



# Chalice Flame

## First Unitarian Society of Pueblo



AUGUST 2014

MEMBER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

VOLUME XIV, ISSUE VIII

### SUNDAY SERVICES FOR AUGUST

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

**AUGUST 3: REV. ROGER BUTTS**

#### "Blessed Are the Peacemakers"

We will focus on three peacemakers with different styles: Thomas Merton, Dorothy Day, and Theodore Parker.

**Service Leader: Midge Birgers**

**AUGUST 10: JAN BUTORAC**

#### "The Big Heart of Universalism and the Religious Right"

Fundamentalist Christians are convinced that there has been a dangerous shift away from the assumptions and ideas that they believe built and sustained our nation. 200 years ago, Universalism arose in just such a time of deep societal conflict. We shall explore how we can unashamedly give voice to our theological beliefs and spiritual perspectives just as our optimistic and unashamed Universalist forebears did.

**Service Leader: TBD**

**AUGUST 17: "POETRY SUNDAY"**

"The only gift is a portion of thyself," wrote Ralph Waldo Emerson, our Unitarian muse. Share your original poetry and favorite poets with us. We look forward to hearing you.

**Service Leader: Steve Acker**

**AUGUST 24: JANE MILNE**

"Pueblo Ma and Pa Stores" Storyteller Jane Milne will return to share some of Pueblo's history with us. Join us for a delightful morning.

**Service Leader: Janice Nelson**

**AUGUST 31: "THE VALUE OF LABOR"**

**Steve Acker**

Labor's relationships with management have led to a troubled history. With the advent of new technologies, and our profit driven economy, today's laborers face even greater challenges. We will look at some of the driving forces that labor has faced in this country.

**Service Leader: Kathryn Acker**

### "TORCHLIGHTS" FROM OUR PRESIDENT, STEVE ACKER



I confess I am feeling a bit guilty. When we drafted our budget for this fiscal year, we opted to not send in our dues to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). I felt this to be as much of an obligation as our electric bill or our other bills. I know our income is limited and we had to make some hard choices. But I wanted to let you all know why I feel this is important and why I hope we will make these dues a priority in the future.

I think about the interconnected web of life. I think about how important my connection with each of you is and how you have given me so much of yourselves. I think of how important FUS is to me and how empty I would feel without this connection. But it's not enough...call it selfish of me if you will, but I want more. I think you do too.

We tend to think of ourselves as a small congregation, but that doesn't mean that there aren't ways to connect to the larger congregation of the UUA. One of the ways is through our quarterly magazine *UU World*. Another more comprehensive way is through the internet. I know some of you are aware of the wealth of resources available through the MDD website ([www.mdduua.org](http://www.mdduua.org)) and the UUA website ([www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)). But some of you may not be...

I was navigating the MDD site and came across this link: [www.createmeaning.org](http://www.createmeaning.org) and from there connected to further resources. I found four main topics that I spent a lot of time surfing: What's New; Your Path; Community, and Our World. I found this gem: [http://greatergood.berkeley.edu/topic/mindfulness/definition#what\\_is](http://greatergood.berkeley.edu/topic/mindfulness/definition#what_is), and this one: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWypWe9UAhQ> on Trust. Many religious leaders talk about the importance of compassion. Check out this site:

<http://charterforcompassion.org/the-charter> . Here's an article I found interesting:

<http://andrewcohen.org/blog/spiritual-not-religious> .

Here's another: <http://www.davidkorten.org/life-ancient-wisdom>. I've said many times to many people that we need to shift our paradigm from one of competition to cooperation. Check out this link: <http://www.davidkorten.org/the-great-turning-in-bullet-points>.

