



Chalice Flame

First Unitarian Society of Pueblo



FEBRUARY, 2011

MEMBER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

VOLUME XIV, ISSUE II

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

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

FEBRUARY 2: Rev. John Mark Hild

"Creating Heaven on Earth"

Rev. Hild asks if it is possible to create heaven on earth, what would it look like, and why should we be trying to create a "heaven-like" environment? Are we expected to just wait for it?

Service Leader: Jan Butorac

FEBRUARY 9: Michele Barnes

"Pagan 101 from a Wiccan Perspective"

Michele, a pagan, will cover a bit of pagan history, dispel some common stereotypes, cover the eight holidays most pagans today celebrate, and discuss some elements of ritual which are commonly used by witches.

Service Leader: Shawn Collins

FEBRUARY 16: Steve Acker, Ibsen and Midge Birgers

"Love is a Choice"

Love is more than merely a power that claims us. It is also a power that we can claim by choosing our response to the truths of the world.

Service Leader: Midge Birgers

FEBRUARY 23: Don Bruestle

"Get Involved - Volunteering for Public Service"

City, County, and State boards and commissions offer the public an opportunity to become involved in various aspects of government. Several dozen government boards and commissions composed of citizen volunteers advise elected officials on public policy, and in some instances even make decisions in a quasi-judicial capacity. Questions are encouraged during the presentation.

Service Leader: Steve Acker

ON GOING TO CHURCH

Unitarian Universalist minister Rev. A. Powell Davies (1902-1957) preached the sermon from which this excerpt is taken on September 10, 1944. Even 70 years later, his message rings true. Why do we go to church? Because we can be more together than by ourselves.

Let me tell you why I come to church. I come to church—and would whether I were a preacher or not—because I fall below my own standards and need to be constantly brought back to them. It is not enough that I should think about the world and its problems at the level of a newspaper report or a magazine discussion. It could too soon become too low a level. I must have my conscience sharpened—sharpened until it goads me to the most thorough and responsible thinking of which I am capable. I must feel again the love I owe my fellow men and women. I must not only hear about it but feel it. In church, I do.

I need to be reminded that there are things I must do in the world—things undertaken at the level of idealism. Workaday enthusiasms are not enough. They wear out too soon. I want to experience human nature at its best—and be reminded of its highest possibilities, and this happens to me in church. It may seem as though the same things could be found in solitude, but it does not easily happen so. We meet each other as friends and neighbors anywhere and everywhere, but we seldom do so in the consciousness of our souls' deepest yearnings. But in church we do—in a way that protects us from all that is intrusive, yet leaves us knowing that we all have the same yearning, the same spiritual loneliness, the same need of assurance and faith and hope. We are brought together at the highest level possible. We are not merely an audience, we are a congregation. Life must have its sacred moments and its holy places. The soul will always seek its nurture. For religious experience—which is life at its most intense, life at its best—is something we cannot do without.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, JANUARY 18, 2014

Congregational Workshop. Janice Nelson reported that a dozen or so members attended the congregational workshop held in December, where the group shared what matters to them within the church, UU community, and their wider communities. Janice asks us to think about what matters to those of us present at this congregational meeting as we go into the future.

Congregational Survey. Jan Butorac gave a report on the congregational survey from November. We received 13 responses; her report is available for review at the church or from Jan.

General.

- ✚ The congregation thanked Jan and John Butorac for donating a new microphone set.
- ✚ The congregation thanked Michele Barnes for her assistance with our music programming needs and her Sunday singing.
- ✚ Steve Acker announced that the Program Committee would like us all to forward information on sources for Sunday services to enhance variety.
- ✚ Janice reminded us all that announcements are to arrive before the service so they can be read at the start of the service. She also asks we not interrupt our Sunday speakers. They may allocate time at the end of the service or during coffee hour for questions and dialogue. Joys and Concerns are OUR concerns, what affects us personally, and we are reminded that it is not the time for political or community announcements.
- ✚ Midge gave an update on the Program Committee activities. We can afford only one Minister Sunday/month and there is a need for more service leaders.
- ✚ Jan has agreed to take on the *Chalice Flame* newsletter. Those present voiced appreciation.

Finances and Pledge Information.

- ✚ Don and John presented budget information at this midpoint in the fiscal year. The good news: pledges are coming in as projected. Don thanked members and friends for their generous donations, and Don noted that we can use peoples' time and talent to also support our church. The bad news: we have had to zero out several of our line items because we need to pay utilities and other necessities first. We are unable to put anything into our reserves, resulting in our having no funds for emergencies. Regarding fundraising, Janice reported on several fundraisers in the planning stages—plant sale, and two possible concerts
- ✚ For the upcoming FY, our "wish list" budget will include what we would like to be able to do, coupled with a back-up budget that includes only necessities; the budget will then be finalized after our spring pledge drive reveals the actual monies available for the new year.

