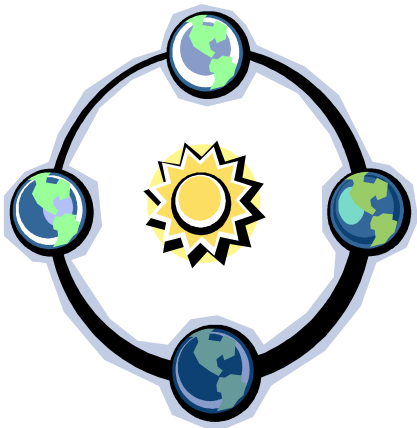
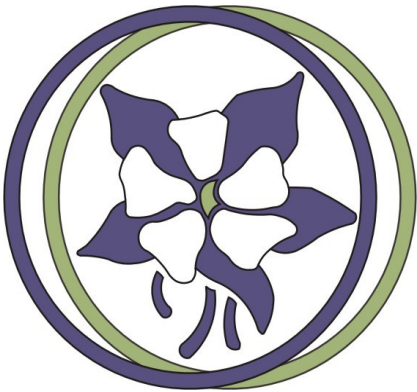


The Columbine Connection

Sunday Programs



March 6 "Champions By Choice" Reverend Robert Latham

We are all enamored of champions because they seem to have something we don't have. But that impression is false. Each of us has the capacity to be a champion. As a religious institution we have the same capacity. During this service we will look at:

- What a champion is not
- The rewards of being a champion
- The characteristics of a champion

And we will ask ourselves whether or not we wish to partake of the glories of being a champion because champions are made by choice.

March 13 "Womanspeak" Martin Blue-Norton

"Womanspeak" is a reader's theater production commissioned by the National Women's History Project in 1976. It was written by Gloria Goldsmith to highlight the importance of women being written back into history — women who helped shape our country. Several women of our congregation will participate by sharing the words of twelve women who were influential in the forming of our nation, its history and its fate.

March 20 "Companionate Love" Wes Howe

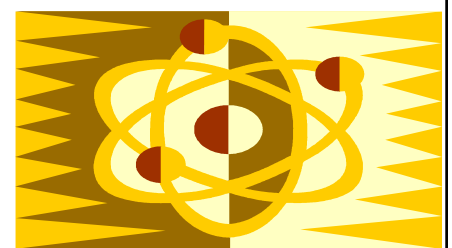
Companionate love, in contrast to romantic love, grows over time; it is the feeling of affection we feel for those with whom our lives become deeply entwined. Wes will help us think about companionate love through the lyrics of country music. If you think country music is only about romantic love longed for, found, and lost — along with cheating, hell-raising, nostalgia, sin, self-inflicted defeat, and redemption — this may change the way you think about country music.

March 27 "Create Dangerously: This is the World We Have Inherited" Reverend Alicia Roxanne Forde

This tilted blue orb is riddled with inconsistencies, inequities, and unbalance. How do we move toward a "more perfect union," creating a world more integrated than the one we now live in? How do we accept what is, while undertaking a vocation of risk in order to build a world that deeply honors every sentient being? In her sermon, Reverend Alicia Roxanne Forde invites us to reflect on how, as religious, spiritual, and empowered beings, we take up a vocation of Love, Justice, & Gratitude inspired by the willingness to risk.

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Mountain Desert District
Unitarian Universalist Association
2242 South Albion Street
Denver, CO 8022
303-726-9676 executive@mdduua.org

February 7, 2011

Amy Rowland, President
Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church
6724 South Webster Street
Littleton, CO 80128

Dear Friends in Faith,

Your recent gift of \$27,107 to the Mountain Desert District is gratefully accepted. Words fail me in expressing my gratitude for your generosity, vision and commitment in sharing the proceeds of the sale of your Bowles property. And a tithe – wow! Now you know I will be telling that story all over the district for a long time to come!

You have set an amazing example for other congregations to consider how they might share their good fortune in ways that sustain our precious faith throughout the mountain west.

The MDD board will discuss possible uses of the funds on their conference call February 16. I'm confident you will hear from them after that conversation. They will want to keep you informed of the guidelines they set for the use of your gift.

I hope you will share my deep appreciation with the congregation when you gather for the congregational meeting this Sunday.

Partners in the faith,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Bowen".

Rev. Nancy Bowen
District Executive

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's hard to believe it is March already. As I discussed last month, this spring is a busy one for us at CUUC. The congregation is simultaneously in discernment on two significant and related issues, finalizing our budget for next year and deciding on our priorities for our work with an interim minister.

