



Unitarian Universalist Notes

A monthly publication (except July/August) of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Durango, CO 419 San Juan Drive, Durango, Colorado 81301
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Services 10:00 a.m. Sunday

October 2011

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

President's Message

You have probably asked yourself at least once, "What can I do to serve our UU fellowship?" One great way to serve and to have fun at the same time is to become a UU greeter. You'll get that warm feeling of knowing all our members, friends and guests by their first names! This is our way of beginning the day in a welcoming, friendly and helpful way. Most importantly, we need a volunteer to coordinate the greeters; that is, to staff the greeters by date and to be sure they know their stuff. We already have written descriptions of greeter duties. The coordinator job should not require more than one or two hours a week. As coordinator of the greeters, you will work with the Sunday Service and Membership Committees to give members and guests alike a warm feeling of welcome as they cross our threshold each Sunday. I am grateful to Kathleen Adams for serving in this role for more than a year. She has assumed several additional UUFD responsibilities and no longer has the time to coordinate the greeters. I urge you to call Kathleen if you are interested in becoming the coordinator; she will provide you with full details about this key job.

One of the rewards of greeter service is the opportunity to meet guests and friends who are exploring membership in our Fellowship. Under the leader-

ship of K Redford, our Membership Committee provides interested guests with all the information they need to understand our Fellowship. The Committee is preparing revised packets on the path to membership and essential information for new members. A seminar for new members is also being developed. Since the future of our Fellowship depends upon recruiting new members, I congratulate the Membership Committee for strengthening our education of prospective UUs.

Becoming a welcoming fellowship is also a major way that we can provide a spiritual home for all people, regardless of who they are. Our Welcoming Group is raising our awareness of the heartbreaking spiritual rejection that many lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals have suffered. I thought that last Sunday's presentation was outstanding in this regard. Many thanks to the Welcoming Group and Ron Garst, Susan Koonce and Doreen Hunter in particular for teaching these important lessons. I look forward to the day when we are formally recognized as a welcoming congregation.

I want to introduce an idea that is not really new but has bubbled up again recently. Should the UUFD consider establishing an endowment? Many UU fellowships have endowments of various sizes, and

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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.

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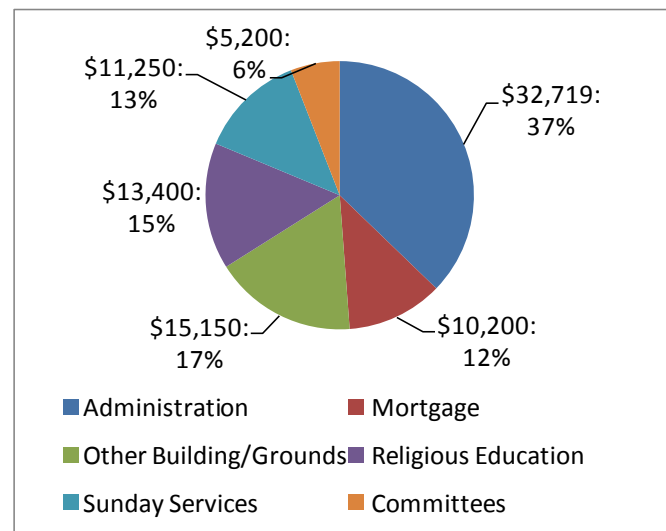
some even have more than one fund to support various programs (ministerial, building, outreach/social justice etc.). Perhaps we should consider paying down our mortgage debt before soliciting endowment funds. I know that a number of our members will have opinions on endowments. Please let me and/or any Board member know what you think. My e-mail address is smigr001@gmail.com. For some background, you may be interested in church endowments in general (<http://www.presbyterianendowment.org/information/library/governance/elements-successful-church-endowment-program>) and of UU endowments in particular (<http://www.cedarlane.org/endowmentfunds.html>).

Finally, I want to clarify my remarks on the 2012 operational budget in last month's newsletter. The Building and Grounds budget may seem comparatively large. One reason is that B&G contains the mortgage payments for the UUFD property. These payments account for 12% of the overall budget and 41% of the B&G budget. These figures are illustrated in the pie chart shown below. Once again, capital improvements such as the landscape project are not included in the operational budget. Capital improvements depend on special fundraising, such as the FROLIC auctions.

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Figure. UUFD Operation Budget for 2011-2012



The B&G budget contains mortgage obligations, supplies, maintenance, minor repairs, grounds supplies and repairs, utilities, snow removal and miscellaneous B&G needs.

Coming Programs, October 2011

October 2

"Our Islamic Heritage"

Dennis Aronson

From the 8th through the 13th century, Islamic achievements had an important influence on Western civilization. The presentation will describe some of the discoveries in mathematics, science, medicine, and agriculture that are part of this rich Islamic heritage.

