



Chalice Flame

First Unitarian Society of Pueblo



MARCH, 2014

MEMBER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

VOLUME XIV, ISSUE III

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR MARCH

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

MARCH 3: Steve Acker

"Be At Peace"

Peace is more correctly understood as a verb, not a noun. It requires specific attitudes and actions on our part - both individually and collectively - to be manifested. **Service leader:** Kathryn Acker

MARCH 9: Natalie Florentine

"Chop Wood, Carry Water"

Natalie Florentine will explore the insight gained from finding the sacred amidst the mundane tasks of daily life. **Service Leader:** Shawn Collins

MARCH 16: MICHELE BARNES

"Ostara, the Spring Equinox Ritual"

As the wheel of the year turns and spring returns again, we turn our thoughts to fertility, be it fertility of the mind, body, or spirit, or of the earth. Join us for a ritual circle where those who wish to will participate in a "working" (raising energy and sending it out to the world) for fertility in their lives. **Service Leader:** Louise Burg; **Drumming:** Shawn Collins

MARCH 23: Jan Butorac

"Religious Community Is Not Enough"

Unitarian Universalism's purpose is much bigger than gathering with like-minded people for mutual support. Is building religious community our most important work? By word and deed, UUs are trying to change people and the world. What is it that our own religious community can do to have an impact on our greater community? **Service Leader:** Michele Barnes

MARCH 30: John Tenorio

"Moving Forward"

John Tenorio of PFLAG and a panel will give testimony, comments, and answers to questions about the journeys of GLBT persons in overcoming obstacles and moving forward.

Service Leader: Midge Birgers

FROM OUR PRESIDENT, JANICE: "OUR BLESSED COMMUNITY"

I am very proud to be part of the first Unitarian Society of Pueblo. Together, we are continuing to build a community guided by our Unitarian Universalist principles of tolerance, acceptance, and mutual respect. We are doing this by offering a broad range of activities for our members and the larger community.

We provide opportunities for learning, discussion, and action. Topics include spiritual and religious matters, social justice, science, and philosophy. We also have time to interact, sing, share food, and have fun! Our hope is that we continue to be the best that we can be. To achieve this vision, we need every person's participation and support.

As we continue to move forward, it is very exciting to see the commitment and enthusiasm that our members and friends are exhibiting. A special thank-you to Jan Butorac for editing and preparing the newly revised *Chalice Flame*, which is packed with information to keep us all "in the loop".

Thoughts for March:

A CELTIC BLESSING

May the long time sun shine on you,
All love surround you,
And the pure light within
Guide your way.

Janice Nelson, President, FUS Board of Trustees



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

STEWARDSHIP: KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON!

Our annual stewardship campaign is coming up this spring, and it's time to ponder how our monetary (and other) support can help "keep the lights on" here at FUS. We operate on a shoestring budget, with little money to cover merely operating expenses, not to mention programs and social justice activities. The act of pledging helps so much in our ability to predict when and how much money we will have in our coffers to pay for insurance, electricity, guest speakers, religious education materials, and many other operating expenses, as well as our commitment to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) to send them \$84.00 per member per year so they can keep their own programs going. This per-member commitment by all UU churches worldwide is the UUA's only source of operating funds, and FUS has been unable to meet our obligation this past year.

Over March, April, and May, the Finance Committee (Don Bruestle, Chair; John Petersen; and Jan Butorac) will use this newsletter and other methods of communication to inform you about where we are financially and how critical this year's pledge campaign is to our future viability.

John Wolf, the Minister Emeritus of a UU church in Tulsa, once wrote: *"There is only one reason for joining a Unitarian Universalist church and that is: to support it. You want to support it because it stands against superstition and fear. Because this church points to what is noblest and best in human life. Because it is open to women and men of whatever race, creed, color, place of origin, or sexual orientation.*

"You want to support it because it is a place where walls between people are torn down rather than built-up. Because it is a place for the religious displaced persons of our time, and those who insist against orthodoxy that they must work out their own beliefs.

