



Chalice Flame

First Unitarian Society of Pueblo



NOVEMBER 2014

MEMBER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

VOLUME XIV, ISSUE XI

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER

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

NOVEMBER 2: REV. JOHN MARK HILD

"Stretching Our Boundaries"

Rev. Hild, pastor of the Pueblo Metropolitan Community Church (MCC), will talk about stretching our boundaries by loving others inside as well as outside our faith communities.

Service Leader: Dorie Silverman

NOVEMBER 9: STEVE ACKER

"Social Sustainability"

Steve, FUS Board President, will speak about social sustainability. We are familiar with sustainability in terms of the environment. What we don't often consider is the sustainability of many of our social institutions. We will touch on what is required to create a sustainable system.

Service Leader: Kathy Acker

New member information discussion at noon.

NOVEMBER 16: WILLIAM SANDOVAL

"The Joy of Julian"

William Sandoval, a member of our Committee on Ministry, will introduce us to Julian of Norwich. We will explore the life of this unique figure in the Christian tradition, and how her "theology" was very unlike anything existing during her time. We will look at how our "mystical" experiences challenge or reflect our doctrinal beliefs as a congregation.

Service Leader: Steve Acker

NOVEMBER 23: JAN BUTORAC

"Unitarian Universalism's Evolution"

Unitarian Universalism has changed a great deal since its North American origins over 200 years ago. Would our religious forebears recognize *our* Unitarian Universalism as part of the same religious tradition they had a hand in creating?

Service Leader: Maria Adkins

NOVEMBER 30: DORIE SILVERMAN

"A Gift of Gratitude"

Dorie, member of the FUS Board of Directors, will show a short DVD with thoughts about gratitude that lighten our lives. "A Gift of Gratitude" reminds all of us to celebrate and offer thanks for the gift of life and the everyday wonder and beauty of nature. An interactive discussion will follow.

Service Leader: Michele Barnes

Ice Cream Sunday for November birthdays

"TORCHLIGHTS" FROM OUR PRESIDENT, STEVE ACKER: ENABLING A CARING AND REVERENT COMMUNITY



I realize that, as Unitarian Universalists, we are somewhat adverse to structure and controls. I, for one, proudly professed that I was a loose buckle in the Bible Belt while living in NE Tennessee. Also, when I deem appropriate, I have no qualms about defying authority. From what I've observed, most of us have no problem going against the grain. However, there are times when structure is both desirable and beneficial. One of those times is during our Sunday services.

I am referring specifically to the time when we express our joys, sorrows, and concerns.

We all consider this time to be beneficial to us. It is a time to connect with each other and build community. As a community, we care about each other and share with each other what is important in our lives. This tradition has become an integral part of our Sunday services.

The words below come from the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) website regarding joys and sorrows:

Done well, they show that we're a caring and reverent religious community. Done poorly, they embarrass us. Joys and Sorrows, or Joys and Concerns, our Sunday morning sharing of the highs and lows of our lives, can be a rich and rewarding experience that builds community. Or it can start the week on a sour note as speakers take off on political and commercial tangents, give too much vacation detail, and share their weight-loss successes.

I have heard feedback from members and friends that this time in our service has sometimes gotten out of hand and, in some instances, abuse. Quite frankly, I agree. To the list of "no-no's" noted above, I would add: using this time as a venue to comment on the sermon/presentation; providing rambling discussions of non-personal topics such as politics and current events; or making announcements about meetings or other matters. And certainly we don't want to express anger or discord during this time! The key here, I think, is for all of us to ask the question: Do my comments enhance the building of "a caring and reverent...community" or detract from it? Would my comments be best addressed now, or while at our social gathering after service?"

We also need to keep in mind that visitors evaluate us initially as a community based on the quality of our Sunday services. There are no hard and fast rules here, but I think, based on the guidelines above, each of us can tell if we are adding or detracting from the quality of our services.

Now...on building our community:

My presentation on November 9 will be on the subject of sustainability. Specifically, I want to address how we at FUS can be a sustainable community.

One of the basic tenets of sustainability is growth. To that end, we are taking steps to attract new members. On October 4, three of our members, Jimmy Garcia, William Sandoval, and Louise Berg, attended a seminar in Colorado Springs on the use of social media and visitor integration strategies for reaching out to our greater community. At our last board meeting, Jimmy, William, and Louise shared with us what they've learned. The board unanimously voted to adopt some of their suggestions.

