



Chalice Flame

First Unitarian Society of Pueblo



DECEMBER 2014

MEMBER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

VOLUME XIV, ISSUE XII

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

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

DECEMBER 7: CHARLES BUTLER

“Conversions”

In recognition of Pearl Harbor Day, Chuck Butler, an active member of Veterans for Peace, will speak about his personal conversions triggered by Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

Service Leader: Don Bruestle

DECEMBER 14: REV. NATHAN MESNIKOFF

“Stay in Shape: Form, Integrity, and Relationship”

The word *integrity* comes from the Latin for “whole”. How do we maintain our wholeness in a complex world? How do we maintain our wholeness in the relationships that define our lives?

Service Leader: Midge Birgers

DECEMBER 21: STEVE AND KATHY ACKER

“Christmas Celebration”

Our celebration will include the singing of Christmas carols and readings about the holidays. Mrs. Claus will be the service leader and Santa will read *The Little Christmas Elf* to the children. Santa's helpers will collect unwrapped presents for delivery to Posada. We will serve seasonal refreshments after the service and Santa will be available for last-minute Christmas wishes.

Service Leader: Kathryn Acker

DECEMBER 21, 6:30 PM: MICHELE BARNES AND THE PAGAN GROUP

“Winter Solstice”

The seasons change and the wheel turns. We turn now to the darkest night of the year and wait in anticipation for the return of the sun. Winter is upon us. The world around us seems to hibernate and to an extent so do we, though for some this is an energizing time of year. Join us in circle as we help to bring back the light. Refreshments including mead and honey cakes will be served.

DECEMBER 28: JAN BUTORAC

“Here Comes 2014, 365 Days to Live and to Remember”

The new year is a time for leaving behind the outworn and false, the bad habits or regrets of the past year—in order to create of this yet unformed year something hopeful and new. Each new day presents a new beginning, a time of possibility. Having Jan 1st come around each year gives us a way to mark the time, to reflect on the past, and to contemplate our hopes for the future. Service Leader: Maria

After the service, we will celebrate December birthdays with organic ice cream!

“TORCHLIGHTS” FROM OUR PRESIDENT, STEVE ACKER: T’IS THE SEASON

Yes, we’ve heard the statement that “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Our better nature wants us to believe that we truly live by this principle—but then I have to wonder.



The Halloween costumes are barely put away when Thanksgiving season is almost a month away, and the artificial trees and decorations come out. Store shelves are stocked with Christmas fare and media is inundated with the message “BUY, BUY, BUY!” Advertisers remind us that Thanksgiving isn’t important. What’s really important is the day *after*.

Black Friday.

This is the day when shoppers struggle, push, shove, and trample each other to get the best deals. The term “Black” Friday was named for the fact that retailers get out of the red and into the black – the term for profit. Perhaps you’ll think I’m a pessimistic soul, but I see black as also signifying one of the darkest aspects of our souls: greed.

Don't get me wrong, I'm just as susceptible to all the hype as anyone else. I love the lights and the decorated trees and the Christmas music in the background. I eagerly look forward to the grandkids opening their gifts. However, it takes a conscious effort on my part to go beyond the hype and realize I really don't "need" anything material. I am extremely blessed and grateful for all I do have. I realize there are many in our community who have a lot less.

A movie that came out in 2000 had a profound impact on me—**Pay It Forward**. If you haven't seen it, I highly recommend you do so. The premise is that if one person chooses to help out three people, and each of those people in turn helps out three people, and on and on, pretty soon you have people helping people all over the place! Hmmm... Pay it forward.... What a revolutionary idea!

I read an article about the effectiveness of this concept: when a customer at Starbucks paid for his own coffee, he also paid for the individual's coffee in the car behind him. The chain went on unbroken for quite some time. One of the Starbucks workers was inspired to dig into his own pocket and paid for a coffee for a homeless man outside the store.

It is more blessed to give than to receive. Why? Because it feels so good to the giver as well as the receiver. Put it into practice and we just might discover the real joy behind the season of Christmas. In fact, it might feel so good that we'll want to continue throughout the year.

Merry Christmas!

Steve Acker

President, First Unitarian Society Board of Directors

BIG RAFFLE THIS MONTH: HAIR PRODUCTS/SERVICES BASKET!

