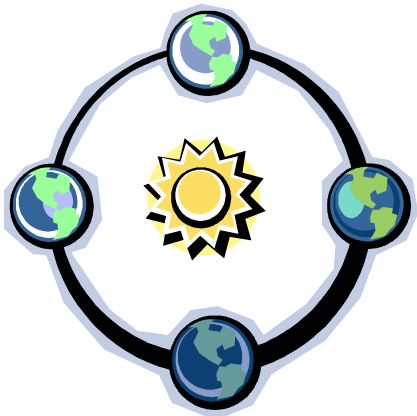
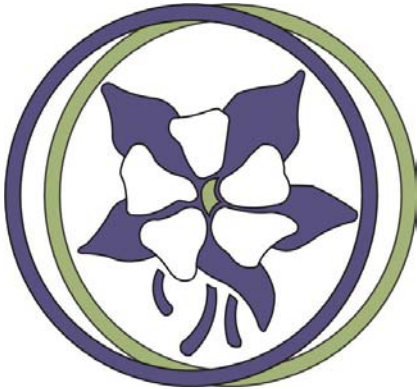


The Columbine Connection

Sunday Programs



May 1 **“Happiness”** **Reverend Nathan Woodliff-Stanley**
We all want to be happy, but what does that really mean? How does happiness blossom in our lives? The Reverend Nathan Woodliff-Stanley is the Minister of Congregational Life and Social Justice at Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden.

May 8 **“Celebrating Columbine”** **Reverend Gail Collins-Ranadive**
For Mother's Day/Flower Communion Sunday, Reverend Gail Collins-Ranadive will use the Columbine as a metaphor through which to retell the story of our Unitarian Flower Communion, explore the mother archetype within us all, and lift up a special message for CUUC itself. A recently retired Accredited Interim Minister who has served many UU congregations, Gail is the author of “Finding the Voice Inside”, “Writing as a Spiritual Quest for Women”, and “Light Year, a Seasonal Primer for Spiritual Focus”.

Bring a flower of your choice for the Flower Communion!

May 15 **“Beware the Gazorninplotz! Maintaining the Wonder!”** **Reverend Howell K. Lind**

If Unitarian Universalism is to be ‘a religion for our times’ then each and every one of our congregations must work to be as strong, vital, and vibrant as it can become. This morning’s message will focus on the ways CUUC can meet that imperative. The Reverend Howell K. Lind currently serves as the Consulting Minister to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Boulder, Colorado.

May 22 **“Eating Ethically by our 7 Principles”** **Maura Stack-Oden**

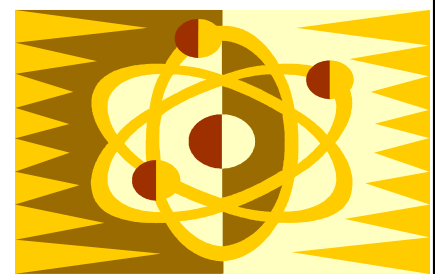
Maura Stack-Oden will offer ways in which we can change our eating habits to fall more in line with our 7 Principles which we strive to live by daily.

May 29 **“Memorial Day”** **Kathy Derrick**

“Selections from War Letters”, the book edited by Andrew Carroll, will be read by members of the congregation, as Kathy Derrick shares stories about the letter writers. These poignant letters highlight how critical it is for those serving in the armed forces to stay connected to their loved ones back home. These letters about relationships, show courage by the writers and is sometimes deeply humbling. The service is dedicated to all the men and women who have served our country in the military.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

As May begins we are anxiously awaiting news about a possible match for an interim minister next year! At the spring congregational meeting in April, the members of the congregation present voted unanimously to move forward with hiring a full-time interim minister. The board submitted an application for an interim minister on April 15th, and now we wait. It's a fast process, once the names are released, so stayed tuned! We expect to have an answer by the end of May.

