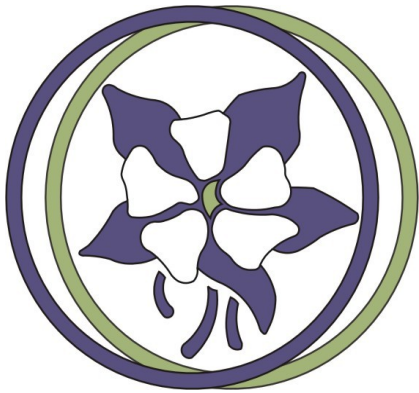


The Columbine Connection

Sunday Programs



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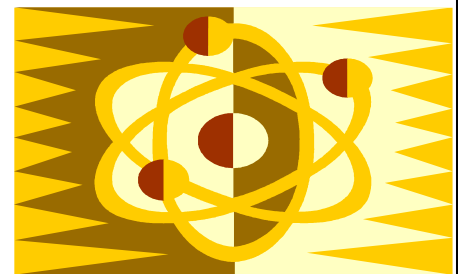
The CUUC Theme of the Month is Compassion

February 7 "LifeSpark Cancer Resources: Energy Partners Program" Sandy Priester

An oasis in the storm. Energy therapies use a gentle light touch, and support the whole person including mind, body, and spirit. Compassion is central to their use, and they are supporting a new paradigm of wellness and healing. Learn why energy therapies are so effective and how you can benefit. Sandy Priester has been practicing Reiki for 20 years and Healing Touch for seven.

February 14 "Aspects of Love" Reverend Barry Bloom

The Greeks, as has often been noted, have three names for love. Eros, what our culture presents as "love." Filial, sister/brother love, the love of deep friendship. Agape, Spiritual love, if you will. Wikipedia says it is "divine, unconditional, self-sacrificing, active, volitional, and thoughtful love" On this Valentine's Day Sunday love is the only language that fits. Reverend Barry Bloom served as minister of this congregation for six years before his retirement in July 2008. CUUC welcomes Reverend Bloom for his first sermon here since his retirement.



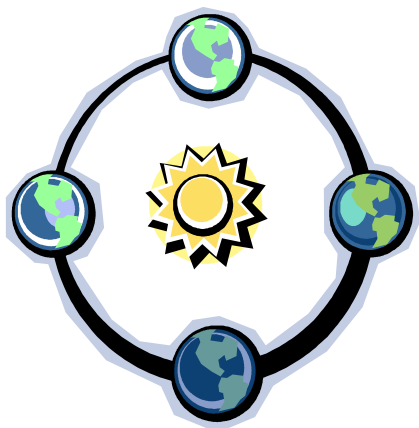
February 21 "A Call for Justice, Equity and Respect" Reverend Coeyman

Last month author Karen Armstrong helped us shape a 'case for God.' This month, Armstrong's project, 'Charter for Compassion,' calls us to examine our own practices of compassion, and to help us practice justice, equity, and respect for all human beings and life on this planet. When are we truly demonstrating that we are 'with passion' for others? Perhaps radical compassion can help change the world.

February 28 "Spiritual Warriorship" Mo White

How do the principles of the warrior inform our practice of compassion? Is the compassionate heart of warriors and saints attainable in our everyday life? Yes, it is!! Drawing from the teachings of Trungpa Rinpoche, and others we will explore the practice of spiritual warriorship.

Reverend Mo White has served as minister for two Colorado congregations. She is growing her business, Abundant Heart Ministries, and is available for spiritual counseling and mindfulness based consulting.





FROM THE MINISTER

On the weekend of January 22-24, three members of our congregation - Cris Cardenas, Maureen Flannigan, and Sarah Manning - and I attended the second annual social justice workshop sponsored by our Boulder-Denver cluster of Unitarian Universalist churches. Held at First Unitarian Church in central Denver, the workshop's theme of 'Nurturing Communitas, Building Solidarity' emphasized the importance of strengthening relationships with others as we pursue social action in our communities, in this Colorado region, and in the world. Certainly the relationships among the forty UUs from ten area churches at the workshop were strengthened as we met many new folks and deepened existing friendships.

In a variety of workshops and conversations, we explored this theme of how to ground religiously-based social justice work in action, yes, and also in heart and soul. Our goal was to increase the resources to do this that we carry in our social justice 'toolboxes'; that is, in our methods of working on social justice. We enjoyed workshops on non-violent communication, principles of community organizing, and assessing and bridging class and racial divides in our congregations and our communities. My horizons were expanded most fully by 'tools' for initiating Compassionate (non-violent) Communication conversations grounded in peace and community, not confrontation and attack; and by tips for developing deep listening skills as practiced by community organizing methods.

