



Chalice Flame

First Unitarian Society of Pueblo



JULY 2014

MEMBER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

VOLUME XIV, ISSUE VII

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR JULY

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

JULY 6: IB & MIDGE BIRGERS, STEVE ACKER, MICHELE BARNES

"In Celebration of Famous Unitarian Universalists"

Ib and Midge will talk about two Unitarians, Ralph Waldo Emerson, leader of the Transcendentalist movement, and Louisa May Alcott, an author, abolitionist, and feminist. Michele Barnes will talk about Beatrix Potter, author of "The Tale of Peter Rabbit", who was also an illustrator, scientist, and conservationist. Steve Acker will introduce us to Christopher Reeves, whose embrace of Unitarian Universalist principles and values provide the backdrop for his truly inspiring and heroic battle with paralysis.

Service Leader: Midge Birgers

JULY 13: REV. PALLAS STANFORD

"As Love Shows Us How"

First Unitarian Society and Flame of Life Universalists are hosting UU minister Rev. Pallas Stanford. We are best equipped to survive and to thrive when the essential covenant of our free-church tradition is alive and at work in our lives. Come let's celebrate and reflect upon what this freedom is all about.

Service Leader: Steve Acker

JULY 20: IB AND MIDGE BIRGERS

"Everyone Is a Theologian"

As James Luther Adams, noted professor and Unitarian minister who is considered to be the most influential theologian among Unitarian Universalists in the 20th century, said, "Everyone is a theologian, either conscious or unconscious, in the sense that everyone has some conception of the nature of reality, of the demands of reality, and of those elements in reality that support or threaten meaningful existence."

Service Leader: Jan Butorac

JULY 27: STEVE ACKER

"Mystery"

According to UU minister Rev. Harold Babcock, "A healthy sense of mystery and uncertainty about the universe and our place in it is not a total surrender to superstition or the irrational. Rather, the appreciation for the mysteries in life seems to me to be the act of greatest humility." Together we will explore the mysteries of life.

Service Leader: Kathryn Acker

FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT, STEVE ACKER: "TORCHLIGHTS"

Greetings to all of you!

I was told by our outgoing president, Janice Nelson, that I could choose my own title for this monthly column of *The Chalice Flame*. I wanted something significant that would express the tone I wish to set over the next two years. Before I tell you what I hope to do, let me assure you what I won't do. I will not try to reinvent the wheel. Our congregation has had able administrators in the past and I intend to follow in their footsteps.

Leaving the Board of Directors of FUS are Janice Nelson, President; Mark Pratarelli, Treasurer; and Don Bruestle, Member at Large. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your service on the Board in the positions you've filled these past two years. I will not hesitate to seek your wisdom and experience when needed.

Members of the Board remaining are Midge Birgers, Vice President; Kate Langworthy, Secretary; and Sean Collins and Dorie Silverman as Members at Large. New incoming Board members are myself; Jan Butorac, Treasurer; and Louise Burg, Member At Large. I look forward to working closely with each of you in the coming year.

As incoming president, I see my role as one of a facilitator. I have no desire to lead (each of us at FUS is a leader) nor do I wish to dominate ("one person – one vote"). I believe strongly in the democratic process. It is through this process that the wellbeing of FUS is maintained. This process, along with our stated mission and covenant, and our affiliation with other congregations throughout the UUA, assures that no individual personal agendas will co-opt the overall health of our congregation.

One of the principles I've adopted for my life is that of cooperation over competition. Our diversity is what keeps us strong, fluid, and growing. Each of us in our

community brings our unique perspective. Not one of us has “the truth and the whole truth.” What we do have are our individual stories that collectively give us direction on our road to self-discovery. These stories are shaped by our individual wisdom traditions and our own beliefs.

With that in mind, I accept the torch being passed to me by our outgoing president and our entire membership. This light is *OUR* light. Its brightness depends on the active participation of all of us.

