



# Chalice Flame

## First Unitarian Society of Pueblo



JANUARY 2015

MEMBER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

VOLUME XV, ISSUE I

### SUNDAY SERVICES FOR JANUARY

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

#### JANUARY 4: KATHY AND STEVE ACKER

##### "Vision"

"Blessed are they that have the eyes to see." Vision entails much more than just seeing. With vision, we interpret both our inner and outer worlds. Not only do we see; we also perceive. Kathy and Steve will read excerpts from the September issue of "Touchstones" on Vision, followed by a discussion.

Service Leader: Kathy Acker

#### JANUARY 11: KRIS JETER, WITH JANICE LEMIEUX AND SUELLEN LEVY

##### "Marc Chagall: Artist and Poet of Love—the Dream of All Humanity"

Transpersonal psychologist Dr. Jeter, educator Lemieux, and music professor Levy will address Chagall's 98-year life during which he prolifically depicted his vibrant colored spirit and story-filled inner being, which was continually affected by 20<sup>th</sup>-century world events. We will discuss Chagall's nine works on display through Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center.

Service Leader, Louise Burg

#### JANUARY 18: JANICE NELSON, JAN BUTORAC, AND MIDGE BIRGERS

##### "Exploring White Privilege"

This service takes its genesis from the January 10th social justice movie *White Like Me*. White folks can't know what it's like to go through life without racial privilege because they haven't done so. Being part of America's discussion on racial bias means acknowledging how bias and privilege shapes our live. In celebration of Martin Luther King Day on January 19th, and as one of the primary themes of our social justice thrusts for 2015, white privilege is a reality we will explore in this service.

Service Leader: Midge Birgers

#### JANUARY 25: REV. JOHN MARK HILD

##### "Helping Others - 90% Is Just Showing Up"

We all need people at difficult times in our lives. How can we be available for others and help those who are suffering? Many hesitate to reach out to people in pain because they don't know what to say or do. But it turns out that the most important thing we can do is to just show up.

Service Leader: Don Bruestle

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

##### I HAVE A DREAM

Monday, January 19th we celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. day. I know of very few speeches that have had such a lasting impact as his "I Have a Dream" speech delivered in Washington, D.C. on August 28, 1963. That took place almost 52 years ago.

His dream was more aptly termed a vision. Dr. King was well aware of the suffering, prejudice, and discrimination against the Negro, the common term of the day for African Americans. He was well aware of white privilege and the attempts to maintain that superiority. He saw clearly the plight of his people. And that is the problem, right up to today. They were his people, not our people.

But he saw that also. He saw that true freedom, true equality rests on the vision that all the barriers of separation, like the Berlin Wall, must fall. Down the barrier of black vs. white. Down the barrier of men vs. women. Down the barrier of straight vs. gay. Down the barrier of rich vs. poor. Down the barriers of nation vs. nation and religion against religion. Any condition that generates the perception of us vs. them must come down if true equality and peace are to be manifested.

You might say this is a monumental task. It is. "You might say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one..."



(John Lennon) You might say this is the task of a lifetime. Not just one, but many lifetimes. So where do we start? We start with ourselves.

We start by recognizing our own prejudices. We start by recognizing what is. From here we construct our own dream – our own vision of where we want to be – and work to bring that vision to fruition.

We are at the threshold of a new year, a new cycle, a new period of growth. Let us all look at where we've been. Let us be honest with ourselves as to where we are. Let us boldly go forth into that future we wish to create.

“Lord, grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change; the courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference.”

Peace to all of you and Happy New Year!

**Stephen Acker**

**President, First Unitarian Society Board of Directors**

## REV. NATHAN MESNIKOFF PRESENTS "STAY IN SHAPE: FORM, INTEGRITY, AND RELATIONSHIP"



*On December 11, UU minister the Rev. Nathan Mesnikoff presented a sermon on how to maintain our wholeness in a complex world.*



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: LIZ MOULDER, MEMBER IN ABSENTIA

**Editor's Note:** *I thought to ask Liz Moulder, who is a long-time member of FUS and who continues her membership even while living in Mexico, to provide us a bio for this edition of the newsletter. Thanks, Liz!*

I was born in a little town in Missouri in 1941, and after graduation from high school in 1959, I took the first train out of town heading west--eventually all the way to Honolulu, where I finished my B.A. in sociology. After six years in the Islands, I moved to Belgium where I worked as a nanny while studying and improving my French. From there I went to England in 1967, and taught for two years in a school for blind adolescents. In London, I promptly joined the Charles Dickens Society and met some people I thought existed only in his novels. In 1970, I moved to Toronto, Canada for one not very interesting year. England is a hard act to follow!