"You want to support a UU church because it is more concerned with human beings than with dogmas. Because it searches for the holy, rather than dwelling upon the depraved. You want to support a UU church because it stands for something in a day when religion is still more concerned with platitudes than with prejudice and war. There is only one reason for joining a Unitarian Universalist church: to support it!"

This Year's Campaign Is Very Important. As we approach our pledge campaign, let's each look inside for what it is that we most treasure and value about First Unitarian Society and make a personal

commitment—as we are each able to do so—to empower those values in living community. FUS needs all the support that you can give to **keep the lights on!**

You Can Help! We are actively recruiting people to help with the canvass. It is a short-term project with a clear beginning and end, and will take not more than a few planning meetings and then a brief flurry of activity as we near and complete the campaign. Let the Finance Committee know if you will participate.

Schedule of Events: Here's a high level schedule of activities for our stewardship campaign for 2014-2015.

March: All committees determine their budgetary needs for the coming church year and submit them to the Treasurer and Finance Committee

April:

- ✚ The Treasurer and Finance Committee formulate a proposed budget for 2014 – 2015, based on the requests by the various committees, and present it to the Board.
- ✚ We hold the first of two informational meetings for the congregation regarding budget and process for the canvass. If you can't make this one, another is scheduled for early May.

May:

- ✚ We hold a second informational meeting for the congregation early in the month.
- ✚ Stewardship Dinner, May 17: We gather for a super pot-luck dinner and dancing to simply enjoy each other's company as a celebration of FUS.
- ✚ Stewardship Sunday, May 18: Our sermon for that day is on the topic of stewardship, and pledge cards are distributed after the service.
- ✚ Congregation returns pledge cards to the Treasurer.

Let's All 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 |

Keeping the Lights On (Cont.)

June:

- ✚ All pledge cards returned by June 8
- ✚ Board adjusts preliminary budget based on actual pledge total
- ✚ Board presents final budget to congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting on June 29; we also vote on the slate of candidates presented by the nominating committee for open Board positions.

SING ALONG WITH MICHELE

Michele Barnes is starting a “choir” practice for those interested in learning the songs we will sing the following Sunday. We’ll get to know the hymns so we have more strong voices to help the rest of the congregation along, as well as develop some harmonies. We will meet at the church Wednesday nights at 6:00 PM, starting March 5th. March will be a trial to see if there is enough interest. She is open to this evolving into special performances or even individuals or small groups presenting performance works during services. ***So come on and sing with us!***

COME TO A SUPER GARDENING WORKSHOP ON MARCH 1 AT THE ACKER’S!

(Postponed from February due to weather) 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 March 1 at 5:00 and bring a dish to share—heavy h’ors d’oeuvres, wine, or whatever else you wish to bring. They will provide non-alcoholic beverages.

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

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: RUTH MAHANEY



If you drop by the church any Friday afternoon, you will have the pleasure of meeting Ruth Mahaney. She is our effective and efficient part-time Administrator as well as a member of FUS, though she doesn’t often attend services.

Ruth joined FUS eight years ago when FUS was at our downtown location. She and her son attended Green Party meetings there, and some UUs were in attendance. She remembers well admiring the art work on the walls there, to discover that it was the mastery of our “Artist in Residence”, Ivy Cartier! She began attending Saturday Movie Nights with a friend, and gradually having come to understand UUism, she joined and has been a member ever since. She has served in numerous capacities, including being an At-Large Director on the Board and as chair of the religious education committee.

Ruth was born in Pueblo and graduated from high school here. She left for many years, but returned about 10 years ago. She has four children and five granddaughters. Ruth is a retired librarian, having worked at the Estes Park Public Library and at PCC. She has taught library science, including on-line courses. She enjoys walking, watching movies, and reading—lots of reading! Drop by and meet her one of these Fridays.