The workshop got off to a rousing start with an opening Friday evening session devoted to 'Ministry in the Borderlands,' brought to us through a DVD of the keynote address at UU University in 2008 held at General Assembly in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. This General Assembly address was presented by Reverend Nick Carter, President of Andover Newton Theological Seminary in Brookline, MA. Founded in the early nineteenth-century as a counter to the Unitarian orientation of Harvard University's Divinity School, Andover Newton today, ironically, is strongly allied with Unitarian Universalism. In fact, the second largest number of students at the school are UUs! Reverend Carter, an ordained Baptist minister, lives border-crossing on a daily basis on his seminary campus, not only in welcoming 'back' the Unitarians, but in reaching out to neighboring institutions such as the nearby Jewish Theological Seminary. I hope we can view portions of this DVD in various venues in our own congregational activities in the coming months: it is truly inspirational.

In this presentation Reverend Carter calls all people of faith to be willing to go to the borderlands: that is, those places where we come upon difference, those places where we are segregated from people who are not like us. Realizing with new eyes and ears and hearts the unexplored ways in which we operate from different identities without even knowing it opens up many possibilities for communication. Crossing borders, we can build astonishing new connections. The pluralistic theology of Unitarian Universalism makes UUs particularly well positioned to lead this work of crossing borders. Reverend Carter hopes we can fulfill the dream of border-crossing.

To engage in border-crossing most effectively, Carter offered us ten tips for our toolboxes. As individuals and as a congregation committed to social justice, each of us can take his tips to heart. The ten skills he recommends that we hone are: 1) knowing our identity, as individuals and as a congregation, as illustrated in our current work exploring the mission of CUUC; 2) exercising modesty and humility in our associations with others; 3) knowing if we are mature enough for border-crossing work; 4) offering radical hospitality to strangers; 5) demonstrating empathy to others; 6) showing mercy, to others and ourselves; 7) standing in solidarity with one another; 8) being not just in community, but in soul-full Communitas; 9) being open to redemption: that is, moving toward wholeness; and 10) promoting 'shalom,' which means not only peace, but completeness.

How does Reverend Carter's list of tips for crossing border resonate with you? How often do you move into borderlands, and what is the experience like? What more can you do to connect with persons who represent differences, both small and large? I hope that each of us can commit to some act of border-crossing in the coming months. What a beautiful way to explore our spiritual paths during this month of February, when our worship theme is 'Compassion.'

In the words of the closing hymn of this conference:

I will stand with you. Will you stand with me? And we will be the change that we hope to see.

I hope many of you reading this column will consider attending next year's social action workshops, and otherwise engaging in outreach in our congregations, our district, and our national UUA. May your social justice toolbox overflow with new ideas for nurturing Communitas, building connections, and being the change we hope to see.

See you at church!

Many blessings,

Barbara

Reverend Barbara Coeyman

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Getting to know your Board of Trustees

Welcome to tonight's meeting of your Board of Trustees, which is always open. The one exception is when personnel issues are discussed; then the Board will go into executive session and ask visitors to leave the room for that discussion. We are glad to have you join us tonight, the second Tuesday of the month. Here is the agenda for the meeting. As you can see, we have a number of items to cover.

We start the meeting with lighting the chalice and opening words from Reverend Barbara Coeyman. Sometimes we read the Board covenant. A quick check-in by everyone present follows.

Now down to business, and there is never a lack of items to cover. Last month's minutes were sent out to all Board members, along with an agenda of the business items for this month. If you want to have these items in hand, one of us will give you a set and ask you to make copies, returning the original to whoever gave it to you.

Moving right along, since we try to cover everything in two hours each month: "Are there corrections to last month's Minutes? Do I have a Motion for Approval of last month's Minutes? Last month's Minutes are approved."

The next item of business is a set of four reports from the treasurer, minister, director of religious education, and the committee of ministry. Because these reports give us a pulse of the community, we try to allow as much time as possible for everyone to respond to them. This often takes almost half the meeting.

We are now down to the "business items". As you can see there are about ten items to cover, so that means only five to ten minutes for each item. This is why, when a committee chair or member of the congregation wants the Board to consider an issue, they are asked to prepare a written proposal for the board. Although we may choose to clarify wording, etc., we really do not have time to create proposals from scratch at the Board meetings. Prepared items should be given or emailed to an Officer prior to the first Tuesday of the month, so that the Executive Committee (one function of the Officers) can review it and place it on the agenda for the following week's meeting of the full Board. If the agenda is very full, lower priority items may be deferred until next month's meeting.

Our time is running short. Happily, many of the last items have already been covered via email among the Board members, but they are listed in case more discussion is needed. Thank you for watching your Board in action. We hope you come back again. Do we have a Motion to Adjourn? The month's meeting of your Board of Trustees is adjourned.

Thank you.

We will now extinguish the chalice with closing words.