Before launching into those topics, however, I want to report on the closing and disbursement of the proceeds from the sale of the Bowles property. You may recall that the board circulated a proposal to the congregation in November. We asked for and received comments from the congregation, and those proved very helpful as we finalized the disbursements. As anticipated, we have paid off all of our obligations and are debt-free. Per the Foreman's request, we passed along their gift of \$50,000 to Grand Valley UU Church in Grand Junction. We also made a one-time tithe to the Mountain Desert District from our proceeds. With the balance, we have established two capital accounts, both of which are in high-yield savings instruments. There are no immediate plans to spend the money in those accounts. You may have noted that the vision budget presented on February 13th reflects our debt-free status, and does not utilize any of the capital savings.

So, why have we moved to a vision budget? When the board began considering next year's budget, we started with two questions: what do we want to be doing as a church, and how much money do we have to do it? The board started working with the Finance Committee, Long Range Planning, and the Council to answer the first question. We knew our mission, but we did not know what that looked like in a budget. Now we do. Those committees all contributed to sketch out where we are going as a church. The good news is that our aspirations are high. We have work we want to be doing in the world. From a mission standpoint, that couldn't be better news, it's inspiring.

The second question we wanted to know, how much money we'll have, we won't learn until after the Stewardship drive. Given those two touch-points, the vision budget and the unknown pledging level for next year, it made more sense to us to share the vision budget with the congregation and ask people to pledge to fund the vision. The mission and the vision are what make us who we are. When you think about your pledge, we ask that you think about who we are, what we can be, and what we want to be, and participate in that excitement and unfolding with your stewardship. When the stewardship campaign is complete we will have our two questions answered. But, we won't be finished with the budget process.

Between now and early April, the board and Committee on Ministry (CoM) will be hosting small group discussions to address the remaining information we need from the congregation. What are our priorities? How will we make our final decisions on the budget for next year?

To answer those questions, the first small group discussion will be held March 6th. The topic will be Worship & Interim Ministry. We will open with a presentation on interim ministry and a short video. That will be followed by small group discussions, the notes from which will be compiled by CoM and made available to the congregation through the weekly Eblast. The second small group will be held March 20th and will focus on Programs and Religious Education. The third small group will be April 3rd and will cover Outreach.

I invite you to participate in these small group conversations as you are able by attending the discussions and reading the collected comments from the congregation. When we convene for the Spring Congregational Meeting on April 10th (note the new date!), the board will present a budget that reflects our understanding of our vision, our resources, and our priorities based on the feedback we receive from the small groups. I look forward to being with you in the coming weeks as we engage in these conversations.

As always, if you have a concern or question, please do not hesitate to contact me.

See you in church!

Amy

Amy Rowland, President of the Board of Trustees



Musings

I was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut on March 18, 1957. I was the first – and last – born to immigrant Italian parents. My mother was 18 years old while my father was 22 years old when I was born. I'm told everyone needs to have a starter marriage. My parent's starter marriage lasted about 30 months. They were divorced when I was two years old.

The next time I saw my mother was when I was five years old. My godmother called my grandmother's house – dad went back to live with his mother and took me with him – saying she was in town and asking if I could visit her. She asked my father if he would bring me over to her mother's house, my other grandmother, for a visit. So we took the three minute car ride to where my godmother said she was.

But she wasn't there. It was her twin sister, my mother. I remember being left in the car while my parents had a discussion. Ultimately, my father asked me if I wanted to spend a few hours with my mother, which I did.

The next time I saw my mother I was sixteen years old. She called my father asking if I could spend the weekend in New York City. Again my father deferred to me. Again I said yes. This time my mother had a couple of sisters and a brother to whom she introduced me. We spent the weekend in a New York City hotel, spending Friday night at a discotheque, Saturday on bus tour of the Big Apple while trying to recuperate from my first hangover, and Sunday being returned to my dad's house. I was now living in a house with my father, his second wife, my three half-brothers and one half-sister.

I next heard from my mother when I was 26 years old and working as a dealer in the casinos in Las Vegas. That was an adventure I will have to have late stage Alzheimer's to forget. My mother found out where I was living in Las Vegas from my father. She called me to ask if I would mind if she sent my sister to Las Vegas for a week vacation. As long as it didn't cost me anything, who was I to mind? I told mom I'd even show her the town.

