

THE CHALICE FLAME

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF PUEBLO

110 S. La Crosse Avenue, Pueblo, CO 81001

October

2011

Issue X

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

October 2 - Ellen Toomey-Hale

"Criminal Justice"

Worship Leader: Rita Prangle

Greeters: Ib and Shawn

October 9 - Becky Mizel

"Schools and the Constitution"

Worship Leader: Pat Spahr

Greeters: Dave and Bev

October 16 - Dave Wagner

"Calm and Crisis"

Worship Leader: Gennifer Wagner

Greeters: Dan and Don

October 23 - Kate Langworthy

"Quaker Faith"

Worship Leader: Greg Boyko

Greeters: Ib and Christiana

October 30 - Ray L. Sisson, Ph.D.

"Brief History of Yemen"

Worship Leader: Pat Spahr

Greeters: Dan and Bev

Expanded Titles and Descriptions

October 2 - Ellen Toomey-Hale is the Finance and Development Director of the Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition (CCJRC), a non-profit organization that was formed to halt the exponential growth in the state prison population. Ellen will describe the issues in our prison system, and the efforts of CCRJ to effect reform.

October 9 - Becky Mizel, coordinator of www.libertyday.org, discusses the meaning of the US Constitution as it affects public school children ranging from 5th grade through high school.

October 16 - Throughout our lives, we face crises, big and small, which demand swift and decisive action. Can we use the intervening periods of calm to prepare ourselves to respond to crises within the framework of our principles?

October 23 - What's a "Quaker"? Do they make Quaker Oats? Don't they wear funny hats? Come hear a brief history and explanation of the Quaker faith. Experience an "unprogrammed" meeting for worship.

October 30 - Dr. Sisson has traveled to Yemen, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia relative to educational programs in engineering and technology. He will present a brief history of Yemen and his efforts to create a community college system there. He will share his experiences working with the Arabian culture, his concerns for future relations with Islamists, and about the importance of the Koran and Sharia law.

New Horizons - by Janice Nelson, Board President

"Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing" - Helen Keller

Due to the efforts of members and friends, many exciting things have occurred this month, and I want to extend special thanks to those who helped.

- The meeting room, building and grounds have been spruced up, and new valances installed over sanctuary windows.
- New programs - Adult and Children's RE and Social Outreach are beginning.
- New groups - Environmental Sustainability and Humanist Groups to begin meeting this month.
- Thanks to a superb publicity job, over 70 people attended the talk by Dr. Vic Stenger on Sept. 17.

Looking forward to our continuing "daring adventure", Blessed Be.

Splinters from the Board

- Approved expenditure for window repairs.
- Agreed to special collections for recycle bin, publicity, and building improvement fund.
- Ivy Carter will continue to coordinate art displays in the church.
- Sunday morning services are planned through December, additional greeters are needed.
- The Board will continue to evaluate publicity costs and benefits.
- The Board and Committee retreat will be held October 15th at the Barkman Library, facilitated by Elliot Ring.
- Midge, Ib and Janice have registered for the Mountain Desert District Annual Conference to be held in Colorado Springs October 7-9. All are encouraged to attend.

Membership Committee

Feminist, Mother, Ph.D., Emeritus Professor, Dean, Nurse, Peace Corps Volunteer, UUCP Board President, Malawi Youth Fund Developer, Community Stalwart

(Is there anything she hasn't done?)...Melva Moves to Missouri

As most of you know, our dear long-time member, Melva Steen, is returning to Missouri by the beginning of October to be closer to her family. Though we are happy for her, we recognize the substantial loss to our church and our community. Her calm demeanor and giving nature will be sorely missed.

Melva is a remarkable woman. Her story was featured on **Goldivas**, a website edited by UUCP member Rita Prangle that targets women over 50.

