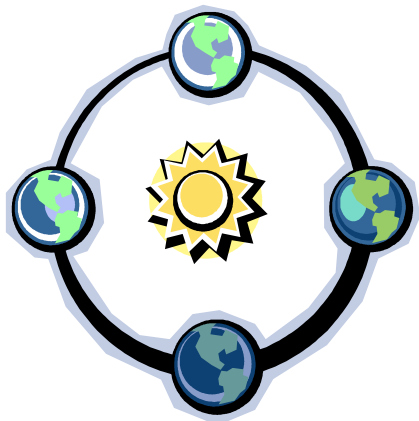
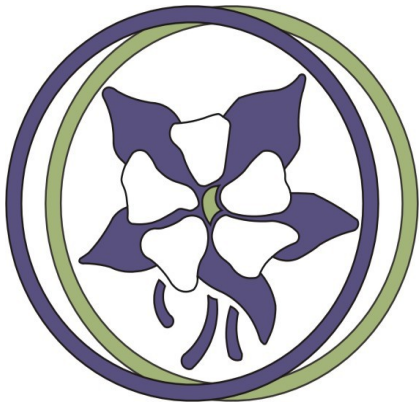


The Columbine Connection

Sunday Programs



August 1 "The Covenant of Shared Ministry and Our Youth"

Youth-Led Service

In our Unitarian Universalist congregations, we retain only 10% of the children we raise as UU's. Why do we lose 90% of our born UU's? Though our culture is starting to change, historically we have maintained a system that is designed to encourage them to leave. Our Coming of Age Youth will explore their role in a Shared Ministry.

August 8 "In Search of Your Spiritual Voice"

Mandy Ziegler

Mandy Ziegler explores the characteristics of spiritual archetypes and shows how each of us can discover our own spiritual voice. Are you a poetic spirit? An entrepreneurial spirit? Examine nine spiritual archetypes and discover which speaks to you.

August 15 "Helping Shape 'A New Religious America'"

Reverend Coeyman

As we turn toward a new church and school year, we review some basics of our free religion. One of the core values of this free faith is religious diversity. What does it mean to be a pluralistic religious faith? How does this work, having more than one theological path to follow? And how is this faith part of the New Religious America?

August 22 "Interfaith Community Services"

Maria Pearson and Sandra Blythe-Perry

The Great Recession has adversely affected the lives of many people, especially the newly unemployed. Demand is increasing and resources are dwindling. The Inter-Faith Community Services has seen many new folks asking for help. The IFCS staffers will talk about the challenges of serving those in need and offer ideas to help.

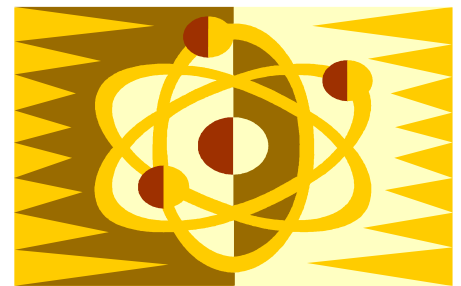
August 29: "A Service of Animal Blessings"

Reverend Coeyman and Martin Blue-Norton

This is a new type of multi-generational worship service for this congregation. A Blessing of the Animals is becoming more and more common in Unitarian Universalist churches. Worship Service and RE will be shortened so we can come together in the playground for an actual blessing ceremony. There will be updates in our weekly E-Blasts with details on bringing your animals to this ceremony. Please, no animals that might be dangerous or intimidating to others.

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FROM THE MINISTER



August 2010: Report on General Assembly

I want to tell you about some of my experiences at UUA General Assembly, held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, this June. GA itself runs from Wednesday evening through Sunday evening. Ministers, religious educators, and church administrators come in a day or two earlier for various professional development activities. This was an amazing GA this year. I hope by highlighting what I consider the most important events I can give you a sense of the spirit of GA 2010.