So my sister shows up with five thousand dollars in cash and a reservation for a two-bedroom suite in Caesar's Palace. On the phone call with my mother she did ask me what was the best hotel close to the casino I was working. Caesar's Palace was the premier hotel in Las Vegas in 1983 and I was working right across the street at the Barbary Coast Hotel and Casino. The reservations were made and I met my sister in the lobby of Caesar's Palace when she arrived.

I had a week I'll never forget. I was working days, from 10 am to 6 pm, at the Barbary Coast, dealing dice, called craps. I spent the week in the two bedroom suite at Caesar's with my sister. For five days I would get up in the morning, shower for work, go downstairs with my sister for breakfast in one of Caesar's many restaurants then walk across the street to work at the Barbary Coast. My sister would hang around the pool at Caesar's during the day while I worked. I'd get off of work at 6 pm; we'd have a great dinner at the Hotel and Casino where we were going to see a show. After the show we'd see some lounge act or play a little at blackjack or craps and generally get to know each other. After all, we were complete strangers.

I was shocked to find out that my mother had sent my younger sister rather than the older one. My older sister would have been 23 years old in 1983. But mom wasn't the conventional mother so she sent my younger sister who was only 16 years old. She certainly didn't look like she was 16 years old. We never got asked for ID the entire week. We saw Siegfried and Roy, Don Rickles, Dean Martin and Liberace. The Eagles and Celene Dion weren't playing Vegas in the 80s. It was a week to remember!

That was the extent of the contact I had with my mother from birth to age 26. I didn't get visits or phone calls or birthday cards or anything in my first 26 years. I didn't hear from my mother at all. The good part is that I really didn't think about her since she was not a part of my life.

Well, every once in a while I would think about her. Why didn't she call or write. My father was taking care of me so I didn't need any presents, but a card or letter or phone call would be nice once in a while. Then when I was in my early 30s, I became very angry with her. She had become rich beyond my wildest dream. I found out she didn't spend my childhood sickly or generally incapacitated so she could have kept in touch. She simply chose not to keep in touch. I've spent my life denying that it scared and left me dysfunctional. Ask my three ex-wives.

I don't know if this is a gift from my father, the universe, nature, nurture or Santa Clause but I have never lacked self confidence. Lucky me. My thoughts never lead to "What's wrong with me" or "Why doesn't my mother love me?" My thoughts always were, "What's wrong with my mother?" "Doesn't she realize that I could be the second coming, a gift for all mankind, or generally a decent person to get to know?"

Making a Difference

by Frances Blizard



Good Things Are Happening — Inter-Faith Community Services, the non-profit agency which serves struggling people in Arapahoe County in so many ways, held their yearly wine-tasting affair last Saturday. It was a grand success and raised nearly \$100,000. They are now planning their other big fundraising event: the yearly Mini-Golf tournament. Many of you have taken part in this, and it is the most fun ever. See me to learn more about it.

Two big fundraisers? Won't that be enough to keep them happy for a while? Absolutely not. The list of people who depend on Inter-Faith grows steadily because these are hard economic times. The loss of a low-paying job can mean incredible hardship for struggling families, and without help from Inter-Faith they would not be able to pay rent, utilities, buy food, keep their children clothed, or handle the many other expenses that we all have. IFCS can help them in every area, but it costs money, and a lot of it. And that is why your donations are so important. Right now the biggest needs of the Food Bank are canned spaghetti sauce, puddings or cookies, jelly, or any kind of soap.

Heat is expensive and being cold is no fun, so if you have warm clothing or blankets that you can donate, please bring them to the Community Baskets in front.

CUUC has been called "The Little Church That Could" because of its steady support of Inter-Faith programs. Let's keep it up!



So I was angry with her. I used to be very angry with her. Even today I hear from her only rarely. But what I found was that all that anger didn't make me feel good. So I would think about my mother, get angry, and then have a bad day. I tried to keep my thoughts about my mother to a minimum.

Then I realized I could change what I thought about my mother. I could choose to believe she was the one that was missing out. While I wasn't the second coming, I was certainly a nice guy. I was worth getting to know; especially if you were my mother. So I developed a little sympathy for dear old mom. Then I found that I didn't have a bad day when I thought about her.

It's our choice how we think and feel about any situation we are in. We can be angry or happy or sad or whatever we choose. I suggest you take the highest road you can. Even if the situation doesn't call for happiness, try to find the happiness in the situation. Try to feel it. If life gives you lemons, don't find an open wound to put them in. Make lemonade; sweet lemonade loaded with lots of sugar. It'll make for a better day which will make for a better life. Trust me on this one!

