



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

February 2011

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

Remembering Robert White

Late last year, long-time member Robert Glenn White died at his home in California. Many of you will remember the farewell the Fellowship gave to him about 18 months ago; he had sold his home north of Lake Vallecito and moved near his daughter and family for recurrent health matters.

Janice and I, now tenured members after only a decade, are aware of the singular role played by the servant leadership of this Fellowship in the days of Smiley and Third Avenue: Robert was among those leaders. He served as speaker, as President for several years, and as initiator of the Social Justice Committee. Those years remain rich in our memories.

We remember him as always intellectually alert, perceptive, committed. Serving as volunteer for years at local Legal Aid, he was a devoted scholar of the Constitution, with a longstanding interest in the Bill of Rights and the non-establishment of religion. His earlier political career primed his continuing sensitivity to current affairs. He kept a wide range of interests, sometimes in unexpected areas. We recall his fondness for the poetry of Emily Dickinson, as an example of that.

As he said at the farewell, he regarded us, the members of the Fellowship, as his family. We regarded

him as patriarch, mentor, friend. We understand that his family may disperse his ashes at Lake Vallecito sometime this summer. *Brooks*

Speaker Coordinator Needed...

The Fellowship is in need of a volunteer to handle coordination and recruiting of speakers for next year. There is plenty of help and a number of resources are available to the person who takes this position. Through the Parishioners in the Pulpit project, we hope to expand the available list of members who can and will contribute to Sunday services; in addition, we have an extensive database of past speakers, both UU ministers and community members. If interested, contact Brooks Taylor at durangofolk@frontier.net.

Arts Perspective

Coming in March: *Arts Perspective*, a free, regional publication on the artistic and cultural scenes in the Four Corners, will be introducing a short fiction feature. A Durango-set story by one of UUFD's own, Michael Garabedian, was commissioned to be the inaugural piece. After March 1st, find it on the web or in hard copy form throughout town (coffee shops, etc.).

(Continued on page 2)

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.

(Continued from page 1)

February Programs at the Fellowship

February 6

What's Your Story? The Stories of Our Lives

Crystal Carroll, member

Worship Leader: Dennis Aronson

From her spiritual journey over many years Crystal brings her experience and insights to the narratives that inform and structure our lives. She is a native of a small Rocky Mountain community whose name begins with 'D'; she is a long time member of the Fellowship & occasional speaker at Sunday Services.

February 13

Love and Other Four Letter Words

Sharon Tait, Durango

Worship Leader: Judy Hook

This hour will explore Valentine's Day and love as an action word.

Sharon has spoken to the UUFD several times before...once giving a program entitled "In Search of Santa" about the history of Santa Claus and gift giving, and recently giving a program "The Sacred", a look at the "Sacred" art show at DAC with comments on what some hold as sacred. She is a lay leader at First United Methodist Church, where she facilitates several study groups & an adult Sunday School class. She enjoys studying differing points of view and appreciates this opportunity. Sharon is also an artist and an Adaptive Sports ski instructor.

Contact Information

President—Brooks Taylor

Email: durangofolk@frontier.net

Religious Education Director—Terri Reheman

Email: rehermant@sanjuancollege.edu

Administrative Assistant—Melissa Lopez

Email: information@durangouu.org

Music Director—Marilyn Garst

Email: mmgarst@durango.net

Newsletter Editor—Ron Garst

Email: newsletter@durango.uu.org

February 20

Who's Right?

Rev. Zakir L. Henson, Grand Junction

Worship Leader: Cheri Kelly

Though most of us acknowledge religion is a subjective experience, we devalue or even reject the subjective in favor of the objective. It's only natural: for almost two millennia we've labored under a burden of a dominant religion that affirms its validity through philosophical argument, logic. How do we balance a paradox?

Zakir Henson is minister at the Grand Valley UU congregation; he describes himself as a fledgling human being. He has spoken to our Fellowship several times in the past.

February 27

What is the Soul? I Cannot Stop Asking.

Rev. John Lloyd, Buffalo, NY

Worship Leader: Betty Schwartz-Bozeman

Some say life is understandable in terms of physical forces along with the moral and psychological composition of people. Others say this is incomplete, that the nature of soul must be considered as well. What is the reality? What is the value of taking up the question? Consider: The moments in your life that have made you wonder at what is truly transpiring behind that which has appeared to you. Consider also: Genesis 1.26 And God said, let us make man in our own image, after our own likenessQuran 50.16 It is we who created man & we know what suggestions his soul makes to him: for we are closer to him than his jugular vein.