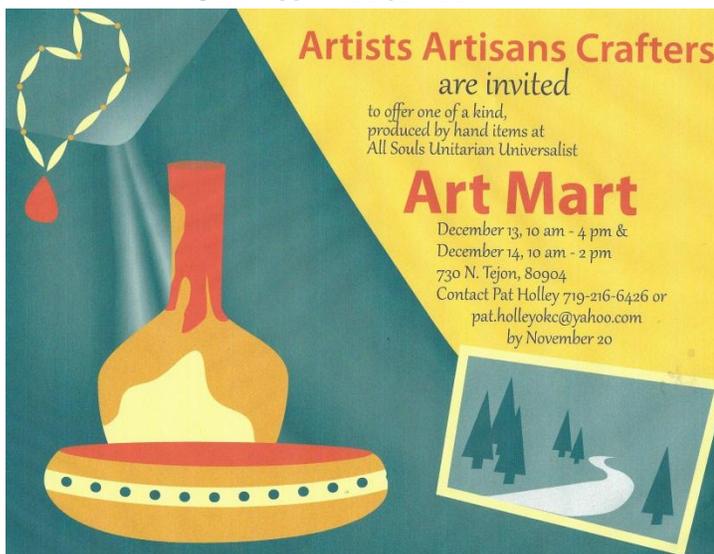
This is but a very small sampling of what's available to us. There are links to TED talks. There are links to articles and books. Once we enter the rabbit hole, there seems to be no end to interconnected links.

Setting up and maintaining these websites is the product of a dedicated staff of paid and volunteer workers, and this is but one of the many resources we have for our use. We have access to workshops, seminars, and educational materials. We keep in touch with cutting-edge issues within our congregations. We have resources for our own Sunday services and more. All of this costs money.

When it was decided not to pay our dues to the UUA and MDD the question came up "What do we get for our money?" I hope that this column answers this question (at a high level). Please check out the recommended links and get a more complete answer right at your fingertips!

*Yours in Community, Steve*

### **CALLING ALL ARTISTS: ART SHOW AND SALE AT ALL SOULS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS IN COLORADO SPRINGS IN DECEMBER**



*See Star Jorgensen for more information.*

### **BOARD BITS FROM JULY'S MEETING**

Meeting was held July 8 at 6:15.

- ✚ Treasurer's Report: We have a positive balance once bills are paid. The carry-over amounts was discussed, and the Board voted that if there is a surplus, we put it into a contingency fund.
- ✚ Operations: Building and Grounds has created a three ring binder with information on expenses, and needed activity/actions for the year. Finance and Fundraising is working on long-range planning.
- ✚ Program: The Rev. Pallas Stanford will be speaking here on July 13<sup>th</sup>, Flame of Life UUs will share costs, so FUS will pay \$125. In August, we will have programs with Roger Butts and Jane Milne. We have 1-3 kids attending regularly.
- ✚ Member Support: They are updating the address book and it will be out soon. Caring has been sending out cards and notes.
- ✚ King Sooper reloadable cards seem like a good fundraiser but we need to fill out paperwork. Shawn will scan the needed documents and then email them to their headquarters in Denver.
- ✚ New Business:
  - ✚ Board approved Louise's recommendation for a new artist to "deck the walls."
  - ✚ It was agreed that we have a booth at the Gay Pride Days on August 17<sup>th</sup>. Social Justice Committee to follow up.
  - ✚ Pat Spahr bequeathed a sum of money to FUS in her will. Board agreed to send an inquiry letter to her daughter requesting the status of this bequest.

### **UUs SUPPORTING THE FAITH SUMMIT ON STOPPING DEPORTATION**

In early July, at the UUA General Assembly Ware Lecture, immigration reform advocate Sister Simone Campbell, organizer of Nuns on the Bus, made a passionate call for us to "walk toward trouble." Our General Assembly delegates did that when they passed an **Action of Immediate Witness** calling on President Obama to stop the deportations of our immigrant siblings and called for Unitarian Universalists to participate in a broad coalition of faith groups and immigrant advocates at the **July 31-August 2 "Pray for Relief! Not One More Deportation"** actions in Washington, DC. Organizers hope 150+ faith leaders will engage in civil disobedience to protest the cruelty brought by the more than 1,100 daily deportations and

that hundreds more will come in support to the **Faith Summit** and the National Day Laborer Organizing Network's **Not One More Deportation Day of Action** on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. UUs have walked toward trouble before to protest the separation of families and have pledged to do so again at this action. The UUA hopes to see many UUs and their partners show up in the face of this trouble.

## VIEW FROM THE WINDOW "THE DANDELION AND THE ROSE"

There was once a young girl named Anna who loved the outdoors and would spend all the time she could in the fields and woods close to her home. One day, she came upon a field of dandelions. She was so happy and joyful with her discovery. She picked one of the flowers and looked at it carefully. It was round and full and had so many petals that she couldn't count them all. It shone like the color of the sun. Before she realized what she was doing, she'd picked one after another until she had a good-sized bouquet in her little hand. Anna decided that she would give the bouquet to her mama. She was certain her mama would love the dandelions as she did. She hopped and skipped all the way home, eager to give her mama the flowers.

