



CARE TEAM CORNER

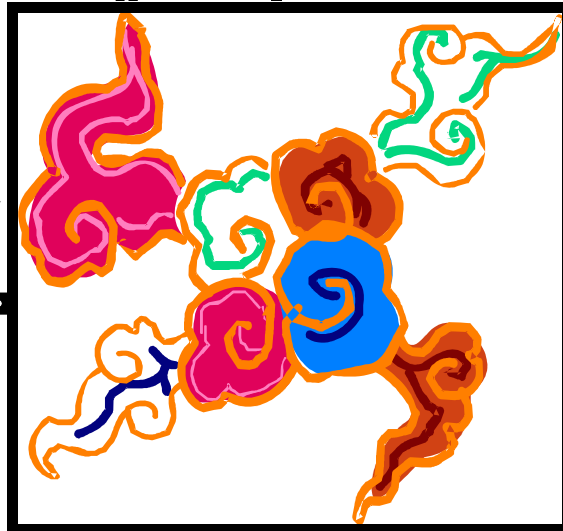
You may have noticed that the Care Team Corner was moved from the back of the sanctuary to the front, near the candles table. We would like to make it easier for people to share their joys/concerns or to request help from the Care Team.

After lighting a candle for a joy or concern in your life, we invite you to fill out a Joys and Concerns slip on the table next to the candles table and drop in into the Joys/Concerns box.

I think it is such a gift when people are willing to share with the congregation what is going on in their lives. It makes me feel more connected to our community.

Sometimes people do have more private concerns for which they would like to request help. If you do not wish for the entire UUCGV community to know about something, just check "No" next to the questions "Would you like Rev. Lawrence to mention this during the next service in which he officiates?" and "May we include this in the weekly UUCGV email?" The ministers and Care Team will work to help you while protecting your privacy.

~Elizabeth High, Care Team Chair



(Continued from page 4)
and a hub. This is not just about developing a set of programs, but finding a way for us to learn a new way as an institution.

Summary

The central conviction driving this proposal is that our core values appeal to far more people than are attracted to (or likely to be attracted to) our congregations. We have always treated this as a problem to be solved by devising ways to get people to become members of our congregations. But the reality of today's world is that not everyone who shares our core values will want to become part of a traditional congregation. The fact that so many share our values is an enormous opportunity, not a problem. The future relevance of our faith may well depend on whether we can create a religious movement beyond, as well as within, the parish. I am confident that together we can seize this historic opportunity for our faith.

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Bridging the Gap!

News from the Care Team

Keep your eyes open for the new "Bridging the Gap Center!" If you or somebody you care about has a specific need, please feel free to fill out a "request card" and put it in the new "Bridging the Gap Box." The care team will then post the requests on the "Bridging Board." All of the requests posted will remain confidential. Anybody who would like to fill the "need" can get the item to a

member of the care team or Wendy who will then get it to the person making the request.

The requests can be as simple as needing a new lamp for reading, or more complicated such as \$50 for rent this month.

There are times in all of our lives when we could use a little extra help, but we don't know how to ask. Hopefully the "needs corner" will be a safe way for us to minister to one another in a confidential and safe way.

*"Vitaly Inclusive
Justice-Centered
Spiritually Alive"*

INSIDE:

- 2,3,4.....Among Us
- 5,6.....Lifespan Religious Education
- 7,8,9.....Team & Org. News
- 10.....Organizational News
- 11.....Social Action
- 12..... Special Announcements
- 13.....Calendar
- 14.....UUCGV Leadership

**We meet Sundays at
10:30 am for Worship at
1022 Grand Avenue**

Staff Information:

Minister:
Rev. Lawrence M. Henson
Office Hours: Wed 9-12
257-0772 x2 or zakirhenson@mac.com

Minister of Congregational Life:
Rev. Wendy Jones
Office Hours: Wed 9-11
257-0772 x3 or revmommy@yahoo.com

Church Administrator:
Mallory Rice
Office hours: M,W,Th 9-12
257-0772 (main mailbox)
uucgvadministrator@uucgv.org

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 1053
Grand Junction, CO 81502
<http://www.uucgv.org>



**We are an affiliated
congregation of the
Unitarian Universalist
Association and the
Mountain Desert District
of the UUA**

Love Speak

By Reverend Lawrence M. Henson

Most people are from and live in geographic areas or geologic areas that also carry an overburden of culture. I was born in an area of Oklahoma known as a transitional area between the Great Plains of a few miles west and the Ozark mountains. I lived in an area that got three times the rainfall of western Oklahoma and about twice the storms so there were several names for rain, storms, and lightening. Here on the eastern portion of the Colorado uplift we have several names for rocks, canyons, and sky. They say Eskimos have hundreds of words for snow.