John Lloyd is Center Leader and Guide in the Sufi Order International, ordained in the Church of The Universal Worship. Rev. Lloyd has studied and practiced the mystical tradition for 30 years. He currently works as an educator in Buffalo, NY.

(Continued from page 2)

Sanctuary Changes

As you enter the sanctuary, take note of the beautiful new credenza that is to the right of the entry way. This beautiful new piece of furniture contains information about Unitarian Universalism and other useful materials to welcome guests to our Fellowship. It replaces the old cloth covered banquet table strewn with papers. You'll see members of the Membership Committee stationed by the credenza on Sunday mornings, greeting guests and making everyone feel welcome. You can help by taking note of visitors who introduce themselves during the service, escorting them to Bowman Hall following the service, and introducing them to other members of the Fellowship.

Welcome to Don Spangler

We are happy to welcome Don Spangler as a new member of our Fellowship. Spangler is originally from Pennsylvania. His immediate family still resides there. After graduating from high school, Don moved west where he received an elementary teaching degree from Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City. After teaching three years in the Midwest City-Del City School District, he moved to the Pikes Peak area (Colorado Springs and Cripple Creek) where he spent the next 31 years as an elementary school teacher. During that time he received his Master's Degree from Leslie University in Cambridge, MA. Don recently relocated to Durango upon retiring in June of 2008. He and his partner, Dr. Jim Brooke, moved into their newly constructed home on County Road 240. Don keeps busy as a substitute teacher for the Durango Public Schools, as a private literacy tutor for elementary students at his home, and as a museum attendant for the Durango & Silverton Railroad. Don enjoys the out-of-doors. He is an avid hiker, camper, snowshoe enthusiast, and loves to raft on white water. According to Don, living in Durango and the San Juan Mountains is a dream that has come true!

Calling all Speakers....

One of the strengths of our UU Fellowship has been the quality and variety of its speakers. Our pulpit is generally occupied by a member of the Fellowship at least once a month. Those services are always very well received, which is not to say that they can't be improved upon. A recent seminar entitled Preaching by Parishioners was offered at UUFD by a member of a UU congregation in Amherst, New York; based on that presentation, we'd like to start a similar program at UUFD. The program has two parts.

1. We want to recruit speakers to offer talks during our Summer Speaker Series. Our topic for this summer will be "Deadly Sins/Heavenly Virtues." This topic offers potential speakers an opportunity to choose a specific subject and treat it in a way they find interesting. (Sins: Pride, Lust, Anger, Sloth, Envy, Greed, and Gluttony; Virtues: Faith, Hope, Charity, Prudence, Justice, Temperance, and Fortitude).
2. We will offer a speaker seminar geared to helping potential speakers organize their topics and improve their presentation skills. This seminar will be facilitated by Fellowship members who have extensive experience in public speaking. The seminars will take place over a six week period at a yet to be determined time this spring.

We recognize that our Fellowship contains people of knowledge, conviction, and principle. Based on the "My Story" presentations given during the past year, we also know that many of our members have potential to share with the Fellowship in the capacity of speaker. We'd like you to consider becoming involved in this project. If one of the Sins/Virtues topics does not appeal to you, chose a topic which you would like to present next fall, and use this seminar as an opportunity to work on that topic.

If interested, or if you have questions, please email Katherine Burgess at kaburgess@durango.net.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Melissa Lopez sets Office Hours

If you wish to speak to or meet with me, I will be at the fellowship on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Please call the church phone (247-1004) or use this email address (information@duranguouu.org) to schedule an appointment. Also, to help keep my business and volunteer activities separate, I am requesting that you use this email for church admin business only. You have my personal email (it's in the directory) and my home number is 385-7996 should you need to contact me for other purposes including volunteer and committee work.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as the fellowship administrative assistant and look forward to the new ways in which we will be working together.

In Gratitude, *Melissa Lopez*

RE Happenings

EXTRA, EXTRA, read all about it . . . New RE Director on board!