This excerpt offers a capsule of Melva's early life: "Melva Steen was born on a farm in Missouri, the second of seven children. After finishing high school in 1945, Melva planned on a career in nursing. Melva's father was unhappy about this choice because like many people in those days, he felt that nurses were one step above prostitutes - after all, detailed knowledge of the human body and physical contact with strangers were not "ladylike". Melva's mother intervened and her father loaned her the \$150 tuition." (For the entire story, go to Rita's fascinating feature entitled "From Missouri to Malawi" at <http://www.goldivas.com/articles/article.aspx?id=166>.)

Melva's life has been chronicled several times in **The Pueblo Chieftain**. John Norton wrote about her in 2007 when she was the only person inducted that year into the Colorado Nurses Hall of Fame. In addition to her professional career as a nurse, she retired in 2002 as the chair of the nursing department at CSU-Pueblo.

Melva has served society, locally and globally. At 75, she joined the Peace Corps. Many of you are aware of her profound and lasting contributions to Malawi. Her Malawi Youth Fund, formally organized as a 501 (c) (3) charity, has supported many Malawi youths' educational efforts, thus enabling them to seek employment and provide for their families. Close friend Pat Spahr, worked stateside to set up charity. "Melva has been a valued leader since she joined the church, and she'll be sorely missed, Pat said. "She's a close friend and we'll stay in touch with each other."

A feminist and mother of five, Melva has served on the boards of the YWCA, Hope Alive, PAACO, Pueblo Mental Health Association, Spanish Peaks Mental Health, and our church as a member and president of our board. She has been a Planned Parenthood and Red Cross volunteer, having served in disaster areas here and abroad. Melva traveled to

attend the International Conference on Women In China in 1995 when Hilary Clinton participated. Some of us wonder what gifts she'll bestow to her home state, knowing that for Melva, this is just her next chapter. Keep in touch with her at melva@usa.com.

In Melva's words:

What do nurses do when they retire? Many become volunteers and continue to use their valuable, accrued nursing skills to help others, especially with disasters such as Haiti.

When I retired, I joined the Peace Corps and was sent to Malawi, Africa. After completing my 27 months of service, I came home and wrote a book about my experiences hoping to encourage other older people to follow my example.

My book is entitled **Sensible Shoes: The Experiences of an Older Peace Corps Volunteer in Africa**. I was 75 when I went to Malawi, the oldest Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV) in Malawi at that time. I had never heard of Malawi. Today the country is more newsworthy because of the actress, Madonna, who adopted two Malawian children and is in the process of building a school for girls in Malawi.

Sensible Shoes begins with a chapter about Malawi and ends with a chapter about the Peace Corps. The chapters in between are about how I managed to adapt to living without electricity and running water and how I survived in my new little community.

As a muzungu (white person) agogo (older person), I was treated with respect. Malawians revere older people.

Considered a "developing" country, Malawi endured many changes that I witnessed in just the short time I was there.

Known as "The Warm Heart of Africa", the people were welcoming and ready to learn and make changes. Their biggest challenge was avoiding becoming an HIV/AIDS statistic.

Malawi was colonized by the British prior to gaining its freedom in 1962. The educational system is based on the British model. Grades one through eight were provided by the government. Secondary school (High School) is expensive.

Since most of the Malawians are subsistence farmers, living from one harvest to the next, many were not able to afford to send their children to Secondary school. Girls were usually not sent to school if funds were scarce. Therefore, I saw education as a priority especially for girls and, in a small way, something I could help change. I believed as Margaret Mead has said, "Never think that one person can not change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that can."

I wrote to my church and worked with a partner there to establish a 501 (c) (3) program, **The Malawi Youth Fund**. This program sponsors ten students at a time to attend Secondary school. A young teacher in Malawi, Alick Kadosa, selects the students,

mostly orphans from AIDs, for our program and monitors their progress. At the present time we have sponsored 30 students to graduate and pass their Malawi Secondary Certificate Exam (MSCE).

The proceeds from the sale of **Sensible Shoes** will go toward continuing this program. There is a letter from one of our students in the book telling how being sponsored to attend Secondary school has helped her and her family. She is the only literate person in her family.