The most important topic on everyone's mind was the proposal from the national Board of Trustees to move the location of GA 2012 from Phoenix. The state of Arizona has recently passed new immigration laws. These laws open up doors for abuse of human rights through racial profiling of anyone of non-white skin color. This is a violation of our first UU principle of respect for the inherent worth and dignity of all persons. To boycott would mean los-

ing over \$600,000 in deposits on convention sites. The other option was to go to Phoenix and hold business as usual. This win/lose, boycott/no boycott, dilemma pressed heavily on many of us who know about previous ruptures in our Association during what is referred to as the Black Empowerment Controversy of 1970. The question of GA 2012 was resolved in a third way. The board substituted a proposal that said GA would go to Phoenix as planned, but conduct General Assembly very much out of the ordinary, especially in standing in solidarity with groups who risk racial profiling.

Yes, in late June, 2012, in Arizona, we will stand on the side of justice, arm-in-arm and side-by-side with several Arizona organizations for worker rights. Our national moderator, Gini Courter, did an excellent job of running the meeting for discussion and voting. She helped us find common ground in a way that we could not back in 1970 when, as a young denomination, we still did not have the skills to stick with hard issues and see them through to positive resolution. Back then there was a split because of broken promises. This GA we came together in new dimensions of solidarity. This discussion and vote was one of the most powerful experiences I have been part of since I started attending General Assembly in the mid-1990s.

Arizona wasn't the only important issue of the plenary session business meetings. After being sent back last year for more consideration, the Congregational Study Action Issue (CSAI) "Creating Peace", passed the General Assembly. There was still a fair amount of dissenting opinions during floor debate, especially as we searched for common ground between supporting a position of pacifism and supporting our members and family in the military. Our decision to stand for peace-making was a religious act. Additionally, a new CSAI topic, 'Immigration as a Moral Issue,' passed after a run-off with the topic of 'National Economic Reform: A Moral Imperative.' Our congregations will study this immigration topic for the next four years.

We also voted on five Actions of Immediate Witness. These are social justice initiatives that, as their names says, require immediate action, within the next year. Three proposals passed: Opposing Anti-Immigrant Measures at the State Level; Gulf Coast Justice 2010; and Cleaning Up the Clean Energy Bill. Two initiatives failed: Ending the Blockade of Gaza and Ending War in Afghanistan and Pakistan. See www.uua.org for more details about all these votes.

Two other important issues discussed in plenary were the future format of GA and the election of the national offices of Moderator and President. We are aware of the many inequities in the current method of holding General Assembly and are discussing ways to make it more affordable and more congregationally accountable. As one person said during debate, we need to find an approach to GA that does not suffocate our important theological message because of governance hang-ups. Choosing National Officers in the future may be done through search committees, not the rather expensive election campaigns that we have used in the past.

Aside from all this business, we heard DVD presentations from four Breakthrough UU Congregations. They were in Summit, NJ, Harrisburg, PA, Sherborn, MA and Mankato, MN. Breakthrough Congregations are recognized for particularly innovative projects, growth, social outreach, and more. The DVDs shown at GA are available to all congregations. I encourage us to watch these during the coming year. We also heard a report from the 'Standing on the Side of Love' (SOSL) Committee, which held over two hundred events this year around the country. We UUs also participated in Minneapolis' Pride Fest. Finally, I encourage everyone here at CUUC to keep your eyes open for a new study from the Commission on Appraisal (COA), titled "Who's in Charge Here?: The Complex Relationship Between Ministry and Authority". This project will engage in questions about where any religious leaders, (continued on Page 3)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Every now and then I find myself in a situation in which I feel I am ‘in the right place at the right time.’ It’s a great feeling, full of promise and creativity that share an expansive quality – where opportunities feel limited only by imagination. After sharing this past retreat weekend with CUUC’s new elected leadership, board, and minister, I feel I am in just that sort of situation now. There is such a great pool of wisdom, thoughtfulness, and spontaneity in this group that I found myself energized by our interactions – even more seems possible to me today than yesterday, and as you might imagine, that’s a great feeling.

Any church year is a full year, and this one is to be no exception. We had our first board meeting in mid-July and got right down to business. Toward the end of August, the board, minister, committee on ministry, and leadership search committee (in short, all of our elected leadership) will meet with our Mountain Desert District (MDD) Executive Director, Nancy Bowen, for a facilitated vision workshop. We will report the results of that session at the fall congregational meeting on September 19th.