We all agreed that one of the best actions we could take is a re-design of our website to make it user friendly for mobile devices such as tablets and smart phones, as well as computers, with links to Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, etc. and websites appropriate to

promoting FUS and our Unitarian Universalist heritage. Jimmy, William, and Michele are working on our new site. We also agreed that we need to be more welcoming and conscientious in providing greeters. Work on these and other issues is ongoing.

I came across an article recently that I wanted to share with all of you. The title is "Five Reasons Young People Are Indifferent or Outright Antagonistic Toward Religion" and can be found here: <http://www.alternet.org/belief/5-reasons-young-people-are-indifferent-or-outright-antagonistic-toward-religion>. I am of the opinion that the reason churches lose attendance is because we fail to meet the needs of individuals. Specifically, we do not recognize growing interdependence and current social trending. In other words, can we appeal to a wide audience or do we appeal only to specific audiences? We say we appreciate diversity, but does our congregation reflect the diversity of society at large? The future of FUS may well depend on how honestly we answer that question.

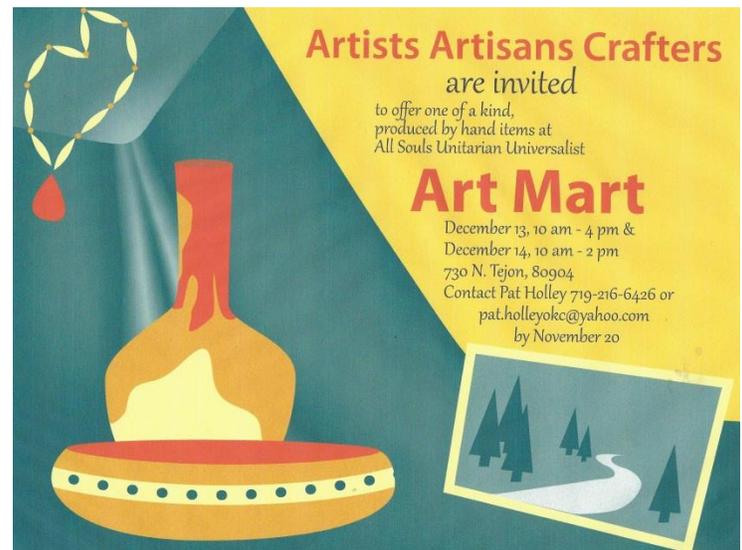
As a side issue: I am old-school and electronically challenged. I am so grateful we have many talented people who contribute so much to our community. You all deserve recognition, but I wish to especially thank Jimmy, William, Louise, Michele, and Jan for helping the more challenged among us cope in this electronic age.

Blessings and my thanks to all of you!

Stephen Acker

President, First Unitarian Society Board of Directors

CALLING ALL ARTISTS: ART SHOW AND SALE AT ALL SOULS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS IN COLORADO SPRINGS IN DECEMBER



Artists Artisans Crafters
are invited
to offer one of a kind,
produced by hand items at
All Souls Unitarian Universalist

Art Mart

December 13, 10 am - 4 pm &
December 14, 10 am - 2 pm
730 N. Tejon, 80904
Contact Pat Holley 719-216-6426 or
pat.holleyokc@yahoo.com
by November 20

BOARD BITS FROM THE OCTOBER MEETING

Meeting was held October 14 at 6:15.

✚ Treasurer's Report (Jan Butorac)

We are on track in both income and expenditures thus far this FY. Jan sent out email notifications to all pledge units, providing information on their pledge status to date for this FY. In early January, she will send out a quarterly status and FYTD status, as well as an annual status, to each person who donated money of any kind during the year. The annual notification can be used for tax purposes.

✚ Administrator's Report (Michele Barnes)

Michele reported on expenditures for September and upcoming bills. She also reported that FUS received our first check under the new King Soopers reloadable card program: \$313.00!

✚ Operations (Louise Burg):

- **Fundraising:** Pancake Breakfast 10/26
- **FUS artist sales** preceding Christmas: Artists will donate 25% to FUS.
- **Building and Grounds:** The Committee led a very successful clean-up on 10/11. The large group of volunteers accomplished all goals except weeding the labyrinth, and also cleaned all of the blinds.