In Service,

Sally

Sally Popiel, President of the Board of Trustees



Making a Difference

by Frances Blizard

Endless Disasters in Haiti cannot be comprehended by most people living in this country. Death, destruction, lack of food and water - could things be any worse?

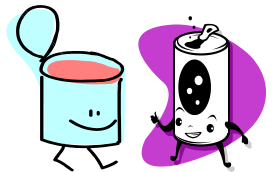
Well, Possibly - people who are unemployed or low-income are desperately in need of help, having no money for rent or utilities. Death is not staring them in the face, but eviction from their homes leaves them with no choice but to go to a shelter. That is the beginning of the disintegration of a family unit.

How can these people be helped? One invaluable way is offered by Inter-Faith Community Services, which offers the ever-increasing numbers of these people in our community a hand up with food, clothing, help with rent and utilities, and school supplies for their children.

As Usual, food is needed, especially canned fruit and beans. Utility bills are now higher than ever, and warm clothing and blankets are badly needed. Jeans in any size are important year-round.



Donations to the Community Basket have been overwhelming. Keep it up!



The Public Radio Project of the Colorado UU Congregations



Listen Up! We're Gonna' Shout it Out! On-Air UU Messages to Begin January 25!

The Public Radio Project of the Colorado UU's (the Project) has raised \$6,500 for the Mountain Desert District (MDD) to donate for our first underwriting agreement with Colorado Public Radio. We will hear underwriter messages on KCFR during drive times from two to four times a week, Wednesday through Friday, with additional spots on Science Friday and Prairie Home Companion. The messages go from January 25 through March 22.

The UU underwriter's announcements will start at the same time we kick off our winter campaign to raise more funds for the Project so we can keep on-air UU messages going. Please consider donating to the Project, whether you are a current member of a public radio station or not, as now you'll have twice the reason to do so. If you are a member of a station, you can decide if loyalty to the station or the benefits of keeping that direct relationship are important to you. If they are, then keep your membership and consider donating a bit extra to our Project. Some who want to maintain their membership are so excited about hearing the UU message on the air, they are matching their own membership donation to the Project! If the benefits of individual membership are not particularly important to you, then when your membership lapses, you can have those charity dollars start doing double duty by donating them to the Project. All donations will be pooled and given to public radio through the MDD.

The Project is broadening its scope to become inclusive of any Colorado UU congregation that wants to participate, and to underwrite public stations not directly affiliated with Colorado Public Radio, such as KUNC and KUVO. Let's tell Coloradans that Unitarian Universalism is here, doing good in our communities and state, and that our congregations welcome them.

Contact your Congregational Coordinator for the Project, Kathy Derrick, for more information. You can place your checks in any Sunday collection plate, making sure you designate that donation for the Public Radio Project.

Musings

I was musing over the incredibly difficult predicament the people have who were in Port-au-Prince, Haiti when the earthquake struck. Wow. I can't think about it for long without forcing myself to think about something else. The situation is incredible and the results are horrible.

It is now believed the Haiti earthquake took between 150,000 and 200,000 lives in a matter of minutes; we will never know the exact number of people. This earthquake took the lives of more people in three minutes, than any other thing in the history of mankind. That's an unbelievable thought to me. Haiti's earthquake took more lives than Hiroshima and Nagasaki combined during the first three minutes the bombs were unleashed. That's a lot of devastation.

Pleas for help were instantaneous and ubiquitous. The citizens of the United States have already sent over 500 million dollars to charities for the relief effort. More will come but that's already about \$1.66 cents for every man, woman and homeless child in this country. That probably includes every illegal person who isn't supposed to be here. That really is a wonderful gesture on the behalf of the citizens of the United States.

What is more interesting to me is that not every person in this country feels that we should be donating to Haiti. Rush Limbaugh said, and I quote, "Oh, this is what he (Obama) lives for. He lives for serving those in misery." I had to play it over couple of times to understand what Rush had really said. I had to laugh when I understood. Rush had to be kidding. If not, can it be that Rush is jealous of the President helping people in misery? Can he really want the President to help out some folks who have less miseries than the folks in Haiti? Is it good to work up or down the misery list?

Maybe Rush was leading us somewhere else. He did say later in the show, "The Haitian economy is entirely dependent on foreign aid. They produce nothing. Zilch, zero, nada. And it's been that way for the longest time." Really? Can there be that many people all in one place that produce nothing? Insert your own Congressional joke here.

According to the Library of Congress — Federal Research Division, the leading industries in Haiti produce beverages, butter, cement, detergent, edible oils, flour, refined sugar, soap, and textiles. Assembled manufactures, coffee, edible oils, cocoa, and mangoes compose the majority of Haiti's exports. The GDP for Haiti in 2008 was 6.95 Billion dollars While Bill Gates' and Warren Buffett's wealth could buy everything Haiti produces for about the next 20 years, that is not, as Rush characterized, zilch, zero or nada.