*Liz shown here with her dear companion Pickwick, who was "a really mean cat," and who died in Cholula in 1999 at the ripe age of 22!*

I then moved on to Boulder, Colorado, where I obtained my Masters in English Literature at the age of 47, taking advantage of the tuition-free master's program for CU staff, and I also joined a large UU fellowship. After 20 eventful years in Boulder, enough time to make anyone a little crazy, I moved to Antigua, Guatemala, where I began to study Spanish and to work as the English language expert in a school and a at a University.

I then moved in 1997 to Puebla, Mexico because of the street violence and political instability of Guatemala,

and because I was tired of being robbed. In Mexico, I worked in a university rare books room and was taken in by a Guatemalan family who had a fiesta every weekend. I tremendously enjoyed many Guatemalan friends and the continuation of my Spanish studies with a fabulous teacher who lived on a volcano.

I moved from Cholula to Pueblo, Colorado, in 2001 to get away from all the fiestas. This is true! My health suffered. In Pueblo I immediately adopted my dog, Sinecure, and lived happily there—but not ever after—for 12 years. I joined our Unitarian Fellowship, taught writing at Pueblo Community College, and was active at Cooperative Care. Those were good years!

In 2013 my feet began to itch again, so I returned to Mexico with Sinecure, this time to the West coast, living in Barra de Navidad for a year, studying Spanish, and teaching English and survival Spanish in a language school only one block from the ocean. Sinecure never missed a class. Still, pleasant as it was, Barra was far from the ideal location. Too hot!! So...in 2013 I moved—again—to a cooler climate, my present location on Lake Chapala, just due south of Guadalajara. Chapala is a Mexican community, as opposed to the nearby village of Ajijic, which draws retirees from the U.S. and Canada. The advantage of living near Ajijic is that it is an art and music center for Mexicans as well as Gringos. In Chapala, I continue to study, reading the Harry Potter series in Spanish with a Mexican tutor, I volunteer at a soup kitchen in San Antonio, and have joined a writers' group. I love life in my barrio, where I have been adopted by a Mexican family, and I enjoy Ajijic, where I erratically attend a UU fellowship.



*Liz showing a fish who's boss!*

I am proud of my sustained membership in the First Unitarian Society of Pueblo, and I enjoy the very fine newsletter I receive on-line. Although I have returned to Pueblo once, I have settled into my Forever Home here in Chapala, where I plan to continue studying Spanish and exploring Mexico. In fact, I am never moving again!!

My best to all of you at FUS! **Liz Moulder**

## HAPPY 85<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY TO IB BIRGERS!



*ib celebrated his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday at FUS on December 28. We cherish his life and his presence!*

## HAUNTED WINDCHIMES CONCERT AT FUS A HUGE SUCCESS!

Eighty music lovers—a full house—attended the Haunted Windchimes fundraiser concert on December 13 at 2:00 at FUS. Everyone was enthralled with the group's music and their talent overall! The Fundraising Committee and many others worked hard to make this concert great and to realize our financial goal!



*Thanks to all who helped clean the church to spotlessness. We certainly put our best foot forward for the crowd!*



*A view from the back of the sanctuary. The Fundraising Committee set up plenty of refreshments during intermission.*

## **MERRY CHRISTMAS—HO HO HO!**

What a delight to welcome Santa and the Missus on December 21! Mr. and Mrs. Claus visited us during our Christmas service, bringing goodies for the children, and collecting toys from the congregation to donate to Posada. We talked of Christmas memories, sang several Christmas carols, and enjoyed Santa reading his favorite story, *The Christmas Elf*, to the children. Santa enjoyed it also!



*The children put toys that had been brought to FUS into Santa's bag to deliver to Posada.*



*Ryleigh, Connor, and William admire their gifts from Santa.*



*William telling Santa some of the toys he wants for Christmas.*



*Mr. and Mrs. Claus love bringing happiness and joy to others.*



*Connor, William, Shawn, and Ryleigh (behind the chalice) listening to Santa read "The Christmas Elf." They loved it!*



## WINTER SOLSTICE CEREMONY DECEMBER 21 DRAWS LARGE GROUP

Michele, leader of the Pagan Group, along with help from members of the group Dorie, John, and Sandy, as well as Ali, provided an engaging and fascinating Winter Solstice ceremony, replete with honey cakes and mead. We all learned a lot about the meaning of the Solstice rituals and enjoyed the solemnity but also the joy of the turning of the seasons and an appreciation for the darkness of the shortest day of the year.