As I write this, I remember well a very holy and symbolic tradition of the Catholic Church in which I participated at Christmas midnight services. One person would enter the darkened church with a single lighted candle. From that single light, each person would light his or her individual candle. By the time all the candles were lit, the whole church glowed with light, dispelling the shadows.

We are that light.

Working together in our endeavors at First Unitarian Society, we can keep our light burning brightly—and I pledge to you to do my part.

Stephen Acker, President, First Unitarian Society—Pueblo

A NEW YEAR FOR FUS

First Unitarian Society (FUS) has entered our new fiscal and church year as of July 1, and at the Annual Congregational Meeting on June 29, our membership took several important actions.

- ✚ **Acceptance of President’s Annual Report:** Janice Nelson distributed the customary Annual Report to the Congregation, which includes a summary of all committee and Board activities for the past year. Thanks, Janice!



President Janice Nelson presiding over the Annual Congregational Meeting

- ✚ **Election of Board Candidates:** Over the past months, the Nominating Committee (Michele Barnes, Ethyl Kelham, and Kathy Acker) interviewed qualified members and presented to the Board of Directors a slate of candidates who agreed to serve if elected, which the Board accepted at its June meeting. (Nominations from the floor were also accepted but none were offered.) We are very excited to announce that FUS elected a well-qualified and committed group of people to rotate onto the Board.

- **President:** Steve Acker (Two-year term)
- **Secretary:** Kate Langworthy (One-year term—currently completing one year as an appointed officer, so needed to be elected to continue through her second year in the position)
- **Treasurer:** Jan Butorac (Two-year term)
- **At-Large Member:** Louise Burg (Two-year term)



New Board members Jan Butorac, Louise Burg, and Steve Acker (Not pictured because the photo was too fuzzy: Kate Langworthy)

- ✚ **Election of Candidates for Nominating Committee:** Each year, the congregation elects the people who will nominate candidates for the following year’s Board rotation, and recommends members of the coming year’s Nominating Committee. The current Nominating Committee recommended and the congregation elected following people for the Nominating Committee for 2014 – 2015:

- Michele Barnes
- Ib Birgers
- William Sandoval

We are fortunate to have these three thoughtful and resourceful individuals to serve in this capacity.

- ✚ **Adoption of New Budget:** The congregation adopted the budget that was developed by the Finance Committee and approved by the Board. Thanks to all who pledged so that we can continue

to offer programs, music, and responsible administration.

✚ **Adoption of New Bylaws** The congregation approved a new set of bylaws as submitted, after some discussion. A committee comprised of Midge Birgers (Chair), Louise Burg, Jan Butorac, and Shawn Collins worked for several months to make our Bylaws more relevant to today's circumstances. These Bylaws serve as important guidance as to how we operate our church.

✚ **Announcement of Hiring of Michele Barnes as FUS Administrator:** Janice Nelson announced that, with the membership's adoption of the budget which includes an allocation for payment of a part-time Administrator, Michele Barnes has officially been hired as our Administrator (to replace our former Administrator who resigned in April). Michele had applied for the position several months ago, and has worked as a volunteer and trainee in that role since April, demonstrating resourcefulness, efficiency, and excellent organizational skills. At the June Board meeting, the Board approved her taking this position upon approval of the budget. FUS sends our gratitude to Michele for her excellent service thus far in this position.

The Mission of the First Unitarian Society
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.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

At our service on June 29, we welcomed into our fold our four newest members:

- ✚ Michele Barnes
- ✚ Mary Dumetria
- ✚ Jimmy Garcia
- ✚ William Sandoval

Unfortunately, Jimmy and William were not able to be present, but Michele and Mary were there to cut the cake! Mmmmmm—and ice cream too!



New members Michele Barnes and Mary Dumetria

BOARD BITS FROM JUNE'S MEETING

June's Board of Directors meeting on 6/10 focused primarily on preparation for the Annual Congregational Meeting. Following are the major actions:

- ✚ Approval of the 2014 – 2015 budget as recommended by the Finance Committee
- ✚ Approval of the Nominating Committee slate of candidates for open Board positions
- ✚ Approval of the Nominating Committee slate of candidates for the Nominating Committee for the coming year
- ✚ Approval of the new Bylaws as presented by the Bylaws Committee
- ✚ Offer of employment to Michele Barnes as FUS Administrator, contingent on approval of the budget as well as a clean background check (required by the UUA)
- ✚ Committee Reports: All committees provided written or oral reports.

SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISER CONCERT BY LEVITICUS HELD ON SATURDAY, JUNE 14

FUS hosted Leviticus Houston ("Leviticus") for a wonderful concert on June 14, open free to the public but with donations requested. Leviticus, a beloved and talented local performer, provided two ample sets of songs, accompanying himself both with his facile guitar licks and his excellent piano work. He presented a wide range of songs, from rhythm and blues to rock and roll to Broadway to traditional folk tunes.

During intermission, guests were treated to snacks and punch and had the opportunity to converse with Leviticus.



Leviticus squeezing every last note out of his guitar.

Underwritten by the generosity of Member in Absentia Liz Moulder, for costs associated with publicity and payment for the artist, FUS brought in more than \$200 in profit for our treasury.



Animated conversation with Leviticus during intermission

Thanks to all who organized and publicized this lovely event: Midge Burgers, Janice Nelson, Dorie Silverman, Jimmy Garcia, and William Sandoval (Jimmy and William produced, printed, and distributed a great flyer for the concert); plus—William’s sister made dozens of heavenly cupcakes for the refreshments—our thanks to her also. And a final appreciation for Liz Moulder for her generous underwriting of the concert!!



The audience in rapt attention...



A good number of non-FUS folks attended

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: VICKI WEEKS



Vicki Weeks takes the same seat in the third row each Sunday, sitting at attention and singing robustly in her lovely soprano voice. You may have noticed that she uses a cane—she is almost entirely blind, but has learned to compensate very well after being declared legally blind with retinitis pigmentosa in 1968. She stopped driving for good in 1982.

Vicki has been a member of FUS since 1993, having come to visit with a friend for the first time. He left, but she stayed. She has held almost every position at FUS except president, and taught religious education for many years. She had previously been a Presbyterian but had stopped practicing religion entirely until coming to FUS.

Vicki was born in Colorado Springs in 1941 and moved to Pueblo when she was three. She attended Carlisle Elementary, Keating Junior High, and Central High School, but quit school in the tenth grade to get married. Her mother couldn't afford to send her to college, so she didn't see any sense in completing high school. She had four children and was a stay-at-home mom until she sought a divorce from her husband in 1967. Unfortunately, one daughter died of juvenile diabetes at the age of 36, but her other three are all in state and she has a granddaughter and a great granddaughter in Pueblo.

As a single mother, in 1968 Vicki was fortunate to locate a Federal program that provided a scholarship and fees for an entire degree program, provided she first earn a GED. Still pregnant with her youngest child, her divorce was final in May, 1968 and she was to begin school in June. She tested for and passed her GED one day before she gave birth to her son, and started classes at Southern Colorado State College (now CSU Pueblo, which was constructing its very first building at the time) and Pueblo Community College two and a half days after she was discharged from the hospital! She received a Bachelor's in sociology with a minor in anthropology. She later went to graduate school and received a Masters in Social Science from Montana State University in Bozeman.

Since she had no credentials to teach in public schools, she began teaching sociology, anthropology, and archeology at Montana State University in Billings. In the summers '73, she got a special grant to spend the summer in Pakistan while her children summered with their grandparents.

Not content with a Master's and additional coursework along the way, Vicki next earned a PhD in Social Science from Kansas State University in Manhattan, KS. From there, she taught for several years at the College of Charleston in South Carolina, but returned to her roots in Pueblo in 1981. She taught occasional courses at PCC and at CSU Pueblo, but in 1982, she was forced to retire due to her poor eyesight.