Peace & Love,

Carmen

Carmen J. Corica, Editor of The Columbine Connection



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CUUC Book Club Meets



The Book Club will discuss "About Alice" at its March 23 meeting. A review of the book in the New York Observer includes this accolade:

"Sometimes we come across a piece of first-person writing that shocks us back into a restorative innocence vis-à-vis the human heart. The secret of the slim but walloping book, 'About Alice,' is that its structure follows the contours of an old-fashioned piece of reportage, using a scrim of detachment to build tension and, when that is pulled aside, revealing an underlying core of enchantment. 'About Alice' is an unabashed love letter..."

Members present will select a book for May. The club meets at the church 7:30 pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Visitors are welcome and you need not have read the month's book.

More Thanks

Good Morning Amy,

On behalf of the Mountain Desert District, and as its current president, I just want to acknowledge our appreciation for your and the Columbine UU Church congregation's openhandedness and support of our district. It is a privilege to work alongside such dedicated and generous people in our joint and heartfelt effort to build and serve our beloved community.

While we have not yet decided how that gift will be directed, it is humbling to realize the trust in us your gift has evidenced. We recognize the responsibility that trust compels, and will keep you apprised of our decisions relative to how your gift will be invested.

Again, Amy, on behalf of the MDD, we thank you!

Jim

James W. Turner
President, Mountain Desert District

The deadline for *The Columbine Connection* for the next 12 months is as follows:

March 16, April 13, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 14, October 19, November 16, December 14, January 18, February 15

These dates are the Wednesday prior to the second to last Sunday of the month. The *Connection* will be available for members and friends at the last Sunday Service of the month at CUUC. Then it will be mailed to the remainder of the subscribers. The deadline for the next twelve issues will be at midnight on the above dates. Be prepared to have all submissions to the *Connection* by 12:00AM (midnight) on the deadline date. If it is a problem meeting the deadline, please contact the editor to make arrangements for the submission. No guarantees, explicit or implied are made for any submission which become the property of *The Columbine Connection*.

Interactive Dialogues on Immigration for People of Faith

Sundays 6:30pm — 8:00pm

Salem UCC
5300 Florida
Denver, CO 80222
Feb 20 & 27

First Presbyterian
1585 Kingston St.
Aurora, CO 80010
March 6 & March 13

Parkview UCC
12444 Parkview Dr.
Aurora, CO 80011
March 20 & 27

Feb 20 — “Historical Perspective:How Did We Get to This Point?” *Dr. De La Torre, Iliff Prof. of Ethics*

Feb 27 — “Legalities of Immigration” *Anne Allott, Allott Immigration Law Firm*

March 6 — “Social Impacts of Our Current Immigration System” *Colorado Immigrants Rights Coalition*

March 13 — “Immigration Reform, What are the Options?” *Rights for All People*

March 20 — “Inside the Ice Detention Center” *Sister Alicia Ramirez, Sisters of Loretto*

March 27 — “Time for Faith Based Action” *Jennifer Piper, Coloradoans for Immigrant Rights*

Please RSVP to Wayne at onawalk@comcast.net or to Diane at 303-979-0046

Childcare will be provided for all those who RSVP.

Light refreshments will be served



WUULF



Western Unitarian Universalist Life Festival
at Ghost Ranch, New Mexico



The Western Unitarian Universalist Life Festival (WUULF) is a week long intergenerational retreat for UUs designed to inspire, empower, and encourage your artistic and spiritual well-being in the stunning surroundings of Ghost Ranch, New Mexico. The 2011 program, “*Conversations with a Lively Past,*” will be held the third week of **June from 13-19, 2011** and is now open for registration.

Detailed information on program offerings and adventure possibilities are available at www.wuulf.org, where you can download a catalog and registration form and even contact the WUULF Board with your questions or comments. Registration deadline is May 1, 2011, however space is limited and the camp tends to fill up early.

Join UUs from all over the country in the northern New Mexico desert for a unique and uplifting week!

CoM — Working for You

Your Committee on Ministry, Susan Stein, Karen Cody-Hopkins, and Bob Pinkham, would like to hear from you. What and how you think and believe as members makes CUUC the great place it is. Share what you think with the CoM. Your comments will be held in strict confidence. Please take a moment and email your comments to com@columbineuuchurch.org.

News from the Leadership Search Committee

The Leadership Search Committee (LSC) is beginning the work of finding qualified candidates for our elected positions for the 2011/2012 church year. If you are interested in any of the positions below, please talk with one of the members of the LSC and we can give you more details.