Dennis Aronson, a member of the UUFD, lived and worked in Muslim countries for eight years. He and his late wife served as Peace Corps volunteers in Afghanistan in the mid-1960s. Later, Dennis taught English as a foreign language in Saudi Arabia. He earned his master's degree at the American University of Beirut in Lebanon and took his Ph.D. at Florida State University. He was the senior instructional designer for the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training before retiring. Dennis has been in Durango since 2006.

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October 9

“Georgia O’Keeffe: My Story”

Judith Reynolds

America's most famous woman artist of the 20th century may not have been a UU, but she found meaning and purpose in life by following two paths: Nature and Art. UUFD member Judith Reynolds has spent more than a year researching O’Keeffe's life, art, and cyclical depressions to present a paper at a Boston medical conference in October. This is the short, UU version.

UUFD member Judith Reynolds is a journalist and political cartoonist, something that might surprise her former professors in graduate school at the University of Michigan. She taught art history at Michigan and the State University of New York before going over to the dark side. But it was in Ann Arbor where she first encountered Unitarian Universalism, so she might be forgiven.

October 16

“Equal Marriage - the Right to Marry Whom You Love”

Dr. Charlie Clements

Would African-Americans have gained the right to vote had it been subjected to a ballot in Alabama, Georgia, or Mississippi in 1964? In this sermon, Charlie will explore why some rights are protected by the Constitution and others like 'equal' or same-sex marriage are subjected to plebiscite. He will explore 'equal marriage' in the context of other rights such as to serve in the military, visit your loved one in an ICU, or inherit property from your partner for life.

Charlie Clements is a human rights activist and public health physician. He currently serves as Executive Director of the Carr Center for Human Rights at the Harvard Kennedy School. He is the former President and CEO of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. In 2010 he served as a consultant to the Department of Defense Task Force, whose report urged President Obama to repeal the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

October 23

"Immigration"

Nicole Mosher, Los Companeros Social Justice Committee

Details TBA

October 30

"A Samhain Service of Remembrance " Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans of Durango

We will share a ceremony to honor our beloved dead--those people and things that have touched our lives and passed on. If you like, bring a small picture or memento to place on the remembrance table. (We will provide a candle to light to honor someone dear to you.) This 2nd annual service of remembrance is again presented by the UUFD CUUPS chapter.

CUUPS of Durango was founded in 2010 and is a member chapter of the national CUUPS organization. It is dedicated to providing learning opportunities, celebrations and networking for UU pagans and anyone interesting in learning more about pagan paths. CUUPS meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month in Bowman Hall.

UUFD Share-the-Plate

A Brief History

In 2009, UUFD, through the Social Justice Committee, started donating the offertory collected on the first Sunday of each month to two non-profit community organizations. This program is called “Share-the-Plate”. Recipients of Share-the-Plate have been the Durango Food Bank and VOA Safehouse (2009-2010), Promoviendo La Salud and CEAC (2010-2011) and now Del Alma and CEAC (2011–2012).

The two organizations each year have received the Share-the-Plate donations on alternating months. In

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2010-2011 Promoviendo La Salud received \$2138.69 and CEAC received \$2101, with average monthly donations of \$365.

2011 – 2012 Recipients

Community Emergency Assistance Coalition (CEAC) is a one-time emergency financial assistance program for families and individuals living in La Plata or San Juan counties. CEAC is a coalition made up of several non-profit agencies such as the United Way of Southwest Colorado, the La Plata County Department of Human Services, the La Plata Electric Round Up Foundation, Salvation Army, the Volunteers of America, and numerous local churches.

Funds are distributed on a weekly basis on behalf of families and individuals facing financial crisis and in need of one time assistance, including rental and mortgage assistance, utilities assistance, car repairs, medical assistance, and more. In 2010, CEAC distributed over \$127,000.00 on behalf of 748 individuals and families in La Plata and San Juan counties.

Del Alma is dedicated to promoting educational excellence, cultural competence and artistic expression among youth through enrichment programs. Their Vision is a community that respects, values, supports and empowers its young people to be actively contributing members of their community.

Del Alma receives approximately 93% of funding from Grants and approximately 6.6% from Program Fees, Fundraisers, and Dance Performances.

UUFD Share-the-Plate project contributions will be used to purchase materials for two programs: Alma After School Program and Ballet Folklorico Dance program.

In July 2011, the Durango Latino Education Coalition, DBA Del Alma, dissolved and merged into DAEC as a program bringing all of its components. They were already collaborating on many

programs and services and because their missions are similar, it was a great way to save overhead costs and put more funds into direct educational services for low-income and minority students.

How it Works

To donate to a Share-the-Plate recipient:

At the Offertory on the first Sunday Service each month, cash put in the basket will go to the Share-the-Plate recipient for that month. If you write a check, make the check payable to UUFD and write the recipient organization's name (CEAC or Del Alma) on the memo line.

If you prefer your donation go to UUFD:

Checks - Do not write the Share-the-Plate recipient organization's name on the memo line.
Cash - Place in an envelope. Write "for UUFD" on the envelope

Thank you for your ongoing support of local organizations which help assure all of our neighbors are cared for.