Our Christo/Hellenistic heritage gives us four distinct words for love and there are variations to those four. I've always thought it odd that English would need to borrow from the Greek and did not have similar words for such a significant sentiment. Of course, English is an analytic language borrowing meanings and retaining meanings rather than morphing meanings into original words. That is the nature of our English language. Of these four words we think of love as primarily Agápe and Philia, unconditional love and brotherly love. Of course I'm over simplifying here, but I think you get the idea. The other two forms of love are Eros or passionate love associated with longing for union and intimacy and Storge or affection mostly used in ancient times to describe a familial relationship such as a parent for a child. But it can mean much more.

One of the most wonderful aspects of our community, our congre-

gation, is the love of art, music and beauty. It's easy to think of that love as mere affection, but I think it is much more. Look around and I think you will find artists all around you. An artist answers a call similar to a religious experience. There is something almost irresistible to that call. You've seen it and not known exactly what you were seeing. You or your friend create something beautiful, but you don't see it that way. You can see something in your mind that you may struggle to get out of you head and into some medium. Creation never comes from thin air. It is a response to a vision that may or may not be totally conscious. The artist is responding an inner vision that almost no outer expression can match.

It is in this sense that I see an overlap between Agápe and Philia. Our roots are in Christianity and many of us may still be Christian. Agápe is the primary form of love appropriated by modern Christianity to express one's love for God. How do we retain that experience when our concept of God is less clear? We shift our love over to the familiar which becomes divine. In that sense, art is a form of divinity. Buddhists understand this when they speak of ordinary magic. The artist understands this when he or she sees the beauty of this world. The artist understands that we are all part of that web of life and we are all connected and woven together; both Agápe and Philia. When I say all, I also mean not only our brothers and sisters, but all of nature.

AMONG US

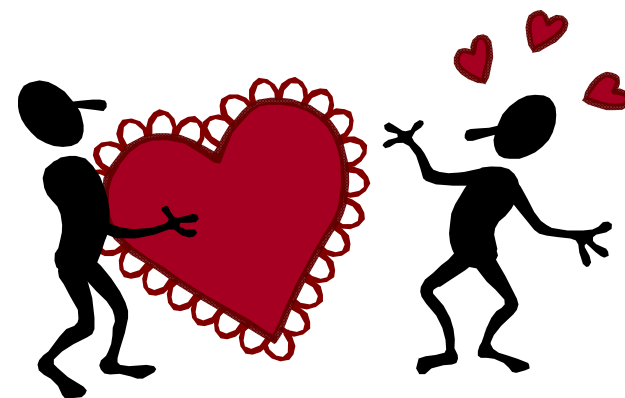
A Month of Sundays



Date	Speaker
2/5	Rev. Lawrence Henson
2/12	Rev. Wendy Jones
2/19	Warren Peterson
2/26	Rev. Lawrence Henson

Directory Updates

The time has come to update the directory. If you would like to be added/removed from or to the directory or have any changes, please notify Mallory ASAP, or by **February 6th** at the latest. Contact her here: administrator@uucgv.org or 257-0772, or drop your updates by the office.



Church and Staff Office Hours

Minister, Rev. Lawrence M. Henson: Wed 9-12 and by appointment
 Minister of Congregational Life, Rev Wendy Jones: Wed 9-11 and by appointment
 Administrator, Mallory Rice: Mon, Wed & Thu 9:00—12:00
 Church building open: Mon, Wed & Thu 9:00—12:00

**Please come to the back door if you visit during office hours.
 We keep the front door locked most times. Thanks!**

(Continued from page 1)

Though it's winter and the weather can be either crystal clear or absolutely horrible, February is a prime month to fall in love with the world around us. Beauty surrounds us everywhere we go. Whether the love we experience is focused on the features only snow can bring to the mountains and the canyons or extended to our brothers and sisters as we all flow through life together, we are all bound together in the web of life. The mountains are our brothers and the rivers our sisters so unleash the artist in your heart and let your affection flow.

Interweave

Interweave is a national UU affinity group for gay, bisexual, lesbian, transgender (GLBT) and allied people in the UUA. Our goals are to support each other, to educate this congregation and the community at large, and to provide service to our congregation.

The group met on Sunday, January 8th. Items discussed included:

- The **Respect for Marriage Act**, or RFMA (H.R. 1116, S. 598), is a proposed bill in the United States Congress that would repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and allow the U.S. federal government to provide benefits to couples in a same-sex marriage; the bill would not compel individual states to recognize same-sex marriages. One of the group members will look into the details of the bill and come up with plans for supporting it.