If you would like to help by purchasing a copy of **Sensible Shoes**, you will find it on Amazon.com and at www.createspace.com/3597258. The price is \$14.95 plus postage.

Pueblo Cooperative Care Center:

Cooperative Care is requesting packages of instant mashed potatoes and stuffing mix for the month of October. Please bring your donations to the UU Church and place the items in the Cooperative Care box in the foyer. Thank you, and thanks to Liz Moulder for taking our contributions to the Cooperative Care facility.

Sunday Morning Conversation Club:

Join us at 9:30 a.m. before the worship service. Each week features a different engaging topic. Dorie's hope is that a different person will facilitate each month. A one minute time limit will be strongly observed by the group. Participants may speak more than one time of course, but there must be time for feedback and the ideas of others.

Oct. 2nd - "Have you ever noticed? Anybody going slower than you is an idiot, and anyone going faster than you is a maniac. " - George Carlin

Oct 9th - "Man is a complex being: he makes the deserts bloom and the lakes die."

Oct. 16th - "It takes a certain maturity of mind to accept that nature works as steadily in rust as in roses."

Oct. 23rd - "People in a temper often say a lot of silly, terrible things they mean."
- Penelope Gilliatt

Oct 30th - "If we learn to open our hearts, anyone, including the people who drive us crazy, can be our teacher." - Pema Chodron

Religious Education

Children's RE: Christianity Curriculum

The children are learning about Christianity from a UU perspective. Those familiar with Judeo-Christian traditions will recognize many of the figures (Moses, Queen Esther, Cain and Abel, etc.) and stories the children are studying. Though it is a 16-week course, each lesson is complete, and children are welcome to enroll at any time. There is child care for infants and toddlers as well. Please tell your friends, neighbors, or anyone you think who may be interested.

Adult RE: Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life

Ib Birgers will lead a study group using Karen Armstrong's book, **Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life**, as our guide.

The study is an exploration to gain insight into others as well as one's self. Ib believes that our group discussions will be fun, enlivening and enriching.

Seven have signed up (including Ib), and there's room for up to four more. The group will disband when we've gone through the "lessons".

At this point Ib is planning evening meetings at the church twice a month. Date and time to be mutually agreed upon. Contact Ib for more information or to sign up.

Social Activities

Happy Bookers . . . Oct. 5 and 19

We continue to read and discuss books and articles on sustainability. We meet on the first and third Wednesdays: October 5th at 10:00 a.m. at our church

building, and the Oct. 19th meeting will be an outing. We will decide details about the outing at the next meeting and we will notify members.

Some Bookers may want to join the "All Pueblo Reads" project. The book is **Hoot** and there are many, many copies at the libraries.

Carl Hiaasen, the author and columnist at **The Miami Herald**, won the Newberry Award with this first novel. It has been called "off-beat, hilarious" (**New York Daily News**); "gross, quirky" (**Chicago Tribune**); "laugh-out-loud," (**St. Louis Dispatch**); and "original and wacky" (**The Horn Book Magazine**).

Fellowship Breakfast...Oct. 14, 9:00 a.m.

We'll meet at Mi Ranchito II Restaurant, 525 Pueblo Blvd, which is just south of Thatcher on the west side of the street. We have found tasty, economical breakfasts in a quiet, friendly atmosphere. Come and join us.

Potluck & Movie Night...Oct. 22, 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 22nd at 5:00 p.m., we will have a potluck followed by the movie **Bomber**. Don't let the title mislead you - no violence, no terrorism - just a bittersweet comedy about a family on a journey. The acting was so point-on, you are caught up in the story. I knew in less than ten minutes in that this had to be seen and discussed by UUs. Don't miss seeing this great British comedy!

Halloween Pizza Party...Oct. 29, 5:30 p.m.

A Costume and Pizza Party is being planned for adults. Pizza crusts and sauce will be provided. You bring the toppings to make the pizzas works of art. We will provide ideas for decorations and costumes and entertainment; and prizes will be given for the scariest, wackiest, and most original pizzas.

