

# THE CHALICE FLAME

First Unitarian Society (formerly UUCP)

110 S. La Crosse Avenue, Pueblo, CO 81001 [www.first-unitarian-society.org](http://www.first-unitarian-society.org)

December

2012

Issue XII

## A Month of Sundays

December 2 - Arleah Schectman

"Loss and Healing"

Worship Leader: Rita Prangle

Greeters: Shawn and Bev

December 9 - Ibsen Birgers

"A Celebration of Rumi"

Worship Leader: Midge Birgers

Greeters: Dave and Gennifer

December 16 - Mark Pratarelli

"The What, When, Where, How,  
and Why of Consciousness"

Worship Leader: Sarah Johnson

Greeters: Don and Kate

December 23 - Children's RE

"Give to Receive"

Worship Leader: Gennifer Wagner

Greeters: Dan and Kate

December 30 - Program Committee

"Our Community, Endings and  
Beginnings"

Worship Leaders: Janice Nelson  
and Midge Birgers

Greeters: To be determined

## Expanded Titles and Descriptions

December 2 - Our culture denies grief, and coping during the holidays can be especially difficult. When everyone around us seems to be filled with joy, those who are mourning a loved one can be overwhelmed. Arleah Schectman, M.S.W., A.C.S.W., will offer some strategies for those who are grieving and those around them, to get through the holidays.

December 9 - Ibsen Birgers will present "A Celebration of Rumi". Jalaluddin Rumi, born on September 30, 1207, in what is now Afghanistan, is "the greatest mystic poet of Islam and perhaps the world". He died in southern Turkey in his 67th year on December 17, 1273. I see him as one whose poetry penetrates the psyche, revealing its fractures. "If you are irritated by every rub / how will your mirror be polished?"

# December 2012

Sunday		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<u>25</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Dec</u>
							9:00a -4:00p Board & Committee Retreat 4:00p -5:30p Arleah Shechtman talk & memorial ceremony	
<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>		
9:15a -10:15a SocratesCafe 10:10:30a -11:30a Arleah Shechtman - Surviving the Holidays: Loss and Healing						4:00p Study Group		
<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>		
9:15a -10:15a Socrates Cafe10:30a - 11:30a Ibsen Birgers - A Celebration of Rumi				6:15p Board Meeting - Members welcome to attend	4:00p Study Group	9:00a Fellowship Breakfast @ B Street Cafe - 121 B St		
<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>		
9:15a -10:15a Socrates Cafe 10:30a -11:30a Prof. Marc Pratarelli - Consciousness 12:00p Documentary <b>Idiocracy</b>				6:30p Pueblo Humanist Directions meets at FUS this month. Meetup.com	4:00p Study Group			
<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>		
9:15a -10:15a Socrates Cafe 10:30a -11:30a Children's RE - Give to Receive						4:00p Study Group		
<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	
9:15a -10:15a Socrates Cafe 10:30a -11:30a Program Committee - Our Community, Endings and Beginnings								

## Expanded Titles and Descriptions, Cont.

December 16 - Dr. Pratarelli will be speaking on the subject of the origin and nature of consciousness in humans and prehumans, how the appearance of free will emerges from the constraints of the brain and mind, and how consciousness and the mind manifest spiritual states of being.

December 23 - Our kids will be leading a service filled with stories, songs and a special appearance by Santa.

December 30 - Janice Nelson and Midge Birgers will lead an interactive discussion about our Unitarian community's thoughts and passions.

## Special Saturday Program

On Saturday, December 1 at 4:00 pm, Arleah Shechtman will offer some strategies for those who are grieving to get through the holidays. The talk will be followed by a brief memorial ceremony, with light refreshments afterwards. All are invited to attend.

Arleah Shechtman, M.S.W., A.C.S.W., is the author of *My Beloved Child: My journey since the death of my daughter*. For over thirty years, she has helped parents, siblings, grandparents, and extended families grieve the loss of children, and guided them on their journeys of recovery. [www.mybelovedchild.net](http://www.mybelovedchild.net)

## Board Bits Adult RE

Next Board Meeting Dec. 11 at 6:15 pm - all members are welcome.