Let's All Try to Bring One Item a Week for the Cooperative Care Center Box!

The Pueblo Cooperative Care Center provides food, clothing, and hygiene products to those in need. FUS has a box by the front door for donations to Cooperative Care, and it's just waiting for your contributions! They always welcome any of the following:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ✚ Soups (canned and dried) | ✚ Healthy snacks for kids |
| ✚ Beans (canned and dried) | ✚ Instant potatoes and stuffing |
| ✚ Toilet paper | ✚ Flour and sugar |
| ✚ Canned meats | ✚ Diapers |
| ✚ PB & J | ✚ Personal care items |
| ✚ Mac and cheese | ✚ Rice |

If you have large donations, including clothing, you can deliver them directly to their offices at 325 W. 10th St. from 7:30 am to noon Monday through Friday.

Imagine if we could deliver one item from every FUS attendee each week—that would be SO cool!

COME TO A SUPER GARDENING WORKSHOP ON FEBRUARY 5 AT THE ACKERS'!

Would you love to know more about gardening and composting in our unique climate? Would you like to learn about how to help FUS prepare for our big plant sale in May? Then come over to Steve and Kathryn Acker's house Feb. 5 at 5:00 and bring a dish to share—heavy h'ors d'oeuvre or whatever else you wish to bring.

Turns out we have several experienced gardeners among us: Steve, Cyndi Rand, Michele Barnes, and Mary Diومتريا. Cyndi owned a nursery business at one time; Steve specializes in heirloom vegetables, and Michele specializes in composting, including bocashi tea composting. All our experts are knowledgeable of organic gardening. So do join our horticulturists for an evening of fun and discovery.

Our Mission: To provide a community in which its members can develop, through personal involvement, a spiritual, moral, and ethical life and exert a positive influence of justice and peace in society.

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: MICHELE BARNES



I was born in Oregon and moved around quite a lot, having lived in Oregon, Connecticut, Texas and Colorado. I moved back to Oregon when I was 14 and spent 22 years there before I returned

to Colorado eight years ago. I have three children—two girls and a boy—all mostly grown. My mother, daughter, son-in-law, and grandchild live in Oregon; my other two children live in Arizona. My youngest will be moving to live with me this summer. I have one granddaughter and another one due this March. I'm fortunate to have Maria Adkins, whom most of you know, as my roommate. My boyfriend is in the Navy in Yokosuka, Japan, and I will travel to spend time with him either this year or next—my first trip overseas—though I have traveled in the U.S., to Canada, and to Mexico.

I studied broadcasting in college and am a certified hypnotist. I tend to be self-taught about many subjects. My interests are unusually varied and include cooking—solar cooking and wood fire cooking in addition to conventional cooking and baking methods—gardening, learning old ways of doing things, hypnosis, singing, computers, and science fiction, fantasy novels, and movies. I am pagan but have attended many churches. My boyfriend introduced me to the High Plains UU church in Colorado Springs in 2010 and I joined in February 2011. Late this last spring I discovered that I was in a position to purchase a house, and I chose Pueblo because I could afford to buy a house here! I moved on 11/2/13 and live in the Hyde Park neighborhood. I was thrilled to learn that there was a UU church here and I have been so blessed to meet all the people that I have met so far. You all have added to my life in so many ways!

We Are a Welcoming Congregation

We welcome and celebrate the presence and participation of straight, gay, lesbian, transgender, and bisexual persons.

NOT-AS-NEW MEMBERS: JAN BUTORAC AND JOHN PETERSEN

Jan Butorac and John Petersen joined FUS within the past several months. John has taken on



supporting the financial aspects of FUS by helping our Treasurer Mark Praterelli, and Jan has joined several committees and now edits the *Chalice Flame*. Welcome to both!!

Jan Butorac and John Petersen posing with their New Member cake back in November.

BOARD BITS

The FUS Board of Trustees held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 14 at 6:15. Following is a summary of the business transacted.

- ✚ **Treasurer's Report:** John Petersen, who is assisting Treasurer Marc Praterelli, gave the report, and noted that we are in the black at present. John and Marc will present a more comprehensive picture at the Congregational Meeting.
- ✚ **Committee Reports:**
 - Program Committee – working on March/April programming. February is set.
 - Religious Education – Shawn talked with two new parents and they have enrolled their children. One parent may be willing to assist with RE.
 - Member Support Services – Will meet next Wednesday.
- ✚ **Fundraising**
 - Earth Day April 22 – Race/activities may be up in the air due to CSU challenges.
 - Liz Moulder donated money to sponsor a concert as a fundraiser.
 - Plant sale in May.
- ✚ **King Sooper Cards** – We collected enough money to purchase the cards for February

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER: SOME PIX FROM OUR CHRISTMAS SERVICE



The children enjoy talking to Santa (Steve Acker) as he tells a Christmas story. Santa collected toys contributed by the congregation for needy children.