- Interweave has taken the lead in purchasing and selling Standing on the Side of Love t-shirts, a banner, literature, etc., for the congregation. Sign-up sheets will be available again on January 22nd. We will put in an order at the end of January.

Interweave Meetings are every second Sunday of the month at noon in the UUCGV library. Our next meeting will be February 12th. The potluck supper for February has not been planned at this time.

If you are interested in learning more about Interweave, call or email Jan Lewellen (314-9716, jlewelle@bresnan.net).

Finance Report

Prepared by Janet Cummings on 1-19-2012.

Review of December 2011 Financial Statements: Year-to-date loss is (\$7,678) through Dec 31. Total Current Assets were \$78,776 including \$53,413 in the Building Fund, and total Liabilities were \$67,170. The US Bank Operating account balance of \$25,363 included a \$10,000 Building Fund contribution received at the end of the year, and the \$10,592 reserve fund leaving cash for operations of \$4,771. We have received 44% of budgeted income, and expenses are 49% of budget for the year. Pledges received are 41% of budget (note that 6 months, or 50% of year has elapsed), but as of mid-January several pledge payments have been made helping us to catch up. Thanks to everyone for your support!

Long Range Planning

Remember, our lease for the present building will expire next November, and time is moving relentlessly on. The ad hoc building search committee is continuing the search for a solution. The congregation expressed great interest in the eye clinic property on 12th street. However, our latest offer of \$650 thousand was rejected. Wells Fargo had a new valuation done, and it is about 13% below the previous value. However, our offer was about 21% below the reduced valuation. Wells Fargo says that if we make an offer nearer the new valuation, they may consider it. Should we make another, higher offer? We will bring this question to the congregation on the January 29 Town Meeting. Meanwhile, we are considering other alternatives. We might stay in the present building. However, it isn't sufficient for our RE purposes. It also isn't good for our kitchen and fellowship needs. We might share the facility of another congregation in the valley, as we have done in the past. That possibility is under active consideration. We are also still in the search for other possible properties. We have heard of one which is possible and are looking into it. We hope that if anyone knows of any possibility that they would contact Duane Carr at finchcarr@yahoo.com or Bill Hilty at bhilty@bresnan.net. Or you can talk to us in person. By the time you read this, we may have new information from the Town Meeting. We hope to see a lot of you there.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of the Grand Valley
PO Box 1053
Grand Junction, CO 81502

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"Hatred does not cease by hatred, but
only by love; this is the eternal rule."

~Buddha



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE GRAND VALLEY

Head Minister: Rev. Lawrence M. Henson, 257-0772 ext 2 or zakirlhenson@mac.com
Office Hours: Wed 9:00 to 12:00 and by appointment

Minister of Congregational Life: Rev. Wendy Jones, 257-0772 ext 3 or revmommy@yahoo.com
Office Hours: Wed 9:00 to 11:00 and by appointment

Church Office: Mallory Rice, (970) 257-0772 ext 1 or uucgvadministrator@uucgv.org
Office Hours: Mon, Wed & Thu 9:00 to 12:00 pm

Board of Trustees

President: Jana Rossier, 985-8417
Past President: Bill Hilty, 640-2360
Vice President: Gary Dolezal, 985-9863
Treasurer: Carmine Nugent, 245-3370
Secretary: Lee Joramo, 261-8426
Trustees at Large:
Monte High, 245-5267
Cheryl Conrod, 712-8686
Youth Member: Mollie Cale, 243-5043

Team Leaders

Auction: Lezlie Sage, 434-7658
Care: Elizabeth High, 245-5267
and please call the office: 257-0772
Finance: Janet Cummings, 245-1685
Leadership Development: Bill Hilty,
640-2360; Sandy Dorr, 257-1498;
Connie Dolezal, 985-9864
Long-Range Plan: Duane Carr, 201-9133
Membership: Bill Conrod, 712-8684
Music: Peg Oswald, 243-4429
Personnel: Jan Lewellen, 314-9716
(contact)
Property: Bill Theimer, 263-0757
Publicity: Joel Prudhomme, 250-5413
RE (youth): Joanie Leinbach, 263-9364
RE (adult): Gary Poush, 257-1498
Social Action: Robert McDonald, 683-1998;
Abby Davis, 985-5398
Special Events: Robintix Perryman, 216-0509
Jay Martinez, 640-7805
Stewardship: Arleta Carr, 314-5261;
Sandra Lee, 201-1028
Worship: Edward Haenlin, 242-9395
Volunteer Coord.: Floyd Joramo, 260-8946

Visit our website:
<http://www.uucgv.org>

AMONG US

Prez Says ... February 2012

This month's Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) newsletter article by Peter Morales (UUA President) caught my attention. I would like to have a thoughtful conversation within our congregation about what it means for us here at UUCGV. Therefore, I offer it to you here. We'll be talking about this in more depth in the near future:

Congregations and Beyond

The Rev. Peter Morales President, Unitarian Universalist Association

Introduction

I am a parish minister at heart. I loved serving my former congregation. I still miss the richness and depth of congregational life. It was my passion for growing the membership of our congregations that led to my involvement in denominational work. At their best, congregations are deeply engaging and serve essential spiritual, emotional, and relational needs. Congregations can be wonderful springboards for acting in unison. Congregations will always be at the center of Unitarian Universalism.