When she got home, she saw her older brother sitting at the table. In the middle of the table was a vase that held a beautiful red rose. Her brother turned toward her as she came in and saw the dandelions in her hand.

"What are you going to do with those?" he asked.

"I was in the field and saw these flowers and wanted to share them with mama."

Her brother scoffed at her and said "Those are just weeds. They use up the nutrients of the soil that would be better used growing our crops. They are good for nothing and it would be much better if we torched the field and plowed those weeds back into the ground. If you want to give mama something of value, you should go in the garden and pick her a rose like I did. See how beautiful it looks and how wonderful it smells."

Her eyes filled with tears and all the joy of her discovery was gone. She ran out the door and slammed right into her papa as he was coming in from the barn.

"Why are you so sad and teary-eyed, little one?"

Through her sobs, Anna told her father about her discovery. She told of how she wanted to share her find with her mama and what her brother had just said to

her, and that she was going to throw the flowers in the trash pile.

Papa was a wise man and he loved his daughter very much. He took her by the hand and sat on a nearby log. He pulled his daughter onto his lap and said, "Let me see one of your flowers." Anna handed him a flower. He looked at it carefully and then smiled.

"Look at how deep and rich the color is!" he exclaimed. "There is beauty and worth in all the gifts of the Maker. It is not true that the dandelion is worthless. After all, it brought you great joy. In the springtime when the plants are young, I go into the field and gather as many as I can. Mama cooks them and serves them to us and these are the first greens that we eat each year.



*The lovely dandelion shining in the sun*

I also save some for making the wine that I drink at the end of a busy day. Each of the petals that you see is the promise of a new seed that is carried by the wind and finds new ground to grow. Thus when the next spring comes, I have new greens to harvest. You dry your eyes, little one, and go give your mama your flowers. I promise you, she will be very happy with your gift."

In spite of what papa said, Anna was still unsure if her mama would accept her gift but she went in search of her mama anyway. She found her mama in the sitting room; sewing. With eyes downcast, she handed her mama the flowers and said, "I found these in the field and thought they were beautiful. I wanted to share them with you."

Mama took the flowers; smiled, and kissed her daughter on the forehead. "Look how beautiful they are!" she exclaimed. "They shine as brightly as the sun! Come; help me find a vase to put them in."

Mama put the dandelions in the vase, filled it with water, and placed it on the table right next to the rose. Anna was very happy that her mama accepted her gift. Although she didn't have the words to describe how she felt, she knew in her heart that all things given in the spirit of love are good.

## **Gampi**

### **PUEBLO GAY PRIDE DAYS MINERAL PALACE PARK AUGUST 16 & 17**

**August 16:** Equality 5K Run and Annual Picnic

**August 17:** Parade and Festival

**Sign up to set up, tear down, and/or sit at the FUS table for an hour at Mineral Palace Park Noon to 4:00 on the 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Contact Shawn Collins:  
253.0540 or 821.3278**

More information at:

[info@socoequality.org](mailto:info@socoequality.org)

To volunteer: [pride@socoequality.org](mailto:pride@socoequality.org)

**Sponsors:** Andrew Baca and Daneya Esgar  
**Southern Colorado Equality Alliance**

719.569.5453

*Note: QPOP stands for Queer People of Pueblo*

issues. We have representatives working with the local Faith Leaders group and Together Colorado in the areas of health reform, gun control, immigration, and other issues. Our Society has taken a strong stand on sustainability issues and formed a Sustainability Directives group (recently inactive). We offer educational documentaries on a variety of subjects. As individuals, our members participate in many local like-minded groups.

We are looking for more ways to reach out into the Pueblo community, and for more participation. We would like to get more of our members to be involved and determine our new directions regarding social justice. Here are some opportunities:

- ✚ Attend the educational documentary on Sun. Aug 10 after our service. Bring a snack and view **Earth**, a film narrated by James Earl Jones depicting the migration of animal families with beautiful photography
- ✚ Find out how you can be involved in the *Together Colorado* immigration action group-contact Steve Acker, Midge Birgers, or Doug Ohmans.
- ✚ Join the local initiative groups to help get out the vote and study the issues and candidates. This is an especially important year!
- ✚ Read the book **The New Jim Crow** by Dr. Michelle Alexander. This is a "common read" book from our national UUA that provides action and activities if we want to become active.
- ✚ Attend a meeting at FUS on Tuesday, September 5 at 6:30 for snacks and discussion about what direction we want to pursue here, and to receive an update on current activities. Please put this on your calendar!
- ✚ Join with others from FUS for the Gay Pride day activities on August 17 following the service. We have participated in this for many years, and have reserved a booth, and we need volunteers to set up and take down, as well as sit and talk to people about our congregation and our denomination. Contact Shawn Collins for needs (and to get the time of the parade if you want to participate).