Did you know we have a fall congregational meeting? We do now. One of the first decisions this board made, thanks in part to brainstorming at an MDD board training in June, was to hold a fall congregational meeting that focused on the year and opportunities ahead. Look for more information about that meeting in the September newsletter – but mark your calendars for that September 19th meeting now!

There’s lots ahead this fall, but in the meantime, enjoy these last lazy days of summer.

See you in church!

Amy

Amy Rowland, President of the Board of Trustees



(continued from page 2) lay or ordained, finds authority to call what we do ministry. I predict this will be a fascinating study.

Personally, I again had the thrill of singing in the ministers choir for the Service of the Living Tradition, which honors rites of passage, including fellowshiping, retirement, death, of ministers. I also was organizer of a booth in the display area presented by our new organization, Partners in Unitarian Universalist History and Heritage. Working our booth is fun, because so many interesting people come by to talk (and we hope, buy our books).

Yes, a wonderful experience, General Assembly 2012. See more on the UUA website!

See you at church!

Many blessings,

Barbara

Reverend Barbara Coeyman

Making a Difference

by *Frances Blizzard*



I'll say we made a difference!!! This year 23 poor children were sponsored by members and friends of our church. This means that returning to school, rather than having it be an unhappy occasion, will be a happy one, where the child will be on an equal footing with his classmates because he has a nice outfit to wear, all his school supplies, and a new backpack.

This is all because the child had a sponsor, and there were 23 from this church. That should make us all feel good. This is just one example of the many ways Inter-Faith Community Services serves the needs of struggling families.

Inter-Faith has two heart-warming programs at Thanksgiving and Christmas, and this church has always supported them generously. Stay tuned.

Food & Clothing - Food Bank's biggest needs are boxed potatoes (they have none at all), canned fruit, and jelly. And good used clothing is always in need

Why Are We Doing the Public Radio Project?



Now that the Public Radio (PR) Project is a year old and about to launch its second year, people are beginning to ask, "Is it doing any good? Have more visitors been coming to our churches?" There have been concrete examples of visitors and even new members brought to our churches via our underwriting campaigns. Over time, these examples will likely become more frequent, but this is not the primary goal of the project.

The deeper purpose is to increase the name recognition and public awareness of Unitarian Universalism along the Front Range. This will only be accomplished with sustained commitment over years. If we persevere, the fruit will be well worth the effort. It will be nothing short of the transformation of the "name recognition" of Unitarian Universalism in our state. We've been the "hard to find", "best kept secret in town" and an honorable mention in histories of 19th century New England. If we are persistent, and allow the PR Project to grow and become part of our congregational cultures, Unitarian Universalism will become a publicly recognized name. Whether people agree or disagree with our values and actions, they will know who we are.

Think of all the progressive social movers and shakers with whom we could partner to be even more effective in our impact on local public policy. If enough people have heard of us, and something about what we stand for, we can, once again, be counted as an acknowledged participant in the public discussion of religious and social values. Think of all the people who have come to us saying "Wow, I wish I'd known about UUism twenty years ago." We owe it to them, and the many others like them who still don't know about us, to let our light shine in a public forum.

The four public radio stations we are supporting in our current campaign (Aug. – Sept. 2010) are KCFR, KGNU, KUNC and KUVO. UU churches in Ft. Collins, Loveland, and Glenwood Springs are launching their first efforts this fall, and will join us in supporting these stations and some of their "**repeater stations**" **across the state** in November and December. If you donated to public radio through the PR Project last fall, now would be a good time to renew that support. If you haven't yet donated through the PR Project, please do so, either instead of or in addition to your personal membership in a station. If you haven't been supporting public radio, but would like to help increase the name recognition of Unitarian Universalism, please write out a check to CUUC with "Public Radio" in the memo line, drop it in the collection basket or mail it in to the church office. For more information, contact the PRProject coordinator for CUUC, Kathy Derrick, 720-335-6766, or kthyderrick@yahoo.com.

Musings

I graduated from high school about 10 or 15 years ago. I swear it wasn't more than 20 years ago because that would make me solidly middle age. I've been in my young adulthood for the last 30 years. I'm still just a kid. And yet, my high school sent me a notice for my 35th reunion last week.

