



Chalice Flame

First Unitarian Society of Pueblo



MAY 2014

MEMBER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

VOLUME XIV, ISSUE V

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR MAY

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

MAY 4: CLAIRE ZILM

"The Blessing of Our Animals" Rev. Zilm, a Methodist minister and a friend of FUS, will present a thought-provoking talk about the place animals have in our lives, and as fellow animals, our place in their world. Bring in your pet (if well-behaved and leashed or caged) and invite your friends to bring theirs. We will conclude with a blessing of the animals.

Service Leader: Janice Nelson

MAY 11: REV. ROGER BUTTS

"Feminine Images of the Divine" On Mother's Day morning, Rev. Butts will take a look at feminine images of the divine from the Bible, from indigenous cultures, and from world religions. We'll play with the idea "What does the divine look like to you? What does the holy look like to you?" Rev. Butts is an ordained UU minister, serving now as Associate Minister at the Unity Spiritual Center of the Rockies and as a CPE chaplain at Penrose-St. Francis Hospital.

Service Leader: Michele Barnes

Stay after the service for smoothies in honor of Mother's Day!

MAY 18: STEVE ACKER AND THE WORSHIP TEAM

"Stewardship Sunday" Three First Unitarian Society (FUS) members share why it is important to them to sustain our faith community through their time, talents, and financial support. This service is the kick-off for our pledge drive for the new fiscal year (FY).

Service Leader: Steve Acker

MAY 25: WILLIAM SANDOVAL

"Come Hungry" We'll dive into an exploration of mindful eating and reconnect with the true sources of sustenance by asking how morality fits into our food habits. (William is a new member of FUS, has a degree in world religions, and has plans to become a UU minister.)

Service Leader: Midge Birgers

FROM OUR PRESIDENT, JANICE: "OUR BLESSED COMMUNITY"

Our FUS building is a very active place. There are activities and meetings almost daily. We have plants growing in the windows and minds expanding and growing in all our rooms. Our Sunday programs are varied and provide a wide range of topics. There is plenty of laughter after the services and at other activities. You will find serious committees planning and sharing for programs, increasing and supporting our membership, planning outreach, doing the hard work to plan our stewardship campaign, and balancing the budget. Members are getting to know each other at our fellowship breakfasts and movie nights. The Happy Bookers and Philosophy at Four groups are reading and discussing selected books. Individuals are attending planning workshops and are joining with local faith leaders to become more involved in social justice issues. In a word, our beloved community is alive!! We laugh, learn, share, agree, and disagree as we all explore our common values and faith. Together we are a community.

May and June are going to be very busy as we together look at what we value, what we want to do, and how we can apply all our talents, time, and treasures to accomplish that. Please take part in all the upcoming activities, including the stewardship dinner, the annual meeting, and the election of new leaders. See more in the article on page 2, *Keeping the Lights On—and More!* Stewardship is defined as taking care of what you value and helping it to grow. "The beloved community is not an organization of individuals seeking private and selfish security for their souls. It is a new adventure, and a spontaneous fellowship of connected people seeking a new world." *Clarence Skinner (1881–1949), prominent Universalist minister.*

In love and community,

Janice Nelson, President, FUS Board of Directors

KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON—AND MORE!

We used this space the past two months to provide information about our annual canvass coming up this month. Our effort is to keep the congregation informed about the process and the purpose of the canvass, and the critical role of stewardship to FUS.

Where Does Our Income Come From? Our income is primarily pledged donations, but also includes money from the Sunday collection plate, various fund raisers, King Sooper card revenue, and minimal building rental income. We anticipate our **non-pledge income** for the coming FY to be approximately **\$5,400**.

Preliminary Budget. Over the past month, each committee has defined its financial expense needs and made a request to the Board for that amount. When totaled, the requested amount was approximately

Did You Know?

First Unitarian Society is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the Mountain Desert District (MDD) of the UUA. Each UU church pays an annual fee to these supporting organizations based on the number of members on the membership rolls for that year. For every member, we are expected to pay \$60/member to the UUA and \$26/member to the MDD annually. This money is the sole source of revenue for these bodies that are critical to the ongoing health of the UU denomination. This means that each member of FUS needs to help us by donating sufficient funds to cover this expense of \$86/member, above and beyond our own church expenses. We have been unable to send any money to the UUA this past year, and have only partially paid the MDD our share. We'd love to be able to pay our fair share!

\$23,500. Based on the number of anticipated pledges and the pledge history of the past year, the Board realized that we would not be able to achieve sufficient pledge income to achieve the requested amounts; so at a special meeting on April 15, the Board cut significant money from most committee requests to come up with a more realistic set of expenses. We arrived at a preliminary **budget total of approximately \$18,700**.