Regardless, do we give to people who suffer catastrophic events in their lives because of what they produce? Before we give to them, even with our surplus, do we want to be calculating what our return will be? I can almost buy the logic an atheist might conjure using statistics to show things that statistics were never meant to show. But for folks who follow almost any religious spirituality, have they read what's in the Bible or the Koran? Can that be what is told in the Bhagavad Gita, Nag Hammadi or Tao? Don't most gods want the best for their people?

I'm no expert about these things, but I missed the lesson where we give charitably but have an eye out for gain or loss, and measuring carefully.

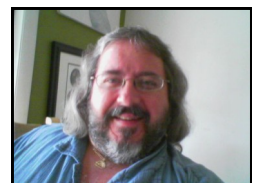
Rush claims to be a fine upstanding Christian, Caucasian American male. I'm certain he wants everyone to give what they can. I believe Rush is just a little bit jealous of President Obama having such a fabulous opportunity to help citizens of the world, who have been visited by catastrophe through no fault of their own. Rush's hero, GW, didn't have much opportunity to serve people who were struck by natural disaster; if you don't include Katrina; or the Tsunami.

Regardless of Mr. Limbaugh's beliefs, if you want to give to Haiti through the different aid organizations, or you want to make any other donation to your favorite charity in the name of Haiti or otherwise, I say give. You have my full endorsement. Give all you want! Think about it, then make a donation. And don't make the donation with an eye out for gain. But don't be surprised when you find out the person who gained in the transaction was actually you.

Peace & Love,

Carmen

Carmen J. Corica, Editor of The Columbine Connection





What is a Welcoming Congregation?

In 1987 the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) established the Common Vision Planning Committee. This committee found many negative attitudes, deep prejudices, and profound ignorance about bisexual, gay, and lesbian people, which resulted in the exclusion of bisexual, gay, and lesbian people from their churches. As a result of these findings, the delegates of the 1989 UUA General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to initiate the Welcoming Congregation program to educate its members.

The Welcoming Congregation Program is a completely volunteer program for congregations that see a need to become more inclusive towards bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender people. It consists of a series of workshops developed by the UUA. The goal of the workshops is to reduce prejudice by increasing understanding and acceptance among people of different sexual orientations. Some of the workshop titles include: How Homophobia Hurts Heterosexuals; Connections to Other Forms of Oppression; Gender Socialization and Homophobia; and Biblical Perspectives on Homosexuality.

CUUC earned certification as a Welcoming Congregation in 1998. Since it has been several years since our congregation was "certified," and we have grown in membership, we will be publishing information about Welcoming Congregations in the next several newsletters. In addition, we will be offering some "refresher" workshops this year – so watch for more information. We guarantee the workshops will be interesting and informative.

The Welcoming Congregation Committee, chaired by Suzanne Fey-Gaiser, meets monthly. If you are interested in joining the committee, or getting additional information, please contact her at sfeygaiser@comcast.net.

Namaqua Forum

In February, The Namaqua Forum will present a Holocaust Awareness month, co-sponsored by Ferguson High School, on Sunday from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

On February 14th, we will present a movie, "Conspiracy," rated R for strong language. When Hitler asked Reinhard Heydrich to come up with a solution to the problem of the Jews, Heydrich convened the Wannsee Conference at a chateau outside Berlin on January 20, 1942. All participants were to destroy their notes afterward, but newly discovered archives from East Germany provide for a chilling reenactment of this conference where the 'Final Solution' was formulated by the Nazi hierarchy.

On February 28th, our speaker, holocaust survivor Eric Cahn, is from Denver. When Eric was 2 years old and living in Mannheim, Germany, his family was arrested by the Nazis and deported to a concentration camp in southern France. Eric will tell us about the bold move his family made that saved his life and will answer questions that we might have after viewing the movie on the 14th.

The Namaqua Forum meets in the new Ferguson High School, 1101 Hilltop Dr., in Loveland, and is free and open to the public.

For questions call: Bill Rosquist (980)593-0558 or Pat McVey (970)203-0649

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

February 17, March 17, April 14, May 19, June 16, July 14, August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17, December 15, January 19

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 be mailed to the remainder of the subscribers. The deadline for the next thirteen 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*.

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CUUC Book Club Meets



Half a million people try climbing a Colorado Fourteener every year, but only twelve hundred have reported summiting them all. Can an overweight, stay-at-home dad with a name like Obmascik become No. 1,201? The Book Club will meet Wednesday, February 24, to discuss "Halfway to Heaven; My White-knuckled — and Knuckleheaded — Quest for the Rocky Mountain High" by



Pulitzer prize-winning journalist and former Denver Post writer Mark Obmascik, who also wrote The Big Year. The group will also pick a book to discuss in April.