✚ Programs (Midge Birgers):

- All Sundays for November are covered.
- **Social Justice (Janice Nelson):** The Committee held a meeting earlier this month; another meeting will be held 11/2, 6:00. Dorie will present some issues on sustainability, and the committee will continue with the process started this month to decide what we want to do together.
- We encourage people to bring in items for Cooperative Care.
- **Social Justice Documentary Films:** Due to low attendance on currently-scheduled Sunday viewings; the committee recommends we schedule our documentary movie (with a pot-luck) on the second Saturday evening, starting in January.
- **Religious Education:** Planning meetings are upcoming, mostly after the first of the new year, to review curricula and determine the way forward.

✚ Member Support (Dorie Silverman)

- **Social Activities:** The movie/pot-luck will be November 1, when we will have a costume party and view *Hocus Pocus*.

- **Membership:** The committee will hold a membership orientation on Nov. 9 after the service for people interested in membership.
- **Caring:** Please let Jan Butorac know if anyone needs caring for.

✚ Report on Growth Seminar (Jimmy Garcia and William Sandoval)

Social Media: Updating or replacing our website is the first priority, particularly having someone code it as a mobile website—providing the ability to view the website easily on a smart phone, iPad, etc. We need to look into a service that will allow our new website to plug in to Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, etc., as all of these media provide great marketing opportunities. We would be able to post upcoming fundraising activities or whatever else desired, and constantly stream that content to people's Facebook pages. This sort of thing will draw a younger crowd.

Visitor integration: Jimmy and William recommended that we consider new strategies such as providing colored nametags for church leadership so that visitors could identify them more easily, have a visitor station, encourage more comingling, have people who have been coached in showing them around so they feel welcome, provide a tour of the place, etc. so visitors will decide to come back. When new visitors come in, we must be very relaxed. They are stepping out of their comfort zone when they come here. No business talk; no arguments. Don't put them on the spot. Give them the opportunity to introduce themselves! We need to make them totally at ease.

✚ New Business:

- Board voted to shut down the UUPUEBLO.ORG website as Jimmy and Michele work on our new website.
- Jimmy Garcia was appointed as our official webmaster.
- Board voted to ask the congregation for a special (second) collection on a given Sunday when we need financial help beyond the current budget.

MANY THANKS!!

SPECIAL THANKS TO **DORIE SILVERMAN AND JAN AND JOHN BUTORAC** FOR CLEANING THE CHURCH IN SEPTEMBER.

THANKS TO ALL FOR ALL THAT YOU DO!!!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: KATHY ACKER

I was born August 5, 1962 in Kingsport, TN. I lived in upper east TN most of my life and most of my family are from that area and still live there. Most of us are of Irish and German descent with some Cherokee thrown in. I attended church as a child, going one Sunday a month with my maternal grandmother to a Free Will Baptist church and other Sundays to a Church of Christ church with my father's family. I learned early that people have many different ways of worshiping and learning about life.



I graduated from high school in 1979 at age 16 and went on to college in pre-law, but dropped out when I got married. I have two wonderful sons from that marriage. I went back to college in my mid-20s and earned my Registered Nurse (RN) license. After graduation, I worked at a local Trauma I hospital in ICU, treating many types of patients, including post open-heart patients and the first kidney transplants at that hospital. I went to work for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in 1990 and worked in ICU there for 18 years. I then transitioned to hospice and long term care.

I transferred in 2012 to the VA Community Living Center in Pueblo, and worked as charge nurse on days and evening shifts. I proceeded to accept the position of Resident Assessment Coordinator and am now working on my related certification—a major time-consumer.

Steve and I lived outside Pittsburgh, PA for a year while my younger son was recovering from a small bowel transplant—he is now doing very well and attending college to earn a medical degree. My older son is hard-working with a heart of gold and the wonderful father of five—soon to be six—children!

I met and married Steve in 1997 and found a wonderful fellow traveler for my journey—and gained three great step-sons. I first attended a UU church in TN about 15 years ago at my sister's encouragement, and found it a good fit for me, as I love to question everything. One of my primary requirements when researching where to transfer with my job was the availability of a UU church.

