

The InterCom The InterCom

The Newsletter of Foothills Unitarian Church, 1815 Yorktown Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80526-1658
November 2008, Volume 73, Issue 11



SUNDAY SERVICES IN November Services at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 am **Except November 2—9:00 am only**

November 2 9:00 A.M. ONLY! Sermon: "Marc's Election Day Sermon"

Join us at 9 A.M. for an all-church Sunday! We'll begin the service with our annual Day of the Dead celebration, so we ask you to bring a memento of someone dear to you who has died to place on our Day of the Dead Altar. After the children leave, Marc will offer a special sermon, about which he writes: "Rev. Mo reminded me in a recent conversation that many of our UU colleagues routinely offer a sermon prior to Election Day, calling attention to issues (NOT CANDIDATES!) especially important to our faith community. One major issue, of course, involves our beliefs regarding the role that religion should or should not play in electoral politics in the United States. That will be only one of the topics under consideration this morning as I break with my own tradition and offer a sermon for Election Day."

10:30 A.M. November 2: SPECIAL CONGREGATIONMAL MEETING

November 9 "Faith Club Ladies Sing Their Song"

Are you familiar with the book *The Faith Club: A Muslim, a Christian, and a Jew—Three Women Search for Understanding?* It's been inspiring for many, and it's Marc's focus for today. If you don't get a chance to read the book before the service, Marc will summarize some of the main concerns its three authors—Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver, and Priscilla Warner—detail. The sermon is presented just before the three authors will be in Fort Collins IN PERSON, on Tuesday, November 11, for a ticketed event hosted by the First United Methodist Church, 1005 Stover. TODAY'S SERVICE WILL ALSO INCLUDE A RECOGNITION OF OUR NEWEST CHURCH MEMBERS.

November 16 "Guess Who's Coming to THIS Dinner?"

We didn't have room to accommodate all our dinner guests on September 28, so we're having a second dinner party today! Dr. Denise Hall, our intern minister, will join Marc as we greet a wonderful group of extraordinary people important to UU history and introduce them to you. Our guests have all been invited by folks from the church, and we think you'll enjoy getting to know them.

November 23 First the Thanks and Then the Giving

Or perhaps it is the other way around and first we give and then we are thankful? Either way an attitude of gratitude is an essential ingredient in our lives. Giving and receiving both feel good! Join us in this intergenerational service led by Rev. White as we give thanks and have our middle school youth kick off the UU Service Committee's "Guest at Your Table Program."

3:00 P.M. Community-wide Thanksgiving Celebration at the Foothills Unitarian Church:

Please gather with us this afternoon for a special Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, hosted by our church! Dr. Denise Hall, intern minister, Ryan Marvel, music director, and Marc will be taking part, along with Doug Hutchinson, the Mayor of Fort Collins and representatives from various area faith communities. If you would be willing to provide finger foods and to serve at our reception following the service, please contact Marc or the church office. Can we equal the reception provided last year at Plymouth Congregational Church? ...Not that we're in competition...

November 30 "Religulous—Do We Need Freedom From Religion?"

Marc will preside today as we consider Bill Maher's much discussed movie "Religulous," as well as the work of the Freedom From Religion Foundation, which had a presence in Denver around the time of the Democratic National Convention. What do you think—after 9/11, inquisitions, the Crusades, witch and heretic burnings, and more, always more, is religion a force whose time has passed?

Upcoming Events:

November 2: Congregational Meeting (p. 9)
November 4: Vote!!
November 8: Goods and Services Auction (p. 4)

November 14: Family Friday Potluck (p. 8)
November 22: Coffee House Music Series (p. 6)

Marc My Words

The state of our economy and the recession we seem to be in are not only fodder for political campaigns, but are downright scary for many, impacting jobs, retirement plans, housing sales and more. We're all in this together, though, and while the church will no doubt also have to cope with problems in the economy, we also want to be here for you if times get tough. You'll know that we can provide sympathy, listening ears, and also a willingness to strategize and brainstorm solutions with you. Call on us, please; that's one of the many reasons we're here!

Shifting to a more prosaic matter, it seems that confusion has developed among us over the difference between being a friend of the church or a member of the church, with some of you perhaps thinking you are members even though our records show otherwise. To make it as simple as possible, if you have not signed the Membership Book at the church, you are not a member.

Mind you, we'd love to have you become members of the church, thereby being able to vote in congregational meetings and also being eligible for certain leadership positions. We've tried to make membership at Foothills Unitarian Church meaningful by requesting that most folks take part in a "Preparation For Membership" class before signing the Membership Book, but we've also been flexible with our requirements, since we're very aware that in our community one size never fits all! However, signing a visitor's card or attending services or praising the ministers' sermons will not make you a member! ... Appreciated, yes, but a member, sadly, no.

If you have questions about your membership status, give the office a call and we'll check our records. Remember, we respect the decision of a number of you to remain "friends" of the church; most of our friends pledge financial support but, for a variety of good reasons, wish not to affiliate formally as members. My concern in this column is with those who think they're members but are not so identified in our church database.

A final note: Rev. Mo and I have discussed the fact that whoever wins on election day and whatever ballot measures pass or don't pass, some of us will be frustrated, and perhaps angry and upset. We do expect to be called upon in those circumstances and at least can offer our support. Maybe we'll just cry together...that's still better than crying alone!

Yours in our shared ministry,
Marc



Caring Corner

Nancy Kellner

Sympathy is extended to Ryan Marvel whose grandmother Rose Cable passed away recently, and also to Kim and Connie Marvel.

Sympathy also to June Cringan whose sister Gwen Richardson passed away. Our thoughts are with these families during this time of loss.

Lisa and Tom Chandler celebrated the birth of their daughter Lila Helen Chandler who arrived on September 25th, 6 pounds and 14 ounces of joy!