Okay, I'm not as dense as it may appear on first glimpse. I'm even more dense. But it's hard for me to believe I'm already well into the throes of middle age — middle aged? I haven't finished being young yet! I may be prematurely gray; needing reading glasses for my bifocals; taking naps and in bed by 10 pm on a late night, but middle aged?!? Can't be!

My daughter has the audacity to turn 24 years old this October. She is attending law school, for crying out loud, and has had the same boyfriend for over two years now. My ten year old son was supposed to reset my biological clock, make me young again and give me the exuberance I knew as a 20 year old. Well, he did give me the foolishness of a 20 year old but all the rest of it has left me sorely disappointed. This cannot be.

Take a deep breath Carm. Breathe in; hold it; breathe out. Relax. I'm almost hyperventilating. This is one of the biggest epiphanies in my life. I'm middle aged? Oh my god?!? Could I be on the brink of old age? I laughed when I got my AARP card because that's not a senior citizen. That's just turning 50 years old.

Whoa?!? I turned 50 years old? Three years ago? I've got a daughter in law school? I graduated high school 35 years ago? I'm not cool anymore!! These epiphanies are going to kill!

There was a day I was really cool. I used to tell dad I was going camping or sleeping over my best friend's house and then sneak off to concerts at Yankee Stadium or a farm in New Jersey. We'd do all the things that kids were doing at concerts and I was really cool. I played cool music. I went to cool places. I was in, man! No psyche! I might not have been the coolest but I was hanging with cool guys, doing cool things, and being cool.

High school was the perfect time to be cool. Once in a great while I'd even break out the books to see if there was anything in them that I didn't know. Funny thing, there never was. I knew it all already by the time I was 15 years old.

I don't know when I stopped being cool. I did get married. We bought the house my son was born in and my daughter grew up in. We started having New Year's Eve parties in the neighborhood with neighbors so that we weren't driving on New Year's Eve. I began going to parent/teacher conferences, the kids' school plays and sporting events, now as a parent. I wore shorts with colored socks AND sandals. I started separating my laundry by colors, eating more fruits and vegetables for my digestion and stopped at all the red lights no matter what time of night it was. I stopped being cool!

When I take stock of where I am in life, I do realize it's a good place. Hopefully death is 20 or more years away, but what age do I want to be? I don't want to relive childhood. That's when I learned all the dysfunctionalities that I've spent the rest of my life trying to get rid of.

How about my 20's? Nah. I was fairly miserable when I wasn't in an altered state of consciousness. Truth be known, I was miserable even when I was in an altered state of consciousness. My 20s was a time that if I was sober, I was probably asleep. That's not a great time to go back to.

My 30s? That's when I got married and began ruining other peoples lives. My ex-wife will fill you in on that, and buy you a cup of coffee if you'll listen. So what about my 40s? My son was born when I was 42. I started to get a handle on being a decent parent. But I also spent a lot of time in my 40s having a brain tumor removed, getting my gall bladder removed and having a stomach hernia. Health wise, I've had better decades. I've only just started my 50s so what age do I want to be?

This is starting to hurt my brain. I think if I have to pick an age, it's the one I have now. Sure, I'm not cool anymore; I'm not ruining other people's lives; I'm not having any brain tumor fun. But it's all these things that helped to get me here. And being here isn't such a bad place to be. When it comes down to it, it's a really good place to be. So maybe I should spend more time being grateful for everything I have and forget about not being cool anymore. That would be very cool!

Peace & Love,

Carmen

Carmen J. Corica, Editor of The Columbine Connection



Musings From Members

Reaction to Arizona Laws: Our Credibility Strained

We normally take the high ground and act reasonably when we are concerned with social issues. Unfortunately, our reaction to Arizona's SB 1070 Relating to Unlawfully Present Aliens and HB 2162 Relating to Immigration and Border Security was not our finest hour.

Consider some of the false information, hyperbole, assumptions, generalizations, emotionally charged words and name-calling that were employed by some UUA officials and other members of our denomination.