The Book Club meets in the church lounge at 7:30pm the fourth Wednesday of each month. You need not have read the book to participate and visitors are welcome.

CUUC Receives Chalice Lighter Call

Our application for a Chalice Lighter Call in 2010 has been accepted! The funds raised through this District wide program help UU Congregations cross a major threshold towards growth. Chalice Lighters are individuals in the Mountain Desert District who pledge at least \$10 a quarter; their donations are pooled and distributed to specific congregations for their efforts to start a new congregation, call a minister, assist in the purchase of a building, or help to establish or improve a Religious Education Program. The fourth call of each year goes to District wide outreach programs. We expect to receive \$7,500 from this quarter's Call.

CUUC was chosen this year because "This congregation is implementing a five-year strategic plan to establish full time ministry and increased religious education leadership. They have maintained pledging levels and enjoyed modest numerical growth during this time. However, the anticipated sale of property fell through due to the economic crisis. Our support at this time will help Columbine maintain momentum on their strategic efforts to become the voice of liberal religion in the southwest quadrant of the Denver metro Area."

Our Challenge

CUUC is honored to have received two prior calls. We are grateful for this nurturing stewardship from UUs across our District. Our challenge now is to join in this community of UUs who reach out to congregations with a financial boost. Our goal is for at least 50% of CUUC members and friends to wear a blue Chalice Lighter pin on their name badge symbolizing their real and important support for our faith. Becoming a Chalice Lighter is a tangible way to extend the reach of Unitarian Universalism in the mountain west. Enrollment forms are available at church; you will receive your pin when you complete a form and attach a check payable to MDD Chalice Lighters for \$10 or more. You will receive mailed notices for quarterly calls thereafter unless you choose to contribute at least \$40 for the



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.





A Concert of Chamber Music

to benefit Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church

Friday, February 19, 2010, 8:00pm

At CUUC: 6724 S. Webster Street, Littleton, CO 80128

Presented by

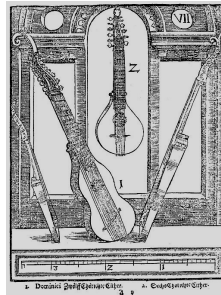
Reverend Barbara Coeyman (viol) and Friends:

Tracy Boykin, soprano

Dane Pribbeno, guitar

Karl Reque, viol

Anna Schoettle, viol



Early and Modern Works for Viols, Irish Tunes, and More!

Champagne Reception follows the Concert

Suggested offering of \$15 per ticket; Students and Seniors: \$10

For more information and tickets in advance: 303-972-1716

Or tickets at the door the evening of the Concert

**CUUC is a Fair Share Congregation
And has always been one!**

Congregations earn the Fair Share title when they contribute to the UUA's Annual Program Fund and to the Mountain Desert District (MDD) each year by paying dues on a per Member basis. CUUCers can be proud that we have earned this title every year since we formed. Fair Share congregations recognize that they are part of, and benefit from, the wider UU world.

These dues provide much of the budgets for our denomination associations. In 2009-2010, the combined dues that CUUC pays total \$80 per member. Yet, our financial support of the UUA and MDD is not a one-way proposition. Our contribution allows us, especially our leaders, Minister, and Director of Lifespan Religious Education, to draw on national and district expertise when we want perspectives on congregational development, on contract and legal concerns, on social justice issues, and in many other areas. Our contributions help make possible events for lay people such as *Nurturing Communitas* workshop on social justice, this year's Middle School Retreat, the QUUEST Camp for high school UU's, OWL Training, and the MDD Annual Conference. You, as a Member of a Fair Share Congregation, receive the *UU World* magazine.

Being a Fair Share Congregation has more tangible advantages as well. Being Fair Share puts CUUC at the top of the priority list for development and grant programs, such as:

- UUA Loans
- MDD Chalice Lighter Grants
- MDD Grants to subsidize Russell Lockwood Leadership School Tuition
- UUA grants to develop new programs within congregations

As a Fair Share congregation, CUUC does its part to support our national and regional associations spread our faith. When you attend General Assembly or the District Conference, you will be recognized as a member of a Fair Share congregation by the two ribbons displayed on your name badge. Wear them proudly.

You Can't Be a UU Without Putting Those Principles to Work

Just ACT, the Justice Action Coordinating Team, invites you to join us. Social justice programs are the reflection of Unitarian Universalism principles put into practice. As a coordinating team, Just ACT offers support and assistance to those who wish to learn about, participate in, and create service, charitable, educational or advocacy projects. Team members are involved with diverse projects and meet monthly to share information, strategies and experiences. Members and friends with ideas for new projects are particularly welcomed. We'd like to hear your ideas and passions, so please feel free to contact sarahmanning@sprynet.com or just show up on Wednesday, February 3 at 6:30 pm!