Congratulations to Terl and Karen Robinson as they celebrate 30 years of marriage, and to Rich & Lorin Spangler Young celebrating 15 years of marriage.

Margie Wagner and family recently celebrated the marriage of her brother and his partner, who have been together for 32 years.

There are members and friends who would like to attend evening events at the church but who do not drive at night. If you are attending an evening event and



would be willing to provide a ride, or if you may need a ride, please let a member of the Caring Committee know.

Caring Committee: Caring for Members and Friends

Nancy Kellner, Chairperson
377-0392 njkelner@hotmail.com

Janet Ahlstrom 669-7085

Kathy Noble 631-8769

Carol Rieth 282-8446

Vicki Siska 226-5660

Jim Smith 221-4810 - *transportation requests

Rebecca Williamson 472-6636 - *meal assistance

*Kindly give a minimum of one week notice.

Seeking a Housesitter

We are looking for a someone who would be available for paid housesitting/dogsitting on occasion. We live on a quiet acre, in the northwest part of town, and have two friendly black labs. Contact Rick Schroeder, 484-8337, rickschroe@gmail.com.

Worship Associates Wanted

Reverend White is interested in having worship associates work with her when she provides monthly worship services. She will offer special training and would like your input on putting together a script for welcoming words, the offertory and greeting of neighbors. Good speaking skills are helpful. The enthusiastic desire to participate and collaborate in corporate worship is essential. Please contact her by calling the church and leaving a message on extension 3 or emailing revmo@foothillsuu.org with your contact information.

Charades Party!



Look how much fun John VanGorder is having at this charades party purchased at last year's auction! Come to the Services Auction on November 8 and you can have fun too!

A Gift that Keeps on Giving - Forever

Linda Knowlton, Endowment Committee

You will soon be receiving a mailing from the Endowment Committee, asking that you consider a contribution to the church's Endowment Fund in your end-of-year giving. We know that you receive many such requests at this time of year. And we know that you may be affected to some extent by the financial situation at the moment. But this is just a reminder that any gift, no matter how small, will help the church FOREVER. Also, if you don't feel able to make a contribution right now, there is a way that you can help without costing you a penny: You can remember the church in your will.

Please help fund the yearly Endowment grants process to support worthy church programs and services. When you get your mailing, if you have any questions about making a contribution, any member of the Endowment Committee will be happy to help you. The committee includes Judy Gates, Ardith Kerst, Linda Knowlton, Judy Pasek, and Charlie Tucker.



Mo's Musings and Meditations

Rev. Mo White

Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going? Where do we come from? Mystery. Mystery. Life is a riddle and a mystery. . .

These words from our hymnal are resonating with me and perhaps with you too. Soon the results of the election will help us frame the direction of some of these questions and still, they will always be timeless. More and more we are individually and collectively seeking to explore and understand their meaning.

Over the course of the last few weeks I have had the opportunity to participate in congregational life in a variety of ways. I've enjoyed food, worshiping, and game playing with families and children during the monthly Friday night family night potlucks. By attending the health care series I not only learned more about our broken health care system, I learned possible fixes and experienced firsthand the passion and knowledge of congregants who want to make a difference. How will we do this? I've talked with some individuals and learned about life transitions and concerns that are present in your life and how you are making the most of these difficult times. How do we care deeply and actively for one another?

Little by little I am coming to know some of you as the individuals who constitute the whole of this congregation, the beloved community of Foothills Unitarian Church. I wonder who are you and what you stand for, yearn for, live for and long for? I long to know more about your passions, your concerns, your individual and your collective identity. So please, do tell me more! Pick up the phone, drop me an email or plan a visit. In learning who you are I will know better how to serve you.

As a systems thinker and a Universalist preacher I encourage you to the practice of self care and levity in this election season. Stay true to your faith, vote your conscience and let reason and heart be your voting guide. Know when to say, "enough already" and try to find something to be thankful for.

Remember that you can and do make a difference and that the thousand or so of us (yes, I am including children and babies) who constitute this church are all in this together. May the questions, the answers, the riddles and the mystery help us in our understanding of this rich, complex, interconnected world we live in and seek to know.



IT'S AUCTION TIME! (People are bidding RIGHT NOW!)

This year, it's **EASIER** than ever to participate!

Bid ONLINE: <http://foothillsuu.cmarket.com> - Bid **RIGHT NOW! TODAY!**

The online portion closes at 10 p.m. on Friday, November 7th. Check your auction catalog to see if your desired items are available online!

**Attend the LIVE AUCTION EVENT:
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 8, 5:30 p.m.**

Live portions begin at 6:30 and 7:45 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres and desserts provided! Thanks to our sponsor Kilwin's Chocolates for donating 200 excellent treats for our Chocolate Extravaganza; Thanks to our sponsor Big Grins Dentistry for taking care of us afterward!

What's EXCITING about the auction this year?

- ✍ HUGE selection of items - something for everyone!
- ✍ Pay by cash, check or CREDIT CARD! (Online and Live Event!)
- ✍ Sponsored by a chocolatier and a dentist!

Why the Goods & Services Auction?

Support the church! Help continue our programs into the next year. 567 members, countless friends, and 250 youth benefit from your support!

Stumped for holidays this year? The auction is your unique holiday gift solution! You can: Support local businesses, find truly one-of-a-kind handmade goods, give your family & friends personally-selected treats, services or events - not mass-produced plastic "stuff." **Ideas:** Roller Skating Party & craft basket for the kids, massages and theatre tickets for the adults, Maternity Photo session for your niece, handmade jewelry for your sister, Kilwin's Chocolate Basket for a very special teacher, and a dinner party and Hot Air Balloon ride for your anniversary!

Have FUN! The Nov. 8 Auction Event will be a fabulous time, with our fantastic auctioneer Jeff Sweeney, loads of chocolate and other treats, and - most importantly - the company of good friends and friends-to-be!



Thank you very much for your support!

