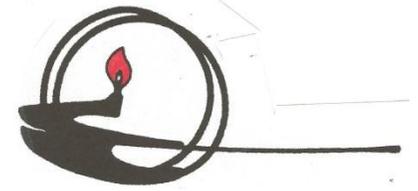




# Chalice Flame

## First Unitarian Society of Pueblo



FEBRUARY 2015

MEMBER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

VOLUME XV, ISSUE II

### SUNDAY SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

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

#### **FEBRUARY 1: INSPIRATIONAL READINGS FROM YOU!**

Bring in an inspirational reading, anywhere from two to four minutes long, that you would like to share with the congregation. It could be an essay, a portion of an article, a selection from a novel or non-fiction book, etc.—anything that you love and that you think we would enjoy.

**Service Leader: Jan Butorac**

#### **FEBRUARY 8: REV. PALLAS STANFORD**

##### **"Mindful Communication: Conversations That Matter"**

It is hardly an exaggeration to say that our lives depend on the quality of the conversations we engage in. With the practice of mindfulness, our conversations begin to more faithfully unfold the lives we long to lead.

**Service Leader: Steve Acker**

#### **FEBRUARY 15, 2015: STEVE ACKER, JAN BUTORAC, MIDGE**

##### **BIRGERS**

##### **"Standing On The Side Of Love"**

It is precisely because we live in a world which knows the evils of greed and violence and seas of human indifference that we understand just how sacred it is when our acts of love and compassion actually triumph. Join us to hear three presenters give readings on today's topic.

**Service Leader: Maria**

#### **FEBRUARY 22: WILLIAM SANDOVAL**

##### **"Pick your Poison, Then Pour It Down the Drain!"**

I will discuss 5 ways to make your New Year's resolutions—or any goals you may have to improve your life—a success. We will incorporate Christian and Buddhist and other philosophical nuggets into my discussion, then open the floor to discuss our progress as a congregation with our resolutions for 2015.

**Service Leader: Midge Birgers**

### UUs SHOW UP IN FORCE FOR WESTBORO BAPTIST COUNTER-DEMONSTRATION

A dozen First Unitarian Society members and friends added our presence to the successful and highly-publicized demonstration against the Westboro Baptist Church (WBC) on December 29.

The WBC is a hate-group from Topeka, KS that has, for years, sent out teams to demonstrate against all things LGBT. As described by the Southern Poverty Law Center, "Westboro Baptist Church (WBC) is arguably the most obnoxious and rabid hate group in America. The group is a family-based cult of personality built around its patriarch, Fred Phelps. Typified by its slogan, "God Hates Fags," WBC is known for its harsh anti-gay beliefs and the crude signs its members carry at their frequent protests".



*Rev. John Mark Hild leads a prayer service at the First Presbyterian Church, across the street from the Courthouse where the demonstrations were held.*

The WBC's action was aimed at County Clerk Bo Ortiz because he (legally) issues marriage licenses to LGBT couples. They picketed the Courthouse and then moved to two marijuana dispensaries in Pueblo West to protest against legalized marijuana.

We joined a large group at the First Presbyterian Church where a prayer vigil and service was led by Rev. John

Mark Hild of the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) of Pueblo, and then walked across the street to the Courthouse, where several speeches were given to a crowd of several hundred in the central hall. Finally, we walked around to the back of the Courthouse where the WBC protesters were and faced them head on. With signs we had made the day before at church, we peacefully demonstrated by “standing on the side of love.” The experience was memorable for all!

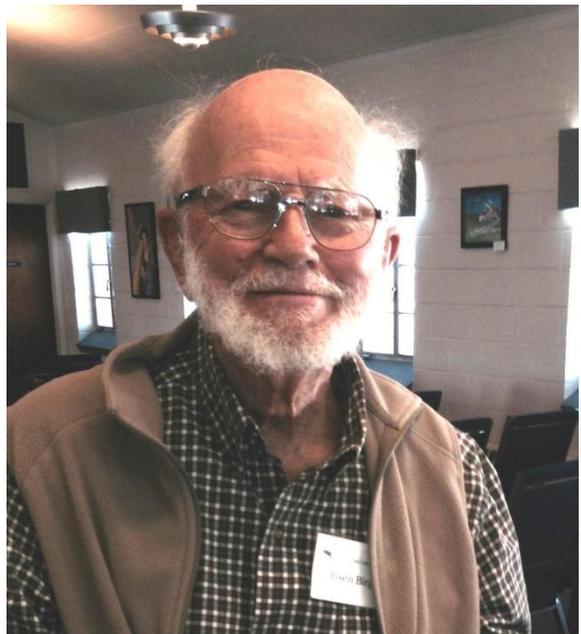


Inside the Courthouse, friends of the LGBT community showed support by crowding on the main floor and hanging from the balconies.

### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: IB BIRGERS



Fellow counter-demonstrators at the Courthouse. Note the sign “Standing on the Side of Love”! (John Butorac captured this image from News Channel 13 telecast.)



Ibsen, born 12/28/29, grew up in San Francisco. His father was a journalist and editor of a weekly left-leaning Swedish language newspaper. When WWII came, he got a Government job checking outgoing and incoming mail to and from abroad. His mother taught



There’s John hiding behind his sign, and Maria is holding the one in center, though her short stature prevents our seeing her. ☺ (Photo also captured from News Channel 13 telecast.)

**FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST SCHEDULED FOR FEB. 15!**  
 Find out more form the Fundraising Committee, and come help set up or clean up on that day. You can even help cook a passel of breakfast burritos on the day before (Valentine’s Day) at FUS!

high school and later worked for the IRS in San Francisco.

In Sept. 1948 at age 18, Ibsen in worked his way to Sweden on a Swedish freighter. He lived in Sweden for 2½ years. During that time, he attended a junior college for a semester where he majored in Swedish. Following that, he worked on a farm, and spent a winter with a logging gang of young men who belonged to a Swedish vegetarian organization! Sawing down and cutting trees, and needing to get from here to there, built up his muscles and improved his skiing, though he did not reach his gang-mates' clout. He eventually reached the point of feeling a need to return home and get into a career. Broke, he appealed to the American Consulate in Gothenburg, Sweden for help in returning to the US; the counselor told him that they could not help him, but he could enlist in the U.S. Army in occupied Germany. That would not only pay his way home, but also would give him the opportunity to see more of Europe. So he said goodbye to his Swedish relatives and friends and took the train to the Army depot Germany, where he enlisted for a two-year tour.

Two years later, following his return home, he enrolled in San Francisco's two-year City College. Following completion of classes at SFCC, he enrolled at San Francisco State University and later attended Sacramento State to attain a Master's in Social Work. Following graduation, he worked for Santa Clara County Social Services as a supervisor, where he met Midge. He was president of the Santa Clara county Social Workers Union.

He and Midge moved to Pueblo in 1970 (where Midge grew up) to work at the Colorado Mental Health Institute as a social worker and then as a Team Leader in Adult Psychiatry for 25 years. They have been married for 50 years and have three children and four grandchildren.

They joined the Pueblo Unitarian Fellowship in 1974. During that time, Ib was on the Board continuously for 30 years, served as president about eight times, as well as vice president, treasurer, secretary, and program chair. After the church moved to our present location, he has served on the Board as member at large and as vice president. In 1985, he attended the Mountain Desert District Russell Lockwood Leadership School. He was instrumental in organizing an adult religious education program, and in 1999 he reorganized the children's religious education program.

Ib's interests include bird watching, taking walks, sketching, and reading fiction and nonfiction. He celebrated his 85th birthday in December!  
Congratulations, Ib! We're so glad to have you with us!

## VIEW FROM THE WINDOW

### "THE SEED"

I've heard it said that the sculptor does not really create her masterpiece. With acquired skill, she only eliminates those parts that cover what was already there. She did not create the stone or metal or wood that is her medium.

We hold within our hands a seed that has been given us. It doesn't matter what kind. It could be a plant; an idea; a desire for personal growth or any other kind of seed. Carefully cultivated and maintained it will grow and mature. We did not create the seed or the light (consciousness) it needs. We did not create the soil in which it grows nor the water with which it is nourished. We do not control its process of development or its nature.



I do not believe we create in the truest sense. We cannot make something out of nothing. However, I do believe we co-create. From the raw material we're given, we can change form or influence direction. Life beckons us to partnership with itself.