Michele Barnes leads the children (and the congregation) in singing several traditional Christmas carols.

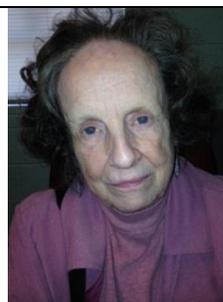
SUPPORT IVY CARTER, OUR “ARTIST IN RESIDENCE”

Ivy will be exhibiting her works at two shows in February:

- ✚ **Black Heritage Exhibit**, Southern Heritage Center: Reception 2/1, show 2/1 – 2/3
- ✚ **Southwestern Scenario**, Hillside Community Center, Colorado Springs, 2/13, 3:00 – 5:00.

Call Ivy for further information! 545-4946

GET TO KNOW YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES!



Janice Nelson, President. Janice is a retired psychiatric nurse therapist. She has spent her life dedicated to serving others and working for equal rights for all persons and groups. In her professional and volunteer life, she has worked as a community organizer, teacher, activist, and counselor. She joined the UU denomination in 1970, first in upstate NY, and then FUS when she returned to Pueblo in 1990. She describes herself as a "Spiritual Humanist." She has three children and four grandchildren.



Midge Birgers, Vice President. Midge and her husband Ibsen (Ib) have been members of the FUS for nearly 40 years. They joined when they had young children because they wanted them to have some religious background. Midge has always been active and has held almost every office at one time or another.

She was membership chair for many years and still serves on that committee, and is currently Program Chair and on the Social Activities committee. Janice and she represent FUS at FLiA (Faith Leaders in Action), a group of liberal clergy and faith leaders who focus on social justice issues. Every summer. Ib and she attend WUULF (Western UU Life Festival) at Ghost Ranch in Abiqui, New Mexico for a week of fun and community with UUs.



Kate Langworthy, Secretary. Kate came to FUS of Pueblo about 10 years ago while living and working in Rocky Ford. She originates from a Quaker background and joined because she felt comfortable with the UU

Principles. Kate has served on the Board once before and hopes to serve FUS well again this time. Coming from Vermont, she loves Pueblo's weather, the green chili, and the sunshine. She loves to try anything new, and especially enjoys music and gardening.

Marc Pratarelli, Treasurer. Dr. Marc Pratarelli is a professor of psychology at CSU Pueblo. He and his wife Sarah have a new daughter, Rachel, named after Rachel Carson.



Don Bruestle, Trustee at Large. (Focus: Operations) Born and raised in Saint Paul, MN, Don was conscripted into the USMC after high school, serving in Vietnam from 1966 to 1967. He then completed his bachelor's degree at the Univ. of MN. Don has two adult children from his first marriage, and his second wife of 17 years

died of cancer in 2003. He retired in 2005 from a 34-year career as an administrator of affordable housing and community development programs. Don has driven through

the seven Western states of Mexico, and currently serves as an appointed public official: he is the Vice-Chairperson of the Pueblo County Planning Commission, and the Treasurer of the Pueblo Urban Renewal Authority.



**Dorie Silverman, Trustee at Large
(Focus: Member Support Services)**

Dorie grew up in central Missouri on an isolated farm. She found a mentor in her teens, a music teacher from Chicago, who opened her mind to new lifestyles, and became a beatnik. She has always been interested in the human psyche, so spent 33 years at St. Mary Corwin

working with people in crisis, using a therapeutic style influenced by est training. She also has spent time studying massage and training horses on Montana! She considers her retirement as a wonderful time to challenge her assumptions and learn new ways to live. She loves her friends here at FUS and her grown children who continue to help her grow up and expand her life.



**Shawn Collins, Trustee at Large
(Focus: Programs)**

Shawn was born in Dallas and moved to Durango, CO at the age of seven. He moved to Colorado Springs, where he attended high school and where he met his wife, Natalie Florentine. He and Natalie eventually moved to Denver, and then to Pueblo,

where he attended CSU Pueblo and studied physics. He has two children, Tirzah, 17, and Fletcher, 13. Shawn is an autism coach at South High School, helping students with their studies and providing strategies for living with their disability. He loves to read, is an excellent pianist, and enjoys math and working with computers.

HUGE FUNDRAISER MAY 3—PLANT SALE, GARAGE SALE, BAKE SALE!

Let's all get involved in supporting the first FUS plant sale, combined with our traditional garage sale—plus bake sale as well. A committee of volunteers met on Friday, January 24, to map out initial planning for this event. The committee includes Michele Barnes, (who volunteered to be Chair!), Dorie Zimmerman, Janice Nelson, Mary Diومتريا, Steve Acker, Midge Birgers, Maria Adkins, Cyndi Rand, Don Bruestle, and Jan and John Butorac.