Please email Karen Karpinnen at karp1248@gmail.com with questions.

Childcare MUST be reserved in advance (by 11/2)

Thanksgiving Dinner at FUC

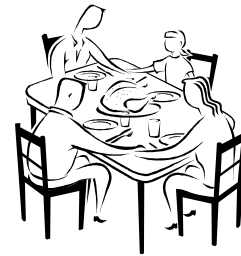
Collea-Devi Goetz

(Editor's Note: For the last several years, Collea-Devi Goetz has coordinated a Thanksgiving dinner at Foothills for those without a place to go, or who didn't feel like cooking.)

In order to have the Thanksgiving Dinner at the church I will need at least 2-3 people to help prepare and have at least 15 people to attend. Please sign up the first two weeks in November so we know if there will be a Thanksgiving Dinner at the church and I will have time to contact those who've signed up if there's not.

Food is expensive and I need help in preparing what the church provides. The Dinner is "Bring a dish to share," but I will make sure we have the basics for everyone, to include the turkey. I will have a list to sign up on a bulletin board in the Social Hall.

Thank you ~ Collea-Devi Goetz, 970-402-5908 (leave a message), firemoon47@yahoo.com, or contact the church office: 970-493-5906.



Election Issue

Marty Tharp

Have you ever experienced the pain and tragedy caused by untreated addiction or mental illness? Although one in four families in Larimer County have faced a mental health or substance use crisis, there are currently few options to get them the treatment they desperately need.

Larimer County Referred Issue 1A seeks to bridge this gap. 1A proposes a .25% sales tax - that's just 25¢ for every \$100 to be used to build and operate a detoxification and residential treatment facility for substance abuse and mental health treatment.

The facility will include an acute treatment unit, an assessment program and services to treat people so they can move toward recovery. 1A will delay the expansion of our jail and provide intensive substance abuse treatment that costs taxpayers one-quarter the cost of jail time.

Look for 1A near the bottom of your ballot, and Vote YES! If you'd like more information or if you'd like to help get the word out, please visit www.voteyeson1a.org.

Get Involved!

Social Justice and LEGOs?

Kerri South

Actually, yes! LEGO Robotics introduces girls and boys from varying socioeconomic backgrounds to the excitement and challenge of engineering and research, as well as teamwork and the importance of helping to solve important community problems. This year the theme is "Climate Connections", indeed a pressing issue. Children ages 9-14 will participate in our local Poudre Tournament on Nov. 15th. Adult and teen volunteers are needed to make this tournament happen. Church member Kerri South is in charge of volunteer recruitment. Last year, Foothills was well represented at the tournament. Let's make that happen again! Please contact Kerri at 204-9025, kerrisouth@comcast.net, or sign up directly at www.coloradofirst.org/poudre-fl/2008_Climate_Connections/volunteer.htm

CUUPS Update

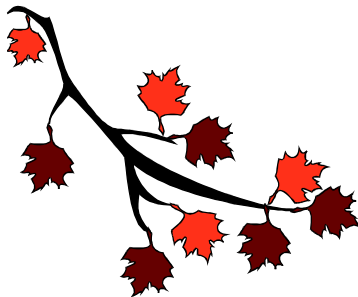
Jennifer Geraci

Next meeting: November 10, 6 p.m. RE Building
Next Ritual: Yule, December 22, 6 p.m. RE Building
The newly-formed Foothills chapter of Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) has established a regular meeting schedule, celebrated Mabon and Samhain with rituals and has one more ritual planned this year to celebrate Yule.

The Pagan holy day of Yule (or Winter Solstice), marks the longest night of the year before the return of the light as days become longer. While this time has long been associated with divine births in various religions, many pagans celebrate Yule as the return of the Sun God. As with CUUPS meetings, everyone is welcome to attend CUUPS rituals.

CUUPS meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the RE building. You do not have to identify as Pagan or follow a Pagan tradition to attend a CUUPS meeting. Anyone interested in Pagan traditions or is welcome to attend. At our November 10 meeting we will talk about gratitude and how we express gratitude within our various pagan traditions.

Visit the new Foothills CUUPS website at www.foothillscuups.org for more information, or contact Jean Loomis at moon3crazy@hotmail.com.



Greetings Book loving MUUMS!!!

Shaun Wallace

November 17, 2008 -- *Monique and the Mango Rains* by Kris Holloway. *Monique and the Mango Rains* is the true story of the life and death of a remarkable West African midwife, seen through the eyes of a young Peace Corps Volunteer who worked side-by-side with her, birthing babies and caring for mothers, in a remote, impoverished village. It is a rare tale of friendship that reaches beyond borders to vividly and irrevocably unite another woman's world with our own.

December 15, 2008 -- *The Uncommon Reader* by Alan Bennett. A deliciously funny novella that celebrates the pleasure of reading. When the Queen in pursuit of her wandering corgis stumbles upon a mobile library she feels duty bound to borrow a book. Aided by Norman, a young man from the palace kitchen who frequents the library, Bennett describes the Queen's transformation as she discovers the liberating pleasures of the written word.

January 19, 2009 -- *The Tenderness of Wolves* by Stef Penney. In an astonishingly assured debut, Stef Penney deftly weaves adventure, suspense, revelation, and humor into an exhilarating thriller; a panoramic historical romance; a gripping murder mystery; and, ultimately, with the sheer scope and quality of her storytelling, an epic for the ages.

Fun Committee Book Club

Myrna Maier

Please join us on November 18th at 7:00 pm in the RE building Room 222. We will be discussing the book: *Here If You Need Me: A True Story* by Kate Braestrup, winner of the 2007 Discover Award for Nonfiction. The publisher synopsis: "When the oldest of Kate Braestrup's four children was ten years old, her husband, a Maine state trooper, was killed in a car accident. Stunned and grieving, she decided to pursue her husband's dream of becoming a Unitarian minister, and eventually began working with the Maine Game Warden Service, which conducts the state's search and rescue operations when people go missing in the wilderness."

