



Unitarian Universalist Notes

A monthly publication (except July/August) of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Durango, CO 419 San Juan Drive, Durango, Colorado 81301
Phone: 970-247-1004, Web: durangouu.org, Email: durangouu@yahoo.com

Services 10:00 a.m. Sunday

March 2011

Religious Education and Child Care 10:00 a.m.

Nominees Needed for Board of Trustees

Our congregation is lay-led and depends on volunteers to accomplish nearly all the tasks needed to keep the church operating. As of July 1, several of the present Board of Trustees positions will be vacant and the nominating committee is seeking volunteers to fill these positions. We are asking all of you to consider what you might offer to the church in the way of time and expertise. The Board is vital for making policy and financial decisions, administering paid staff, and to the very existence of our church. The nominating committee has begun to contact people regarding various positions, so please consider serving UUFD in some capacity in this coming fiscal year. Better yet, contact a member of the nominating committee and volunteer. Nominating committee members are: **Susan Koonce**, Lois Carpenter, and **Aline Schwob**.

Board Adopts New Policy on Solicitations

At its March meeting, your Board of Trustees adopted a policy on requests for donations at the Fellowship. In an effort to consolidate some of the requests and in order not to overwhelm your obvious generosity, these guidelines were approved:

In order to limit the number and occasions of solicitations of the congregants of UUFD, the Board of

Trustees:

A) urges all committees and interest groups to include adequate funding in their annual operating fund requests;

B) incorporates into the Annual Operating Budget these items: red letter/discretionary fund, UUSC, and Association Sunday appeal, eliminating any separate appeal for these beneficences;

C) restricts solicitation by member and committee charities, including donations to external entities sponsored by a member, and sale of CDs/books by invited speakers, to a designated table in Bowman Hall; allows publicity for these charities in the printed announcements; and

D) prohibits solicitations not sponsored by a member or committee of the Fellowship.

We hope that these will somewhat simplify this process. If you have any questions, please ask any member of the Board. *Brooks Taylor*

Our Mission:

- Provide a home for individual spiritual search and religious development.
- Serve our community by putting our beliefs into action.
- Provide religious education for all interested members and others.

We Affirm and Promote:

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

April Sunday Programs

April 3

Awareness and the Art of Being Human Jennifer Forker, Denver

How can getting in touch with our inner Awareness -- that still, inner presence -- free our minds and our hearts, giving us greater peace and the ability to soar beyond selfishness and habitual thinking (for starters)? No big surprise here, but the first step toward this self-liberation is ... awareness!

Jennifer Forker graduates with a Master of Divinity in June 2011, from the Iliff School of Theology in Denver. As part of her graduate degree requirements, she currently works as a hospital chaplain in Wheat Ridge. She is married to Jim Clarke, a journalist; they have two daughters, Hope, 13, and Grace, 11. The family -- "three Clarkes and a Forker" -- live in Arvada.

April 10

Stop Aging and Start Living; It's Never Too Soon, or Too Late Charly Heavenrich, Boulder

We've all been programmed from early in life that Aging results in Loss and Diminishment. Those who buy into that fear will assume they have no choice. We all have Choice. We either buy into the fear, or we become proactive: the sooner the better we decide to deal effectively with the challenges of Change. So, walk around the wheel -- choose a

healthy approach to aging.

Charly Heavenrich describes himself as speaker, author, photographer, life coach, and Grand Canyon River Guide. He is perhaps best known for his interpretations of the experience of the Grand Canyon, and will be offering a Life Long Learning lecture on that topic at Fort Lewis College during his stay here.

April 17

Gratitude, the Heart of the Sacred Rev. Zakir L. Henson

How we view life largely determines what life gives back. Rev. Henson will take a practical approach to living in the sacred even in good times.

He returns to our Sunday Service from the UU Congregation of Grand Valley, Grand Junction. His theology is founded in our interpersonal relationships and the sacred that surrounds us, and is informed by several traditions, principally Sufism.

April 24

Another Look at the Easter Message Rev. Liz McMaster

Some of us Unitarian Universalists either squirm over Easter's central message (bodily resurrection) or sidestep the holiday with bunnies and candy eggs. There may be an in-between way to look at Easter with a degree of metaphor that sits well with skeptics and believers alike. Let's see!

Liz McMaster is a UU minister, mostly retired, living in Albuquerque. She obtained the Master of Divinity from Harvard (1988), was ordained by her home church in Atlanta, Georgia, and has served congregations in North Carolina, Florida, Colorado, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New Mexico. Currently she is founder and coordinator of the New Mexico UU Legislative Network, involved in immigration issues, weaves and teaches knitting, but, as first priority, plays with her 2 grandsons (9 and 5 years), grateful that they live close by.