And, I am realizing in a profound way that congregations cannot be the only way we connect with people. We have always seen ourselves as a faith, as part of an international religious movement. The Board's bylaw proposal that we expand the definition of a congregation is the result of more than a decade of discussion that recognizes that the nature of congregations and religious life is changing.

I have observed a number of things that speak to me of the truly

historic opportunities and challenges that are now before us. Here is a partial list:

-We have known for many years that the number of people who identify as UUs is about four times the membership of our congregations (about 160,000 adult members and about 650,000 people who identify as UUs). In other words, for every adult member there are three non-members who say they are Unitarian Universalist.

-The second largest gathering of UUs, after General Assembly, is the Southeast UU Summer Institute (SUUSI). A significant number of people who attend SUUSI year after year do not belong to any UU congregation. There are other UU camps and conferences that draw similarly large numbers of unaffiliated people.

-The majority of children raised as UUs do not join UU congregations when they are young adults. However, they continue to identify as UUs and share core UU values. Often they have close friendships with fellow young adults they met at church or at "youth cons."

-Some of our committed and generous donors do not belong to congregations. I recently met with a donor who gave us \$300,000 and yet has never been a member of a congregation. A few weeks ago I spoke with another non-UU who has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars.

-An increasing percentage of seminarians choose a community ministry rather than parish ministry. They see themselves as having a vocation for ministry, but not for

parish ministry. Our ministry extends to prisons, hospitals, the military, and organizations that seek to build a more compassionate and just world.

-Initiatives like Standing on the Side of Love are founded on the realization that many non-UUs share our values of justice, equity, and compassion.

-Our growth in terms of members of congregations has been stagnant, despite a number of ambitious growth efforts.

-Demographic research shows that people are less likely to attend traditional worship services of any denomination, even if they consider themselves religious.

-The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF), our one non-traditional congregation, has recently greatly enhanced its outreach, providing online worship services and new online services. It provides an excellent model for new ways of connecting and we are committed to working collaboratively with CLF as we move toward thinking of Unitarian Universalism in new ways.

I am also convinced that our movement has enormous potential to involve more people and have a greater impact. That conviction is based on a number of facts. Chief among them are:

-We have scores of examples of thriving and growing congregations of varying sizes, in all parts of the country and in different kinds of settings. Vital UU congregations fill a basic human need and attract people.

(Continued on page 4)

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-The great cultural shift in America (and in the world, for that matter) is on our side. One indication is the rapidly growing number of people with no religious affiliation. Attitudes of younger people on such issues as marriage equality, environmental justice, and immigration are further examples. Consider how many of the values of the "Occupy" movement align with ours.

-The internet has created opportunities for scattered pockets of UUs and individual UUs in the U.S. and around the world to forge a connection with us. What follows is an exploration of a strategic direction for Unitarian Universalism that may seem a radical departure from our past, but which I believe is a natural development consistent with our core values and reflective of our historic emphasis upon being willing to push beyond pre-determined boundaries.

Unitarian Universalism as a Religious Movement

We have long defined ourselves as an association of congregations. We need to think of ourselves as a religious movement. The difference is potentially huge.

Congregations as local parishes arose in a different era. They arose in a time of limited mobility and communication. Most members lived within a couple of miles of their church. When Unitarianism and Universalism were in their infancy, no one would think of belonging to a congregation ten miles away. Churches were the centers of community life in a largely agricultural society. (When Channing, Parker and Emerson were in the pulpit, Boston had a population of about 30,000, slightly more than Beacon Hill today.) To be limited to a traditional parish form of organization in the 21st century is like limiting ourselves to technology that does not require electricity.

The implications of thinking of ourselves as a religious movement

rather than only a collection of congregations are profound and liberating. Here is an initial list:

-We focus more on connection and less on "membership." Paying attention to who our ministry serves, how many lives we change, and the difference we are making in the world can help us redirect our efforts outward.

-We invite people to connect to our UU movement whether or not they choose to join a congregation. We can reach out to young adults, students, snow birds, people living in foreign countries, linguistic and ethnic minorities, etc. They can all be part of the UU movement.

-We find ways to invite the 500,000 or so people who say they are UUs but are not members of a congregation into our movement.