For any questions or how you can become involved in any of these activities, contact Janice Nelson, Chair of the Social Justice Committee.

## **AND JUSTICE FOR ALL**

The Unitarian Universalist Association has long been involved in social issues in keeping with our seven principles. The national UUA has many resources available, and partners with many other organizations to work on issues including economic Justice, environmental issues, immigration, world peace, LGBT issues, racial and equality issues, and reproductive rights, as well as the comprehensive program *Standing on the Side of Love*.

In Pueblo, FUS as an organization and individuals on their own have been involved many issues. We completed the requirements and are classified as a "Welcoming Congregation" for our work with the LGBT

## HOUSEKEEPING TIPS....

For meetings or other events at church, consider the following:

- ✚ Tell our Administrator Michele Barnes (at FUS on Fridays 10 - 2 and usually at services on Sundays) about your meeting and/or write your meeting date/time on the central calendar (desk in the office) to avoid conflicts.
- ✚ The building is available for use for all members, and we have a rental policy and fee schedule for non-members and groups.
- ✚ You may also contact Michele Barnes, our acting Administrator, on Fridays to arrange for meetings, rentals, etc.
- ✚ As part of the responsibilities for renters and anyone who uses the building, it is expected that the rooms, including the kitchen, will be left clean and ready for the next use.

Any problems with the building, equipment, or requests should be reported to Louise Burg, or leave a note in the box on the table in the fellowship area.

## THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE (UUSC) SUPPORTS DETROIT CITIZENS' RIGHT TO WATER: SIGN THE PETITION

Mass water shutoffs in Detroit, Mich. are making news around the world. The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department has reported shutting off water to over 11,000 households in the past two months. Water is not a luxury good. It is a basic human right due to all people, including low-income individuals and families. Your voice will help us put necessary pressure on Detroit officials and help those affected by the shutoffs.

Families with infants and children, people living with disabilities or chronic illness, and the elderly will be hurt most by these shutoffs. Their health is at risk without adequate water and sanitation. Child Protective Services must, by law, move to protect children in homes without adequate water and sanitation — children may be taken from their parents and put into foster care.

**Take action now:** Sign the petition at the link below. UUSC and the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) are petitioning Mayor Michael Duggan, DWSD Director Sue McCormick, and Emergency Manager Kevyn Orr to restore water to most vulnerable households and to stop further shutoffs to vulnerable households. Help us

send a strong message to Detroit's emergency manager and water utility director. Help stop mass shutoffs and protect residents of this great American city. Help defend the human right to water. Go to this link and sign the petition:

[http://actnow.uusc.org/site/PageNavigator/Detroit\\_Water\\_Shutoffs\\_Petition.html](http://actnow.uusc.org/site/PageNavigator/Detroit_Water_Shutoffs_Petition.html)

The UUSC will deliver these signatures to Detroit's mayor, Water and Sewerage Department director, and emergency manager.

Sincerely, **Pamela Sparr**,

**Associate Director for Advocacy, Activism, and Engagement, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee**

### THANKS !!

SPECIAL THANKS TO **SHAWN COLLINS**—WITH PAID HELP (KIDS)—AND TO **STAR JORGENSEN** FOR CLEANING THE CHURCH IN JULY!

MANY THANKS ALSO TO **SHAWN COLLINS** FOR PURCHASING A NEW COMPUTER AND DONATING IT TO FUS!

BUNCHES OF THANKS TO **DON BRUESTLE** FOR REGULARLY CLEARING AND CUTTING UP BRANCHES THAT HAVE FALLEN FROM OUR TREES!

*THANKS TO ALL YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO.*

## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND OTHER GATHERINGS

### **Socrates Café, 9:00 each Sunday:**

Come talk philosophy, life, death, and religion with a lively group of interesting FUS folks.