For those of you who may have missed the congregational meeting, in addition to finalizing our budget for the upcoming year, we also voted on a slate of candidates for the board of trustees and Leadership Search Committee. I am pleased to announce that next year's board is as follows: Sarah Manning, president; Maureen Flanigan, vice-president; Loraine Kreznar, treasurer; Mardi Stone, trustee; Thom Hayes, trustee; and Tara Nelson, trustee. Serving on Leadership Search will be Joan Bradt, Sue Dressel, and Hilary Hansell. Congratulations and thank you to all of our newly elected officers!

Please note that if we do find a full time interim we will hold another congregational meeting on May 15th. At that meeting we will formally disband the Committee on Ministry, which is suspended during the interim period.

If you are curious about interim ministry or missed the small group discussions these last few months, there are several resources that can answer your questions and give you a framework for understanding how this type of ministry differs from settled ministry. The UUA Transitions Office publishes a handbook on transitional ministry that you can find at:

www.uua.org/documents/mpl/transitions/transitional_ministry.pdf

The Transitions Office also has a useful video titled "The Interim Opportunity," which you can watch here:

<http://uua.org/leaders/leadership/interimministry/173977.shtml>

Once again I extend my thanks and appreciation to all of you who participated in our many small group discussions this year. We had some deep questions to consider, and the enthusiasm at the congregational meeting indicated to me that those conversations were a worthwhile investment of time and energy toward our future. My thanks to everyone.

Until next month, please do not hesitate to be in touch with me, either by phone or email, if you have any questions.

In Service,

Amy

Amy Rowland, President of the Board of Trustees



Making a Difference

by *Frances Blizzard*

What Makes Inter-Faith So Important?

Here is one example:

Rick and Sally were married and have three children. When they divorced, Rick was good about paying child support until he lost his job. Sally and her children moved several times, but soon gave up. The two boys went to live with Sally's father and she worried that she and her daughter would soon be living in her car. She started to catch up on some bills, but when the rent came due she just didn't have it and worried that she might be evicted. Then a friend told her about Inter-Faith. They were able to help her with the rest of the rent. Now the future is brighter for Sally and her children.



This story is just one of the many where Inter-Faith comes through with a hand-up rather than a hand-out and helps struggling people survive a bad period in their lives. Your support makes it all possible.

The Food Bank — Your support also makes it possible for people who have no food, for their families to keep them from being hungry. Can you do your part in giving help to people who desperately need it?

Just ACT

Starting in May, JustACT will be challenging the congregation to raise awareness and knowledge about ethical eating. Each month we will offer a challenge of one way in which by changing our purchasing and eating habits we can create and support sustainable living practices. There will be a presentation about ethical eating and ways in which we can embrace our seven principles through our eating and purchasing habits on May 22nd following the worship service.

May's challenge is to drink organic milk. Organic milk is defined as being received from cows that have not been fed grain with pesticides in it. In addition, the cow has not been exposed to bovine growth hormones or antibiotics. If the cow has received antibiotics, then it has been kept away from the rest of the herd for a year. Five reasons to drink organic milk:

1. Organic milk has no antibiotics. Consuming food products containing antibiotics can lead to bacterial resistance.
2. Cows are not treated with growth hormones.
3. Cows are fed hay and grain that has not been treated with pesticides.
4. Organic milk is higher in Conjugated Linoleic Acids (CLAs). CLAs are good fats. They have been found to lower the risk of type 2 diabetes.
5. Cows are generally treated better on organic farms than nonorganic farms.

Special Congregation Meeting Official Notice

A Special Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 15, 2011, starting at 12:15pm.

The Board of Trustees is calling a Special Congregational Meeting to conduct the following business:

- Congregational sponsorship of Amy Rowland as a candidate for ministry
- Dissolution of the Committee on Ministry during the tenure of an Interim Minister
- Election of a Search Committee for Choir Director
- Celebration of the past year by the outgoing Board of Trustees

All members are encouraged to attend. Child care will be provided.

Notes from the Worship Committee

Ministers

We are very grateful to the Mountain Desert District ministers for their support during this transitional time. It has been wonderful having such top notch ministers in our pulpit each Sunday and, as worship associates, we have grown from this delightful connection. As the congregation prepares to select an Interim Minister this May, the worship committee continues to look forward to having a minister.