1. False information: The UUA's protest of the law says: "Among other repressive measures, the law *requires* local law enforcement officials to *demand proof of citizenship* for *anyone* suspected of being in the country illegally [italics added]." The law says: "For any lawful stop, detention or arrest...where reasonable suspicion exists that the person is an alien who is in the United States illegally, a *reasonable attempt* shall be made, *when practicable*, to determine the *immigration status* of the person...[italics added]".
2. Hyperbole: UUA press release quoting the UUA president, "Arizona's Senate Bill 1070 undermines *everything our nation stands for* [italics added]." What SB 1070 does not do is undermine the following principles for which our nation stands: separation of powers, freedom of the press, freedom of speech, and freedom of religion.
3. Assumption: *The Columbine Connection*: "It [SB 1070] will surely encourage racial profiling and invite harassment." What the law provides: "The law enforcement official of this state or of a [political subdivision] may *not* [italics added] consider race, color, or national origin in the enforcement [of this law]." The Governor of Arizona is requiring additional peace officer training about reasonable suspicion and racial profiling. Those who favor the law could make the case that the additional training may help *close* the door on racial profiling.
4. Generalization: The UUA Board stated in a resolution: "SB 1070 runs counter to our first principle, affirming the worth and dignity of every person." I can find no UUA Board explanation of this generalization.
5. Emotionally charged words: In the same resolution the UUA Board called SB 1070 "hateful" and justified a General Assembly boycott of Arizona because "we will not meet in a state of fear." The elected officials of the State of Arizona are grappling with a problem that has defied solution. To mock their efforts is to demean the democratic process we honor in our 5th principle.
6. Name calling: UUA documents call the Arizona laws "Anti-Immigrant" and "Anti-Latino." The names of the laws are stated above.

Why am I concerned about this? When we stray from the truth and substitute rhetoric for reason we squander our credibility. By responding irrationally and unfairly to Arizona's SB 1070/HB 2162 we have compromised our moral authority and weakened our ability to redress social inequality.

We must avoid rhetoric that lessens our credibility and provides an opening for those who disagree to discredit us. Only by keeping to the high ethical ground of our Unitarian Universalist traditions can we make the most of our efforts for social justice.

We can and must do better.

Wes

Wes Howe, concerned member of the Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church.

End Notes

1. UUs "Protest of Arizona's Anti-Immigration Law," April 23, 2010.
2. "UU President Condemns Anti-Latino Arizona Law," UUA press release, April 23, 2010.
3. *The Columbine Connection* July 2010, page 2, "From the Minister."
4. UUA Board resolution regarding moving the 2012 UUA General Assembly from Phoenix.
5. See note 4.
6. UUA "2010 Action of Immediate Witness" on this subject; also see note 2.

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CUUC Book Club Meets



"Sarah's Key" by Tatiana de Rosnay is the Book Club book for discussion at 7:30 pm on August 25 in the Church lounge.

According to one reviewer this is a brilliant and beautiful novel about a horrific and under-reported event that took place during WWII, the Vel'd'Hiv' roundup of more than 13,000 French Jews in Paris by the French police. Told alternately from Sarah's point of view in 1942 and that of Julia Jarmond, a modern day American journalist researching the event for its 60th anniversary, Ms. de Rosnay seamlessly weaves the two stories together.

The Club will select a book to discuss in October.

The Book Club meets the fourth Wednesday of the month. You need not have read the book to attend and visitors are welcome.

Singers Wanted!

- For the Columbine UU Church Choir.
- Expand your voice and heart.
- Refresh and Recharge with Song.
- Take part in Sunday services and musical events in the larger Denver community. Enjoy new musical experiences. For more info contact David Burrows at 303-455-2110 or email music@columbineuuchurch.org.