BOARD BITS

February’s Board of Trustees meeting on 2/11 focused on finances as well as committee reports:

Committee Reports:

- ✚ Stewardship: Don Bruestle reported that it’s time to get started planning for the annual canvass, and that we need to recruit people to plan and execute the canvass.
- ✚ Programs: Sunday services are in place for March, with one opening in April.
- ✚ Member Support: The member directory will be completed by the end of February; discussion of Valentine’s service, movies, Bookers, Caring Committee, etc.
- ✚ Fundraising: Discussion of planning for garage/plant sale and other fundraising items in planning stages

Finance:

- ✚ Discussion of how to pay for the new hot water heater (\$900) via requests for targeted donations; \$380 collected so far.
- ✚ Discussion of King Sooper card process
- ✚ Review of budget: Due to lack of time during the meeting, the Board met on 2/16 to do a line-by-line analysis of the budget against expenditures so far this FY. It was a very productive meeting. Major outcomes: new King Sooper card procedure and timing, and changes to the way accounts are set up in QuickBooks.

SOME PIX FROM MICHELE BARNES' SERVICE, PAGAN 101



Michele demonstrates a spiral/Celtic/renaissance style of dance during her service.



Michele keeps on dancin'!

UPDATE ON MAY 3 PLANT SALE, GARAGE SALE, BAKE SALE

The Garage/Plant/Bake sale committee met on February 12, and laid out a more detailed plan for preparing for our big sale on May 3. We determined which people would grow which types of seedlings; discussed planting and fertilizer mediums; mapped out a general publicity campaign and made assignments for that; and discussed where and how to grow the seedlings for sale. Following are some key dates:

Saturday, March 1, 5:00: Gardening and Composting Workshop at Steve and Kathryn Acker's. All are invited!

Saturday, March 22: Planning, Seedling Planting, and Signage Party, 10:00 AM

Throughout April: Publicity in various outlets, plus research on pricing

Wednesday, April 30 – Friday, May 2: Put up signs at selected locations

Friday, May 2: Set up for sale

Saturday, May 3, 8AM to 5PM: The Big Sale!

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

Bake Sale: Begin now baking, wrapping, 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 April as to when and what help we need for this aspect of the BIG DAY.

BOARD NOMINATING COMMITTEE LOOKS FORWARD TO THE UPCOMING CHURCH YEAR

The Nominating Committee is an elected committee whose main duty is to prepare a slate of candidates to fill open Board of Trustee positions. This year, your Nominating Committee is comprised of Ethyl Kelham, Bev Cherry, and Kathryn Acker. These folks also propose the next year's nominating committee.

It is the responsibility of this committee to evaluate the needs of FUS and the qualifications of prospective candidates. If more than one person is interested in a position, the committee has the discretion to evaluate each candidate and present the slate they believe meets the needs of FUS.

The process goes like this:

- ✚ Anyone who is interested in or has suggestions to serve on the Board or Nominating Committee should speak to one of the members. (Those eligible to run must be members in good standing, and must have been a member for at least one year.)
- ✚ The slate is completed and reviewed by the Board no later than June 3.
- ✚ Members are notified of the slate (per by-laws) two weeks before the annual meeting, and the slate is formally presented to the members at the annual meeting, which is scheduled for **June 29** after the service.
- ✚ The congregation votes on the slate of candidates (as well as the new budget).

So What's In Store for This Year? The Board has undergone some changes since the original 2013-2014 Board was elected. Bev Cherry was elected as Vice President last year, and Kate Langworthy was appointed to the Nominating Committee. When Bev Cherry

Nominating Committee (cont.)

became unable to stay on the Board, Midge Birgers agreed to take her place as Vice President and was formally appointed to that position, and Kate Langworthy was appointed to the Board to take Midge's place as Secretary. Then, Bev Cherry was appointed by the Board to the Nominating Committee. A bit of musical chairs! Finally, when Dave Wagner moved from the area, Don Bruestle was appointed to complete the one-year remaining of Dave's term as an At-Large trustee.