Questions? Call Maureen Maliszewski at 259-4713

Building and Grounds Fall Clean-up Day

Saturday, October 8th at 9 AM is Fall Clean-up Day. Bring window washing paraphernalia to do Bowman Hall & the sanctuary, gloves for tasks in the gardens, and whatever it takes for removing & storing the sail shades. Breakfast refreshments will be provided.

The B&G committee will meet at 8:15 in Bowman Hall that same day & will discuss future landscape projects as well as routine maintenance. If you have an interest in participating in these decisions, all are welcome to attend the meeting. See you there.

Judy Hayes

UU Poetry Circle to Meet

The initial meeting of the UU Poetry Circle will be Tuesday, October 11, 6-8pm, in the Sanctuary. If you would like to share your own poetry, read favorites, or just listen, please come. We ask that eve-

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ryone who intends to come RSVP to Brooks Taylor. Light refreshments will be served.

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.

Discussion topics for Gathering Wisdom study circle:

October 13 – Dawenwalker -The Power of Symbols, Sigils and Glyphs .

October 27 - Alane Brown Samhain lore and preparation for UU Samhain/Memorial Service

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

Call to ARTISTS—Cycles of Life

You are encouraged to be creative!

Who is Eligible? Artists who are members or friends of UUFD.

When & Where: Oct. 23rd bring your work at 12:00 pm to Bowman Hall.

Fill out the entry form. Entry fee is a donation.

Most artists donate a portion of sales to UUFD, so please consider artwork as gifts.

Reception for the artists will be at coffee time after services on Oct. 16th (tentative date).

Volunteers are needed to help hang the art show. Please have artwork ready to hang with hangers or wire backing.

Pick up your art work on Dec. 18th. Do not remove your art before this date without informing Margaret Pacheco at 759-5246.

Put General Assembly 2012 in Your Summer Plans

While it may seem early to be thinking about next summer, the UUA General Assembly June 20 – 24, 2012 will be held in Phoenix, AZ. In terms of a nationwide meeting, that is close! It's just a one-day drive. I encourage as many of you as possible to make every effort to attend all or part of it.

The format will be different this year. Called a Justice GA, it will have fewer plenary sessions and a main focus on education and action on social justice, especially immigration issues. We will need three official delegates who do have to be church members, but any in our congregation are welcome to attend as non-delegates. You may go for the full time or just the weekend—whatever works for you.

To see how it is shaping up, go to http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/187683.shtml?utm_source=n. For the schedule go to <http://www.uua.org/ga/programming/14599.shtml>. Then keep checking www.uua.org/ga/ to keep up with the schedule and planned activities over the months between now and then.

Lois Carpenter

Next Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the November 2011 UUFD newsletter will be 5:00 PM, Friday, October 28. Please submit articles to Ron Garst at rdgarst@durango.net.

Think About It:

The greatest thing is to give thanks for everything. He who has learned this knows what it means to live. He has penetrated the whole mystery of life: giving thanks for everything.

Albert Schweitzer, *Thoughts for Our Times*, 1975

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RE NEWS!!!

By: Terri Reherman , Lifespan Religious Education Director, 759.2141

BUNNIES, TIGERS, EAGLES: The Bunnies (0-5), Tigers (K-2), and Eagles (3-5) have been busy with their new lessons and new teachers. Some things for parents to remember:

- 1. If you have not filled out the short registration card on the back of the RE pamphlet, please do so. Pamphlets are available on the back table of the sanctuary and in the big RE room.**
- 2. RE runs until 11:30, although child care is provided until noon.**
- 3. Kids in 3rd grade and higher are allowed to cross the parking lot to Bowman Hall, but younger kids are not.**

YOUTH (ages 11-18): Good news: our youth group is growing! We have had as many as 8 kids attend this fall. The youth continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays and to work with the VOA shelter. Kathleen Adams and Lisa McCorry are taking the youth to the UU Santa Fe Youth Conference November 11-13. **Please contact Kathleen at 764.4756 if you are interested and have not yet heard about this.**

ADULT RE: The adults began meeting in September for the "Faith Like a River" series of workshops. They will be meeting the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 8am in Bowman Hall, subject to cancelation due to inclement weather. 23 adults have been attending these workshops, which are facilitated by Judith Reynolds, and the discussions have been lively! Special thanks to the following folks who have facilitated workshops so far: Judith Reynolds, Judy Hook, Susan Koonce, and John Lyons.

A NOTE FROM CINDY BROWN (long time childcare provider and member of UUFD):

I would like to thank all of you for entrusting your little ones to me over the years. They are the best behaved children in Durango! I am leaving next month to go to India to work at an orphanage, go to Ashrams, and explore that country for approximately 6 months. Happy Autumn to you all. Love and Peace Always. Cindy Brown.