Notes from Reverend Barbara

Lenten Suppers and Vespers (evening services): During Lent, come attend short (25 minute) Wednesday evening meditation services at 6:00pm, followed by a soup-and-salad supper starting at 6:30pm. Supper will conclude in time for regular Wednesday evening activities such as choir, book group, etc. Lent Suppers and Service will be every other week, from February 17 (Ash Wednesday), and will include March 3, 17, and 31. See weekly E-Blast for specific notes about service leadership. Service leaders are sought and welcome. See Reverend Barbara if you are interested in leading a vespers service.

Lunch and Tea with Reverend Barbara: Old-timers and newcomers to this congregation, come enjoy conversation with Reverend Barbara and others from the congregation. The next Brown-Bag lunch will be on Thursday February 18, 12:15-1:15, and the next Afternoon Tea on Thursday, February 25, 3:30-4:30. Hot and cold drinks will be provided at both events.

Benefit Concert by Reverend Barbara and Friends: Mark your calendars now for a benefit concert on Friday evening, February 19, at 8:00 p.m., performed by Reverend Barbara and others. This concert features 'early music' - that is, music of the past - performed on the viola da gamba, as well as modern music composed for these instruments as well as Irish tunes for viols. The concert will also involve musicians from the congregation - Dana Pribbeno on guitar and Tracy Boykin, soprano. This concert was included in the fall CUUC auction. Additional tickets will be available for purchase in advance in the church office and at the door the evening of the concert. Any and all ticket purchases and donations (after expenses) go into the general operations of this congregation. See also flyer on page 8.



Cakes for the Queens

Women's Circle begins the **new version of Cakes for the Queen of Heaven** (Women and Religion curriculum) on February 2nd. These 5 sessions will help us explore the impact of ancient goddesses of the Middle East and old Europe on women then and now. For many of us who have taken the older course before, it was our first experience of feminist theology and thinking about female images/mythos of mother/goddess, and current day impact. We will start at 7 pm in order to give ourselves time to do a brief check in, and allow for an effective session. Please let me, Sue Dressel, know if you plan to attend at suedressel@aol.com.

Women's Circle Retreat September 24th-26th

We had a blast last September at our women's retreat. If you were not able to come last year, please sign up for this year's retreat at the Estes Park Y, in the lovely reunion lodge. It's a chance to get to know other women on a deeper level, and also have a great deal of fun in as relaxing a pace as you want.

See Sue Dressel, Ruthanne Cauley, or Loraine Kreznar for more details. We will need to collect a deposit to confirm your commitment.

NEW MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES

Hilary Christine Goller Hansell is a mom, wife, library volunteer, Brownie troop leader, and front office diva at a Centennial doctor's office. She is originally from a small town in Massachusetts, went to college in Vermont, then moved to the big city of Boston. She met a wacky New Zealander who was hell bent on getting to California, so they moved. They married, had daughter Soren and two months later, moved to Tokyo. Evan was born in Japan and was sad to leave. Then they moved to "Mars," aka Phoenix, in 2006. In Spring, 2009 they lost job, house and fabu-tan. The Hansells are now renting, working and loving Colorado.

In 1989, Hilary attended her first UU church in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The first sermon she heard was about Abraham Lincoln. It talked not only about ending slavery but about the person who suffered from mental illness and slept on his dead wife's grave for a week. Hilary was fascinated and fully hooked. After giving an area UU church a try, she happily found CUUC this fall.

Georgia Ferguson is currently working part time at Fort Logan Mental Health Center as a Peer Specialist/Crisis Counselor. She has also worked in special education and as a deli manager/chef in the food service industry. She fell for CUUC the first time she attended. Georgia says she was greeted with genuine warmth and people made a point to speak to her after the service. The choir director, David Burrows is the best - brilliant and, more importantly, patient. On more than one occasion she has seen an arm of compassion reach out from this church. Georgia is proud to be a new member. She is single and has one daughter, Laura, and Julie, her beautiful 15 year old granddaughter.

Maureen Flanigan has been married to Brad Buckner for 37 years. They have two sons, Josh, 26, who lives in Greeley and is engaged to Lauren Berry and John, 23, who recently graduated from CSU and just returned from teaching in Chile. Maureen grew up in South Bend, Indiana with her parents, grandma and 4 siblings and enjoys reading, guitar, SCUBA, politics, Bill Moyers Journal and Notre Dame football. Maureen works as an Activity Director at the Johnson Adult Day Program, a non-profit center that provides outings and activities to older adults in a safe and social setting. She came to CUUC last fall after 55 years as a very active Catholic and five years of spiritual direction and visiting several different congregations. The UU Seven Principles speak to her heart and mind and the congregation at CUUC has welcomed her warmly. Her family volunteers with the United with Migrants food bank. She is a Sisters of Loretto co-member and believes in acting for justice and working for peace, the social justice philosophy of Just ACT at CUUC.