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UUFD Considers Joining Higher Education Access Alliance

I met with the UUFD Board of Directors at the March meeting to propose that the UUFD, as an organization, become a member of the Higher Education Access Alliance (HEAA). The BOD requested that I present information to the UUFD membership and provide an opportunity for feedback. So kindly read the information that follows and let me know if you think we should join the HEAA coalition.

Thank you,

Maureen Maliszewski

UUFD Social Justice Committee Chair

Maliszewskimaureen@yahoo.com

259-4713

In the spring of 2010, the UUFD Social Justice Committee decided to focus on one primary issue for at least one year. After thoughtful discussion, we decided to focus on immigration reform. We started with educational meetings and forums involving the congregation and the community at large, including videos, panels, meetings with other organizations, partnering with FLC in the Common Reading Experience events and sponsoring presentations by Jen Smyers from Church World Services. From there, we have worked politically to gain support for comprehensive immigration reform, the DREAM Act, and most recently, Colorado ASSET.

Comprehensive immigration reform and the DREAM Act involve legislation at the Federal level. If the DREAM Act was enacted at the federal level tomorrow, Colorado students would not be able to benefit. Colorado law bans all public benefits to undocumented immigrants, including post-secondary education. So, as State law stands now, many undocumented students who have grown up our community and attended elementary and high school, will not be able to afford college or will move to other states where they will be able to pay in-state tuition. This will only further hurt our state economy.

HEAA has advocated for "Colorado Asset" (Senate Bill 126), which will repeal the post-secondary public benefit ban and make college affordable for college-bound undocumented students by allowing them to qualify for in-state tuition rates. Currently,

the bill has passed the State Senate Education and Finance Committees and will soon be debated on the Senate floor. It is expected to pass in Senate and then go on to face a tougher fight in the House.

HEAA has been working hard in 2010-11 to educate Colorado communities and law makers about this issue. They continue to grow a coalition of communities around the state impacted by Colorado's current policies. UUFD can help to support HEAA's important work by becoming a Coalition Member. HEAA is led by their Steering Committee of six non-profits: Colorado Catholic Conference, Colorado Education Association, Colorado Immigration Rights Coalition, Latin American Education Foundation, Metro Organization for People and Padres y Jovenes Unidos. Their Advisory Committee consists of 12 groups representing institutions of higher education, policy organizations and individuals committed to HEAA's goals. The third tier of support for HEAA is Coalitions Members, at last count numbering over 115 organizations including ACLU of Colorado, American Federation of Teachers, American Friends Service Committee, American Jewish Committee Colorado Chapter, American Immigration Lawyers Association, Anti-Defamation League, Catholic Charities diocese of Pueblo & Co Springs, Colorado Public Education System, Colorado Catholic Conference. There is no fee or other obligation in becoming an HEAA coalition member.

For more information on the DREAM Act, Colorado ASSET and HEAA, go to www.heacolorado.org.

Front Range UU Ninth Graders to Visit UUFD

The front range UU 9th grade trip is offering a forum on Sunday April 24th from 8:30 to 9:30 am. Arizona Experiences--having just returned from their 10 day adventure visiting the Navajo and Hopi reservations, the 9th graders want to share the joys, sorrows, lessons, discoveries and revelations they found along their way.

Time to Think About General Assembly

Alert: this year's General Assembly will be June 22-26 in Charlotte NC. You can check out the details at www.uua.org. If you plan on attending, please advise the Board of Trustees.

Save the Dates!

Sunday July 31, 2011 through Saturday August 6, 2011 are the dates for the Russell Lockwood Leadership School, which will celebrate its 20th year of building Unitarian Universalist leaders. Please consider attending at the beautiful Sunrise Ranch in Loveland. Check www.mdduua.org for more details and registration. The Fellowship anticipates underwriting the costs for two of our members this year: please contact a member of the Board to indicate your interest.

CUUPS Corner

We gather from 7-9pm every 2nd and 4th Thursday at Bowman Hall- to celebrate, discuss, teach and grow our Pagan culture, practices and philosophical knowledge base.

Enchanted Song Circle:

May 12, June 12, July 9, Aug 12 - We will be adding songs for summer and harvest celebrations and singing from our whole repertoire.

Discussion topics for Gathering Wisdom study circle:

May 26 – Pagan culture in America and we will have a guest speaker from Albuquerque.

June 24 – We hope to have an overnight Summer Solstice ritual. Details to follow.

July 28 – Topic TBA.

Aug 24- Ritual tools

Bring a snack to share. Contact Dawenwalker 385-9597 or CUUPSDurango@gmail.com

Thank you,

Dawenwalker

Annual Stewardship Campaign

All members and friends are invited (urged!) to attend a kick-off Dinner and Discussion for our Annual Stewardship Campaign at Bowman Hall on either Friday, April 8 at 6:00 P. M. or Saturday, April 9 @ 5:00 P. M. Childcare will be provided on April 9. The Finance Committee will be serving Serious Texas barbeque with side dishes and customary libations.

