Stewardship Sunday, May 17: Our sermon for that day is on the topic of stewardship, and pledge cards are distributed after the service.
- ✚ Congregation returns pledge cards to the Treasurer.

June:

- ✚ All pledge cards returned by May 31
- ✚ Board adjusts preliminary budget based on actual pledge total
- ✚ Board presents final budget to congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting on June 28; we also vote on the slate of candidates presented by the nominating committee for open Board positions.

So now you know (almost) everything you need to know to start thinking about how you can financially support FUS in the coming fiscal year!

Check Out Our New Website!

fuspueblo.org

Many thanks to our Web team for designing and putting up our new website! Everyone, go there and enjoy!!! And be sure to tell these folks how much it's appreciated.

Web Team:

- ✚ *Isabel Soto-Luna, Chair*
- ✚ *William Sandoval*
- ✚ *Michele Barnes*
- ✚ *Jimmie Garcia*

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND OTHER GATHERINGS

Socrates Café, 9:15 each Sunday: If you are an early riser and want to share coffee and conversation with others, join us before the service on Sunday mornings for the Socrates Cafe. The topics vary, depending on current events, group decisions, or who is attending. The discussions are always lively, with many differing ideas and points of view. We emphasize our UU principles, especially that of respect.

Philosophy at Four: Each Thursday, join this gaggle of philosophers who are continuing their philosophical journey. Contact Steve Acker (423-930-7277) for additional information.

Happy Bookers: Lunch Meeting: Wednesday, 4/1, 11:30 AM, Victoria's Deli. This month's book is **Be Safe I Love You** by Cara Hoffman. Discussion meeting: 4/15, 4:00.

Program Committee: Friday, 4/3, 4:30

Easter Brunch: Sunday, 4/5, 9:00 AM. We will have our annual Easter brunch before the Service. Please bring a brunchey-dish share.

Social Justice Committee: Tuesday, 4/7, 6:00. We will continue to discuss the way forward in our social justice thrust for 2015. Come and put in your two cents!

Member Support Committee: Wednesday, 4/8, 4:00

Board of Directors: Wednesday, 4/8, 6:15

Fellowship Breakfast: Friday, 4/11, 9:00 AM, the B Street Café. Bring your friends and join us for breakfast and a lively conversation. You-all come!

Social Justice Movie and Potluck: Saturday, 4/11. Bring a dish to share at 5:00 and stay for the show at 6:30. This month our presentation is a special Earth Day offering in keeping with our UU principal celebrating the web of all life. We will show the 2013 PBS special **NOVA: Earth from Space**, a critically-acclaimed special that reveals a spectacular vision of our planet. This program takes data from each observed satellite and transforms them into dazzling visual sequences that expose the intricate and surprising web of forces that sustain life on earth. Please bring a friend and join us in experiencing our planet, the awe of science, and the spirituality of it all. We will share and discuss after the program.

Communications Workshop, led by Rev. Pallas

Stanford: Saturday, 4/18, 8:45 AM to noon, at FUS. All members and friends of the church are invited to attend a workshop focusing on communication, building leadership, and church climate. Please attend with the intention of learning and improving First Unitarian Society. Questions? See Steve Acker or Midge Birgers. Refreshments will be served.

Saturday Night Movie and Potluck: 4/25, 5:00. Bring a dish to share for the potluck and then stay for the film and discussion at 6:30. The movie this month is **St. Vincent** starring Bill Murray, Melissa McCarthy, and Naomi Watts. This movie focuses on a crotchety old man who is an alcoholic and who owes money all over town. He manages to get a "gig" baby-sitting a hard-working single mom's son, Oliver, after school. Vincent is a horrible influence, taking Oliver to bars and

racetracks and teaching him how to fight. We discover, however, that there is more to Vincent than meets the eye, and he is not so bad after all. It is a hilarious movie, yet very touching, and has moments with more substance than the "typical" comedy. (PG-13, 102 minutes)

Ice Cream Sunday: Sunday, 4/26. We will celebrate April birthdays after the service with organic ice cream. If your birthday comes in April, let us know your favorite flavor so we can honor you properly.

BIG Yard and Bake Sale May 9!!

Bring your contributions for our largest fundraiser of the year! Leave them anytime between now and May 7 in the back storage room. We welcome any of the following:

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| ✚ Kitchen and household items | ✚ Tools (garden or shop) |
| ✚ Baby/children's clothing, toys, cribs, strollers, etc. | ✚ Electronics, computers, & other such items, in working condition |
| ✚ Clothing (clean & in saleable condition) | ✚ Shoes, boots, handbags, luggage |
| ✚ Furniture of all kinds | ✚ Rugs, lamps, linens |

We also need folks to bring cookies, cupcakes, and other bake sale items, INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED.

BOARD NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU TO SERVE

The Nominating Committee is an elected committee whose main duty is to prepare a slate of candidates to fill open Board of Trustee positions. This year, your Nominating Committee is comprised of Ib Birgers and William Sandoval, with one open slot to be determined. These folks also propose the next year's nominating committee.

It is the responsibility of this committee to evaluate the needs of FUS and the qualifications of prospective candidates. If more than one person is interested in a position, the committee has the discretion to evaluate each candidate and present the slate they believe meets the needs of FUS. Here is the process:

- ✚ Anyone who is interested in or has suggestions to serve on the Board or Nominating Committee should speak to one of the members. (Those eligible to run must be members in good standing, and must have been a member for at least one year.)