Calling all crafters!

Shanna Henk

Do you knit, crochet, embroider, or do another portable craft? If so, come join us at church for some conversation and crafting in our NEW FOOTHILLS CRAFTING GROUP. To help shape this new group or just come and craft with some fun UUs, contact Shanna Henk (shanna.henk@yahoo.com) with your name, e-mail address, and how often/when you would like to meet. Clever suggestions of names for the group would also be appreciated.

Ryan Marvel, Music Director

We the people...

believe the CABARET was a success!

A huge thank you to all who made this, our 2nd annual Cabaret, such a great evening. Coming together in community, laughter and support of one another's talents is such a wonderful experience. I believe these events bring us closer as a congregation and enrich our lives as individuals. Thank you, thank you, thank you! (P.S. ...start thinking about next year!)

RUSS CROWDER SCHOLARSHIPS ...

We will announce the recipients of the 2008-2009 music scholarship winners in the Dec. issue of the Intercom.

SAVE THE DATE...

Friday, December 19th – Caroling party and chili supper! More details soon...but don't miss this all-church family holiday musical event!

~CHOIRS~

Adult Choir: Continuing to grow, we are having a great year. We were joined by the CSU percussionists for Visitor's Sunday. And I would like to offer a big shout out to the choir for allowing me to use their talented voices to express my own thoughts through music at the Cabaret. I'll tell you one thing about this group...we have fun! Would you like to come and join? Drop Ryan an email, or talk to a choir member and come check us out!

Rehearsals in Nov:

Wednesdays, 7:30 – 9:00 pm - Sanctuary Nov. 5, 12, 19
 Note: NO REHEARSAL on NOV. 26th.

Performances:

Sunday, Nov. 9 – If ye love me (Tallis)
 Sunday, Nov. 23 – Cantique de Jean Racine (Faure)

Children's Spirit Singers...

I am so honored and excited to be able to carry on and continue to grow the great musical tradition for our young singers this year. Music adds a dynamic dimension to all our lives, and it flourishes in our children and provides them a creative outlet unequalled by many things. The Spirit Singers choir is open to all singers in grades 3-6. My goal is to expose the choir to a diverse blend of music and have fun while learning in a community environment! This Fall, we will begin rehearsals for our holiday set on November 2.

Rehearsals for Spirit Singers: Sundays – 10:10 – 10:50
 Triple RE Room – RE Building November – 2,9,16, 23
 (note...NO REHEARSAL on the 30th), December - 7, 14

Performances for Spirit Singers:

Saturday, December 13 – Afternoon performance at a community center – Details TBA

Sunday, December 21 – Both Services
 Wednesday, Dec. 24- Christmas Eve, 7 pm

You may either sign up your singers at the first rehearsal on Nov. 2nd, or send me an email.

Also, I am looking to continue the opportunity for one youth musical assistant to help with important duties throughout the choir year. If any of you might be interested in this leadership position, please contact me.

Holly Choir...

For our younger ones, this choir is open to age 4-2nd grade. This year's choir will be led by Heidi Mausbach. The rehearsal schedule will be almost identical to the Spirit Singers, except that the rehearsals will be held in the Children's Worship Room in the RE building. If you are interested in getting your little ones signed up for this long-standing holiday choir, please email Heidi at cellos@vcn.com and she will get you details about this year's group.

Performances for Holly Choir:

Sunday, December 14th – Both Services
 Wednesday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve, 5 pm

NOTE: All rehearsal and performance information for all of our choirs can be found online at the church web site; click on the Music page.

Community Choir...

This choir is in its fledgling stages, but growing in passion and numbers. Foothills graciously hosts our choir every other Tuesday night. Who are we? People who love to sing positive songs, with an emphasis on peace, social justice and GLBT/Allied outreach. We are an un auditioned, varied group and welcome all to come and sing. Our rehearsals this month:

Alternating Tuesdays, 7:30-9:00: Nov 4, 18
 Our group is co-directed by Ryan and Laura Evans. Come and sing!

In Song, Ryan Marvel 970.581.0120
ryan@ryanmarvel.com

Calling Music Makers and Music Lovers! Our upcoming Foothills (Coffee) House Music Series will feature our own Roger Fredericks as both MC and performer, but we're also opening the microphone up to you! Not sure you're ready for prime time? Wondering if "the spotlight" is a place you want to be? Sign up for your 15 minutes of fame by emailing druvandoren@yahoo.com or (if space allows) beginning 30 minutes before show time on Saturday, November 22nd. Admission is FREE, as always, but a goodwill offering is also welcome! Youth are encouraged to participate, and please DO bring your children! 6:30pm-8:30pm in the Triple RE room of the RE building.

Growing with Adult Enrichment - Vicki Siska, Adult Enrichment Coordinator

This past month, Foothills Unitarian shared its space with Congregation Har Shalom, allowing them the use of our facilities for their High Holy Day services. This openness to other people is one of the things I admire most about our tradition. In turn, this past summer I had the chance to experience first hand one of the characteristics I love about Jewish services. On most Friday nights I attended services at Temple Beth Zion, a congregation that self-identifies as “unorthodox.” There were many things to appreciate about the services at TBZ, but I couldn’t have done so if I hadn’t felt welcome.

Each Friday, I was warmly greeted by the vast majority of temple members and truly made to feel at home. I was a stranger, seeking spiritual grounding during a busy, and at times stressful, summer and I was embraced by everyone I came into contact with at the synagogue.

When I felt the door of this community open to let me in each Friday, it felt so good I would find myself wondering if we do the same for the people who come into our sanctuary on a Sunday morning. They may only be joining us for a short time, just as I was with Temple Beth Zion for just a few months. Or maybe they are looking for a more permanent faith community. Whatever path brings them to our services, I hope I can remember the acceptance, the interest, the friendship that was offered to me when I wandered in an unknown place, and how comfortable it made me feel. And I hope this remembrance will lead me to offer the same gift to those who wander among us. I hope you will join me.