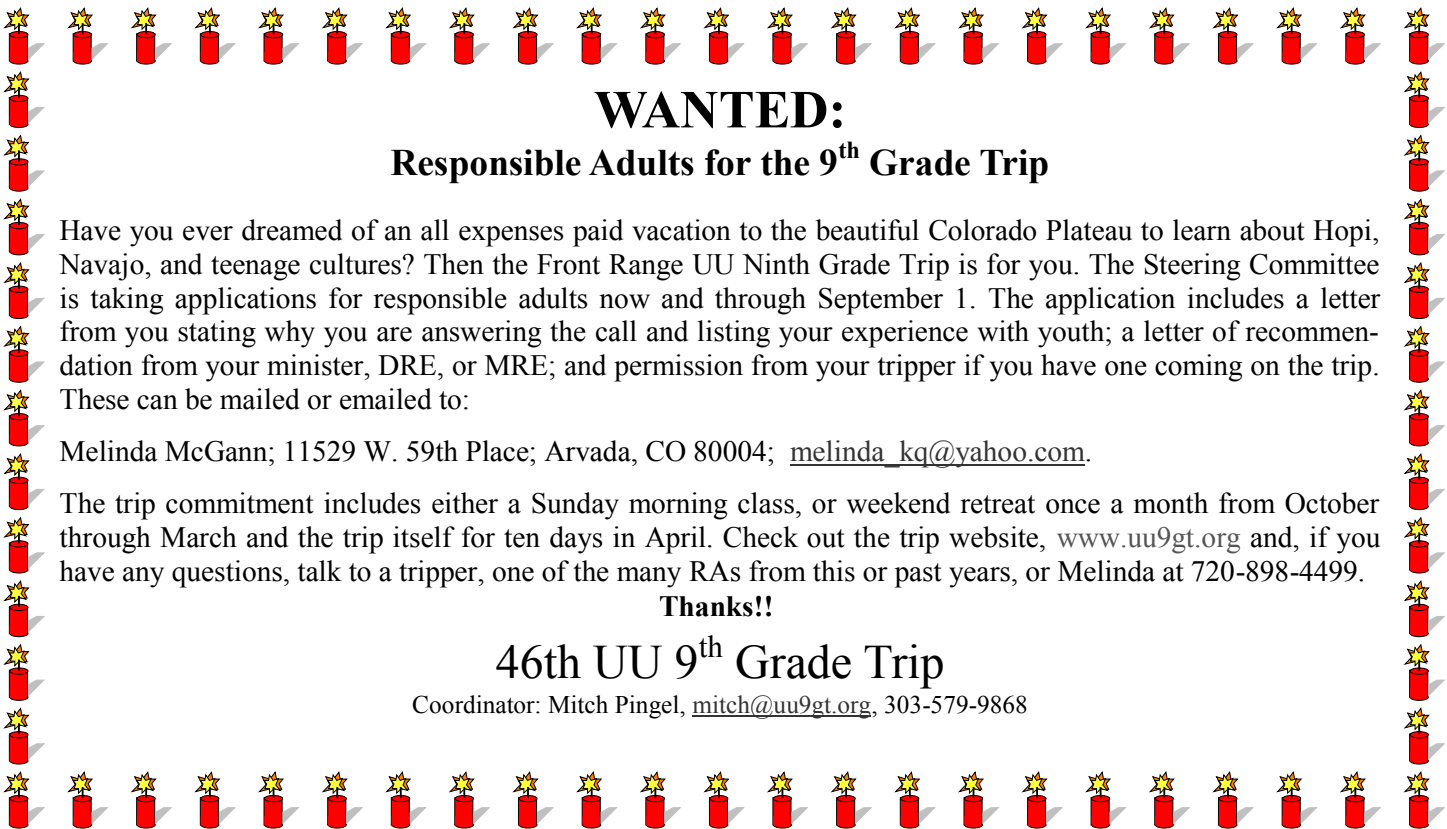
Grocery Scrip & Gift Cards!

Every time you purchase scrip you are contributing to the financial health of the church. Scrip are redeemable at King Soopers, Starbuck, Barnes and Noble and many other merchants. If you buy \$50.00 per week in scrip, in 10 years you will have contributed \$1,300.00 to CUUC! And it did not cost you anything since you receive one dollars worth of merchandise for every dollar of scrip you buy. It is a great way to support CUUC!!!!

The deadline for *The Columbine Connection* for the next 12 months is as follows:

August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17, December 15, January 19, February 16, March 16, April 13, May 18, June 15, July 20,

These dates are the Wednesday prior to the second to last Sunday of the month. The *Connection* will be available for members and friends at the last Sunday Service of the month at CUUC. Then it will mailed to the remainder of the subscribers. The deadline for the next twelve issues will be at midnight on the above dates. Be prepared to have all submissions to the *Connection* by 12:00AM (midnight) on the deadline date. If it is a problem meeting the deadline, please contact the editor to make arrangements for the submission. No guarantees, explicit or implied are made for any submission which become the property of *The Columbine Connection*.