Richard Reiss was born and raised in Rochester, NY, went to college there then got an MA at Columbia. He taught history and geography for nearly 40 years in Salem, Mass. at the University, where he enjoyed an environment of equality. They developed a nursing program that has been quite successful in the whole Boston area, turning out individuals that are well versed in liberal arts subjects as well. He has been a UU for nearly 55 years. Divorced, Richard is nevertheless close to his ex-wife and daughter (who lives in Durango).

Musicians Wanted!

You're Invited!

- to share your musical gifts!
- in the CUUC Sunday Services!
- Gratitude and Thanks in Advance!
- Please contact David Burrows at

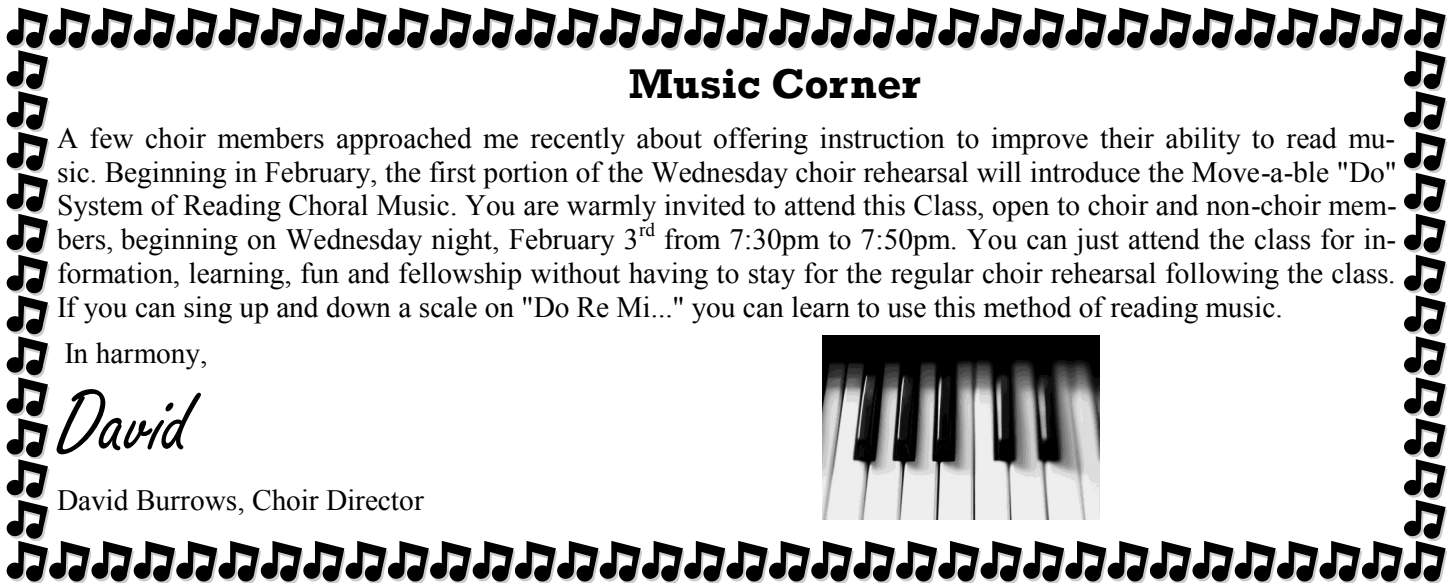
music@columbineuuchurch.org, or 303-455-2110, for more information



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!!!!





Music Corner

A few choir members approached me recently about offering instruction to improve their ability to read music. Beginning in February, the first portion of the Wednesday choir rehearsal will introduce the Move-a-ble "Do" System of Reading Choral Music. You are warmly invited to attend this Class, open to choir and non-choir members, beginning on Wednesday night, February 3rd from 7:30pm to 7:50pm. You can just attend the class for information, learning, fun and fellowship without having to stay for the regular choir rehearsal following the class. If you can sing up and down a scale on "Do Re Mi..." you can learn to use this method of reading music.

In harmony,

David

David Burrows, Choir Director



Leadership Positions

Do you think you might be interested in a position on one of the Congregational Committees (Leadership Search or Committee on Ministry) or as an Officer or Trustee of the church? Are you curious as to what those people do? If so, we want to talk to you! We are looking for energetic, engaged people to serve CUUC for the upcoming term starting July 1, 2010. Please talk with a member of the Leadership Search Committee — Sue Zloth, Jamie Daniels or Wes Howe — for more information.