I think on this as I look back on my youth when I deluded myself into thinking I was a self-made man. I

realize how arrogant I was – and if truth be told in many ways still am. I didn't understand that who I am is the result of the countless influences of the people, places and things around me. I didn't understand that my growth is a direct result of the light of consciousness within. I didn't understand right relationship. I didn't understand that I couldn't separate myself from All-that-is.

## Gampi

### BOARD BITS

The Board of Directors met on January 13 at 6:15. The following transpired:

- ✚ **Finance:** Jan Butorac, Treasurer, said that she would send quarterly and annual statements to all contributors to FUS in 2014. The Board reviewed finances and determined that we are on track, both in revenues and spending. The Board moved to send our budgeted monies to the UUA and the MDD for the first two quarters of the FY.
- ✚ **Administration:** Michele Barnes will report our church membership numbers to the UUA in February. The Membership Committee will provide the Board with a definitive list of all members at the February meeting.
- ✚ **Building and Grounds:** Maria submitted a large grant to a foundation that funds energy efficiencies for non-profits. We have our fingers crossed!! Discussion of stripping and waxing the social hall floor, painting the front door, and other physical plant needs.
- ✚ **Programs:** Midge Birgers reported that all February Sunday service slots are filled; they are working on March and April. The Religious Education Committee will meet in January to review curricula and clean out some old detritus from the RE rooms. Social Justice is developing a Valentine's service around "Standing on the Side of Love" and will present a film relevant to that theme at the Social Justice film night on Valentine's Day.
- ✚ **Member Support:** New *Membership Handbook* will be available soon, and new brochure called *Thinking about Membership?* is available now. The new greeter schedule seems to be working well. The committee announced the film for January's movie and potluck night.



### THANKS AGAIN TO MARIA FOR CLEANING!

*We must again make special mention of Maria, who has cleaned the church faithfully almost every week over the past two months, with some help from others, but mostly on her own. Thanks!!!!*

## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND OTHER GATHERINGS

**Socrates Café, 9:15 each Sunday:** There is no doubt that UUs like to talk, give their opinions, and share ideas. 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.

**Social Justice Committee:** Tuesday, 2/3, 6:00. We will continue to discuss the way forward in our social justice thrust for 2015. Come and put in your two cents!

**Happy Bookers: Lunch Meeting:** Wednesday, 2/4 11:30. Our February luncheon will be at the Olive Garden (3240 N. Elizabeth St.). It is hard to find a better deal than their tasty soups and salad specials. February's read is *A Moveable Feast* by Ernest Hemingway. After reading *The Paris Wife* a few months ago, the Bookers wanted to read something by "Papa" himself, so we picked his memoir of Paris in the 1920s. Published posthumously in 1964, *A Moveable Feast* is one of his most enduring works. It evokes the exuberant mood of Paris after W.W. I and the unbridled creativity and enthusiasm that Hemingway himself epitomized.

**Discussion:** Wednesday, 2/8, 4:00 at FUS. We will discuss *The Moveable Feast*, and plan for March. *Wild* by Cheryl Strayed is our March selection.

**Singing Practice:** Usually held each Thursday at 6:00, Michele has **cancelled practice** for the month of February due to a class that she must attend.

**Program Committee:** Friday, 2/6, 4:30

**Books and Brunch:** Saturday, 2/7, 10:00. Bring a brunch-type dish to share and come discuss our January

book, **Family Reunion** by Rod Pennington and help the group select February's selection.

**East Side Neighborhood Association Board Meeting:** Tuesday, 2/10, 5:30, New East Side Library

**Member Support Committee:** Wednesday, 2/11, 4:00

**Board of Directors:** Wednesday, 2/11, 6:15

**Fellowship Breakfast:** 2/13, 9:00. The Daily Grind (209 S. Union) is where we will gather on Friday the Thirteenth. Michele will do a blessing to protect us from Black Friday fears (known as paraskevidekatriaphobias) and tears. Bring smudge sticks if you have some. We may have to clear the place! ;-)

**Documentary Film and Potluck:** 2/14, 5:00 (potluck) and 6:30 (film). *"Love is our source and our destination, our call and our response."* Rev. Rebecca Parier, UU minister. Looking for a romantic evening on Valentine's Day, or just interested in a really good film? Along with our Social Activities committee, we will hold a special Valentine potluck followed by a thoughtful film and discussion, as we look at the UUA special social justice initiative *Standing on the Side of Love*. The film is **Occupy Love**, a Canadian film by photographer and director Velcrow Ripper. This is the last in a trilogy that has helped spark a worldwide movement of people who are looking at justice issues and replacing confrontation with love and spirituality. This seems to be consistent with the UUA as well as some of our recent FUS conversations and actions. Please join us for an evening of "love."