The Fundraising Committee is raffling off an absolutely fabulous basket of hair products and services worth more than \$100.00—donated by Jimmy Garcia! We will begin to sell \$5.00 raffle tickets on Sunday, Dec. 8 and will draw the winning ticket at the Sunday service on Dec. 21. Buy some tickets for your friends and family! (And for yourself, of course.) The basket includes:

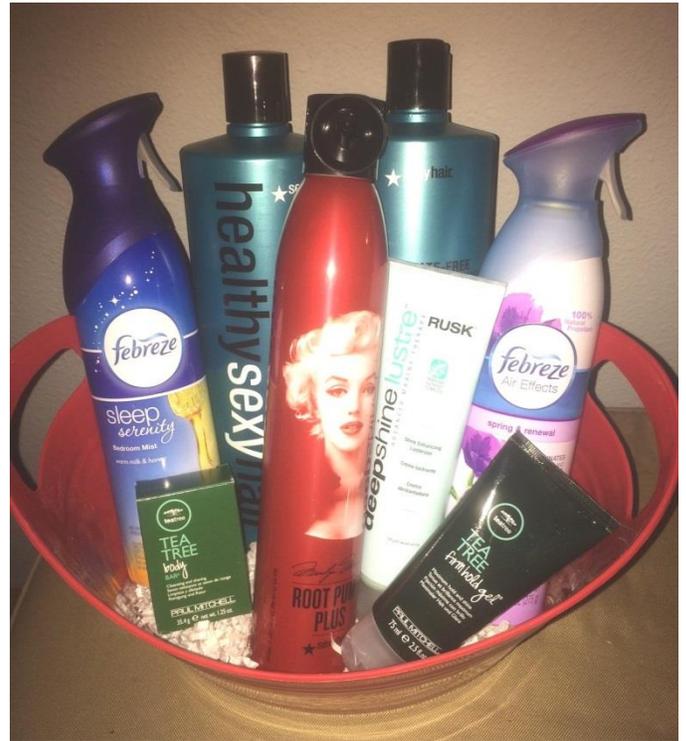
- ✚ Healthy Sexy shampoo and conditioner
- ✚ Two Febreze Air Effects air fresheners
- ✚ Big Sexy Hair Root Pump Plus
- ✚ Rusk Deep Shine
- ✚ Paul Mitchell Tea Tree Gel and Body Bar

✚ \$35 gift card to *Headlines Salon* at Abriendo and Main—could be for a great cut and style by Jimmy!

Total Retail Value: \$100.00+

Thanks Jimmy!!!

(P.S. You don't have to be present to win.)



Lots of goodies in our raffle basket! Tickets only \$5.00; drawing 12/21 after the service. Buy several!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! ISABEL SOTO-LUNA AND SHAWN YASUTAKE

Isabel and Shawn signed the membership book in early November!! Welcome to the FUS fold!



Shawn and Isabel (shown here with darling son William) are new members of FUS! We are so happy they have joined us.

FUN AND FESTIVITIES AT FUS HALLOWEEN PARTY

The party on Saturday, November 1 proved to be a lot of fun for all who attended! Plus we all enjoyed the great food that everyone brought. Don't you wish you had come???



Dorie as a witch and Cyndi as a spider: Don't get trapped by either of these women!



Sandy as a very realistic hippie and Michele as an airline passenger. The look like they're having oddles of fun!



Midge as a cat, John also as a hippie, and Ivy as a very credible zebra



Ib says "Ah, gay Pareee!"



Jan as a walking-dead witch, and Jim as—himself!



Valerie dressed as—yes—a tree! A+ on that costume! And here's Maria as a little fairy—not exactly in character, however. ;-)



John as a pig (pink and cute!) and Mary as a gypsy—and totally IN character.

THANKSGIVING DINNER AT FUS IS A WARM, CULINARILY-ADVENTURESOME EVENT!

About 15 people carrying mountains of food invaded FUS somewhere around 2:00 on Thursday, Nov. 27. They were allowed to enter, on the condition that they consent to “testing” of their wares. If their contributions were found to be acceptable, we would offer them to be eaten. Well, what do you know? Every single dish was found to be well beyond acceptable—in fact, all were rated “delicious”!

Each photo below illustrates one aspect of the feast on La Crosse Avenue in Good ol’ Pueblo.



Maria and Don dish up a grand banquet.



Such a bounty of delectable fare



Love Dorie's apron!



Dorie, Jan, Myrna, and Mary enjoying the feast



Maria, Janice, her sister Geri, Cyndi, and John



Kate, Ali, Michele, and Don happily consuming their repast. Dig those nifty fall decorations on all the tables!