WUULF (WESTERN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST LIFE FESTIVAL) JUNE 22- 28, 2015

WUULF will have its annual festival at Ghost Ranch, near Abiquiu, New Mexico. Ghost Ranch is a conference center framed by red cliffs and is "thought to be a spiritual place, and the perfect environment for us to create the intentional community of WUULF". The theme speakers will be: author, Lesley Poling-Kempes, speaking on "Writing with a Sense of Place", author/historian, Nancy R. Bartlit, speaking on "How Wildlife, Sacred to the Dine, Shaped a Navajo Code, Shortening WW11" and lecturer, David Guitierrez, speaking on "Sacred Places". Rev. Nathan Mesnikoff will be the community minister.

There are activities for everyone, including youth and young adult programming. You may hike, raft, ride your bicycle, sing, play your musical instrument, do yoga daily, read at the library, (open 24 hours), take photos, bird watch. You may take trips to Santa Fe, local wineries, soak in the hot springs at Ojo Caliente, visit a mosque, monastery. and so much more!

Registration closes May 1st. You may camp or stay in a room, eat all or some of you meals in the cafeteria See Ib or Midge if you are curious. They consider WUULF to be their annual retreat! Check out the WUULF website, www.wuulf.org.

- ✚ The slate is completed and reviewed by the Board in early June.
- ✚ Members are notified of the slate (per by-laws) two weeks before the annual meeting, and the slate is formally presented to the members at the annual meeting, which is scheduled for **June 28** after the service.
- ✚ The congregation votes on the slate of candidates (as well as the new budget).

So What's in Store for This Year? The status of the Board has changed since last month, so here's an update:

- ✚ President: Midge Birgers (One year remaining)
- ✚ Vice President: Open
- ✚ Secretary: Kate Langworthy (Term up at end of FY)
- ✚ Treasurer: Jan Butorac (One year remaining but will not serve in this position for the coming FY)
- ✚ At Large (Member Services): Dorie Silverman (Term up at end of FY)
- ✚ At Large (Programs): Shawn Collins (Term up at end of FY)
- ✚ At Large (Operations): Louise Burg (One year remaining)

Open positions that require nominations:

- ✚ Vice President: Two-year term
- ✚ Secretary: Two-year term
- ✚ Treasurer: Two-year term
- ✚ At Large (Member Services): Two-year term
- ✚ At-Large (Programs): Two-year term

Let anyone on the Nominating Committee know if you are interested in any of these positions! FUS needs you!

The Mission of the First Unitarian Society of Pueblo

We are a diverse, welcoming community which celebrates spiritual and religious freedom, nurtures growth and learning, and works toward a more compassionate, tolerant, and sustainable world.

FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF PUEBLO

Board of Directors: Steve Acker, President; Midge Birgers, Vice President; Kate Langworthy, Secretary; Jan Butorac, Treasurer; Shawn Collins, Louise Burg, and Dorie Silverman, Directors at Large

Pianist/Harpist: Myrna Steele **Chalice Flame Editor:** Jan Butorac

FUS Administrator: Michele Barnes

APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Happy Bookers Lunch: 11:30, Victoria's Deli <i>Be Safe I Love You</i> by Cara Hoffman	2 Philosophy at 4:00	3 Program Committee: 4:30	4
5 Easter Brunch: 9:00 Service: 10:30 Steve Acker <i>"Cycles"</i> Service Leader: Kathryn Acker	6	7 Social Justice Committee: 6:00	8 Member Support Committee: 4:00 FUS Board of Directors: 6:15	9 E.A.S.T. Board Meeting: 5:30 Vazquez Taco Shop	10 Fellowship Breakfast: 9:00, B Street Cafe	11 Social Justice Potluck & Documentary: 5:00/6:30 NOVA: Earth from Space
12 Socrates Café: 9:15 Service: 10:30 Dr. Ann Courtright and Louise Burg - <i>"Single-Payer Health Care: Bipartisan Support for Universal Health Care"</i> Service Leader: Don Bruestle	13	14	15 Happy Bookers Discussion: 4:00-5:30	16 Philosophy at 4:00	17	18 Communications Workshop with Rev. Pallas Stanford: 8:45 AM – Noon
19 Socrates Café: 9:15 Service: 10:30 Dr. Marc Pratarelli <i>"Our Earth"</i> Service Leader: Midge Birgers	20	21	22	23 Philosophy at 4:00	24	25 Movie and Pot-Luck Night: 5:00/6:30 St. Vincent
26 Socrates Café: 9:15 Service: 10:30 Jan Butorac <i>"Unitarian Universalism's Selma Awakening"</i> Service Leader: Dorie Silverman	27	28	29	30 Philosophy at 4:00	All functions are held at FUS unless otherwise noted.	

First Unitarian Society
110 S. Lacrosse Avenue
Pueblo, Colorado 81001.4429

Our facility is handicap accessible.

ABOUT THE FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY

The First Unitarian Society (FUS) is affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the Mountain/Desert District of the UUA. Our religious organization is non-creedal and encourages free inquiry and exploration of ideas. Members are not required to share the same beliefs; we come from a variety of backgrounds including lifelong UUs, humanists, Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, pagans, agnostics, atheists, and others. FUS welcomes gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered persons.

For more information, see www.fuspueblo.org and www.uua.org, or find us on Facebook at First Unitarian Society of Pueblo. If you would like to either subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter, contact pueblounitarian@earthlink.net.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES

We covenant to affirm and promote the Principals and Purposes of the Unitarian Universalist Association:

- ✚ The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- ✚ Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- ✚ Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregation;
- ✚ A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- ✚ The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregation and all society;
- ✚ The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;
- ✚ Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.