Just four short years ago our fledgling Fellowship made a bold move to acquire our church building for \$1,040,000. Then sweat equity and another \$150,000 were pitched in to renovate Bowman Hall and the upstairs apartment. In addition the stained glass window and the etched glass with symbols of other world religions and a hardwood floor were created and installed. A new piano was also purchased, and two years ago our landscape project was begun. Our present debt is only \$138,000.

Over the past few years the number of special requests for financial contributions has increased significantly – Red Letter Campaign, Association Sunday, UU Service Committee, Chalice Lighters and monthly requests to support local social service organizations, etc. Therefore, at the request of the Board, the Finance Committee has prepared a proposed operating budget which includes all of the above-mentioned items except support for local social service organizations.

Please join us at one of the two dinners and share your story of the importance of this Fellowship in your lives and your vision for its future. Please reply to information@durangouu.org or 247-1004 or sign up in Bowman Hall next Sunday.

Please indicate the number of adults and children in your party.

We look forward to seeing you on April 8th or 9th.

Ken Carpenter

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting of Wednesday, MARCH 9, 2011

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Durango

5:30 Call to Order, quorum (one vacancy remains)

Attending were board members: Teresa Jordan, Ron Garst, Dwight Burgess, Judith Reynolds, Kathleen, Brooks Taylor, Terry Woodward and guests: John Schwob and Maureen Maliszewski.

5:35 Minutes of February 2, 2011 meeting were approved. John Schwob asked that meeting minutes be included in the Newsletter as this was concept was approved by a prior board vote.

Recurring items:

5:35 Monthly financial reports (from Lou Ann Brown), Treasurer's report, R Garst

Ron gave an update on the finances and we are on track with the current budget and finances are sound.

Old Business:

5:40 Welcoming Congregation initiative update provided by John Schwob. Planned events may include movies, speakers and a workshop at the July retreat. John suggested that the welcoming committee process is a set of steps that may take 1-2 years to complete. These steps lead up to a UUA certification of Durango UU as a UUA Welcoming Congregation. John estimates that 2011/2012 fiscal year budget for welcoming committee process is \$250.00

5:50 Audiovisual upgrade efforts by Dwight Burgess, Ed Cox. Dwight gave an update and budget on audiovisual upgrade. There were several options available.

A motion was made to go with Dwight's Phase I recommendation which would be microphone purchases and purchase of a cabinet to move the existing equipment to the rear of the sanctuary. This motion authorizes a \$1700.00 expenditure. Funds will be allocated from Recital Series funds. Motion passed. John Schwob suggested check the Unfinished Furniture store for a cabinet to house the audio controls.

5:55 Policy on solicitations, fund raising (action). Motion was made to approve the policy on solicitations as written. Motion passed.

6:00 Proposal to relocate the library to the "Cry Room." Would require construction of book shelves. This item was tabled for next month pending information submitted by Committee identifying where the funds would come from.

6:05 Proposal for projection screen. John Schwob presented a recommendation for a new screen to be used for presentation projections at the front of the sanctuary. A motion was made and passed that a new projection screen be purchased. The estimated amount is \$1283.00.

6:10 Status of website development, T Woodward, M Lopez (information). Terry gave an update that committees are reporting their information for their pages on the new website and it is estimated that the new website will be ready for launch in first part of April.

New Business:

6:15 General consideration, FY 2011-2012 Annual Operating Budget (discussion). Ron will provide a preliminary draft of next year's budget for Board deliberation in April.

Brooks invited Board discussion on 2011-2012 new initiatives to be considered in the operating budget. One item suggested was the exploration of a part-time minister. This item will be also referred to the Worship Committee. Special services and Adult RE were also discussed.

6:30 Additional fundraising for landscape project, Building & Grounds.

6:35 Procedure for closing facilities after services, major events.

6:40 UUFD support for Los Companeros project, Maureen Maliszewski

Grant proposal to UUA fund for a just society, due on the March 15th, looking for letter of support. Board asked for a summary of the proposal or copy of the proposal and more information from applicants and tabled the item pending receipt of this information.

UUFD membership in HEAA, Maureen Maliszewski

Maureen proposes that UUFD become a member of HEAA (Higher Education Access Alliance) coalition. HEAA is committed to improving Colorado's economy by increasing higher education opportunities for all Colorado students.

This is primarily an endorsement and does not require fees.

Brooks notes that we don't have a process to engage the congregation in evaluating potentially partisan issues.

Ron suggested that we put an informative article in the newsletter to inform the congregation and make available for congregation to submit feedback by next board meeting.

A note was made to check the current insurance policy for coverage for church liquor liability.