**Happy Bookers: Lunch meeting 8/6** at Park East Restaurant, 720 Goodnight Ave., at 11:30AM; discussion meeting Aug. 20, 4:00 PM at FUS. We are reading **Half Broke Horses** (a true-life novel) by Jeannette Walls.

**Philosophy at Four (Each Thursday) (cancelled Aug. 7 as the Ackers are on vacation):** Join this gaggle of philosophers who are continuing their journey with the book **What God Said** by Neale Donald Walsh. Contact Steve Acker (423.930.7277) for additional information.

**Singing Practice: Each Thursday at 6:00** with Michele Barnes.

**Fellowship Breakfast: 8/8, 9 AM:** Each second Friday, join the bunch for lively conversation and a great breakfast. This month we will return to a favorite

haunt—Mi Ranchito Mexican Restaurant, 525 S. Pueblo Blvd. Come and be part of the group!

**Social Justice Movie: 8/10, noon:** Each second Sunday, bring a snack and join us to view a movie with a social justice message. This month, see **Earth**, a film narrated by James Earl Jones depicting the migration of animal families with beautiful photography.

**Gay Pride Events, 8/16 – 17:** See box on p. 4. Sign up to set up, clean up, and/or sit for one hour at the FUS table on the 17<sup>th</sup>! It's fun!

**Pueblo Pagans: 8/20, 6:00.** This monthly discussion / teaching group encourages everyone from the novice to the experienced to learn new things, share knowledge, and have fellowship with other pagans. Led by Michele Barnes.

**Saturday Night Movie and Pot Luck: 8/30:** Bring a dish to share for the 5:00 potluck, and stick around for the movie at 6:30. This month, see **Enough Said**, a comedy about a divorced woman venturing into a relationship with a sweet man. But things get tricky when she

discovers that the man she is dating is the hated ex-husband of her new best friend. See James Gandolfini (of "Sopranos" fame) in his final performance before his untimely death last year, along with Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Catherine Keener.

**Ice Cream Sunday, 8/31:** We will celebrate August birthdays after the service. If your birthday comes in August, let us know your favorite flavor so we can honor you properly.

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***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.



***A flame within a chalice represents the Unitarian Universalist Association and is a symbol of the Unitarian Universalist faith.***

**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 and Music Director:** Michele Barnes

## AUGUST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> Socrates Café: 9:00 Service: 10:30 Rev. Roger Butts— “Blessed are the Peacemakers” Service Leader: Midge Birgers	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Happy Bookers Lunch: 11:30, Park	<b>7</b> Philosophy at 4:00 <b>cancelled this week</b> Singing Practice 6:00	<b>8</b> Fellowship Breakfast: 9:00, Mi Ranchito  Program Committee: 4:30	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> Socrates Café: 9:00 Service: 10:30: Jan Butorac—“The Big Heart of Universalism and the Religious Right” Service Leader: TBD Noon: Social Justice Movie— <i>Earth</i> . Bring a snack!	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  Board of Directors: 6:15	<b>13</b>  Member Support Committee: 4:00	<b>14</b>  Philosophy at 4:00 Singing Practice 6:00	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  Gay Pride Day: Equality 5K Run and Annual Picnic
<b>17</b> Gay Pride Day Socrates Café: 9:00 Service: 10:30 “Poetry Sunday” Service Leader: Steve Acker FUS Gay Pride Table at Mineral Palace Park Festival: Noon – 4:00	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  Happy Bookers Discussion: 4:00- 5:30 Pueblo Pagans: 6:00	<b>21</b>  Philosophy at 4:00 Singing Practice 6:00]	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Socrates Café: 9:00 Service: 10:30 Storyteller Jane Milne: “Pueblo Ma and Pa Stores” Service Leader: Janice Nelson	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>28</b>  Philosophy at 4:00 Singing Practice 6:00	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  Movie & Pot Luck Night: 5:00 Movie: <i>Enough                      Said</i>
<b>31</b> Socrates Café: 9:00 Service: 10:30 Steve Acker: “The Value of Labor” Service Leader: Kathryn Acker <i>Ice Cream Sunday</i>						

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.uupueblo.org](http://www.uupueblo.org) and [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org). If you would like to either subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter, contact [pueblounitarian@earthlink.net](mailto:pueblounitarian@earthlink.net).

## Unitarian Universalist Principles and Purposes

We covenant to affirm and promote the Principles 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.