-We have a way of inspiring people who share our values, want to be part of our movement, but are not ready to join a congregation.

-We have a natural way to engage with groups that were once affiliates—groups like UUs for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC), Latino(a) UU Networking Association (LUUNA), Diverse & Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM), seminarians, etc.

-We continue our efforts to connect with UU college students. We would make clear that they are still a part of our movement.

-We have a good way of taking in people through such portals as Standing on the Side of Love.

What We Need

-A new kind of "open source" way for many kinds of people to interact with and inform Unitarian Universalism.

-Uses of social media that are rich and flexible. Technology is critical to connecting people today.

-A great deal more research about those who identify as UUs but are not members of a congregation.

-Face-to-face opportunities for small groups, etc. These can be held anywhere - homes, coffee shops, univer-

sity residence halls - not just in church buildings. Think "Meetup" opportunities for UUs.

-An ability to engage with Unitarian Universalism at a variety of levels of commitment.

-Social justice witness, activism and volunteerism opportunities

-Scalability. This means an ability to accommodate individuals, small interest groups, local and regional groups, and larger national groups.

A Two-Part Strategy

1. Congregations remain the base.

Creating ways of engaging people who are not members of our congregations is not a threat to congregations. Quite the opposite is true. We can help lower the walls between our congregations and the larger world. This can help make our congregations stronger. The UUA would continue to do all the important things we do now to support congregational health. That includes credentialing of religious professionals, creating resource materials, consulting with congregations, etc.

2. Focus energy on creating a movement beyond the congregation.

I envision a UU movement that is composed of a mix of congregations and a variety of other structures. People should be able to connect to our religious movement in a variety of ways and at different levels of commitment. (They do this in congregations and always have.) Some people would concentrate on spirituality in small groups. Some (a lot, probably) would get involved in justice issues like marriage equality, environmental justice, and immigration reform. Other groupings would be "identity based" like Spanish language groups or seminarians and religious professionals of color. We cannot predict the groups that would form or which ones would be the most vital.

The UUA's role would be to provide the container, the technological foundation, leadership, and coordination.

We become a resource, a platform

(Continued on page 8)

PLEASE remember that all meetings & events MUST be scheduled through the administrator (257-0772) or UUCGVadministrator@uucgv.org. This keeps us from double scheduling. THANKS!

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5:30 Choir and Potluck	2 6:00 First Thursday Potluck	3	4
5 10:30 Worship Sermon: Rev L. Henson 12:00 Book Club	6 7:00 Short Story Group	7 12:00 Finance Team Meeting 7:00 Adult Study Group	8 12:00 Long Range Planning Meeting 5:30 Choir and Potluck	9 7:00 Board Meeting	10 7:00 Blue Grass Jam	11 9-2 Soup Kitchen Saturday 10:00 Social Action Team Meeting
12 10:30 Worship Sermon: Rev. Wendy Jones 12:00 Interweave Meeting	13	14 Valentine's Day 7:00 Adult Study Group	15 4:30 Worship Team Meeting 5:30 Choir and Potluck	16 Men's Cooking Group	17 7:00 Creative Chaos and Open Stage	18
19 10:30 Worship Sermon: Warren Peterson	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7:00 Short Story Group	21 7:00 Adult Study Group	22 5:30 Choir and Potluck	23 7:00 Stewardship Training	24	25 9:00 Stewardship Training
26 10:30 Worship Sermon: Rev L. Henson, Stewardship Sermon Canvass Kick-Off	27	28 7:00 Adult Study Group	29 5:30 Choir and Potluck			

On-going Meetings

Wed 3:00-4:30 MDS Music Group
1st & 3rd Thur 3:30-5:00 MDS Aktion Club
Sun 6:00-7:00 Occupy GJ meetings
Chalice Circles: 1st Tues 10:30, 3rd Sun 12:00

Hospitality & Flowers

Please sign up for hospitality and/or flowers after the service. You don't have to furnish a meal—just something to go with coffee. Flowers brighten our sanctuary and can commemorate your special day.

Congregational Yard Sale, June 1-2



The best way to recycle is by reusing. By donating items you no longer use to the UUCGV Yard Sale, you will be giving others the opportunity to acquire goods they can use for less than it would cost to purchase them new. This helps families who are struggling financially while at the same time helping the environment by keeping stuff out of the landfill.

Start now identifying and collecting things for the Yard Sale June 1-2.

DO YOU HAVE IT? WE NEED IT!

- > Children's clothing, shoes, furniture, books and toys
- > Clothing and accessories for adults
- > Kitchen utensils and gadgets
- > Books in good condition
- > Linens and bedding



Children and Youth Religious Education

The high school OWL class had a wonderful retreat in Cedar-edge a few weeks ago. I was once again touched by what a nice group of youth we have in this congregation. We are truly blessed.