Members notes:

6:50 Checking in

6:55 Adjournment

Pending issues/reminders: (not on agenda)

Committee guidelines, D Burgess

UU History project

Dates and deadlines:

Next BOT meeting: April 13, 2011, 5:30pm, Bowman Hall (note second Wednesday)

Newsletter: March 29, 2011, for April

Cluster meeting, workshop: April 16, 2011, Pagosa Springs

Annual Congregational Meeting, May 22, 11:30 am

Attachments/Mailings:

Draft minutes, February 2, 2011 (T Woodward)

Monthly financial, budget/actual, balance sheet, chart of accounts, through February (8/12)

Treasurer's Report, through February 2011

Note regarding UU History project, postponement one month

Equal Exchange activity, calendar 2010 (Jan Taylor, handout)

Notes on library construction, projection screen

BOT 030911.doc

It's Later Than You Think!

Retreat time is now a month closer. Did you save the dates to your calendar last month? If not, grab your calendar and mark July 8 – 10 for the Four Corners UU Summer Retreat. We know you don't want to miss the fun and meeting other area UU's.

The March newsletter introduced you to Denny Davidoff, former UUA Moderator, who will serve as our retreat leader this year. She will facilitate a workshop on the Saturday morning of the retreat and present the worship service the next morning. The R.E. Committee is making plans for the children's activities. There will be plenty of free time on Sat. afternoon for hiking, biking, fly fishing (catch and release) in the Pine River or exploring Vallecito Lake. We'll have our usual potluck dinner on Sat. evening and a catered breakfast on Sun.

Plan to join the fun at Pine Song, the Carpenter's place just before the dam at Vallecito. You can camp out by the river near the pavilion or get a cabin at one of the resorts at the lake or simply drive out from town for each day's activities. The brochures with the reservation form will be available in May. We hope you'll be there!

Lois Carpenter

Four Corner Cluster WORKSHOP

with Rev. Nancy Bowen, Mountain Desert District Executive

Saturday, April 16, 9:00 – 3:00 pm

Pagosah Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Tentative Schedule- subject to change

Meet, Greet and Continental Breakfast - 9am

Membership & Growth for us all- 9:45 – 12:15

Break for lunch – Bring a brown bag lunch

(microwave available) or cash for order-out sandwiches

Small Group Ministry, what is it and why it

works - 1:00 – 3:00

Join us for this rare opportunity to have our district exec.

share with us in the 4-Corner Area.

Please contact De Anna Hoyle for further information & to RSVP

dhoyle@centurytel.net

970-731-7900 (voicemail)

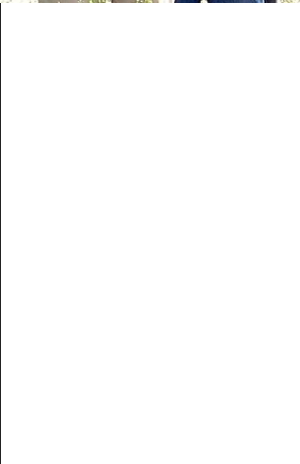
*We seek a reality beyond ourselves that binds us to other
human beings and to the interdependent web of all living things.*

*May our minds and hearts be opened to the power and the insight that weaves us
together and helps us remember the wholeness of which we are a part.*

—The Rev. Wayne Arnason

Pictures from Previous For Corners Retreats at Pine Song.

Photos courtesy of Lois Carpenter



Love Out Loud

A project of First United Methodist Church

Sunday June 5th, 2011

On Sunday, June 5th, the members of First United Methodist Church will go out into the community to help where needed! They expect to have a large number of volunteers ready to make a difference in Durango.

If you know of a low-income family or senior that needs help please complete this form to help the Love out Loud project coordinator better understand the scope of the need.

Requests must be received for review by April 1st and individuals or their referring agency will be notified in mid May with a determination about whether or not the request can be met.

Family Name - _____ Referred by - _____

Contact number - _____ Referral contact number - _____

Do you have children in the home? _____ Are you a senior citizen? _____

What could you use help with? _____

Does your project require specific supplies? Yes ___ No ___ If Yes, do you have all the supplies necessary to complete your project? Yes ___ No ___ if No, what supplies do you need?

Project ideas may include but are not limited to – minor home repairs (handyman related projects), help around the house (cleaning, sorting, organizing), yard work, moving assistance, children’s activities (games, story time) or other projects that could be completed in a day. Also – AGENCIES are also welcome to put in a proposal for help around their offices or outside area etc.

Please fax project proposals to Eve @ 375-1622 by the end of day, Friday April 1st

I _____ acknowledge that I’m being considered for assistance with the above project and by signing this document I give permission for this form to be shared between my referring agency _____, Advocacy for La Plata and First United Methodist Church as it relates to possible project coordination.