I currently reside in beautiful Pueblo West. I try to keep current on local and national politics, with Steve's help. I am active with promoting organ donor awareness. (More than 123,000 men, women, and children are awaiting organ transplants, and an average of 21 people

dies each day while waiting.) I am also involved with acromegaly awareness; I was diagnosed with this disease in 2010. It is a hormonal disorder that results from too much growth hormone in the body, usually caused by a tumor on the pituitary gland at the base of the brain. The latest statistics state that 40 to 60 people per million in the US have acromegaly. Most people have the disease for greater than 10 years with multiple health problems before being diagnosed.

I am an avid reader and currently enjoy participating in three book clubs! I enjoy writing poetry and still have the notebook that I composed as a child. I love the outdoors and exploring new places. I enjoy learning new things, and find the UU church to be a great place for having the opportunity to meet many kinds of people from diverse backgrounds.

REV. ROGER BUTTS AS HE PRESENTS “FOUR PIECES OF A SPIRITUAL LIFE”

On Oct. 5, Rev. Roger Butts suggested four factors that will enable greater passion and depth in spirituality.



BOYD RODMAN DISCUSSES “IMAGINE”



In his October 20 presentation “Imagine There’s No Heaven,” our visiting speaker, Boyd, stressed that perhaps it is time for us to stop worrying about heaven and hell and begin to worry about people.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND OTHER GATHERINGS

Dia de Los Muertos Party: Saturday, November 1.

Celebrate Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) by joining us for a pot-luck at 5:00, followed by the film ***Hocus Pocus***, as well as playing of some games. Add to the fun by dressing in costume—though not required! Questions: See Dorie, Maria, or Michele.

Socrates Café, 9:15 each Sunday

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

Happy Bookers: Lunch meeting 11/5, 11:30 at The Gathering (formerly Don Carlos), 1234 S. Prairie, across from Sunset Plaza, for lunch and conversation. Discussion meeting on **11/19 at 4:00**. November's book is ***The Paris Wife*** by Paula McLain, the current All Pueblo Reads selection. The novel is based on the relationship of Ernest Hemingway with his first wife, Hadley. It takes place in Paris of the 1920s and includes famous writers such as Gertrude Stein, Ezra Pound, and F. Scott Fitzgerald. The story is a deeply evocative tale of ambition and betrayal. (If you are interested in coming to our meetings, contact Kay Trainer at 719-544-7323 or Dorie Silverman at 719-566-4962.)

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. (Not meeting on Thanksgiving)

Singing Practice: Each Thursday at 6:00 with Michele Barnes. (Not meeting on Thanksgiving)

New Book Club, led by Isabel Soto-Luna, will meet **Saturday, 11/8**, at 10 am at FUS. Please bring a breakfast or brunch dish to share; Isabel will make sure we have plenty of coffee and tea. This month's book is ***The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*** by Mark Twain. Contact Isabel at soto.isabel@gmail.com for more information.

Fellowship Breakfast: 11/14, 9:00: Each second Friday, join the bunch for lively conversation and a great breakfast. This month we will be at Victoria's Deli, 218 S. Victoria. Come and be part of the group!

Pueblo Pagans: 11/19 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.

Thanksgiving: 11/27: We will celebrate Thanksgiving with a pot-luck dinner at 2:00 PM at the church. Sign up on the sheet provided at FUS to indicate what you will bring. (Two turkeys are already signed for!) The food is always great and the company very enjoyable!

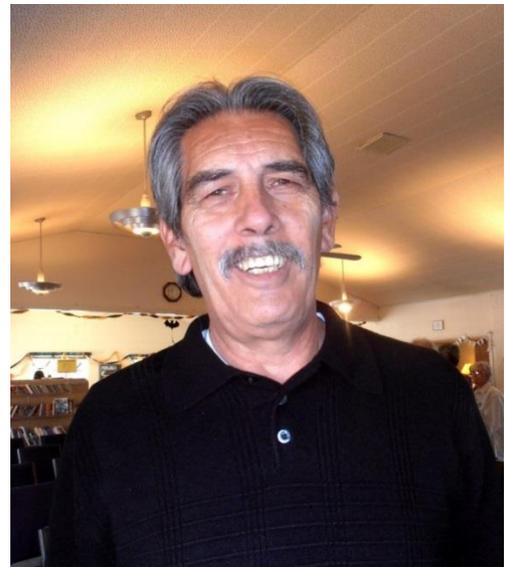
Saturday Night Movie and Pot Luck: 11/29, 5:00: Bring a dish to share for the 5:00 pot-luck, and stick around for the movie at 6:30. This month, see ***Chef***, about Carl Casper, who suddenly quits his job at a prominent Los Angeles restaurant for his principles, and is left to figure out what's next. Taking to the road, Chef Carl goes back to his roots to reignite his passion for the kitchen, zest for life, and love of the open road. Cooks and non-cooks will love this movie.