Vicki is a lively gal who listens to NPR and Colorado Public Radio a lot, and reads one or two books every day using Talking Books. Her interests include current events and interpretation of the news in the context of history and the evolution of human social structures. If you think Vicki may be shy, retiring, and unopinionated—think again!! Even she characterizes herself as “mouthy, loud, and having an opinion about

everything!” Those who attend Socrates Café know of what she speaks.

Vicki states that she has not missed one thing in her life. She has been everywhere she ever wanted to go, and is perfectly happy to be retired and living a life of leisure at Azteca.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND OTHER GATHERINGS

Socrates Café, 9:00 each Sunday:

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

Happy Bookers: Lunch meeting 7/2, 11:30 am at Cactus Flower; **discussion meeting on 7/16**, 4:00-5:30 at FUS. The group decided to continue reading **The Book Thief** by Markus Zusak for another month. Note: the book is available as a movie at the public library and through Netflix. August's book is **Half Broke Horses** by Jeannette Walls.

Philosophy at Four (Each Thursday): 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 [Please note: No practice on 7/24 or 7/31 as Michele will be out of town.]

Fellowship Breakfast: 7/11: Each second Friday, join the bunch for lively conversation and a great breakfast. This month we'll meet at 5th and Main Espresso Bar (421 N. Main), one of Pueblo's beautiful, historic buildings. We can't seem to keep from telling our ridiculous stories and voicing our strong opinions, but we are seldom asked to leave by the management. ;-)

Social Justice Movie. 7/13, noon: Each second Sunday, bring a snack and join us to view a movie with a social justice message. This month, see *Food Beware: the French Organic Revolution*, a documentary by Jean Paul Jaud where he visits a village in France where the Mayor has mandated an all organic menu for the lunch program in the schools. Farmers, parents, kids and health care advocates discuss the impact of the decision.

Pueblo Pagans: 7/16, 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: 7/26: Bring a dish to share for the 5:00 potluck, and stick around for the

movie at 6:30. This month, see *The Lunch Box* (recommended by Don Bruestle). When Mumbai's eerily reliable lunchbox delivery service erroneously sends a meal prepared by a young housewife to a lonely widower on the brink of retirement, the mistake ignites an exchange of notes and mutual fantasy between them. Sometimes it's funny, and sometimes it's sad. Come and see!

Ice Cream Sunday, 7/27: We will celebrate July birthdays after the service. If your birthday comes in July, let us know your favorite flavor so we can honor you properly.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER MARY DUMETRIA!



"My continual seeking of education (a couple college degrees...), a few careers, an eclectic lifestyle, and gypsy wanderings seemed to make my becoming a UU a perfect fit!

I had never really heard of Unitarianism until 2002. I had moved to Durango and a friend

suggested I check them out as I had expressed dissatisfaction with churches and religions. I joined their services, held in the old Smiley Building, once a school. Their congregation has since purchased a church (much as FUS has done) and are up to 100+ member—a good place to start, I'd say.

When my health made it necessary for me to think of a better climate, the opportunity to move to Albuquerque seemed logical to take. The first thing I did was to look up the UUs. I didn't feel comfortable in the large UU church there, but found the small fellowship down by the university to be my kind of place.

Last year I needed to move back to Colorado to be closer to family, and felt Pueblo to be a healthy place to land. This, of course, led me to FUS! Hello!"

Mary Dumetria

VIEW FROM THE WINDOW "THREE TRAVELERS"

There were once three travelers who set out on a path. They traveled together until they came to an intersection where the path split off in three directions. For some time they discussed which way to go—all three wanted to go in a different direction. Finally, they

decided that each would travel a different route and when they met up again they would tell each other about what they saw and experienced. The following day, the three met again and told each other about their individual journeys.