On a different subject, I hope you will be able to participate in the interesting classes we have planned for November. From Goddess to Forgiveness, to learning more about yourself to weighing in on what our future should look like, we have sessions to challenge and engage you. While the only class that requires advance registration is Identifying Your Spiritual Path, class leaders always appreciate having some idea of how many people to plan for. Stop by the Adult Enrichment Table after Sunday services or give me a call if you know ahead of time that you will be sharing time with us – but if your decision isn’t made until the day of the class, please don’t hesitate to join us!

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE GODDESS

Sunday, November 2, 12:30—2:30 PM. \$5 Donation
Bring Your Brown Bag Lunch and Join Us!

In some feminist circles the Abrahamic God is perceived as being rooted in the patriarchal concept of dominance, and this is done to the exclusion of feminine concepts such as those embodied in the goddess. But what role did the goddess play in ancient cultures? What is the nature of the goddess today?

Bring your brown bag lunch (cookies and drinks supplied) and join with class facilitator Collea-Devi Getz as she shares a history of the Goddess, from ancient times through the present.

IDENTIFYING YOUR SPIRITUAL PATH

Thursdays, November 6 & 13, 7-9:30 PM \$15 Donation

Limited to 15 participants

Awareness of one's own natural style and that of others has been a great tool to enhance relationships, build better teams, and make career plans. However, what isn't so well known is that your personality type also shapes and influences your spiritual path: the experience of what kinds of things “feel spiritual” to you and how you define spirituality.

In this class the Myers Briggs Type Indicator test will be used as the tool to assess our personality preferences, but will expand the results to include an examination of how your personality dynamics influence your spiritual experiences and choices.

Participants will need to allow 15 to 20 minutes to take the MBTI assessment prior to the first class session. The test will be available between services at the AE table, or by stopping by the church office during the week. This class will be led by Dr. Jan Latona, who has many years of experience in private practice as a psychologist.

THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

Sunday, November 9, 7:00—9:00 PM, \$5 Donation

It was just a little over two years ago when, on October 3, 2006, a gunman entered a one-room Amish school house in Pennsylvania and opened fire on the students. Five young girls were killed and seven other children were wounded. As disturbing as this event was, what followed was even more surprising—the Amish community forgave the gunman and reached out to his family.

What would it take for you to forgive someone who has hurt you or those you love? The award-winning film, *The Power of Forgiveness*, explores this question from the perspective of differing faith traditions and real life events. Thich Nhat Hanh, Elie Wiesel, Azim Khamisa, and the Rev. James Forbes will each contribute perspectives from Buddhist, Jewish, Islamic, and Christian faith traditions. In addition to exploring the choice of the Amish to forgive, other personal stories, including efforts to build a Garden of Forgiveness at Ground Zero, are shared. Doctors, psychologists and psychotherapists have each spoken of the measurable benefits of forgiveness and the hidden costs of not forgiving; come and discuss your thoughts following the viewing of this powerful film.

Continued at the bottom of page 10



Children's Religious Education News - Eleanor VanDeusen, Director of Religious Education



On
Day of the Dead
Dia de los Muertos
we honor those who are
gone, but not forgotten

This altar was made for
someone who loved bananas,
chocolate and chiles!

November Church School Schedule

Sunday, November 2nd

All Church Sunday— Day of the Dead Intergenerational Service at 9am only. Please bring items to place on our altar of remembrance today. At 10:30 am we will have a Congregational Meeting (see p 9.) During the meeting we will have a Day of the Dead celebration for the children in the RE building—parents are welcome.

Wednesday November 5th

YFF Preschool Playgroup, 9:30 am

Today we will meet at City Park Playground for play and a photo session with preschool mom and professional photographer, Julie Yates—a great opportunity to get some pics of your little one. Thanks to Julie!

Sunday, November 9th

Church school classes meet at 9am and 11am today Children's Worship Service for older kids in the RE Building room 217.

Friday, November 14th 5:30 pm

Family Friday Potluck and Activities with Carrie Brown-Wolf, author of *Soul Sunday*

Sunday, November 16th

Church school classes meet at 9am and 11am today Children's Worship Service for younger kids in the RE Building room 217.

Wednesday, November 19th

YFF Preschool Playgroup 9:30 am

In the church social hall—Jessica Egan and others will share their experiences with "baby sign"

Sunday, November 23rd

All Church Sunday

Children join their families in the Sanctuary for the beginning of our service today to celebrate Thanks and Giving. Reverend Mo, Eleanor and Ryan and April will share stories, music and the launch of our traditional "Guest at Your Table Program" to benefit the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

Sunday, November 30th

Church school classes meet at 9am and 11am today.

Teachers will enjoy a day off and the kids will gather for Children's Worship Service and Thanksgiving activities.

Looking Ahead to Dec Events...

Children's Holiday Craft Workshop

Sunday December 14th, - 2:00 - 5:00 pm in the Social Hall. Kids make unique holiday crafts to give as gifts or decorate their homes for the Holidays! We need lots of adult and youth volunteers. Look for a sign-up sheet in the Social Hall.

Family Christmas Eve Services

Wednesday, December 24th at 5pm and 7pm

Join us for our Christmas Eve services for families. Our Children's Holiday Choirs will perform, we will share carols and Christmas readings, skits and the warmth of the season. Watch the Social Hall for a sign-up sheet if you would like to participate in our Holiday Service.

See Ryan's article on the music page of the InterCom about our Children's Holiday Choirs!

A note of thanks...

To all of the church members who helped out with our Pumpkin Carving Night & Spook House.