HOLIDAY SALE BY RESIDENT FUS ARTISTS

OUR TALENTED ARTISTS WILL PRESENT THEIR WORKS OF ART FOR SALE ON SUNDAYS DURING DECEMBER, SO YOU CAN PURCHASE THEM AS GIFT ITEMS. ARTISTS WILL DONATE 25% OF THE PROCEEDS FUS.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND OTHER GATHERINGS

Socrates Café, 9:15 each Sunday

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

Social Justice Committee: Tuesday, 12/2/14, 6:30.

Dorie will give a presentation on sustainability, followed by a discussion of social justice priorities for the church.

Happy Bookers: Lunch Meeting, 12/3/14, 11:30

at East Coast Pizza, 1538 W. Highway 50, for lunch and conversation. Discussion meeting will be on **12/17 at 4:00**. December's book is *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Kahled Hosseini. (If you are interested in coming to our meetings, contact Kay Trainer at 719-544-7323 or Dorie Silverman at 719-566-4962.)

Program Committee: Friday, 12/5/14, 4:30

Snow-Flake Winter Decorating Party: 12/6/14, 4:00.

Winter Wonderland is the theme this year. Maria will lead an activity where each person will make his/her own snowflake as decorations. Dorie will bring some winter wonderland stuff, and others are invited to bring decorations from home. The goal is for a blue and white winter motif. (Bring a snack or a holiday treat.)

Philosophy at Four: Each Thursday (except Christmas), 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 (except Christmas)

Member Support Committee: 12/10, 4:00

Fellowship Breakfast: 12/12, 9:00: Each second Friday, join the bunch for lively conversation and a great breakfast. This month we will be at Victoria's Deli, 218 S. Victoria. Come and be part of the group!

Books and Brunch, led by Isabel Soto-Luna, will meet 12/20, at 10 am at FUS. Please bring a breakfast or brunch dish to share; Isabel will make sure we have plenty of coffee and tea. This month's book is *The Lovely Bones* by Alice Siebold, the story of a teenage girl who, after being raped and murdered, watches from

her personal Heaven as her family and friends struggle to move on with their lives while she comes to terms with her own death. The novel received much critical praise and became an instant bestseller. Contact Isabel at soto.isabel@gmail.com for more information.

Pueblo Pagans: 12/17, 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: Not scheduled for December due to all the holiday activities.

Ice Cream Sunday, 12/28. We will celebrate December birthdays after the service with organic ice cream. If your birthday comes in December, let us know your favorite flavor so we can honor you properly.

MANY THANKS!!

SPECIAL THANKS TO **MARIA** FOR CLEANING THE CHURCH A COUPLE OF TIMES IN NOVEMBER.

THANKS TO ALL FOR ALL THAT YOU DO!!!

VIEW FROM THE WINDOW

GONE FISHING

I put the fishing gear into the boat and climb in. He tells me to get the seat cushions out from the storage bin on board. I put on the mandatory life jacket (I balked at that once and he ordered me out of the boat). He takes up his station at the hoist and lowers the boat into the water. We paddle out of the shallow water of the cove and into deeper water. He assumes his position behind the wheel, lowers the motor into cruise position, and full-throttles the engine, headed to the Stumble Inn for bait and fuel.

Fishing was serious business for my grandfather. In fact, almost everything with my grandfather was serious. I rarely saw him smile. Looking back, though, as eldest grandson, I think it brought him great pleasure to take me into his world.

Bait bucket full and fuel replenished, we head for our first stop at the eastern end of Cherry Island. We drift with the current about 25 yards from shore. I hook on a minnow as he showed me and cast my line a few yards from shore. I reel in the slack and sit back to wait for the strike.

Minnows were my grandfather's preferred bait—no worms or "artificial" for him! He was a bass fisherman

CONGRATULATIONS TO GARY AND DALLAS!

AFTER NEARLY 40 YEARS TOGETHER, GARY AND DALLAS WERE ABLE TO MAKE IT LEGAL, AND GOT MARRIED IN NOVEMBER!! WE WISH THEM HAPPINESS AND PERPETUAL WEDDED BLISS!

FIRST FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST HELD OCTOBER 26

Our first fundraising breakfast, open to the public, was more fun than profit, but gave us a chance to get our feet wet and iron out kinks. The Fundraising Committee did a great job of organizing and preparing the meal, and everyone who came loved the breakfast of eggs, pancakes, fruit, and other fixin's.