*John, Shawn, Isabel, Ali, Tirzah, and friend form part of the Solstice circle.*



*Maria, Myrna, Dorie, John, and Sandy enjoy honey cakes, mead, and oatmeal milk during the ritual.*



*Michele lights a special candle for each person to bring the light into our lives.*

### THANKS AGAIN TO OUR CLEANERS!

*We must make special mention of Maria, who cleaned all the chairs for the Windchimes concert, and who cleaned the church three weeks in a row in December! She has also singlehandedly scrubbed the stain in the carpet in the small room until it's almost gone! Jan and John Butorac have also done quite a bit of cleaning in the past month.*



*Michele having fun during the ceremony*



*Ali lighting candles and calling the spirits of the north, south, east, and west*

## BOOKS AND BRUNCH BOOK CLUB GOING ON FOURTH MONTH

If you want to read good books and talk about them with smart people, join the Saturday morning book club, led by Isabel Soto-Luna. So far, we have read ***Love in the Time of Cholera*** by Gabriel Garcia-Marquez, ***Huckleberry Finn*** by Mark Twain, and ***Foundation*** by Isaac Asimov. This book club was created by and for people who can't take time out from the workday to attend a book club. Bring a simple brunch-type dish,

and come chat with us on the second Saturday of the month (date has changed) at 10:00.



*Selena, Steve, Kathy, and Maria at the book club meeting on 12/20*



*Isabel, Shawn, Selena, and Steve*

## 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 (**not Jan. 1**), join this gaggle of philosophers who are continuing their philosophical journey. The group will decide on a new direction for the coming year in the next couple of weeks. Contact Steve Acker (423-930-7277) for additional information.

**Singing Practice: Each Thursday at 6:00** with Michele Barnes (**not Jan. 1**)

**Program Committee: Friday, 1/2, 4:30**

**Social Justice Committee: Tuesday, 1/6, 6:00.** We will continue to discuss the way forward in our social justice thrust for the New Year. Come and put in your two cents!

**Happy Bookers: Lunch Meeting, Wednesday, 1/7, 11:30** at The Gathering (1234 S. Prairie) for lunch and conversation. Discussion meeting will be on **1/21 at 4:00.** January's book is ***A Tale for the Time Being*** by Ruth Ozeki. (It is highly regarded by Ib.) On a remote island off the coast of Canada, a Hello Kitty lunch box washes up on the beach. Tucked inside is the diary of a 16-year-old Japanese girl, Nao. Ruth, a writer who finds the lunch box, suspects that it is debris from Japan's 2011 Tsunami and is drawn into solving the mystery of

Nao's fate. (February's book: ***A Movable Feast***, Ernest Hemingway; March's book: ***Wild***, Cheryl Strayed)

**Member Support Committee: Wednesday, 1/14, 4:00**

**Pueblo Pagans: 1/14, 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.

**Board of Directors: Wednesday, 1/14, 6:15** (changed permanently from Tuesdays)

**Congregational Growth Meeting: 1/19, 5:00.** Join the group to plan for our thrust toward growth in 2015. All committee chairs are requested to attend.

**Saturday Night Movie and Potluck: Saturday, 1/24, 5:00.** Bring a dish to share for the potluck and then stay for the film and discussion at 6:30. Based on a true story, ***Pride*** depicts a group of lesbian and gay activists who raised money to help families affected by the British miners' strike in 1984. The National Union of Mineworkers was reluctant to accept the group's support due to the union's public relations' worries about being openly associated with a gay group, so the activists instead decided to take their donations directly to a small mining village in Wales, resulting in an alliance between the two communities. The film won the 2014 Cannes Film Festival Queer Palm award.

**Ice Cream Sunday, 1/25.** 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.

## VIEW FROM THE WINDOW "SWINGING"

It was the very first thing we had to do when she came to visit. Lexie would run to the playground and it took me a few minutes to catch up to her. She'd be waiting for me at the swing. "Push me, Gampi."

I'd make sure she was safely secured with belt buckled and start our little game. "Higher, Gampi. Higher!" I'd push, and push until she said stop. I'd marvel at her wild abandon to the experience of slicing through the air; her hair trailing behind her on the upswing and plastered to her neck on the back. Such a simple act, swinging, yet I could tell it brought such joy by the smile on her face.

Higher, Gampi. Higher! I'd push some more until I reached her limit. I'd move to the side of the swing set and stick my hand out in front of her as she plummeted

downward and withdrew it just before contact was made. This always made her laugh and giggle. Just enough danger, yet she knew I'd never hurt her in any way. Such trust in this little one--how did I deserve it?



Higher, Gampi. Higher! I'd push some more then move to the front of her. I'd move in to collide with her and jump back with a loud "ooohhh!" before she could run into me. She'd stick her legs out in an effort to make contact. I'd move into just the right position; feel her feet contact my chest, and fall

backwards onto the ground. "Oh, my!!" This would start her on a fit of laughter. This was our little ritual. It was our bonding moment. It was our dance. We'd do it every time she came to visit and neither of us tired of it.