Elementary OWL leaders needed! We have one person who would be interested in training to teach the class, but would like to have a fellow traveler and learner to share the drive and experience. RE will pick up the registration fee for any who would like to take the training.

Elementary Our Whole Lives (O.W.L.) Leader's Training: The training is Friday Feb.10, 6:30 p.m. – Sun. Feb. 12, 3 p.m. at Jefferson Unitarian Church, Golden, CO. The trainers: Luanne Gearhart,

Jane Detwiller. Tuition: \$225.00 before 1/31; \$275.00 after 1/31.

Hours of Training: This is an intensive training. Bring comfortable clothes and any seating (floor cushion, etc.) which you feel most comfortable in. Friday, 6:30-9:30 p.m.; Sat. 8 a.m. – 9 p.m., Sun. 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

For more information: Registrar: Ashley Johnson, ashleyjohnson@jeffersonunitarian.org, Office 303-279-5282 x18, Cell 303-589-2787, Jefferson Unitarian Church, 14350 W. 32nd Avenue, Golden, CO 80401.

If you're interested please let Wendy know! I am hoping to offer the Kingergarten/Elementary OWL program this spring!

Important Dates:

Mar 31-Apr 1: Western Cluster Retreat (First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City) Registration due by **March 19th**

Apr 13-15: Bridging Con (First Universalist Church of Denver) Registration due by **April 2nd**

First Thursday Potluck 6PM, FEBRUARY 2nd

In the interest of creating a more cohesive body of leaders at UUCGV, we are now hosting potlucks to bring teams together for meetings, networking, and conversation on the 1st Thursday of each month. We've divided the teams into three working "ministries," to meet in a rotating fashion, which ends up being once every three months. This month, we'll be concentrating on:

- Membership
- Publicity/PR
- Stewardship
- Finance
- Auction

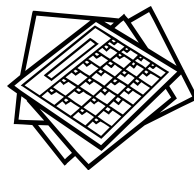


POTLUCK DINNER

ALL ARE INVITED! This is a great way to share in fellowship and get to know the workings of our congregation! You won't be committed to anything just by showing up, but you may well find some work you will enjoy!

Looking Ahead:

February 26 to March 10:
Every member canvass



March 24: Stewardship
Celebration Party

Mar 31-April 1: Western Cluster Retreat,
Salt Lake City

April 13-15: Bridging Con, Denver

May 20: Annual Congregational Meeting

June 1-2: Congregational Yard Sale

Adult Religious Education

Short Story Group

Do you like to read and share your thoughts, but don't feel like you have enough time? Consider joining the Short Story Group! We meet the 1st and 3rd Mondays at 7pm in the sanctuary, to discuss about 40 pages of reading - usually 2 short stories, selected from our current book. We are now reading through

the 2010 "Best American Short Stories" - trading knowledge about authors, sharing our own histories, and looking at themes and techniques. Contact Mary-Anne Winniford for more information, at MAWinniford@gmail.com or 245-2246. Or just show up for a meeting!

Adult Study Group

The Adult Study Group meets every Tuesday evening from 7:00 until 9:00pm in the sanctuary. Newcomers are welcome at any time!

For more information or to get copies of the chapters we will discuss, contact Shari Raso at (970) 523-4880 or rspsn@msn.com.

Book Club

The Book Discussion Group reads a book every month and then discusses it on the first Sunday of the following month. During January we have been reading *The Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan.

Do we have an "eating disorder" in the US today? Why is obesity a big problem today? Is there anything wrong with running down to the fast food restaurant for supper? If so, what *is* wrong? Should we be eating organic foods? What are organic foods, anyway? What part has the development of an industrial culture played in these questions? These are not only very interesting questions, but they are also very important. We hope you will **come discuss *The Omnivore's Dilemma* with us on the 5th of February.**

During February we will be reading *Cutting For Stone* by Abraham Verghese. "Marion and Shiva Stone are twin brothers born

of a secret union between a beautiful Indian nun and a brash British surgeon. Orphaned by their mother's death and their father's disappearance, bound together by a preternatural connection and a shared fascination with medicine, the twins come of age as Ethiopia hovers on the brink of revolution. Moving from Addis Ababa to New York City and back again, *Cutting for Stone* is an unforgettable story of love and betrayal, medicine and ordinary miracles--and two brothers whose fates are forever intertwined." (Amazon) **We will discuss *Cutting For Stone* on the 4th of March.**