Ice Cream Sunday, 11/30. We will celebrate November birthdays after the service. If your birthday comes in November, let us know your favorite flavor so we can honor you properly.

HOLIDAY SALE BY RESIDENT FUS ARTISTS

OUR TALENTED ARTISTS WILL PRESENT THEIR WORKS OF ART FOR SALE ON SUNDAYS DURING DECEMBER, SO YOU CAN PURCHASE THEM AS GIFT ITEMS. ARTISTS WILL DONATE 25% OF THE PROCEEDS FUS.

JAMES LUHAN AS HE PRESENTED "THE TREE OF LIFE"



In his October 26 presentation, James talked about becoming "the tree of life" as a way of transforming our perception of self and all other conditions around us.

THE HAUNTED WINDCHIMES PROVIDED MUSIC FOR JAMES' SERVICE



Members of **The Haunted Windchimes**, Inaiah Lujan, Chela Lujan, and Desirae Garcia, sang four lovely pieces for our service. Many in the audience expressed their gratitude for the group's meditative but energetic music. Many thanks!

WORK DAY A GRAND SUCCESS!

The work party on 10/11 sponsored by the Building and Grounds Committee was a rousing success! All planned work was accomplished along with additional interior work above and beyond plan. A large group of committed folks showed up early and stayed late, and others pitched in the next day by removing the debris and cuttings produced by our busy gardeners.



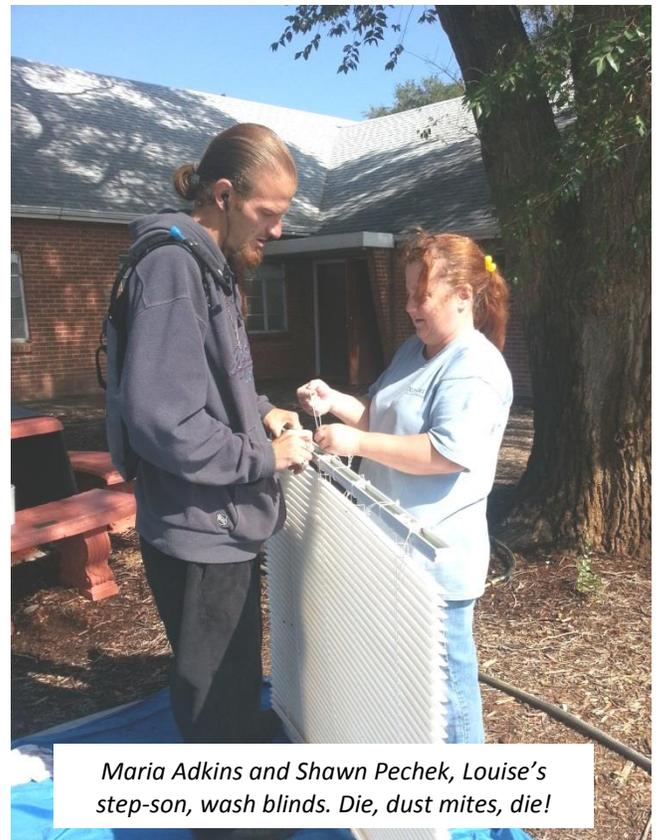
*Don Bruestle cleans the gutters—
Hey! Be careful up there!*



Clean screens! O say can you see??

Thanks to all who shared the day to brighten our space. Everyone spoke of a true spirit of cooperation and energy all day. The building is so much more welcoming now! Stay tuned for the next work party to tackle additional interior tasks.