The Board is having its annual Board and Committee retreat on Dec 1. Focus of the retreat will be looking forward at our programs, membership, relationships and leadership issues. We encourage all members and friends to continue to give us ideas and visions either in person, or in the suggestion box. The board extends a special thank you to all who helped and contributed to our annual Affordable Art and Gift Fair.

## Beloved Community (Formerly New Horizons)

Some questions to contemplate as 2012 is winding down. How do we celebrate and support all our individuals' beliefs and come together as a community? Dec. is a month which highlights multicultural holidays and celebrations. That includes of course Christmas and Hanukkah. But, we can't ignore Ramadan, Bod hi, Kwanzaa and The Winter Solstice. World Peace Day, International Arbor Day, and International Human Rights Day are also celebrated. This is a time for reflection, reaching out and helping others. Many spiritual cultures and movements believe that 2012 will have a major shift around Dec 22. This is a wish that all in our FUS /community will continue to grow together and have a joyful and loving holiday season for all. Blessed be - Janice

Again did the  
earth shift

Again did the  
nights grow  
short

And the days long

And the people  
of the earth

were glad  
and celebrated  
each in their

own way

-Diane Lee Moomey Artist, Poet Author

## Social Action

This month's Second Sunday Social Action Documentary will be shown at the Church on Sunday, December 16 at noon. The film will be *Idiocracy* (2006, 87 minutes), a futuristic farce with a cautionary message. A discussion will follow the film. Bring a bag lunch. Questions, call Dave at 545-1165.

Posada accepts hats, gloves, mittens, scarves and socks specifically this time of year. We will be collecting these items to decorate our Christmas tree in the sanctuary; then we will deliver them to Posada near Christmas. We will also be collecting unwrapped toys for Posada as well. You may bring your gifts to the church; there is a box in the vestibule for the toys and a basket in the fellowship area for the winter wear. Another way to support Posada is the 2012 Art off the Street Fundraiser held at the 5th & Main Bar and Art Gallery on December 1st from 4:30 to 7 pm.

## Adult RE

STUDY GROUP -- Please join us Thursdays at 4 pm for a ten session discussion of Barbara Marx Hubbard's book "Emergence: The Shift from Ego to Essence." Contact Steve Acker at 423-930-7277 for details.

SOCRATES CAFÉ --All are invited to come and join us for coffee and conversation before the service at 9:15 am.

## Fundraising

Our Affordable Art & Gift Fair, held on November 10, earned a significant chunk of money for FUS, and was also great fun! There was an excellent selection of merchandise from 20 artists and crafters, and our bake sale and café were a huge success. Many thanks to all who participated.

## Social Activities

Everyone's busy, so we won't have Happy Bookers or Movie Night this month.

Fellowship Breakfast outing will be Dec. 14 at 9 am. We will again meet at the B STREET CAFE across from Victoria Station B Street.

## Children's RE

Children's RE is working to involve our kids in each Sunday's service. We will be presenting a story for all ages at the beginning of our service and singing a special song to the kids as they go back to their classroom. The kids will be leading the service this month on December 23<sup>rd</sup> and we plan to have other youth-led services in the coming year.

## Pueblo Humanist Directions

Celebrate the Solstice with Pueblo Humanist Directions! We'll gather at our usual time, 6:30 pm on Tuesday, December 18, when we'll raise a glass of mead in honor of our ancestors who persevered through the long, dark night. We'll also partake of traditional honey cakes and any other snacks you care to bring. For more information, see <http://www.meetup.com/Pueblo-Humanist-Directions/>

First Unitarian Society  
110 S. La Crosse Ave.  
Pueblo, CO 81001.4429



Our facility is handicap accessible.

### **About the First Unitarian Society**

The First Unitarian Society is affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association. The religious organization is non-creedal and encourages free inquiry and exploration of ideas; members are not required to share the same beliefs. Members have come from a variety of backgrounds including lifelong UUs, Humanists, Christians, Jews, Muslims, Wiccans, Buddhists, agnostics, atheists, and others. The First Unitarian Society welcomes gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons. For more information, see [www.first-unitarian-society.org](http://www.first-unitarian-society.org) and [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org). If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter, please contact [pueblounitarian@earthlink.net](mailto:pueblounitarian@earthlink.net) or leave a message at 719.561.0880. Our facility is handicap accessible.

There are **7 Unitarian Universalist Principles** that we affirm and promote:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.