**Pueblo Pagans:** 2/18, 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.

**Ice Cream Sunday,** 1/22. We will celebrate January 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.

**Saturday Night Movie and Potluck:** 2/28, 5:00. Bring a dish to share for the potluck and then stay for the film and discussion at 6:30. **The Grand Seduction** is rated PG13 and it is a comedy about a small, dying harbor town in Newfoundland. The townspeople are in dire straits economically; most are on welfare. In order to secure a petrochemical recycling plant (and the badly needed jobs) the town must bring in a resident doctor. As luck would have it, a young, cricket-obsessed plastic

surgeon from a large city is busted at the airport for cocaine possession. In a plea deal, he agrees to go to the town for 30 days. Will the doctor be charmed and decide to stay long term?



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

## SOCIAL JUSTICE CORNER

Did you know?

- ✚ That the FUS community had supported the local Faith Leaders in Action (FLIA) group of local progressive faith leaders and clergy for the past four years. Janice Nelson and Midge Birgers are active leaders in this organization.
- ✚ One of the projects which FLIA is involved in is an immigration coalition in which several of our members have participated, including Doug Ohmans and Steve and Kathy Acker.
- ✚ The FLIA group was active in the prayer vigil and walk when the anti-gay group came to Pueblo. This included nearly a dozen of our members who came out in the snow to stand on the side of love, not hate.
- ✚ That our FUS community voted that we include environmental justice and sustainability in all our programs, and as much as possible promote them in all our activities (recycling, using organic products etc.) Don Bruestle and Dorie Silverman have been consistent leaders in these areas.
- ✚ That we collect food and other items for Cooperative Care on an ongoing basis. There is an urgent need for these items, due to increased homelessness and unemployment. There is a box by the entrance to the sanctuary, and Michele Barnes takes all items to CC.
- ✚ That our Social Justice committee is looking at ways to be more involved in East Side issues and with our neighbor, Bradford School.

For more information on the National UUA social action priorities or our local initiatives and how you can be more involved, contact the FUS Social Justice Committee, or any of the persons mentioned.

Yours in justice,

**Janice Nelson and the Social Justice Committee**

## Mountain Desert District 2015 Annual Meeting

April 10-12, 2015

The MDD's annual meeting is in Denver this year! Let's get a group together and drive on up. Even if it's only for one of the two days, it's fun and interesting, and we can be proud that we represent FUS.

Denver Tech Center Marriott

Keynote address by Mark Ewert, author of  
*The Generosity Path*

## UUA'S NEW HEADQUARTERS AWARDED LEED PLATINUM

**Boston, MA** – The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is pleased to announce that it has received Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum Certification for its new headquarters located at 24 Farnsworth Street in Boston's Innovation District. "The LEED Platinum certification for our new office space is an acknowledgement of the tremendous importance we placed on creating a green workplace in accordance with the values of Unitarian Universalism. We hope our efforts will be a model that other organizations and architects will follow," said the Rev. Peter Morales, president of the UUA. LEED certification, awarded by the U.S. Green Building Council, is recognized across the country as the premier mark of achievement in green building. Platinum is the highest of the four possible LEED certifications.