By: Terri Reherman



Maya & Terri Reherman

Last month I happily accepted the position of Religious Education Director for our UU Fellowship. I've been a member of the fellowship for 6 years, an educator for 20 years, and have a daughter (Maya) in the RE program, so it seemed like a good fit for me. I have lots of ideas and I welcome your ideas and your beautiful children & teens.

You'll notice three changes right away. First, we've kicked off a new curriculum in the children's RE class entitled "Moral Tales." This is a curriculum chosen from the broader "Tapestry of Faith" UU curriculum. In this 16-week program, we'll build a "moral compass" comprised of spiritual and ethical tools to make choices and take actions that reflect our UU beliefs and values. Each week will focus on a story from a different culture that teaches a moral lesson. I'll also send the kids home with a "gems of goodness" notebook and instructions on what to record in it. At the end of the 16-week program, we'll celebrate with a "moral compass party."

The Moral Tales class will run each week for K-5 age kids. The older kids will meet with us on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays, and will meet for the new Youth Program the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, which is the second change. The new Youth Program will begin on February 13th with Kathleen Adams and Lisa McCorry capably at the helm. Please see the article by Kathleen below for details on this exciting program.

Finally, just when you thought you could never keep track of all these dates, you will now find a monthly RE calendar posted in the hall outside the RE classrooms (and sent to you via e-mail). This will tell you which groups will be meeting on which weeks, who their teachers will be, who will be in the nursery each week, and any other relevant RE information for the month.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to work with your kids. Please see me on Sundays, e-mail me at uufd_re@live.com, or call me at 759-2141 with questions, ideas, or concerns. I am gratefully at your service.

Words to Remember

You grow up the day you have your first real laugh at yourself.

Ethel Barrymore

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Announcing the new UUFD Youth Program

By: Kathleen Adams

On February 13th, the RE program will kick off its Youth Program for current 6th grade through high school UU kids. I have agreed to be the lead advisor for this program and will work with Lisa McCorry, who currently teaches in the RE program. For now, the youth will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month.

By way of introduction, I served as the youth advisor for 10 years in my previous UU church in Wisconsin. I was fortunate to be able to work with youth on Sundays as well as in social action within the Milwaukee community. Among other opportunities, I traveled to Boston for UU history trips, out of town for service trips, and district youth conferences (Cons). Our mountain district hosts Cons as well and I hope to travel with youth for these regional unique events.

In my experience, the foundation of a successful youth group is built on efforts to empower the youth while providing accessible and consistent advisement. In that vein, initially I envision giving the youth an opportunity to create a comfortable environment in their meeting room, start establishing a routine for our times together, start brainstorming the elements of a covenant of relationship, and similar beginning activities. We'll also discuss the elements of a successful youth group – both in their eyes and in mine. The youth office of the UUA lists the following five elements: bonding, leadership, service/social action, education and worship.

I will be talking with parents and youth via phone in the next few weeks about this emerging program. I look forward to building relationships with young people at this vigorous and formative stage in their lives.

January is Cervical Health Awareness Month

January is Cervical Health Awareness Month. Cervical cancer is one of the most preventable cancers, yet each year more than 11,000 new cases are diagnosed in the United States, and more than 4,000 lives are lost. Pap tests find abnormal cells years before any cancer exists. It's a simple test and it can save lives. Last year, the women's Wellness Connection provided 12,371 free cervical cancer screenings to eligible women aged 40-64.

For more information about the program, which also provides free breast cancer screenings, call 1-866-951-9355 or visit www.WomensWellnessConnection.org.

Outdoor Adventures

The maiden outing for the newly formed Outdoor Adventures group was a delightful xc ski trip up La Plata Canyon last Saturday. Six dedicated and enthusiastic Uus took part – Maggie, Jack, Terri, John, Aline and Sprite. If you enjoy boating, xc skiing, downhill skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, biking, or picnicking, and would sometimes like company on your outing, you need to join up. Indicate your interests in an e-mail to John Schwob (johnschwob@msn.com) and your name will be added to the group. Whenever a member feels an uncontrollable urge to get off the couch he/she can send out an e-mail to the entire group and hook up with fellow enthusiasts.

Tax Information

Our bookkeeper is preparing statements for contributions of record to the fellowship. They will be mailed when ready.

March Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the March newsletter will be Thursday Feb. 24. Please send materials to rdgarst@durango.net.