Family Friday

Friday, November 14th 5:30 pm in the church Social Hall

Families of all kinds - single parents, parents with children of any age, blended families, seniors, singles - everyone is invited to gather in community.

We'll start with a potluck at 5:30 - bring a dish to share, table service and beverages will be provided.

After dinner we will have a presentation and family activities with Carrie Brown-Wolf, author of

Soul Sunday.

Soul Sunday is a hands-on, tolerance teaching approach to understanding world religions and giving time and space for families to explore life's big questions. We look forward to Carrie's visit!

If you have questions about the Children's Religious Education Program or anything posted here, Please contact Eleanor VanDeusen, Director of Religious Education at the church (970) 493-5906 eleanorv@foothillsuu.org. My office hours are M, W, 9-3 TH, F 9-4 and SUN 8-2

Youth Programming News

What is YRUU?

Allison Fink, Youth Coordinator

If you missed the interactive, inter-generational service on October 12th, alongside music, stories and sermon our youth gave a presentation including many wonderful photos and a reading on what YRUU means to them. Here is just some of what they had to say:

1. The love and support I have felt is amazing.
2. I was accepted and welcomed as soon as I came here.
3. The cons (conferences) have been incredible, fun and very educational.
4. I'll never forget the first time I played "silent football."
5. The social action we have done is worthwhile and feels helpful.
6. I have greatly enjoyed my time so far and I'm looking forward to many more years.
7. Crazy, weird inside jokes
8. Community
9. Fun and games
10. We fall asleep holding hands, when we actually do sleep.
11. Twenty smelly, exhausted teenagers pile on one couch for an hour and it is pure joy.
12. I love YRUU and Cons, but the people and connections are the best.
13. We radiate pure love.

Young Adult Soirée—Nov. 2, 6 p.m.

You are standing on the edge of a cliff, one foot placed tentatively on a beautiful but long bridge. The other end of the bridge is obscured by mist and you can't tell where it will take you. Do you move forward to cross the bridge or turn to find another path? Youth bridge from YRUU into...well, either the great unknown or the supportive embrace of peers in the next stage of life. Having a strong and vibrant Young Adult group is important not only for the lifespan programming of our church but for also for our youth. This year we have a great group of leaders representing bridging youth, college students and professional/family young adults.

Young Adults and youth who have recently bridged or will bridge this year are invited to the first 2008 gathering of like minds and spirits in the YRUU RE rooms on November 2nd at 6:00pm. Please help by spreading the word and extending a personal invitation to the UU young adults in your life.

Do Good Work and Strengthen Your Resume

The next meeting of the Youth Adult Advisory Committee (YAAC) is November 9th from 12:15-1:15pm in the YRUU rooms. You too could have fun and at the same time impress college admissions officers and potential employers as a member (or co-chair) of the YAAC!

The Larger UU Community

Denominational Connections

Lenny Scovel, Denominational Connections Liason

Save the Date! Join Mountain Desert District (MDD) Program Consultant Rev. Deborah Holder and an award-winning team of trainers for a full day workshop called *Building the Beloved Community: How Do We Talk About Race, Class and Privilege?* What can ministers, religious educators and lay leaders do to raise awareness of social class and growing economic inequality? What can we do together to create welcoming and inclusive communities and to work against racism and classism? Join us for this event, hosted by First Universalist Church of Denver, on January 25th. Watch the MDD website (<http://mdduua.org/>) for forthcoming registration information.

Congregational Meeting November 2

Cherry Sokolowski

Hopefully you received the letter in the mail about the special Congregational Meeting on Nov. 2 at 10:30 a.m.. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on a proposed By-laws change and to discuss two other items of interest. Please attend and provide your input!

1. **BYLAWS CHANGE:** This change relates to term limits for board members and elected committee members. Currently, people holding these positions are limited to two terms. The proposed change would eliminate the term limits. We will VOTE on this proposed change.
2. **DISCUSSION ITEM:** Contributions to community non-profits. We will discuss three possibilities, including the current system of donating 25% of each plate collection to a designated non-profit.
3. **DISCUSSION ITEM:** Minimum financial contribution level. It has been proposed that we set a minimum financial contribution level in order for a member to vote in church matters. Exceptions would be made.



The InterCom newsletter is delivered by the first of each month and is sent free to pledging members and friends. Visitors will receive 3 free issues. Anyone else wishing to receive it may do so for \$15 per year. The InterCom is also available on the church website, www.foothillsuu.org

The deadline for copy is the 15th of each month at 5:00 p.m. Submissions should be sent electronically to the editors at intercom@foothillsuu.org.

If you have any questions, ideas, or suggestions, please contact the editors at the above e-mail address or Carole VanGorder, at 493-7206 or Linda Kothera at 407-1217.

YOU ARE INVITED TO A MAGICAL HOLIDAY EVENING



On Friday, December 12 and Saturday, December 13, the Adult Enrichment Committee will be presenting the 5th Annual Madrigal Dinner. This wonderful gathering of friends, held in our “transformed” medieval banquet hall, features a superb program of song and drama from Opera Colorado. These talented performers will be joined by the equally enjoyable Fort Collins Musical Links and other special period musicians.

Our evening consists of a catered four course dinner by the popular Fort Collins eatery, The Rainbow restaurant, with wine and a vegetarian option available. The steaming Wassail Bowl begins the program, which includes community singing and a special guest from the North! The night is filled with pageantry, theatre, friendship and fun. Period dress is encouraged, but certainly not necessary!

On Friday evening, doors open at 6:30 pm and close promptly at 7 pm. Saturday, the doors will open at 5:30 pm and close promptly at 6 pm. We are extending our low ticket price of \$45 until Sunday, November 2nd, after which the price will be \$50 dollars. Tickets are going fast and advanced reservations are necessary. For ticket information, please call Vicki Siska at 226-5660.

This is a wonderful way of ushering in the holiday season – consider giving the evening as a gift of friendship to those you care about and come, spend some enchanting time together!