Fixed Expenses Are Lion's Share of Budget. \$18,700 may sound like a lot of money to spend, but did you know that our fixed expenses alone come to more than \$10,300?! Utilities cost us nearly \$6,000, while items such as building and grounds costs, tax exempt fees, and insurance bring the fixed costs to \$10,000+. With

an expectation of non-pledge revenues of about \$5,500, pledge revenues are the thing that keeps us going.

Our budget for last year was \$19,000, so we are actually budgeting less for the coming year than we did for last year, based on donations year to date and extrapolating for new members and those who have left us. Within this budget, we have slashed many items that we'd love to have—such as meeting our financial obligations to the UUA and the MDD (see box to left), having more paid speakers, purchasing materials for adult and children's religious education, advertising and outreach, and lots of other things to improve our programs and serve our congregation.

Pledge Goal: We will provide detailed information on how we arrived at our pledge goal at the Stewardship Dinner, but we wanted all to know that our **preliminary goal for the pledge drive is approximately \$13,300**. This equates to the difference between our total budget needs and our non-pledge revenues.

To Pledge or to Donate to the Plate? The act of pledging helps so much in our ability to predict when and how much money we will have in our coffers. The act of making the pledge also causes one to think more deeply about the level of commitment and the level of one's ability to support the church monetarily.

We hope that you'll be inspired to do something truly generous for our pledge drive this year. And please hear this: **whatever** your gift to FUS may be, we celebrate and appreciate it. Let's each look inside for what it is that we most treasure and value about FUS and make a personal commitment—as we are each able to do—to empower those values in living community. FUS needs all the support that you can give to **keep the lights on—and MORE!**

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

April:

- ✚ All committees have requested budget monies for the new fiscal year and have submitted them to the Board.
- ✚ The Board, with the Treasurer and Finance Committee, has formulated a proposed budget for 2014 – 2015 based on the pledge history of the current fiscal year (FY) and the expenses expected in the coming FY.

✚ **May:**

- ✚ **Stewardship Dinner, May 17:** We gather for a super pot-luck dinner and a fun skit to simply enjoy each other's company as a celebration of FUS. We also

show a slide presentation on the budget and giving needs.

- ✚ **Stewardship Sunday, May 18:** Our presentation for that morning, led by Steve Acker and the Programs Team, is on the topic of stewardship, and pledge cards are distributed after the service.
- ✚ The congregation returns pledge cards to the Treasurer before June 1.

June:

- ✚ All pledge cards returned by June 1
- ✚ 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 and on a set of revised Bylaws for church governance.

From Your Canvass Team: Don Bruestle, Jan Butorac, Louise Burg, and Steve Acker

PUEBLO PAGAN GROUP

Join Michele Barnes each third Sunday at 6:00 at FUS for the monthly meeting of Pueblo Pagans. Pueblo Pagans is a discussion/teaching group where everyone from the novice to the experienced can come and learn new things, share your knowledge, have fellowship with other pagans, and practice ritual in a group setting.

BOARD BITS FROM APRIL'S MEETING

April's Board of Trustees meeting on 4/8 focused on finances as well as committee reports:

Committee Reports:

- ✚ **Stewardship:** Don Bruestle reported on further planning for the annual canvass, including review of a detailed schedule developed by Jan Butorac.
- ✚ **Programs:** Sunday services are in place for May.
- ✚ **Member Support:** The member directory will be completed for the Annual Meeting
- ✚ **Fundraising:** Discussion of planning for garage/plant sale and other fundraising items in planning stages

Finance:

- ✚ Review and discussion of current budget and budget for new FY; discussion of process for preparing budget for Canvass

Other: Michele Barnes has volunteered to take over the administrative tasks of our former Administrator, Ruth Mahaney, who resigned last month, until we fill the position permanently at the beginning of the new FY. Thanks so much, Michele!

EASTER BRUNCH PHOTOS



Conviviality all around!



Mmmmm.....lots of great brunch food!



Dig Mary's Easter hat!



Typical serious, philosophical UU discussion....

Photos by Steve Acker



Our speaker for Easter, Dr. Marc Pratarelli, with Sarah and little Rachel—what a lovely family!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE TO PRESENT SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR OPEN BOARD POSITIONS AT CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 6/29

The Nominating Committee comprised of Ethyl Kelham, Michele Barnes, and Kathryn Acker, are working to develop a slate of officers for the coming church year. This Committee is an elected group whose responsibility is 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.

Open positions that require nominations:

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

So let the Nominating Committee know if you want to take the plunge and present yourself for a Board position!

VIEW FROM THE WINDOW BY GAMPI, MYSTERY COLUMNIST

It snowed the other day. I was struck by the contrast of the snow on the tree with the red buds boldly poking through defying winters embrace. Contrasts. They seem to define our world and from them we try to impart meaning and purpose. What good is up without down? How would we define left if not for right? Would we appreciate health if not for sickness? Darkness gives way to light and heat to the cold. The yin gives way to the yang. How could we possibly experience life without its contrasts?