Ice Cream Sunday...Oct. 30

We will celebrate October birthdays after the morning service on Oct. 30th. We will be serving organic ice cream cones in various flavors.

Contact Dorie Silverman for further information about social activities at 566.8604.



Social Action

Documentary & Discussion...Oct. 9, Noon

A Documentary and Discussion is shown on the second Sunday each month at noon. This month's selection will be announced in advance in the Sunday bulletins. Remember to bring a sack lunch to eat before the program. Contact Dave Wagner for further information at 545.1165.

Social Action Committee Meeting...Oct. 2, 9:30 a.m.

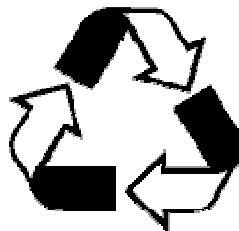
Members interested in Social Action at UUCP are encouraged to attend. The Social Action Committee coordinates Second Sunday Documentaries, Cooperative Care donations, and is considering other activities. Contact Dave Wagner for further information at 545.1165.

Sustainable Societies

Collective:

The Sustainable Societies Collective will meet on the first Tuesday of the month beginning October 4, 2011. Meetings will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. at the UU Church. There are many objectives for the group, but more than anything else, it will be a forum for discussion of modern problems facing our planet, society, individuals, and groups as they work to define and achieve ecological, environmental, social, economic, and cultural sustainability.

Going forward, discussion topics each month will be advertised in advance including any suggested readings. Individuals are encouraged to bring questions, concerns, and their wit. Food for sharing with others is encouraged, but not required. For more information, please contact Marc or Sarah Pratarelli at 549.2625 or 485.1167, or Carolyn Kelly at 320.5080.



Fundraising

Affordable Art and Gift Fair (AAGF):

Thanks to Liz, who is in charge of lining up the artists and crafters to sell their wares at the Affordable Art and Gift Fair December 3, we have a substantial number of spaces already reserved. The month of October will be a busy one for those of us who will be working on this project.

We will need a lot of help, and there will be something for everyone from helping to get our kiosk ready for setup on Union avenue, to painting the panels for the hanging art display spaces, to baking dough ornaments for the children to decorate at the ornament workshop that be offered at the fair.

We will also be collecting any supplies the congegation may have at home. These supplies could be paints, glitter, old jewelry odds & ends, feathers, beads, and holiday gift wrap. There will be a UUCP booth, so donations of (new) art and gift merchandise for us to sell will be gratefully accepted. We will begin collecting the merchandise in November, so artists will have time to start creating donations now!



- Shop online at GoodShop.com and a percentage of each purchase will be donated to our cause! More than 2,400 top stores are participating including Target, Staples, Best Buy and more!
- Search the web with GoodSearch.com and each time you do a search, GoodSearch will donate about a penny to our cause!

Goodsearch.com has now raised over \$30 for UUCP, and we have 14 supporters so far. If you haven't yet visited the [Goodsearch](http://Goodsearch.com) website and downloaded the toolbar, please do this. It's a very easy process and will earn money for UUCP at no cost to you.

As we go into the holiday shopping season, remember that your online shopping can generate significant revenue for UUCP, if you shop through Goodshop.com; this is included in the [Goodsearch](http://Goodsearch.com) toolbar.

You will still be offered any discounts you normally receive through frequent flyer and club memberships, and no, signing up will not cause extra pop-ups or spam emails. The toolbar is a small band that appears at the top of the page when you access the Internet, and the search box it provides is powered by Yahoo.

Please look for sign-up instructions in the fellowship area. You are welcome to take the instructions home to follow as you go through the steps on your computer. When you've completed the process, please return the instructions to UUCP. If you have any problems or questions, please contact Rita at rprangle@q.com or 542.0273.