The first traveler, who turned left, was eager to share with the others. "Let me tell you about my journey! I started off and the trail gently sloped downhill. I walked for a bit and suddenly the trees parted and I saw a sparkling lake spread out before me. It was getting late and I decided to pitch my camp at the water's edge. I fished and caught two good-sized trout that I cooked for my evening meal. As I finished my meal, the sun set and I watched the colors play about the sky. I was about to turn in for the night when the moon rose over the lake, bathing it in a silvery glow. Suddenly, off to my left, a doe and her fawn came out of the woods and went down to the water to take a drink. They looked at me briefly but didn't seem afraid. The little one splashed and frolicked in the water and I had to laugh at her wild abandon. They nibbled on the grasses for a while, then quietly slipped back into the woods. It was a magical night and I went to bed feeling happy and grateful for my experience."

The second traveler, who had taken the path to the right, smiled and nodded. He told the others what he saw. "I too had a wonderful experience. My path was a strenuous uphill climb. But eventually, the trees parted and I found myself on a rock ledge overlooking a broad valley. I camped out on the ledge and ate from the stores in my pack. I, too, watched the colors of the sunset play across the sky and saw a pair of eagles riding the evening currents. They were so graceful as they circled and dipped their wings, rising higher and higher in the evening sky. Eventually they were lost to my sight. But then the moon rose and the valley was bathed in shadow and light. I could see lights below in the houses and I imagined the people there gathered around their hearths telling stories and enjoying each other's company. It was a magical night for me too and I went to bed happy and grateful for my experience."

The third traveler, who took the middle path, held his head down and was quiet. Finally the first traveler asked him, "And how was your journey, my friend?" He lifted his head and with a vacant look in his eyes turned toward his companions. "The trail I took was increasingly oppressive. The trees and shrubs blotted out the sun and the sky. The air was stagnant and sweat poured from my body. I looked for water but could find only a puddle that was muddy and stale. Finally, it was

so gloomy, I had to stop. I built a fire and huddled close to it all night. I ate very little and didn't sleep at all. I heard the crashing of the animals in the woods and heard their screeching and cries all through the night. I was afraid my fire would go out and the animals would come crashing through the woods and do me harm. It was a long and miserable night."

His two companions sighed and said how sorry they were that his journey was so arduous and gloomy and fearful. One of his companions said: "Look, we have plenty of time left. Why don't we retrace our steps and we'll show you where we've been and you too can experience the wonder that we did?" But the third traveler refused. In his heart, he was jealous of what the

other two had experienced and had convinced himself that they had simply made it all up. There was nothing left to do but for the three to continue on their way.

I have to wonder how many times on our journeys have we missed the wonder and beauty and mystery of this life simply because we refuse to believe what others have told us of their experiences...

Gampi

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

JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 Happy Bookers Lunch: 11:30, Cactus Flower	3 Philosophy at 4:00 Singing Practice 6:00	4	5
6 Socrates Café: 9:00 Service: 10:30 Ib and Midge Birgers, Steve Acker, & Michele Barnes: "In Celebration of Famous Unitarian Universalists" Service Leader: Midge Birgers	7	8 Board of Directors: 6:15	9 Member Support Committee: 4:00	10 Philosophy at 4:00 Singing Practice 6:00	11 Fellowship Breakfast: 9:00 5 th and Main Espresso Bar Program Committee: 4:00	12
13 Socrates Café: 9:00 Service: 10:30 Rev. Pallas Stanford, "As Love Shows Us How" Service Leader: Steve Acker Noon: Social Justice Movie— <i>Food Beware: The French Organic Revolution</i>	14	15	16 Happy Bookers Discussion: 4:00- 5:30 Pueblo Pagans: 6:00	17 Philosophy at 4:00 Singing Practice 6:00	18	19
20 Socrates Café: 9:00 Service: 10:30 Ib and Midge Birgers: "Everyone Is a Theologian" Service Leader: Jan Butorac	21	22	23	24 Philosophy at 4:00 [No Singing Practice—Michele out of town]	25	26 Movie & Pot Luck Night, : 5:00 Movie: <i>The Lunch Box</i>
27 Socrates Café: 9:00 Service: 10:30 Steve Acker: "Mystery" Service Leader: Kathryn Acker <i>Ice Cream Sunday</i>	28	29	30	31 Philosophy at 4:00 [No Singing Practice—Michele out of town]	All activities 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 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.