I look out the window and watch as the sky lightens. Darkness gives way to the russets—the purples and the golds. I watch as the tops of the mountains are bathed in a golden sheen. I watch as the light flows to their base and into the valley. Dawn has finally come. I've been in darkness for so long. Dark night of the soul, Thomas Moore called it. I've raged against the darkness as I have stumbled through life, not knowing where I was going. I've seen sickness and death and war. I've raged against my loneliness and blindness. I found myself angry and afraid. The only way I could keep going was to defy the darkness and embrace a hope that it all would change. But it's hard to stand tall when everything around you conspires to knock you down. It's hard to believe in light when everything around you says it does not exist.



The dawn has finally come and my heart sings for joy. Tears of gratitude roll down my cheeks in the realization that the long night is over and I'm no longer afraid. I realize that my suffering is the result of my judging the darkness as bad and the light as good. Yet how can I experience one to its fullness without the other? Contrasts.

It snowed the other day. But I knew winter was gone and spring had come. And I realize I love them both...

Gampi

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Jimmy Garcia and William Sandoval

Jimmy and William have been partners for almost three years, having met for the first time in 2011. While they lived only a few houses apart in Pueblo, they didn't know each other growing up as they attended different high schools—Jimmy graduated from South High School, while William graduated from Pueblo County High School. Jimmy went on to hair styling school and has now been a superior hairstylist (speaking from experience, as this author has had her hair done by Jimmy) for four years, currently working at Headlines. Jimmy loves to go to music festivals, and enjoys big city

life, being on the water, and listening to music. His favorite group is Paramore—he’s been to nearly 20 concerts by this group! Check them out—they are great!

William went on to Texas Christian University after high school, and graduated as a commissioned officer in the US Army Reserve with a Bachelor’s in Religion. He currently works for the Pueblo Waste Water Management Department and serves as a First Lieutenant and platoon leader in the Reserves.

William’s plan is to pursue a Master’s of Divinity at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver and to become a Unitarian Universalist minister! He plans to start the Master’s program in two to three years. William loves all things outdoors, including hiking and rustic camping, and is excited to be a new member of FUS.

Mary Dumetria



Mary signing the membership book

Mary Dumetria signed the book in April also—you’ll see her bio next month! Welcome, Mary!

OUR BELOVED LABYRINTH— “THE STONES”

In case you have not noticed, FUS has a lovely labyrinth in our front yard! Thanks to former members Dan and Irene Stone, who moved away at the end of 2013, the

labyrinth, which was designed as a square rather than a circle to accommodate our parcel of land, serves as a place for meditation and thought. If you have never walked a labyrinth, give it a try **right here!**



Irene and Dan designed the labyrinth, and Irene worked on it every Friday for five or six years, digging and planting. In so doing, Irene interacted with many people in the neighborhood and parents from the school, and

became our unofficial “ambassador.” Dan helped with watering and heavy lifting.



In recognition of the Stones’ huge labor of love, our Board is recommending that we formally dedicate the labyrinth to them and officially name it “The Stones”. This dedication will take the form of a plaque and a ceremony, date to be announced.

Take a few minutes to walk the labyrinth, and be on the lookout for news about when and how we can all help to shape up and clean up our lovely labyrinth and gardens. A garden work day or two is coming up!



DANCES OF UNIVERSAL PEACE



After the service on April 27, where Carol Orban (Jan Butorac's sister and an ordained Universal Sufi minister) talked about her experience with Universal Sufism, Carol led a group of FUS folks in learning several of the Dances of Universal Peace. The two photos here are from that session.

Carol instructing the group



The group learning a Jewish-based Dance of Universal Peace.

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 5/7, 11:30 am at

J. Michael's (formerly Cock and Bull); **discussion meeting 5/21, 4:00-5:30 pm**, at FUS. April's book is *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn.

Philosophy at Four (Each Thursday): Join this gaggle of philosophers who are currently studying the works and practices of Byron Katie. Contact Steve Acker (423-930-7277) for additional information.

Singing Practice: Each Thursday at 6:00 with Michele Barnes

Fellowship Breakfast: 5/9: Each second Friday, join the bunch for lively conversation and a great breakfast. This month's location: 5th and Main Espresso Bar and Café, 421 N. Main St.

Mother's Day Smoothies, 5/11: Stick around after the service and have a luscious fruit smoothie (dairy or non-dairy), prepared by your Social Activities Committee, in honor of Mother's Day.