At this time, the status of the Board positions is as follows:

- ✚ President: Janice Nelson (Term up at end of FY)
- ✚ Vice President: Midge Birgers (One year remaining)
- ✚ Secretary: Kate Langworthy (Term up at end of FY)
- ✚ Treasurer: Marc Pratarelli (Term up at end of FY)
- ✚ At Large (Member Services): Dorie Silverman (One year remaining)
- ✚ At Large (Programs): Shawn Collins (One year remaining)
- ✚ At Large (Operations): Don Bruestle (Term up at end of FY)

Open positions that require nominations:

- ✚ President: Two-year term
- ✚ Secretary: One-year term
- ✚ Treasurer: Two-year term
- ✚ At Large (Operations): Two-year term

The Caring Committee Cares about You!

The Caring Committee wants to know about any births, deaths, illnesses, or other life events. 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.

VIEW FROM THE WINDOW BY GAMPI, MYSTERY COLUMNIST

In the movie "Avatar" there was one line that stuck with me: "I see you." Do I see you? Not really. Maybe. Occasionally.

What does it mean to really "see" another?

Do I see in you my own shortcomings, my strength,; my pride, or my shame? Do I see in you my own joy and sorrow and longing?

Do I see in you your need for love and acceptance as much as I need the same? Do I respond to you in the same way I want you to respond to me?

How often have I been in another's presence and been truly present? Was I listening to you while you were talking? Or was I preoccupied with my own thoughts? Was I formulating a measured response while you talked, or was I feeling that connection of shared joys, concerns, or fears? Did I freely give you the attention you sought from me? Or was I impatient, looking for any opportunity to disengage from your presence?

One recent day, I'm in the check-out line at Safeway. There's a senior ahead of me. She's frail and struggling with shaking hands, trying to find her checkbook. (Haven't you heard of plastic?) She's obviously frustrated with herself and glances back at me apologetically. I'm starting to feel irritated and impatient.

Suddenly—she becomes the image of my mother, who recently passed away.

Too often was I impatient with her. She was never ready when I came to pick her up. "Where are your shoes, Mom? Do you have your keys? Do you want your cane or your walker?" Finally out her door, we shuffle down the long hallway. She stops at the mailbox, fumbling with the key. "Mom, just let me do it!" Her eyes are sad as she hands me the key. Once proud and self-assured, I've just reminded her that she's not the woman she used to be. I didn't see how her body had failed her. I didn't see how her mind played tricks on her and mocked her at every turn. I didn't see how old and betrayed she felt. I was too preoccupied with myself. What I wouldn't give for a do-over. What I wouldn't give for one more chance to say "I'm sorry" or "I love you, Mom."

I smile at the woman ahead of me. "You just take your time. I have no place important I need to be." Her tired eyes smile back at me. She finds her checkbook and with shaky hand writes in the amount. She tears the check when it won't separate at the perforation. She finally hands the check to the clerk, puts the checkbook in her purse, and fumbles for her keys. Before she leaves, she turns back toward me and says "Thank you for being so kind." I smile back at her and wish her a good day.

I realize I've just had my do-over! Here was one time, at least, when I saw the person in front of me.

STEP RIGHT UP AND BUY YOUR KING SOOPER GIFT CARDS!

FUS sells King Sooper “gift cards” because we make a small profit from each purchase, and use this money to bolster our general funds. As with your own grocery budget, every dollar counts! The larger our purchase of cards is, the greater is our profit. For example, if we purchase \$2,500 in cards, we come out with a clean \$100; if we purchase less value in cards, our profit margin percentage dwindles.

For this reason, and also in order to simplify accounting and establish a regular schedule of pre-purchase and distribution of the cards, going forward we will offer **pre-purchase of the cards** on the **first three Sundays** of each month, with distribution on every **fourth Sunday**. In this way, you can pre-purchase cards earlier in the month if you want, but have until the third Sunday to remember to buy them. As mentioned above, purchasing the cards from KS only once a month affords us greater profits due to larger amounts purchased as opposed to purchasing and distributing more frequently.

So get on board! If you don't shop at King Sooper, give it a try. And remember, every dollar counts.

Note: Always relinquish your cards to King Sooper when they are empty so as not to confuse them with “live” ones; and do NOT expose cards to devices emitting strong magnetic fields such as sound speakers, headphones, cell phones, and magnets.