Michele, Cyndi, Maria, and Jan (in back), cookin' up a storm



Steve remarks, "Them's a passle o' eggs!"

and never kept any of what he termed the lower orders –fit only as food for the *good* fish. He had his ways and seldom varied from the norm. I remember him as a thin man of average height wearing Coke-bottle glasses that made his eyes appear to be twice their size. By today's standards, he was very chauvinistic – a product of his upbringing. He never talked much, at least not to me, and it was the same when we were on the water. Long silences were punctuated only by matters pertaining to the business of fishing.

I didn't realize it at the time, but he was working his magic on me. I grew to appreciate the silence that was anything but... I found I enjoyed the lapping of the waves on the hull; the light breeze blowing us toward the shore; the clouds forming in the distance against the background of a cobalt sky; and the fact that I could see for miles in any direction I chose. Sound carries on the water and I could hear activity from miles away before I saw its source. I sit here visualizing that time so long ago and thinking of how that silence between us bound us together. I think he felt that bond as well and that's why we spent so much time together on the water. You see, there's fishing; and then there's fishing—catching the prizes that last a lifetime!

I didn't know the details of his life until long after he was gone. A proud man, he would dress up for work in suit, starched white shirt, tie, and top hat. At work he would change into his coveralls – required wear for his job as lathe operator at General Motors – and return home at the end of the day looking as sharp as when he had left. It's ironic that years later, I would work as a toolmaker in manufacturing at Kodak. Looking back, I don't think the details mattered; I knew him well as only a grandson could.

I was there in the final years of his life. I was there to drive him and grandma the four hours to the cottage when he could no longer do so. I was there when he fell getting into the boat and never again went out on the water. I was there when he passed on and I tearfully said my goodbyes.

I still treasure the silence where creativity is born and inspiration flows. I've traded in my spin cast rod and reel for a fly rod. Artificial nymphs have replaced minnows for bait. Trout have replaced bass as king of fresh-water fish, and wading remote streams in the cathedral of the woods has replaced the boat on the lake. Still, I think he would have approved. I feel him there at stream's edge. I lost him a long time ago, but he never really left.

Gampi



Ivy and Janice chatting



Kathy enjoying the meal

ETHYL KELHAM'S BROTHER BOB HIGHLIGHTED IN THE *PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN*

If you happened to read the November 24 *Chieftain* and saw the front page of the Local News section, you would have seen almost the entire page devoted to a story about Bob Trevithick, one of long-time member Ethyl Kelham's brothers, highlighting his 25 years of service to Meals on Wheels. Bob, 84 years old and one of Ethyl's two younger brothers, spends 3 ½ hours **every day** preparing and delivering meals to many shut-ins in Pueblo. He wants to help out as a personal obligation and repayment for the many favors that he's been granted over his rich life. "I think I'm very fortunate. God has been very good to me. No two ways about it." Bob grew up very poor on the East Side. His parents pulled him out of kindergarten because he didn't have shoes to wear. When they moved to the South Side, he had the opportunity for a "re-do" of kindergarten, and believes that this step was very important in his advancement. Not only did he excel in school, graduating from Central High with high honors, but he was also a star in many sports and was named #2 in athletics overall at Central in his senior year. He scored the winning touchdown in the state championship football game; the very same year, he won the state titles in both singles and doubles tennis!

Bob attended Colorado College on a scholarship, and upon graduation, was immediately hired by Pueblo District 60 in 1953. (He later earned a Master's degree.) He worked for 30 years for the District in a variety of roles, including teaching math and business and serving as the Activities Director for two high schools. Upon retirement, he was recruited by Meals on Wheels, and he's been an active volunteer ever since.



Bob Trevithick at work at Meals on Wheels (copy of photo from *Chieftain* article)

Ethyl is very proud of Bob and speaks highly of his work ethic, his smarts, and his warmth and caring nature. Instead of an early Thanksgiving dinner at home, Bob's family waited patiently until he had finished his rounds. Only then did they celebrate Thanksgiving with their own bounteous table of food, many blessings for health and happiness, and a continuing commitment to continue to give back to Pueblo.

SOCIAL JUSTICE CORNER

At the November 23 service, Jan Butorac spoke about our history as Unitarian Universalists. In her talk, and in the discussion following, we explored one of the uniting concepts of our faith practices, our long history of involvement in social justice issues.