Social Justice Movie: 5/11 noon: Bring a snack and join us after the service for a viewing of *Flow*. Listed as one of the top Documentaries of 2013, this film examines the harsh realities behind the mounting water shortage from both local and global perspectives. Learn how politics, pollution, and human rights are intertwined in this important issue that affects every living being.

Pueblo Humanist Directions: 5/20 at FUS. 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. For more information, see the website www.americanhumanist.org.

Pueblo Pagans: 5/21, 6:00. Pueblo Pagans is a monthly discussion/teaching group where everyone from the novice to the experienced can come and learn new things, share your knowledge, have fellowship with other pagans, and practice ritual in a group setting. Led by Michele Barnes

Saturday Night Movie and Pot Luck: 5/24: Bring a dish to share for the 5:00 potluck, and stick around for the movie at 6:30. This month, see **Hugo**, a 2011 historical adventure drama directed by Martin Scorsese, based on Brian Selznick's New York Times best-seller, *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. *Hugo* is the astonishing adventure of a wily and resourceful boy who lives alone in the Gare Montparnasse railway station in Paris in the 1930s. He is an orphan whose quest to unlock a secret left to him by his father will transform him and all those around him, and reveal a safe and loving place he can call home.

OUR THANKS TO PFLAG PANEL FOR MARCH 30 SERVICE

FUS was honored to have five members of PFLAG conduct a panel discussion on March 30, where they talked about their experiences being gay and their struggles to “come out” and adjust to their new lives. Each person’s personal story was fascinating and compelling. They then took questions from the congregation and, with humor and warmth, addressed our queries forthrightly. Overall, the service was engaging, informative, and funny at times.

We want to thank Deric Stowell, who is the President of Pueblo’s PFLAG chapter and an officer of PFLAG at the national level, and his cohort comprised of Daneya Esgar (who is running for CO House for District 46), Josette Jaramillo, Sandy Kaitfors, and Cindy Rains.



PFLAG representatives Sandy Kaitfors, Cindy Rains, Deric Stowell, Daneya Esgar, and Josette Jaramillo

HOUSEKEEPING TIPS....

For meetings or other events at church, consider the following:

- ✚ Write your meeting date/time on the central calendar (desk in the office) to avoid conflicts.
- ✚ The building is available for use for all members, and we have a rental policy and fee schedule for non-members and groups.

- ✚ You may also contact Michele Barnes, our acting Administrator, on Fridays to arrange for meetings, rentals, etc.
- ✚ As part of the responsibilities for renters and anyone who uses the building, it is expected that the rooms, including the kitchen, will be left clean and ready for the next use.

Any problems with the building, equipment, or requests should be reported to Don Bruestle, or leave a note in the box outside the office.

PHILOSOPHY AT FOUR GROUP



If you are ever wondering what to do at 4:00 on any Thursday, drop in and talk philosophy with this charming crew! (Steve Acker, the group leader, should be in this photo but he took the picture.)



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

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.

MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Philosophy at 4:00 Singing Practice 6:00 Bring yard sale stuff	2 Program Committee: 4:00 Set up for yard sale: 10AM on Bring yard sale stuff	3 Yard sale: 8AM to 5PM Set-up: 7AM Clean-up: 5PM
4 Socrates Café: 9:00 Service: 10:30 Rev. Claire Zilm: "The Blessing of our Animals" Bring pets!	5	6	7 Happy Bookers Lunch: 11:30, J. Michael's	8 Philosophy at 4:00 Singing Practice 6:00	9 Fellowship Breakfast: 9:00 5 th and Main Espresso Bar and Café	10
11 Socrates Café: 9:00 Service: 10:30 Rev. Roger Butts: "Feminine Images of the Divine" (Smoothies after the service) Social Justice Movie: noon: <i>Flow</i>	12	13 Board of Directors: 6:15	14 Member Support Committee: 4:00	15 Philosophy at 4:00 Singing Practice 6:00	16	17 Stewardship Pot Luck Dinner and Fun: 5:30
18 Socrates Café: 9:00 Service: 10:30 Stewardship Sunday with Steve Acker and the Program Team Canvass Kick-Off	19 Submit pledge cards through June 1	20 Pueblo Humanist Directions: 6:30	21 Happy Bookers Discussion: 4:00-5:30 Pueblo Pagans: 6:00	22 Philosophy at 4:00 Singing Practice 6:00	23	24 Movie & Pot Luck Night, <i>Hugo</i> : 5:00
25 Socrates Café: 9:00 Service: 10:30 William Sandoval: "Come Hungry"	26 Submit pledge cards through June 1	27	28	29 Philosophy at 4:00 Singing Practice 6:00	30 Deadline for Pledge Cards: June 1	31 All activities take place 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 **Chalice Flame Editor:** Jan Butorac
Acting Church Administrator and Music Director: Michele Barnes

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 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.