Shawn and Tirzah Collins light our chalice at the start of a recent service.

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.

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 3/5, 11:30am at Rosario's at Riverwalk; discussion meeting 3/19, 4:00-5:30pm, at FUS. March's book is **Little Bee** by Chris Cheeve.

Social Justice Movie, 3/9, noon: Bring a snack and join us for the documentary film *Bidder 70*. This is the saga of Tim DeChristopher, who brazenly bid \$1.7 million to win 12 land parcels in a Federal lease auction with no intent of paying--and determined to protect the land, the activist begins a long legal battle, including incarceration.

DeChristopher is now studying to be a UU minister, and our UUA had recommended that member congregations view this film and discuss the issues. (This is re-scheduled from February, when we received a broken disk.)

We will also share our ideas and interests for social justice issues, and how we might be involved. In recent years we have focused on sustainability issues, and are a part of the local faith-based group Faith Leaders in Action. What are your interests?

Fellowship Breakfast, 3/14: Each second Friday, join the group for lively conversation and a great breakfast. This month: Village Inn, 1707 S. Pueblo Blvd.

Pueblo Humanist Directions, 3/18. The meeting will be held on the fourth floor in the Info Zone theater room at the main public library in the Mesa Junction neighborhood in Pueblo: the Rawlings Library, 100 East Abriendo (at Union Avenue). Please come and feel free to bring a guest. There will be snacks and beverages, and you're welcome to bring some to share, but it's not required. This is a great group of interesting people who are fun and smart. Many are also Unitarian Universalists. For more information, see the website www.americanhumanist.org.

Philosophy at 4:00: Join this gaggle of philosophers as they begin a new series: readings and discussions of J. Krishnamurti's book *To Be Human*. Please contact Steve Acker (423-930-7277) for additional information.

Saturday Night Movie and Pot Luck, March 22: Bring a dish to share for the 5:00 potluck, and stick around for the movie at 6:30. This month, see *Inside Llewyn Davis*, a four-star drama by the Cohn brothers nominated for Golden Globe and the Oscar about a folk singer in the '60s in the East Village during a bleak NYC winter.

MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Gardening and Composting Tutorial: 5:00 at Acker's. All welcome; bring a dish to share.
2 Socrates Café: 9:00 Service: Steve Acker - "Be At Peace" 10:30	3	4	5 Happy Bookers Lunch: 11:30 Rosario's Singing Practice 6:00	6 Philosophy at 4:00 Stewardship Canvass Committee: 6:00	7 Program Committee: 4:00	8
9 Socrates Café: 9:00 Service: Natalie Florentine: "Finding the Sacred in the Mundane" 10:30 Social Justice Movie, <i>Bidder 70</i> : noon	10	11 Board of Trustees: 6:15	12 Members Services Committee: 4:00 Singing Practice 6:00	13 Philosophy at 4:00	14 Fellowship Breakfast: 9:00 Village Inn, Pueblo Blvd.	15
16 Socrates Café: 9:00 Service: Michele Barnes – "Ostara, the Spring Equinox Ritual" 10:30	17	18 Pueblo Humanists 6:30, Public Library InfoZone Theatre	19 Happy Bookers Discussion: 4:00-5:30 Singing Practice 6:00	20 Philosophy at 4:00	21	22 Planting and Signage Party for Plant Sale: 10:00 Movie & Pot Luck Night, <i>Inside Llewyn Davis</i> : 5:00
23 Socrates Café: 9:00 Service: Jan Butorac – "Religious Community Is Not Enough" 10:30	24	25	26 Singing Practice 6:00	27 Philosophy at 4:00	28	29
30 Socrates Café: 9:00 Service: John Tenorio - "Moving Forward" with a PFLAG panel 10:30	31				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, Dorie Zimmerman, and Shawn Collins, Trustees at Large
Pianist/Harpist: Myrna Steele **Office Administrator,** Ruth Mahaney
Chalice Flame Editor: Jan Butorac

First Unitarian Society
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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, 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.