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Trustee
- Leadership Search Committee member

Please note that because we will have an Interim Minister next year, per the UUA guidelines we will not have a Committee on Ministry. Thus we are not filling any slots for that Committee.

Your Leadership Search Committee,

Sue

Sue Zloth

Joan

Joan Bradt

Dory

Dory Pinkham

Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church Staff

Martin Blue-Norton dre@columbineuuchurch.org	Director of Lifespan Religious Education	720-253-5050 (cell)
Matt Frisk EighthNoteTriplet@gmail.com	Acting Choir Director	303-257-9700 (cell)
Julie Friend Highsmith CUUC@columbineuuchurch.org	Office Manager	303-972-1716

Blue's Clues

CUUC's Religious Education Update

Hello CUUC Parents,

The time has come to take a long range look at your children's summer and how to make it a positive experience. We offered our first Chalice Day Camp last summer with a lot of success. With last summer under our belt the YRE committee is planning our second Summer Chalice Day Camp for the week of July 25th through the 29th. This year we are teaming with First Universalist Church of Denver to offer two UU Summer Chalice Day Camps. The first camp will be held at First Universalist, Monday to Friday on July 11th to July 15th. The second camp will be held here at Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church on July 25th to July 29th. Both of these summer day camps will have a lot in common:

- Created by Reverend Sheri Prud'homme and Laila Ibrahim, Chalice Camp curriculum was developed with financial support from the Fund for Unitarian Universalism.
- Attendees will be children that will be in 1st to 6th Grades in the fall. We will have a maximum of 25 attendees for each camp.
- 7th-12th Graders will have volunteer opportunities as Junior Counselors and assist the Senior Counselors.
- The day will run 8:30 am to 5:30 pm (subject to half hour change on either side).
- There will be a minimal fee (\$50 per child for the entire week at CUUC).
- Both Camps will be using complimentary, yet different, curricula so your child can attend both.

First Universalist will use Chalice Camp 1, led by Kendra Quinn, DRE, from July 11th to July 15th, "A UU History and Identity", that highlights kernels of our religious heritage and theological turning points that make us who we are today. This camp will bring a live UU history in a way that's fun and helps children know our unique religious perspective. Campers explore and experience UU identity, history, and values through energetic worship, games, drama, art, and community building.

Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church will use Chalice Camp 2, led by me from July 25th to July 29th. This day camp works on Identity and Justice. We will explore the root causes of systemic racism in the US, developing a religiously grounded approach to countering racism to build a just community through energetic worship, games, drama, art, and community building

The goal of both Chalice Camps is to deepen children's and youth's understanding of themselves as Unitarian Universalists. Our goal is to expand their knowledge of Unitarian Universalism and their capacity to be articulate about our faith. The activities during the week include daily worship, group building exercises, games, drama, art, study, and a service projects.

Watch your mail for your brochure and registration forms

With Love and Respect,

Blue

Martin J. Blue-Norton, Director of Lifespan Religious Education for Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church

It is the editorial policy of this newsletter to print whatever is sent to us for inclusion, unless we think the item will be offensive or hurtful. It occurred to us that it would be interesting reading to hear how others came to call themselves Unitarian Universalists. This, then, is an invitation to share that part of your faith's journey with our readership. All other topics are open for submission also. Members of CUUC will be given preferential treatment where publishing is concerned. Thank you for understanding.



The Columbine Connection

This monthly newsletter of the Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church is for the benefit of its members and pledging friends. Visitors receive the newsletter for six months, after which time, if they have not made a pledge to the church, they may subscribe for \$12.00 a year by calling (303)972-1716. To contribute an article to the newsletter, send email to: newsletter@columbineuuchurch.org

Or call (303) 882-1896

Darrell Dodge Web Coordinator Carmelo J. Corica Editor

CUUC Website: [Http://www.columbineuuchurch.org](http://www.columbineuuchurch.org)

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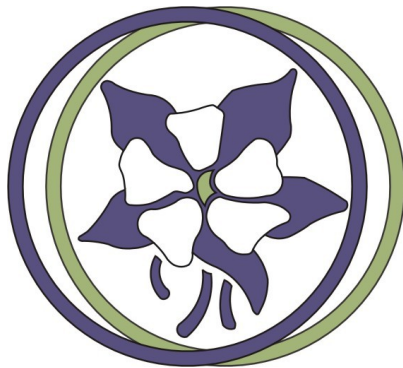


Sunday Morning Worship Begins at 10:30am
Coffee & Conversation Served After Service



www.columbineuuchurch.org

ALL ARE WELCOME!!



The Columbine Connection

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