Worship Associates

We have grown! The worship associates you will see at the podium have expanded to include: Sue Fraley, Maura Stack-Oden, Eric Belsey, Sarah Freese, Sandra McKenzie, Kathy Derrick, George Mandeville, and Dory Pinkham.

Free Religion = Freedom of Belief

Some folks have asked why we use the term "free religion" in our opening Welcome on Sunday mornings. Unitarian Universalism is a free religion, which simply means that we honor a responsible, individual search for spiritual and religious meaning. Instead of a creed, we support a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

Affirmation (The ongoing conversation!)

In 2007, our opening affirmation included the line, "This we affirm with each other and with God." In the summer of 2007 the UUA launched a publicity campaign with the ad, "Is God keeping you from going to church?" This brought about many rich discussions at CUUC about our diversity and the importance of keeping our affirmation more inclusive and less creedal sounding. In Nov 2007 that affirmation line changed to, "This we affirm in a spirit of love and unity."

Following that change, the worship committee received feedback that missing from the affirmation was the reference to mystery, or, the sense of God. Once again we had amazing, enriching discussions regarding how to capture in language something we ALL can affirm.

In July 2010 the Worship Committee added the new line, "To embrace with wonder those mysteries beyond our understanding," with the intent that we would evaluate the congregation's response over the next six months. At our December meeting the committee reviewed the mixed comments. Overall it was felt that the new line satisfied the desire to cover 'the wonder and the mystery,' and that it was accepted by the majority, though not all. As a group we also agreed that an affirmation should always be 'tinkerable' and that we would like to revisit it with ministerial guidance.

Lay Testimonials

If you are interested in being one of our Sunday Lay Testimonial speakers, please see Dory Pinkham, or anyone on the worship committee.

Dory

Dory Pinkham, chair of Worship

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CUUC Book Club Meets



May's book is "A Thief of Time" by Tony Hillerman.

Hillerman's novel seamlessly unites drama, pathos and naturally humorous incidents in the continuing story of Navajo life set in the American Southwest. Tribal police officers Joe Leaphorn and Jim Chee head a big and skillfully realized cast involved in the disappearance of anthropologist Eleanor Friedman-Bernal. Near Dr. Friedman-Bernal's secret dig, Chee finds the bodies of men who have been stealing the Anasazi cultural relics the anthropologist is dedicated to protecting. Leaphorn makes his way to this dangerous, almost inaccessible site after consulting with Chee and questioning the missing woman's friends, Maxie Davis and her colleague, Randall Elliott. They are also, the detective feels, prickly scientific rivals, a factor that deepens the mystery as does each step on the trail that ends when Leaphorn's mission seems accomplished in an eerie meeting with a mad hermit. But there is a twist in circumstances so suspenseful it stops the reader's breath. Once more, Hillerman's artistry ensures that his latest cannot be easily classified as murder mystery or thriller or anything except a fine novel.

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.

Flower Communion Sunday

On May 8th, in addition to Mother's Day, we will celebrate the Flower Communion. This simple ritual, symbolizing the diversity and beauty of our community, is celebrated by Unitarian Universalist congregations around the world.

Bring a flower of your choice to this much loved UU ceremony. You will take home a flower brought by someone else; our shared celebration in community.

Singers Wanted!

- For the Columbine UU Church Choir.
- Expand your voice and heart.
- Refresh and Recharge with Song.
- Take part in Sunday services and musical events in the larger Denver community. Enjoy new musical experiences. For more info contact David Burrows at 303-455-2110 or email music@columbineuuchurch.org.



Grocery Scrip & Gift Cards!

- Every time you purchase scrip you are contributing to the financial health of the church. Scrip are redeemable at King Soopers, Starbuck, Barnes and Noble and many other merchants. If you buy \$50.00 per week in scrip, in 10 years you will have contributed \$1,300.00 to CUUC! And it did not cost you anything since you receive one dollars worth of merchandise for every dollar of scrip you buy. It is a great way to support CUUC!!!!