On Dec. 2 at 6 pm, the Social Justice committee will hold our monthly meeting. Come and join us to share your ideas and help in the planning for our FUS community involvement. Dorie Silverman will present some information about sustainable living from her latest research.

Our members have a long history of involvement as individuals and as a church in many social justice issues. Included in those activities are peace, health care, human and civil rights issues, GLBT issues and other discrimination issues, global warming, and sustainability issues.

In January we are planning to move our monthly social justice documentary from Sundays to Saturday nights, the first to be on January 10. We will first have a fun pot luck dinner followed by the movie, and will invite the public to join us. (Title to be announced.)

Do plan to attend upcoming Sunday services related to social justice issues. For instance, Chuck Butler of *Veterans for Peace* will speak on Dec. 7. Come also to our January service and discussion of the latest racial justice issues and the vision of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Yours in justice,

Janice Nelson and the Social Justice Committee

OUR ARTIST IN RESIDENCE, IVY CARTIER, PAINTS EXQUISITE NATURE CENTER MURAL

Next time you drive by the Nature Center, look to your left before you get to the Raptor Center and see a lovely, evocative four-panel mural painted exclusively by artist and FUS friend, Ivy Cartier! She took advantage of a long-unused wall to apply her talents as a muralist and bring joy to all who see it.



Ivy walking in front of two of the panels



Ivy and the powerful owl panel

Ivy lobbied the City Council and others for monetary support, and received more than \$1,700 from the Council, the Alpha Mu Delta arts sorority, and the Pueblo Art Guild, which helped in her being able to complete the entire mural.



Ivy at the site, surveying her handiwork

We appreciate your talents and imagination, Ivy!

Photos courtesy of the Pueblo Chieftain

BILL SCHULTZ, CEO OF THE UUSC, SENDS MESSAGE REGARDING FERGUSON DECISION

Bill Schulz, CEO of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), sent out this message to all subscribers to UUSC communications:

Dear UUSC Member:

What happened in Ferguson is symptomatic of larger stresses that all of our communities face.

The shooting death of Michael Brown, an unarmed African American teenager, has reverberated far beyond that small community because it raises issues of justice and respect for the inherent dignity of every human being.

We take comfort in knowing that people of any race who are prepared to recognize the common woe of all injustice, the fragility of all life, and the need to reach out loving hands to all who suffer, can eventually change the world.

As we react to the decision of the grand jury not to indict Officer Darren Wilson, may we remember these eternal truths and stand in solidarity with the people in Ferguson and across this country who seek to dissolve the boundaries that divide our hearts.

Sincerely,

**Bill Schulz, President and CEO
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee**

***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

DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 Social Justice Committee Meeting: 6:00	3 Happy Bookers Lunch: 11:30, East Coast Pizza. (<i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i> by Khaled Hosseini)	4 Philosophy at 4:00 Singing Practice 6:00	5 Program Committee: 4:30	6 Decorate the church party: 4:00. Bring a treat to share.
7 Socrates Café: 9:15 Service: 10:30 Charles Butler "Conversions" Service Leader: Don Bruestle	8	9 Board of Directors: 6:15	10 Member Support Committee: 4:00	11 Philosophy at 4:00 Singing Practice 6:00	12 Fellowship Breakfast: 9:00, Victoria's Deli	13
14 Socrates Café: 9:15 Service: 10:30 Nathan Mesnikoff "Stay in Shape: Form, Integrity, and Relationship" Service Leader: Midge Birgers	15	16	17 Member Support Committee: 4:00 Pueblo Pagans: 6:00	18 Philosophy at 4:00: 4:00 Singing Practice: 6:00	19	20 Books & Brunch: 10:00, led by Isabel Soto-Luna: (<i>The Lovely Bones</i> by Alice Sebold)
21 Socrates Café: 9:15 Service: 10:30 "Christmas Celebration" Service Leaders: Steve and Kathy Acker Service: 6:30 Michele Barnes and the Pagan Group "Winter Solstice" Mead & honey cakes served	22	23	24 Happy Bookers Discussion: 4:00-5:30	25 Christmas Philosophy at 4:00 CANCELLED Singing Practice: CANCELLED	26	27 Movie and Pot-Luck Night: Not planned for this month
28 Socrates Café: 9:15 Service: 10:30 Jan Butorac "Here Comes 2014—365 Days to Live and to Remember" Service Leader: Maria	29	30	31		<i>ALL FUNCTIONS ARE HELD AT FUS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.</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 and www.uua.org. 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.