Castle Workers Needed

Vicki Siska

Our 5th Annual Madrigal Dinner will be held at the church on the evenings of December 12 and 13, and will once again feature Opera Colorado, period music by Musical Links and some of Foothill’s finest, and victuals by the local Rainbow Restaurant. But we need servers to make this all happen.



If you are interested in serving on one or both nights, please speak to me either in the social hall after Sunday services or give me a call. Serving gives you a fun way of participating in the Madrigal Dinner at no cost and your help will be very much appreciated. All servers are invited to dress up - or not at all - to match your inner Elizabethan spirit!

We also need people to help with set-up on Thursday evening (December 11th), dishwashing on Saturday morning and Saturday evening, and take down on Saturday evening to prepare for Sunday services. If you can help in any of these areas please contact me in person. You can also e-mail me at vsiska27@hotmail.com.

Adult Enrichment. Continued

THE CONSTITUTION IN CYBERSPACE

Sunday, November 16, 7:00—9:00 pm \$5 Donation

The Constitution of the United States is the basis of our legal society—but what happens when what we consider society starts taking place outside our national boundaries? The world of cyberspace connects us in ways beyond the imagination of the creators of our Constitution, and giving thought to the governing protections in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights in light of our contemporary world is an important and necessary undertaking.

This class will draw on an essay written by Harvard Law School professor Dr. Laurence Tribe, which explores the values embedded in our constitution and what Tribe sees as their role in the ever expanding arena of the World Wide Web.

Participants in this class will read Tribe’s brief essay, and then, as part of a larger presentation on the subject, will share their reactions and thoughts, helping to create some beginning points for dialogue.

Notes from the Bookstore

Eve Enright

November is *National Novel Writing Month*, so come by the Bookstore and support all the great authors who bring fun, mystery, romance and thrills to us through their books.

Look for the Red Dots on both fiction and non-fiction books. The dot indicates books that were discussed at last month’s Buckhorn Retreat during the annual “Best Books Read This Year” meeting. Some of the recommended novels we have are: *Ahab’s Wife*, *The Jane Austin Book Club*, *Enrique’s Journey*, *The Lottery*, *Special Topics in Calamity Physics*, and *Water for Elephants*.

November 13-19 is *Children’s Book Week*. Take some time out of your busy schedule and read a children’s book – with a child, or by yourself! To celebrate the week, I’d like to start an Intergenerational Book Club! All children and adults are invited to join. We’ll read a variety of children’s books, and then get together to talk about them, and have some book-related fun. If you’re interested, please join me in the RE Building on November 16th to brainstorm about the details. Bring your book ideas, too.

As always, the Bookstore is happy to get a Special Order book for you. Just let us know on the Sundays we’re open, or you can call me during the week (493-5906). Single copies get our regular 10% discount; and we offer 20% off the list price for multiple copies.

"Seeking Justice in Health Care" Series

Rose Lew

The 3-part series "Seeking Justice in Health Care" (September 18, 25 and Oct. 2) was sponsored by our Adult RE program and Social Concerns group (thanks to Vicki Siska and Richard Conn), and organized by Linda Mahan (of Plymouth Congregational Church) on behalf of the N. CO Chapter of Health Care for All Colorado (HCAC).

The sessions were attended by a total of roughly 40 people, including our Assistant Minister, Reverend Mo White. (State Representative John Kefalas also attended one evening.) Four families with young children were able to participate because of the child-care provided (thanks, Devon!) and Milke McCarthy volunteered his time and expertise with the audio-visual system for our opening film (thanks, Mike).

Rose Lew, a member of FUC and HCAC, introduced the series in the context of the 2008 UUA General Assembly's "Action of Immediate Witness" in support of single-payer universal health care, and the opportunity and challenge to organize a social justice effort on health care at FUC. The UUA resolution states: "We call on Unitarian Universalist congregations to become informed advocates for universal access to nonprofit health care financing through social action and adult religious education. We call on individual Unitarian Universalists to urge our members of Congress to co-sponsor and pass HR 676, Medicare for All, or its successors, so that our people and our nation can have the excellent and affordable health care system we deserve."

Deanne Lembitz, M.D., a family physician and member of FUUC, then set the stage for viewing of the PBS Frontline documentary "Sick Around the World.."

On Sept. 25, Glenn Pearson, M.D. led the discussion "Creating a Vision for a Just and Sustainable Health Care System."

The concluding October 2nd topic "Finding the Voice" focused on how we as individuals and a faith community committed to social justice raise our voices for a health care future that respects the dignity and well being of all persons.

The opportunities for "next steps" for increasing our own involvement on this issue included going to the upcoming Interfaith Council public meeting "Health Care as a Moral Imperative (Not a Consumer Product)" Thursday, October 30, 7 - 9 p.m., Community of Christ Church, 220 E. Oak St, in Fort Collins, and organizing interested members of FUUC. Stay tuned, we will hold an organizational meeting to brainstorm on this after the elections.

And if you want to get on the "interested members of FUC" list, PLEASE send Rose Lew an email at roselew@gmail.com, or call her at 224-0618.

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Transforming Aggression into Compassion

Mary Roberts

Fort Collins Shambhala Meditation Center and Plymouth Congregational Church are bringing Judith Lief, author and Hospice pioneer, to present a talk and workshop on *Transforming Aggression into Compassion*, October 24 & 25. The workshop will delve into working with negativity through contemplative practice and freeing ourselves from anger toward self and others and cultivating a lighter, more accepting and flexible frame of mind. Participants will explore strategies for focusing, relaxing and remaining calm in the face of anger, ways to overcome reactive responses, to notice the relationship between thought, speech and action and to see beyond anger with humor and compassion. Judy has been giving this workshop across the country and has found that many people are looking for ways to deal with the animosity in others and themselves, especially in these times of great stress and blame. Feel free to contact Mary Roberts with any questions (maryr@verinet.com, 970.227.9806).