The façade of the new UUA Headquarters

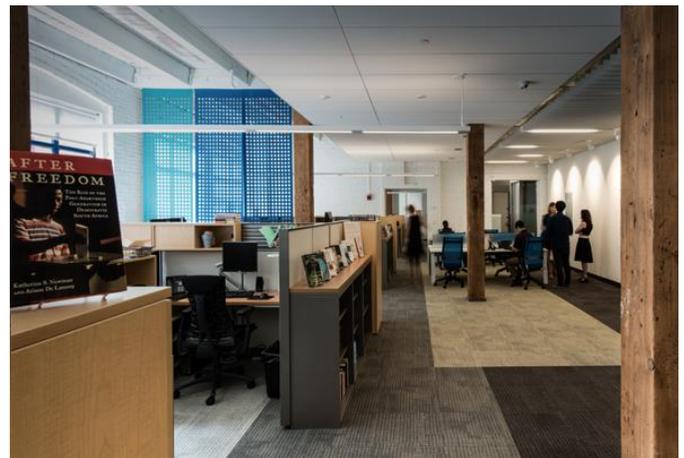
"Environmental sustainability played a major role in all of our design decisions, and we are very pleased with

the final result which is a beautiful, inviting, and sustainable work space for staff and visitors," said Jean Carroon, principal of design, preservation, and sustainability at Goody Clancy and a LEED fellow. Some of the sustainable practices that were implemented in the design and operation of 24 Farnsworth Street include:

- ✚ Renovating an existing building resulting in a significant reduction in the need for virgin materials, embodied energy, and environmental pollution.
- ✚ Over 35% of the materials and furnishings installed contain recycled content.
- ✚ Over 20% of the materials and furnishings installed were manufactured within 500 miles of Boston.
- ✚ The use of energy-efficient light fixtures and a carefully designed lighting plan to reduce ongoing energy consumption for lighting by nearly 40%.
- ✚ Over 90% of construction waste was diverted from the landfill by incorporating material recycling strategies.



An interior shot of the UUA Headquarters building



Office space at UUA HQ

## JOYOUS SERVICE ON MARC CHAGALL EMBRACED BY FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY



*Kris Jeter presenting her fascinating stories about Chagall's works.*

We were honored to have Dr. Kris Jeter, and Suellen Levy, with program support and research provided by Janice Lemieus, present a service **“Marc Chagall: Artist and Poet of Love—the Dream of All Humanity”** on January 11. (Unfortunately, Janice was unable to attend the service due to a death in the family.) They addressed Chagall's 98-year life during which he

prolifically depicted his vibrant colored-spirit and story-filled inner being, which was continually affected by 20th-century world events. They discussed each of the nine works by Chagall that were on display at the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center, each accompanied by a different piece of Jewish music. We were all enthralled!



*Suellen Levy, Tom (Kris's husband), and Kris Jeter*

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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.*

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## **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

## FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> Socrates Café: 9:15 Service: 10:30 "Inspirational Readings from YOU!" Service Leader: Jan Butorac	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Social Justice Committee Meeting: 6:00	<b>4</b> Happy Bookers Lunch: 11:30, Olive Garden <b>A Moveable Feast</b> by Ernest Hemingway	<b>5</b> Philosophy at 4:00 NO Singing Practice	<b>6</b> Program Committee: 4:30	<b>7</b> Books and Brunch: 10:00 AM <b>Family Reunion</b> by Rod Pennington
<b>8</b> Socrates Café: 9:15 Service: 10:30 Rev. Pallas Stanford "Mindful Communication: Conversations that Matter" Service Leader: Steve Acker	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> East Side Neighborhood Association Board Meeting: 5:30, New East Side Library	<b>11</b> Member Support Committee: 4:00 FUS Board of Directors Meeting: 6:15	<b>12</b> Philosophy at 4:00 NO Singing Practice	<b>13</b> Fellowship Breakfast: 9:00, The Daily Grind	<b>14</b> Special Valentine's Social Justice Potluck & Documentary: 5:00/6:30 <b>Occupy Love</b>
<b>15</b> Fundraising Breakfast: 8:30 Socrates Café: 9:15 Service: 10:30 Steve Acker, Jan Butorac, Midge Birgers "Standing on the Side of Love" Service Leader: Maria	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Happy Bookers Discussion: 4:00-5:30 Pueblo Pagans: 6:00	<b>19</b> Philosophy at 4:00 NO Singing Practice	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Socrates Café: 9:15 Service: 10:30 William Sandoval "Pick Your Poison, Then Pour It Down the Drain!" Service Leader: Midge Birgers	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Philosophy at 4:00 NO Singing Practice	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Movie and Pot-Luck Night: 5:00/6:30 <i>Pride</i>

***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.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 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.