Contact information:

- Sue Zloth: zloths@q.com
- Jamie Daniels: jbadaniels@gmail.com
- Wes Howe: wbhowe@comcast.net

LEADERSHIP

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 topic 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@comcast.net

Or call (303) 882-1896

Darrell Dodge Web Coordinator **Carmelo J. Corica** Editor

CUUC Website: [Http://www.columbineuuchurch.org](http://www.columbineuuchurch.org)

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Blue's Clues

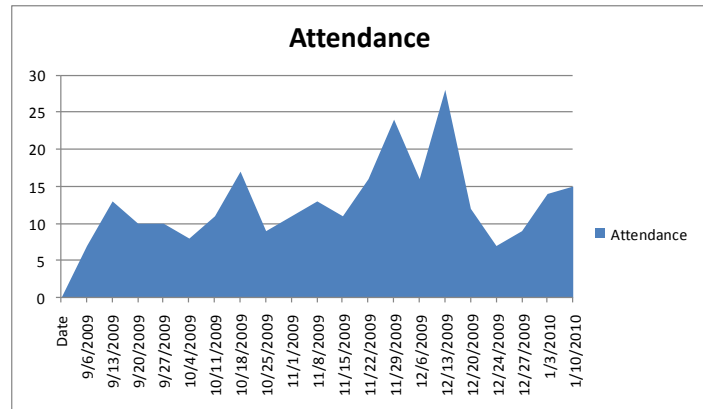
CUUC's Religious Education Update

We have reached the half way point in the 2009-10 YRE program year and it is my pleasure to report on the activities of the Children and Youth Religious Education activities over the past twenty weeks.

Attendance: Please see the attendance graph on the right for dates that I will reference.

Average Sunday attendance is 13 children per week for the first half of 2008-10. The YRE Program attendance for 2008-09 was 10 children during the same period.

The YRE has had several large activities during the first half of the program year which resulted in an increased attendance of registered Columbine children and youth. There are three clusters of children served at this time by the YRE program, the middle school group, the 4th – 6th grade group, and the Pre-K thru 1st grade group.



First on my report is the middle school youth which has six steadfast attending students and four students who are floating in and out during the course of these past few months. Middle school is followed by the primary grade level age group with eight children registered and only three on average attending on a regular basis. Finally the pre-K/1st grade age group has only three children registered with an attendance average of two children per Sunday. There are eighteen total registered children in the CUUC Youth Religious Education Program this year.

The production of “**Would You Like to Hold the Baby,**” on December 13th was a major draw for families with twenty-eight children participating or in attendance at this December Service. On that Sunday the CUUC service attendance, as counted by David Manning, was **110 people**. The second largest draw for families with children was held on Sunday, November 22 for the multigenerational service where the YRE and children sang, participated, and passed out the ‘Guest at Your Table’ donation boxes. On this Sunday we had twenty-four youth and children out of ninety-two total attendance.

The Shelter Rock UU Church curriculum, ‘Bibleodeon’ studies of Judaism and Christianity, has been well received and will continue for the balance of the YRE year.

Professional Development: We began our year with a teacher training for all teacher volunteers which gave everyone a great advantage and has made for a solid program. I attended the 2009 Fall LREDA (Liberal Religious Educators Association) Conference this past October and was able to network with many colleagues. In early December I attended the Mountain Desert District DRE working conference, at the MDD office, in an effort to develop a closer relationship with other DRE’s in the Denver/ Boulder Cluster and other Front Range religious educators.

The YRE Committee is looking at developing a welcome packet for new and visiting families in an effort to bolster returning visits by the family. We are also seeking ways to improve our information from the Welcoming Committee in an effort to build a stronger connection with new children and families. The YRE Committee has begun the budget work for next year and looking at summer programs with next year’s curriculum.

I would like to thank the CUUC Community for all the support and love that you have shown my family and I during this rough journey we have been on. Your love has been greatly appreciated.

With Love and Respect,

Blue

Martin J. Blue-Norton, Director of Lifespan Religious Education for Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church

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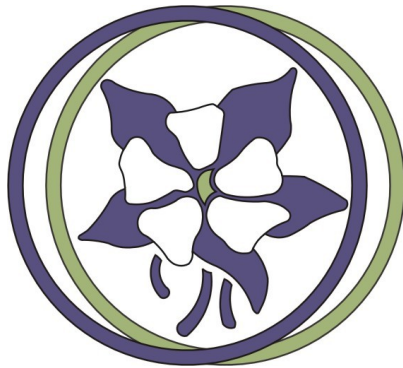


Sunday Morning Worship Begins at 10:30am
Coffee & Conversation Served After Service



www.columbineuuchurch.org

ALL ARE WELCOME!!



The Columbine Connection

**Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church
6724 S. Webster Street
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