In March we read *Leviathan* by Scott Westerfeld, which is the first book of a trilogy. The novel is based on events which occurred in World War I. Aside from the actual events, there is no similarity, since Westerfeld has built up an imaginary world in which the events occur. We find a global

conflict between the Clankers who have faith in machines and the Darwinists who believe in the development of a new species. You will follow the adventures of the Clanker escaping Austria in the Cyklop Stormwalker, a 2-legged war machine. You will follow the Darwinist riding in a giant biological airship which is a complete ecosystem. Of course, the two enemies will find that their differences may not matter as much as they had thought. You will find plenty of action in this novel which prepares the way for the next book in the series. **We will discuss *Leviathan* on the 1st of April.**

On May 6, we will discuss *In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson, and on June 3 we will discuss *Claiming Ground* by Laura Bell. We will have more information about them in a later newsletter.

Contact Duane Carr at finchcarr@yahoo.com for more information.

Black Canyon Discussion Group

The Black Canyon Discussion Group usually meets the first Wednesday of the month (Feb. 1st) somewhere in the Delta/Montrose area, at 6:00 pm with a potluck, followed by discussion of a selected topic. This month the topic is what can we do about the condition of the country, state or our local community?

For information on the topic, meeting place and directions, contact John Spurgeon at rktjohn@montrose.net or 856-6308.

Change for Change

February Change for Change:

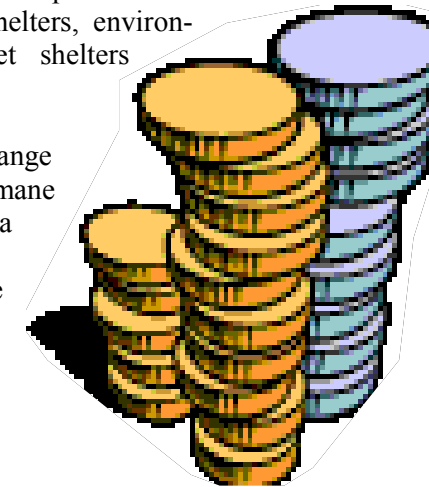
Riverside Educational Center

After School Tutoring and Enrichment

Riverside Educational Center provides structured after-school tutoring and enrichment activities for K-12th students who qualify academically and financially to inspire improved academic achievement and foster positive social and emotional development in a safe and supportive environment. Program services include after school tutoring, extra-curricular activities, and a six-week summer program. Riverside Educational Center is celebrating its sixth year in the Grand Valley this month.

Each month we collect change from the offertory baskets and donate it to a local charity. This effort usually brings about \$100/month. Past recipients have included homeless shelters, environmental groups, pet shelters and many others.

We gathered our change for Roice Hurst Humane Society last month, a life saver for our homeless pets in the Grand Valley. Thanks so much!



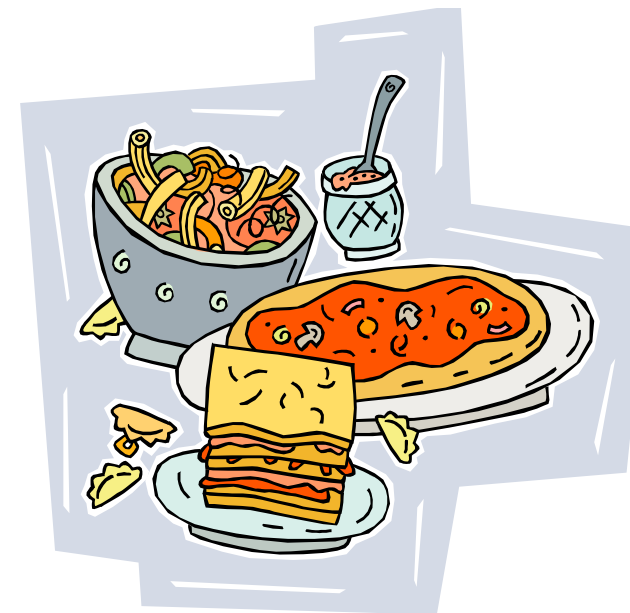
Soup Kitchen News

On January 14th the soup kitchen crew prepared and served lunch to 96 hungry patrons. The UU turnout was excellent! Barbara and Laird Milburn brought their grandson, Ethan. Liz and Bob Elam also came and joined up with John, Joel, Linda, and the backbone

of our team, Duane. Many hands made the work pleasant and easy. Thanks to all! Our next slot is Saturday, February 11th.

All are welcome to participate. Call Stuart for details. 773-0173

~Stuart Church



Give Life Meaning

Would the United States be different today if Unitarian John Adams and Unitarian leaning Thomas Jefferson had not been among the principal architects of the Constitution? The Constitution of the United States reflects their views of separation of church and state, together with strong reverence for the use of the democratic process.