**WANTED:
Responsible Adults for the 9th Grade Trip**

Have you ever dreamed of an all expenses paid vacation to the beautiful Colorado Plateau to learn about Hopi, Navajo, and teenage cultures? Then the Front Range UU Ninth Grade Trip is for you. The Steering Committee is taking applications for responsible adults now and through September 1. The application includes a letter from you stating why you are answering the call and listing your experience with youth; a letter of recommendation from your minister, DRE, or MRE; and permission from your tripper if you have one coming on the trip. These can be mailed or emailed to:

Melinda McGann; 11529 W. 59th Place; Arvada, CO 80004; melinda_kq@yahoo.com.

The trip commitment includes either a Sunday morning class, or weekend retreat once a month from October through March and the trip itself for ten days in April. Check out the trip website, www.uu9gt.org and, if you have any questions, talk to a tripper, one of the many RAs from this or past years, or Melinda at 720-898-4499.

Thanks!!

46th UU 9th Grade Trip

Coordinator: Mitch Pingel, mitch@uu9gt.org, 303-579-9868

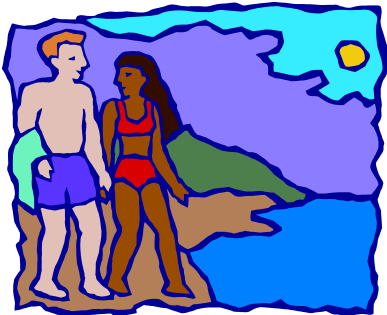
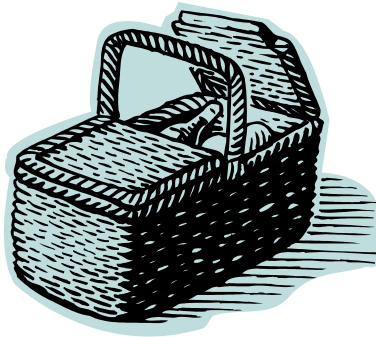
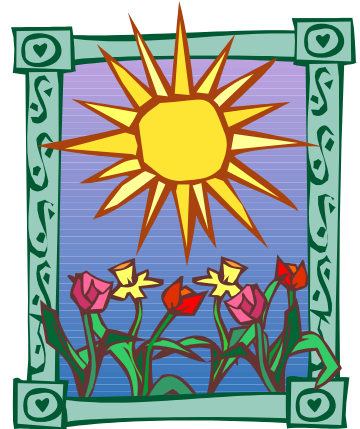
It is the editorial policy of this newsletter to print whatever is sent to us for inclusion, unless we think the item will be offensive or hurtful. It occurred to us that it would be interesting reading to hear how others came to call themselves Unitarian Universalists. This, then, is an invitation to share that part of your faith's journey with our readership. All other topics are open for submission also. Members of CUUC will be given preferential treatment where publishing is concerned. Thank you for understanding.



The Columbine Connection
This monthly newsletter of the Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church is for the benefit of its members and pledging friends. Visitors receive the newsletter for six months, after which time, if they have not made a pledge to the church, they may subscribe for \$12.00 a year by calling (303)972-1716. To contribute an article to the newsletter, send email to: oldehippy@ymail.com
Or call (303) 882-1896
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Summer Time!

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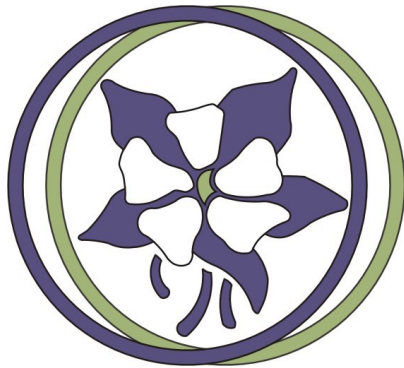


Sunday Morning Worship Begins at 10:30am
Coffee & Conversation Served After Service



www.columbineuuchurch.org

ALL ARE WELCOME!!



The Columbine Connection

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