Plant Sale: The plan is to have FUS members germinate vegetable, herb, and flower seedlings at their homes, starting in about mid-March, and to sell the resulting seedlings at FUS to the community at large. Michele will conduct a tutorial on how to start seedlings on a Sunday after the service in March.

We ask that all members and friends of FUS collect and bring in seedling starter containers including milk jugs and containers, half-and-half containers, egg containers, yogurt and cottage cheese containers, flat plastic containers such as veggie/dip containers, etc. Michele and Maria will store them until we are ready to use them.

Bake Sale: Begin now baking and freezing for the bake sale! We need cookies, cupcakes, and other items that can be individually wrapped and priced.

Garage Sale: Think about what you may want to donate to the garage sale. We will provide further information in March and April as to when and what help we need for this aspect of the BIG DAY.

Remember—All Are Welcome at the Board Meetings

Members and friends are encouraged to attend our monthly Board of Trustee meetings. Learn more about how FUS operates and the issues and challenges we face. Meetings are every 2nd Tuesday at 6:15 PM.

The Caring Committee Cares about You!

The Caring Committee wants to know about any births, deaths, illnesses, or other life events for anyone in our congregation in order to provide congratulations, condolences, wishes, and hopes in the form of cards, flowers, casseroles, celebrations, transportation, and/or other appropriate acknowledgement.

Contact **Kathryn Acker**, Chair, or another member of the Committee (**Midge Birgers**, **Jan Butorac**, **Janice Nelson**) to provide information so we can take appropriate steps to care for our members and friends.



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

FEBRUARY 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Socrates Café: 9:00 Service: Rev. John Mark Hild—"Creating Heaven on Earth" 10:30	3	4	5 Happy Bookers Lunch: 11:30 – <i>La Renaissance</i> Gardening and Composting Tutorial: 5:00 at Ackers'	6 Philosophy at 4:00	7 Program Committee Meeting: 4:00	8
9 Socrates Café: 9:00 Service: Michele Barnes—"Pagan 101 from a Wiccan Perspective" 10:30 Social Justice Movie: noon - "Pete Seeger: Power of Song"	10	11 Board of Directors: 6:15	12 Plant Sale Committee Meeting: 2:00 Member Support Committee Meeting: 4:00	13 Philosophy at 4:00	14 Fellowship Breakfast: 9:00 Victoria's Deli	15
16 Socrates Café: 9:00 Service: Steve Acker, Ibsen & Midge Birgers—"Love is a Choice" 10:30	17	18 Pueblo Humanists 6:30	19 Happy Bookers Discussion: 4:00-5:30	20 Philosophy at 4:00	21	22 Movie and Pot Luck Night: 5:30 <i>In a World...</i>
23 Socrates Café: 9:00 Service: Don Bruestle—"Get Involved—Volunteering for Public Service" 10:30 Ice cream social 11:30	24	25	26	27 Philosophy at 4:00	28	Note: All events are held at FUS unless otherwise noted

First Unitarian Society of Pueblo

Board of Trustees

Janice Nelson, President
Midge Birgers, Vice President
Kate Langworthy, Secretary
Marc Pratarelli, Treasurer
Don Bruestle, Trustee at Large
Dorie Zimmerman, Trustee at Large
Shawn Collins, Trustee at Large

Pianist/Harpist

Myrna Steele

Office Administrator

Ruth Mahaney

Chalice Flame Editor

Jan Butorac

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 people.

Happy Bookers: Lunch meeting 2/5, 11:30am at La Renaissance; Discussion Meeting 2/19, 4:00-5:30pm. February's book is **Just Kids** by Patti Smith.

Fellowship Breakfast: Each second Friday (2/14), join the group for lively conversation and a great breakfast. This month: **Victoria's Deli**, 218 S. Victoria St.

Pueblo Humanist Directions: Each third Tuesday (2/18), the Humanists meet, generally at 6:30 pm, and usually at FUS but sometimes at other locations. See meeting details at the

group's meetup sight, [Pueblo Humanist Directions](#).

Potluck and Movie: Bring a dish to share for the 5:00 potluck, and stick around for the movie at 6:30. **In a World...**, a charming comedy on the 2013 top 10 Independent films list.

Social Justice Movie: On 2/9, bring a sandwich and see **Power of Song**, in honor of the life of Pete Seeger who died on 1/28/14. As the only authorized biography of Seeger, it documents the life of one of the greatest American singer/songwriters of the last century.

Philosophy at 4:00: Join this gaggle of philosophers as they complete their ongoing discussion of **The Untethered Soul** by Mark A. Singer. They will soon select a new topic and/or book to begin in March.

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. Our religious organization is a mainstream Protestant denomination which 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, Wiccans, Buddhists, 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 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.