Would the United States be different today if Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton had not manifested belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every individual?

Would the United States be different if the UUA's Beacon Press had not published The Pentagon Papers in October 1971? Clearly, Unitarian and Universalist ideals have been manifest in this country's history.

Is the Grand Valley different because of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Grand Valley? Are we prepared to make sure the Grand Valley is different because of UUCGV?

Many religions and denominations operate under a hierarchy similar to the feudal system. Decisions are handed from on high; ministers are appointed to congregations, and those ministers tell the followers what to believe.

The Free Church Tradition affirms a democratic form of governance, "congregational polity," wherein decision making power is held by the local congregation not by "higher ups." In churches where the power is held higher, the money also goes to the top, and trickles back down. In contrast, our Fifth Principle says, in part, that we promote the use of the democratic process in our congregations and in society at large. It follows that individ-

ual congregations determine:

- whether to have a minister;
- if so, who that minister will be;
- what policies will be followed;
- how to present the congregation to the public;
- how money will be spent (including how much we will allocate to the national organization for assisting us and other congregations in joint efforts).

Our UUCGV mission states that we will manifest our presence in this community through our commitment to each other and to the

web of life of which we are a part. Perhaps UUCGV has not yet received the public acclaim that has been accorded to Adams, Jefferson, Stanton and Anthony. However, we are as important to some, as they were to many. When we look around on Sunday, we see individuals who probably would not feel welcome in any other Grand Junction congregation. Some are in this congregation because we, as UUs, are "Standing On The Side Of Love." Some are here because they are "Free Thinkers," and can be so without condemnation. Others are here because they have finally found a religious home that does not



inflict specific theological requirements.

On the 26th of February, we begin our annual opportunity to affirm the financial portion of our commitment to this Congregation and the Grand Valley. There is a joke which says Unitarians believe Moses gave us the Ten Suggestions, not the Ten Commandments. Perhaps that joke started with a Unitarian considering the char of the Unitarian Universalist Suggested Fair Share. You can find the Suggestion at <http://www.uua.org/documents/congservices/stewardship/fairshareguide.pdf>

The holding of power – Congregational Polity – comes with responsibility attached. One of those responsibilities is the financial support required to provide a meeting place, to pay staff salaries, and otherwise manifest our presence in the Grand Valley.

This year, we are planning a visit with each of you to receive your financial commitment to UUCGV for the next year, as well as *Time, Treasure and Talent* contributions. Our canvassers will meet with you at home, church, or a coffee shop. Meeting with every member and friend is challenging and rewarding. The challenge? Finding an appointment time that works. We are all busy people. The reward? Making new friendships and renewing old ones as we manifest and strengthen Unitarian Universalist values in this Valley.

We will be hosting a "Canvass Kick-Off" event on Saturday, February 25th. Watch the weekly emails for updates.

May we "Give Life Meaning" as we move forward this year.

Blessings from the Stewardship Team

From Your Minister of Congregational Life

1 Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

If I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful;

It is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;

It does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends; as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.

For our knowledge is imperfect and

our prophecy is imperfect; but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away.

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man, I gave up childish ways.

For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall understand fully, even as I have been fully understood.

So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Our theme this month is love. This scripture from 1Corinthians is one of the most popular scriptures that many people (even if they are not familiar with the Bible) have probably heard at one time in their lives, whether at a wedding or even a funeral. As human beings the guiding light or the glue to hold us together is love. Many times when we think of "love" we limit ourselves to thinking about romantic love with a partner. However, there are so many types of love to sustain us and help us endure.

We have the love we feel for our children or our parents, we have the love expressed through friendship, and we

**February Principle:
Love**

have the universal love expressed through the acknowledgement that we are all a part of the interconnected web of all existence.

This month for our spiritual practice I invite us to reflect on and bless

the love that we have in our lives. Not everybody is in a nurturing romantic relationship. However that is certainly not a requirement for fulfillment or for experiencing the true joy that loving and being loved can bring. I invite us to take a few minutes to write down all of the ways in which we express our love and are in turn receiving love. As Paul reminds us, love expands. It does not limit. Let us not contain it in a little box based on our own narrow definition.

~Rev. Wendy Jones

Coming Soon: The Dream Corner

This is going to be a place where the members of our congregation can share a vision for their lives or a dream that they would like to make manifest in reality. This is a way that we can get to know our fellow members in a new and exciting way while at the same offer different avenues that we might be able to help them achieve their dreams. If you

have a vision for the future that you would like us to feature in an upcoming newsletter, please let Wendy know. The sky is the limit!

Stay tuned for March's Dream! Caroline McDaniel and her vision of "Hope Ranch." A place to rescue unloved dogs, and help the homeless rebuild their lives at the same time.