About the UU Church of Pueblo

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pueblo is affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association. The religious organization is non-creedal and encourages free inquiry and exploration of ideas; therefore, members are not required to share the same beliefs. Members have come from a variety of backgrounds including lifelong UUs, Humanists, Christians, Jews, Muslims, Wiccans, Buddhists, agnostics, atheists, and others. The Pueblo UU Church welcomes gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons. For more information, see www.uupueblo.org and www.uua.org.

If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter, please contact louisewingburg@hotmail.com or leave a message at 719.561.0880.

October 2011

| Sunday | | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <u>25</u> | Sep | <u>26</u> | <u>27</u> | <u>28</u> | <u>29</u> | <u>30</u> | <u>1</u> | Oct |
| 10:30a -11:30a Pat & Jim - "Why We Are the Way We Are" Ice Cream Sunday | | | | | | Last day to register for MDD Conference | | |
| <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>5</u> | <u>6</u> | <u>7</u> | <u>8</u> | | |
| 9:30a -10:15a Sunday Morning Conversation Club 10:30a -11:30a Ellen Toomey-Hale - "Criminal Justice" | | | 6:30p Sustainable Societies Collective meets @ UUCP | 10:00a Happy Bookers meet @ UUCP | | | | |
| <u>9</u> | <u>10</u> | <u>11</u> | <u>12</u> | <u>13</u> | <u>14</u> | <u>15</u> | | |
| 9:30a -10:15a Sunday Morning Conversation Club 10:30a -11:30a Becky Mizel - "Schools and the Constitution" 12:00p Documentary and Discussion - BYO Lunch | | | 6:30p -8:30p Board Meeting @ UUCP - all members welcome | | | 9:00a Fellowship Breakfast - Mi Ranchito II, 525 Pueblo Blvd | 9:00a -4:00p Board and Committee Retreat @ Barkman Library | |
| <u>16</u> | <u>17</u> | <u>18</u> | <u>19</u> | <u>20</u> | <u>21</u> | <u>22</u> | | |
| 9:30a -10:15a Sunday Morning Conversation Club 10:30a -11:30a Dave Wagner - "Calm and Crisis" | | | 6:30p Pueblo Humanist Directions meets @ UUCP | 11:30a Happy Bookers meet for lunch | | | Potluck @ 5:00pm, Movie @ 6:30 | |
| <u>23</u> | <u>24</u> | <u>25</u> | <u>26</u> | <u>27</u> | <u>28</u> | <u>29</u> | | |
| 9:30a -10:15a Sunday Morning Conversation Club 10:30a -11:30a Kate Langworthy - "Quaker Faith" | | | | | | | 5:30p Adult Halloween Pizza Party @ UUCP | |
| <u>30</u> | <u>31</u> | <u>1</u> | Nov | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>5</u> | |
| 9:30a -10:15a Sunday Morning Conversation Club 10:30a -11:30a Ray L. Sisson, PhD - "Brief History of Yemen" 11:30a Ice Cream Sunday | | | 6:30p Sustainable Societies Collective meets @ UUCP | 10:00a Happy Bookers meet @ UUCP | | | | |

**Unitarian Universalist Church of Pueblo
110 S. LaCrosse Avenue
Pueblo, CO 81001**



Sunday Service 10:30 am

719-561-0880

Email: uucop@juno.com

***We're on the Web at:
www.uupueblo.org***

Minister Emeritus: Byron Kelham

Board President: Janice Nelson

Vice President: Ibsen Birgers

Secretary: Shawn Collins

Treasurer: Dan Stone

Members at Large:

Midge Birgers

Dave Wagner

Rita Prangle

Our Facility is Handicap Accessible

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Louise Burg at

louisewingburg@hotmail.com

Include "Chalice Flame Item" in the subject line.

Save a tree and a stamp

Did you know that our newsletter is on the web? If you would like to download your newsletter and forego the printed copy, please email Louise at louisewingburg@hotmail.com. Please put "Chalice Flame" in the subject line. Donations to defray mailing costs are always welcome too!