Steve, Louise, Don, Kate, and Shawn, Building and Grounds Committee Members



*Maria Adkins and Shawn Pechek, Louise's
step-son, wash blinds. Die, dust mites, die!*



*Mary Dumetria doing what she loves most—
beautifying the earth.*

- Mary Dumetria
 - Janice Nelson
 - Sean Pechek, Louise’s stepson
 - Cyndi Rand
 - Dorie Silverman
 - Valerie Temple
- Day after clean-up:**
- Ivy Carter
 - Doug Ohmans



*Valerie Temple attacking weeds and overgrown plants
in the labyrinth—Go Val! We’re on your side!*



*Steve Acker making the children’s religious education
rooms brighter and cheerier.*

SOCIAL JUSTICE CORNER

We will skip our monthly Sunday documentary in November and December, but starting in January, the committee will present a **first-time monthly evening pot-luck supper and documentary on January 10**; plan to attend on the second Saturday of each month! The title will be announced.

During November, **members of the committee will be meeting with members and friends individually** to be sure we are receiving input from everyone as to their concerns and issues. We want all our members and friends to have input to our process.

Social Justice Meeting: December 2, 6 PM. The committee will continue looking at our congregation’s priority concerns for social justice issues. Dorie Silverman will present an interactive discussion about sustainability issues, based on her current readings as well as her long-standing advocacy about these issues. Dorie is always informative and interesting. Please join us.

We encourage everyone to be sure to vote! Colorado is an important state, and we all need to be sure we are

Thanks so much to the following people!

- Steve & Kathy Acker
- Maria Adkins
- Jacob Allison,
- Michele’s friend
- Michele Barnes
- Midge & Ib Birgers
- Don Bruestle
- Louise Burg
- Shawn Collins

heard. "No one's vote is more important than yours, unless you don't vote; then everyone's voice is more important." Chris Matthews.

Please bring in your food donations for Cooperative Care, especially for these holiday months. Bring something in every week!

Janice Nelson, Midge Birgers, Kathryn and Steve Acker, Doug Ohmans, and other UUs continue to be involved with the local **Faith Leaders in Action** (FLIA) organization as well as **Together Colorado**. We are working on immigration issues, and continue our advocacy for equal rights, education, and health issues. We are now setting priorities for our work this upcoming year, and will all include our congregations' inputs into this process.

Janice Nelson, Chair, Social Justice Committee

Be Sure To Vote!

Turn in your ballot before November 4!!

***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

NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Halloween Pot-Luck, Party, and Movie (<i>Hocus Pocus</i>): 5:00
2 Socrates Café: 9:15 Service: 10:30 Rev. John Mark Hild "Stretching Our Boundaries" Service Leader: Dorie Silverman Social Justice Meeting: 6:00	3	4	5 Happy Bookers Lunch: 11:30, The Gathering (formerly Don Carlos)	6 Philosophy at 4:00 Singing Practice 6:00	7 Program Committee: 4:30	8 New Book Club: 10:00, led by Isabel Soto-Luna: <i>Huckleberry Finn</i>
9 Socrates Café: 9:15 Service: 10:30 Steve Acker "Social Sustainability" Service Leader: Kathryn Acker	10	11 Board of Directors: 6:15	12 Member Support Committee: 4:00	13 Philosophy at 4:00 Singing Practice 6:00	14 Fellowship Breakfast: 9:00, Victoria's Deli	15
16 Socrates Café: 9:15 Service: 10:30 November 16 William Sandoval "The Joy of Julian" Service Leader: Steve Acker	17	18	19 Happy Bookers Discussion: 4:00-5:30; <i>The Paris Wife</i> Pueblo Pagans 6:00	20 Philosophy at 4:00 Singing Practice 6:00	21	22
23 Socrates Café: 9:15 Service: 10:30 Jan Butorac "Unitarian Universalism's Evolution" Service Leader: Maria Adkins	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving Pot-luck supper with all the fixin's: 2:00. Bring a dish to share!	27	27 Movie and Pot-Luck Night: 5:00 The movie is Chef
30 Socrates Café: 9:15 Service: 10:30 Dorie Silverman "A Gift of Gratitude" Service Leader: Michele Barnes Ice Cream Sunday						

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.