"Dr. Atomic" Screening at Local Theater

R. P. Martin

J. Robert Oppenheimer was one of the most defamed but wise, sin-sensitive and essential persons in our national history. Something new and different to inform and entertain us about the making and testing of the bomb is coming to Fort Collins. The opera "Doctor Atomic" written by John Adams (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doctor_Atomic) and performed by the Metropolitan Opera will be shown at the Cinemark Theater, 4721 S. Timberline Road (377-0782) on Saturday, November 8th at 11:00 am. Tickets are \$22, \$20 or \$15.

Many sources were used for the opera's libretto: official documents, scientists and military personnel. Oppenheimer himself was a cultivated and unique physicist, the director of the Manhattan Project and had a deep knowledge of the sacred Hindu epic Bhagavad Gita, which he studied in the original Sanskrit.

I am eager to see this opera because at 5:30 a.m., Monday, July 16, 1945, at the Albuquerque, NM airport, my copilot and I were ready to climb into our Air Force plane to fly back to Luke Field in Phoenix. That was the same moment the first atomic bomb was ignited. We did not know what it was, but the roiling fire ball was huge, high and a million colors. We had flown just nine miles south of the site.

Reminder:

The Insight Meditation group will not be meeting Thanksgiving week (Nov 25th). The meditation group will also not meet over the Christmas holidays (Dec 23 & Dec 30). Sharon Kreider, Insight Meditation Leader

Ongoing Meetings & Activities

Foothills Covenant Groups

Covenant groups are small intimate groups composed of UU members and friends for the purpose of connecting with one another and discussing topics of mutual interest. Darcie Bailey Pientka (686-7287).

Sunday Morning Adult Discussion Group

Come join us for a weekly discussion group at 9:30 am in the RE Building, Room #226.

The Foothills Women's Circle

The mission of this group is friendship and inter-generational community growth. Dru Van Doren druvandoren@yahoo.com.

YFF - Young Family Fellowship

All family groups with young children are invited you join the Young Family Fellowship. Upcoming events include potlucks and playgroups--the first and third Wednesday of the month in the social hall at 9:30--grandparents or other family members are most welcome to bring infant-preschooler family members for an enjoyable morning of activities.

Charly Bratt, charly.bratt@gmail.com

MUUMs (Mostly UU Moms)

Join in the fun as we explore interesting topics and enjoy special events. Amy Roberts amysjnk@comcast.net or <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/muums/join>.

BUUMs (Book-loving UU Moms)

Shawn at csumrule@gmail.com

BGLT Outreach Committee

The BGLT Outreach Committee and Interweave members are actively working to end oppression based on sexual orientation and gender identity Interweave@foothillsuu.org.

Feminist Discussion / Activism Listserv

To discuss feminist issues and participating in some activism, contact Jill at kuhngale@earthlink.net for questions or if you wish to join the listserv.

FUYAG

The Foothills Unitarian Young Adult Group welcomes anyone ages 18-35 to join us for good conversation, good food, and good fun. For more information contact Melanie at melsmithnichols@comcast.net or Julie Estlick at julie@estlick.com

CUUPS

Covenant of UU Pagans will be meeting 2nd Mondays between 6 and 10 in the Triple RE, Rituals TBA. Jean Loomis, 482-5866 or moon3crazy@hotmail.com.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
<p>2 9:00am Service 10:30 Congregational Meeting 12:30pm AE: History of the Goddess 6:00pm College Age Open House</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Election Day 7:00pm Insight Meditation 7:30pm Community Choir</p>	<p>5 9:30am YFF Playgroup 6:00pm 8th OWL 7:30pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>6 7:00 pm AE: Spiritual Path Library</p>	<p>7 6:00pm Song Circle Rm 211</p>	<p>1 <i>All Saints Day</i> YRUU Con In Boulder</p>
<p>9 9:00 & 11:00am Sunday Services 12:15pm Endowment 12:15pm YAAC Comm. 7:00pm AE: Power of Power of Forgiveness</p>	<p>10 6:00pm CUUP's Rm.221</p>	<p>11 5:00pm Finance 5:30pm Personnel 6:30pm MUUM's 7:00pm Insight Meditation</p>	<p>12 6:00pm 8th Grade OWL Class 7:00pm FUYAG 7:30pm Adult</p>	<p>13 7:00pm Music Committee 7:00pm AE: Spiritual Path</p>	<p>14 5:30pm Family Friday Pot Luck 8:00pm 9th Grade Trip Retreat</p>	<p>15 9:00am 9th Grade Trip Retreat</p>
<p>16 9:00 & 11:00am Sunday Services 7:00pm AE: Constitution in Cyberspace</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 7:00pm FUN Book Discussion 7:00pm Board Meet. 7:00pm Insight Meditation 7:30pm Community Choir</p>	<p>19 9:30am YFF Playgroup 6:00pm 8th Grade OWL Class 7:30pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>20 3:00pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Music Committee</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 7:00pm The Foothills (Coffee)House Rm. 221</p>
<p>23 <i>All Church Sunday</i> 9:00 & 11:00am Sunday Service 3:00pm Interfaith Thanksgiving Service</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 6:30pm MUUM's 7:00pm Insight Meditation</p>	<p>26 No Choir Practice No 8th Grade OWL</p>	<p>27 <i>Thanksgiving</i> </p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 9:00 & 11:00am Sunday Service</p>						

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InterCom November 2008

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Put address label here

It's Auction Time!

Saturday, November 8, 5:30 p.m.

Live portions begin at 6:30 and 7:45 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres and desserts provided! Thanks to our sponsor Kilwin's Chocolates for donating 200 excellent treats for our Chocolate Extravaganza; Thanks to our sponsor Big Grins Dentistry for taking care of us afterward!

See Page 4 for details