She would swing, and my heart would sing. **Gampi**

## SOCIAL JUSTICE CORNER

Put the next Social Justice committee meeting on your calendars: **Tuesday, Jan. 6 at 6:30** at FUS. We will continue to plan for our activities and programs for this year. Please join us to share your ideas and become involved.

Come to our **first evening Social Justice potluck, documentary movie, and discussion on Saturday, Jan. 10 at 5:00.** (Movie starts at 6:30.) The film is **White Like Me**, an award-winning look at white privilege. As a follow-up, the Social Justice committee will present the Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> service, with the goal to further explore white privilege as we remember Martin Luther King, Jr., whose holiday remembrance is Jan. 19. The committee has selected white privilege as one of our primary focuses for 2015.

Our continuing focus on LGBT issues included the participation by FUS members in the recent demonstrations against the hate-filled invasion of Pueblo by an anti-gay group of agitators from the Westboro Baptist Church in Kansas on 12/29. 10 FUS members joined local clergy and more than 500 other supporters to show that discrimination of any kind is

not acceptable in Pueblo and that, like all UUs, we are "Standing on the Side of Love".

We will continue to focus on human rights issues, including immigration, civil and human rights, and economic and education inequality. We will strive to offer programs that will give us opportunities to learn, inform, and be active. We will also look at working with other groups with like-minded concerns.

As neighbors, we are also looking at ways our FUS community can become more involved in East Side concerns. One way we feel we can get involved is to support Janet Wilson's foundation, Occupy the Roads. Cyndi Rand, a friend of FUS (and an East Side resident), now sits on the board of Occupy the Roads (the Little Red House is one of its initiatives), and a rotating member of the social Justice Committee will represent FUS as well at each of their board meetings.

Janice Nelson and Midge Birgers continue to represent FUS in the Pueblo group Faith Leaders in Action (FLIA). This provides us ways to partner on shared concerns consistent with our FUS principles.

Yours in justice, **Janice Nelson and the Social Justice Committee**

## CHARLES BUTLER ON "CONVERSIONS"

On the 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Pearl Harbor day, Charles Butler, a leader of the Veterans for Peace organization, talked about his personal conversions triggered by Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.



*Wearing his Veterans for Peace cap, Chuck provided a totally distinct viewpoint of the circumstances leading up to and following the Pearl Harbor attack.*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER MARIA!



Maria signed the membership book on 12/13 after attending FUS for about a year. Maria has brought much energy to FUS and has participated in many activities over the months. Welcome, Maria!!!!

## JAN WINS HAIR PRODUCTS RAFFLE!



Jan shown with Jimmy, who donated the raffle basket. We exceeded our goal! Thanks so much, Jimmy!

### *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

## JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1</b> Philosophy at 4:00: <b>Cancelled due to holiday</b> Singing Practice 6:00: <b>Cancelled also</b>	<b>2</b> Program Committee: 4:30	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> Socrates Café: 9:15 Service: 10:30 Kathy and Steve Acker "Vision" Service Leader: Kathy Acker	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Social Justice Committee Meeting: 6:00	<b>7</b> Happy Bookers Lunch: 11:30, The Gathering <i><b>A Tale of the Time Being</b></i> by Ruth Ozeki	<b>8</b> Philosophy at 4:00 Singing Practice 6:00	<b>9</b> Fellowship Breakfast: 9:00, The Daily Grind	<b>10</b> Books & Brunch: 10:00, <i><b>Foundation</b></i> by Isaac Asimov  Social Justice Potluck & Documentary: 5:00 <i><b>White Like Me</b></i>
<b>11</b> Socrates Café: 9:15 Service: 10:30 Kris Jeter, PhD and friends "Marc Chagall: Artist and Poet of Love—the Dream of All Humanity" Service Leader: Louise Burg	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Member Support Committee: 4:00 Pueblo Pagans: 6:00 Board of Directors: 6:15	<b>15</b> Philosophy at 4:00: 4:00 Singing Practice: 6:00	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> Socrates Café: 9:15 Service: 10:30 Janice Nelson, Jan Butorac, & Midge Birgers "Exploring White Privilege" Service Leader: Midge Birgers	<b>19</b> Congregational Growth meeting 5:00	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Happy Bookers Discussion: 4:00-5:30	<b>22</b> Philosophy at 4:00: 4:00 Singing Practice: 6:00	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Movie and Pot-Luck Night: 5:00/6:30 <i><b>Pride</b></i>
<b>25</b> Socrates Café: 9:15 Service: 10:30 Rev. John Mark Hild "Helping Others - 90% Is Just Showing Up" Service Leader: Don Bruestle Ice Cream Sunday	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Philosophy at 4:00: 4:00 Singing Practice: 6:00	<b>30</b>   <b>31</b> <i><b>ALL FUNCTIONS ARE HELD AT FUS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.</b></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 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.