Blue's Clues

CUUC's Religious Education Update 2010/2011 Annual Congregational Report

It is with a grateful heart and thankful gratitude that I submit my third Annual Congregational Report to the Columbine UU Congregation. I have served as your Director of Religious Education and I am very humbled by the trust and responsibility that you have given me. It has been my goal this past year to personally welcome every new family with children, who visit Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church (CUUC), into the Youth Religious Education (YRE) program. I do this because it is my feeling that new families will not remain unless there is a personal energy and resources that are committed to the children and youth of CUUC. I would like to see this Congregation step up more readily to help teach YRE. This past year I had the support of only six volunteers to operate the Sunday programming. We could have used a minimum of three more volunteers!

The Youth Religious Education Committee has worked closely with me this past year. This has resulted in some great strides being made in establishing a quality YRE program that includes 4-5-6 OWL (Our Whole Lives) and 7-8-9 OWL being taught again at CUUC along with the return of the Coming of Age program. All children 3rd through 5th grades were supported by two teachers and myself. The 6th through 8th graders did not have a teacher all year which resulted in that class joining the younger children. The two volunteers on some Sundays were reaching a point of burn-out with up to seventeen children ranging from age eight to fourteen. This group worked on the Unitarian Universalist curriculum "Neighboring Faiths" and managed to visit a Jewish Temple, an Eastern Orthodox Church, and an Islamic Center. There are plans to visit a Buddhist Temple in May.

Our Nursery has been fully staffed by competent trained paid staff all year long and averaged 1.3 children per Sunday. The Preschool group used three rotating teachers Sue Fazio, Tara Nelson, and Thom Hayes with an average attendance of 7.8 students per Sunday. The primary grades, 3rd-5th, and Middle School 6th-8th grades, were taught by Lygia Garrick and Pauline Hopkins. This class had an average of 8.8 students per Sunday. The year's success story was the Middle School and Elementary OWL program taught by Lygia, Pauline, Jim Hopkins and myself. These classes had a very strong attendance with six students in the Middle School group and two students in the Elementary group completing the course.

As the Director of Religious Education, with the help of YRE Chair Pauline Hopkins, we organized and facilitated the first summer day camp at CUUC, called "Chalice Camp I". We had sixteen children attend and two of our youth served as councilors. It is the YRE Committee's plan to offer "Chalice Camp II" this coming summer. For the second year in a row the children were involved in two well received Multigenerational Services with the presentation of "The Spirit of The Christmas Tree" and the "Guest at Your Table" kick-off. The children participated in the United Nations program "Trick or Treat for UNICEF" with a 120% of their goal met.

With the help of Joan Bradt and CUUC Mentors our COA program is gaining strength and moving ahead, giving the youth an opportunity to grow as Unitarian Universalists. Overall I feel that the YRE program is on the right track in helping CUUC in its mission to "...transform ourselves and the larger community..."

continued on top of Page 7)

(Continued from "Blues Clues" on page 6)

Respectfully,
In Peace,

Blue

Martin J. Blue-Norton, Director of Religious Education

PS: I wish to invite the whole Congregation to the June 5th service. At this service we will be showing our appreciation to the 2010/11 YRE volunteers. We will also bring the rising 8th graders into the COA Program, bridge our 9th graders into the YRUU program, and honor those who completed the OWL program. I hope to see you there.

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

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

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*.

Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church Staff

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

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Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church
6724 S. Webster Street
Littleton CO 80128
Phone: 303-972-1716

Officers

**Amy Rowland
Sarah Manning
Loraine Kreznar**

**President
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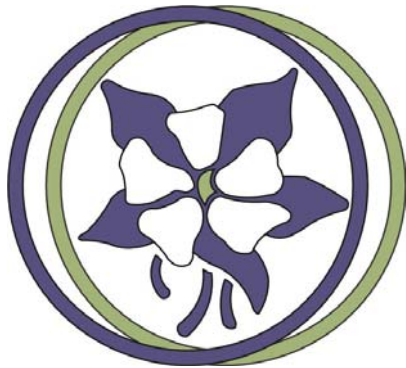


Sunday Morning Worship Begins at 10:30am
Coffee & Conversation Served After Service



www.columbineuuchurch.org

ALL ARE WELCOME!!



The Columbine Connection

**Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church
6724 S. Webster Street
Littleton CO 80128**