

2009

## January Worship Services



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CHEYENNE

UU FOCUS

January 4  
10:30 a.m.

### “Feed Your Wolf”

The Rev. Suzanne Meyer

We will begin this morning with an ancient parable attributed to St. Francis. What does the story of a village that had a wolf problem have to say to modern day men and women as they begin a New Year? Why should you feed your wolf?

January 11  
10:30 a.m.

### “What Is Marriage For?”

The Rev. Suzanne Meyer

June may be the traditional month for weddings, but many a young girl gets an engagement ring for Christmas and calls her minister in January to set the wedding date. She will start thinking about something old, something new, something borrowed, etc. because it's the tradition. But will the wedding couple realize how much our ideas about the meaning of marriage have changed over the centuries? To those who say that they want to defend traditional marriage, I want to say, “whose tradition?”

January 18  
10:30 a.m.

### “No Hierarchy of Oppression”

The Rev. Penny Rather

We usually think of Martin Luther King, Jr. in terms of his struggle against racism in this country, but near the end of his life he also spoke out against the Vietnam War, and he got in a lot of trouble with some of his supporters for taking this stand. I see a similarity in these two positions, as they are just showing resistance to two different kinds of oppression. Sometimes people have claimed that one form of oppression is worse than another, but the title of this morning's sermon is taken from an article by Audre Lorde, who wrote “There is no hierarchy of oppression... I know I cannot afford the luxury of fighting one form of oppression only.” As Unitarian Universalists who claim to promote “justice, equity, and compassion in human relationships,” it is incumbent upon us to fight oppression wherever we can. In honor of Martin Luther King Day, this morning we will consider varieties of oppression and how we can make a difference.

January 25  
10:30 a.m.

### “Stuff Happens”

The Rev. Suzanne Meyer

There are those who will tell you that everything happens for a good reason, even things that seem tragic. I for one reject this notion because I believe it does far more harm than good. Why would we rather believe in a cruel universe than a random universe?

# Presidential Reflections

It is January, and the current UUCC Board of Directors has just until the next Congregational Meeting the end of May to work together and accomplish what it can. So, at our last board meeting we set out our priorities for the next few months. Here they are:

**By-law review and changes**

**Long range strategic planning - visioning**

**Review Safe Congregation policy**

**Re-offer Welcoming Congregation program**

**Financial policies and procedure manual**

**Maintain Congregation's wish and spending priorities list**

We may not accomplish all the above, but hopefully we will get started on the implementation of all of these. We also discussed the inclusion of the following items but felt they were best left for a future time. They are all important, but we only have so much time and energy so we felt it best to focus our efforts on the above list.

50<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration in 2011

Establish a personnel committee and personnel manual and policies

Review committee structures and relationship to board of directors

(Review number of committees & membership with goal of fewer and more active committees.)

Maintain a thriving, visible presence in the community

Please let me or any board member know your thoughts about any of these priorities. Are there any areas in which you have expertise and are willing to help? These are all board priorities -- what we feel we can accomplish in a reasonable period of time.

Mike Shonsey, Board President

<p><b>2008-2009 UUCC Board</b></p> <p>Mike Shonsey.....President          Beth Howard.....Vice President          Bitsy Heckert.....Secretary          Terri Johansen.....Treasurer          Fred Lebsack.....At-Large          Ellen Stump.....At-Large          Joey VanSchaik.....At-Large          Bob Weinland..... At-Large</p> <p><b>Universalist Church of Cheyenne</b>          PO Box 2331 (82003)          3005 Thomes Avenue          Cheyenne, WY 82001          Ph: (307) 638-4554 Fax: (307) 638-9033          E-mail: <a href="mailto:uucc@uucheyenne.org">uucc@uucheyenne.org</a>          FOCUS E-mail: <a href="mailto:focus@uucheyenne.org">focus@uucheyenne.org</a>  <a href="http://www.uucheyenne.org">http://www.uucheyenne.org</a></p>	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;"><i>Church Staff</i></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 60%;"> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">Rev. Suzanne Meyer Minister</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">Office Hours</p> <p>Monday through Thursday 9:00—5:00</p> <p>638-4554 X13              307-256-7700 (mobile)  <a href="mailto:suzannecheyenne@aol.com">suzannecheyenne@aol.com</a>  <a href="mailto:minister@uucheyenne.org">minister@uucheyenne.org</a></p> </div> <div style="width: 35%;"> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">Shelly Montgomery Director of Religious Education</p> <p>Office Hours:              Thursday 2:00—4:00              Friday 10:00—3:00              Sunday 9:00—12:00              638-4554 X12              307-630-9547 (mobile)  <a href="mailto:dre@uucheyenne.org">dre@uucheyenne.org</a></p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">Andrea Heater Church Administrator</p> <p>Office Hours              Monday, Wednesday, Friday              9:00—2:00              638-4554 X10  <a href="mailto:administrator@uucheyenne.org">administrator@uucheyenne.org</a></p> </div> </div>
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## From the Minister

How many weeks will pass before I stop writing 2008 on my checks? Sometimes, much to my chagrin, my brain even slips a gear and I write 1976, or 1985. A whole new year is waiting to unfold before me, and it would seem as evidenced by my unconscious reluctance to face it, that I must have some unfinished business with the past. In truth, no matter what the calendar says, we never start a new year clean and unencumbered. We don't so much put the past behind us as we carry it with us into the future, either consciously and joyfully, or unconsciously, like a heavy burden we can't seem to put down. And while we can't always develop selective amnesia about past experiences, I am firmly convinced that we can and should do a more intentional job of incorporating those experiences in a more positive manner.

I'm convinced that the greatest inhibitor of genuine spiritual growth among Unitarian Universalists, especially those who are come outers from another religious tradition, is our reluctance to let go of past religious affiliation. There is often an almost obsessive desire to cling to past hurts and disappointments, which makes it virtually impossible to construct a newer, more life affirming identity.

Typically, those who are wrapped up in the past, can't give you a single positive reason why they joined a liberal church. They can give you a dozens reasons why they left their childhood faith, but are at a loss when it comes to stating why they are religious liberals. Their whole current religious identity is based on a negative reaction to the past. The more they try to escape the past, the more tightly they become wrapped up in it. There is no growing room in their lives in which a new religious identity can unfold.

Of course, we don't demand that you under go a conversion experience so profound that you cut yourself off completely from the tradition in which you were raised. Nor do we expect anyone to renounce their past faith affiliation. Unitarian Universalism is a religious tradition based on personal growth and spiritual evolution rather than on a single, dramatic, life altering conversion experience.

But we do expect you to work on achieving some kind of positive integration of the past or where that is impossible, at least a truce or reconciliation with the past. This reconciliation is especially important when it comes to raising our children as Unitarian Universalists. We need to present Unitarian Universalism as a positive choice for our children rather than weigh them down with our own unresolved issues.

We are heirs to a long, rich, diverse spiritual tradition and history. There is so much positive faith within our movement, that it seems ashamed to waste the time that might be spent exploring what it means to be a UU by needlessly obsessing over the past.

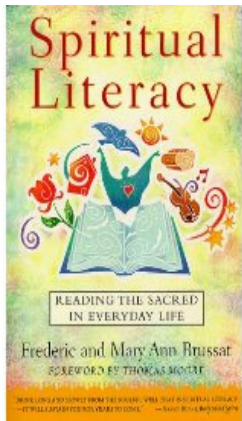
If you still define your own spiritual journey in terms that begin with "recovering" as in "I'm an recovering Roman Catholic, Baptist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, etc." why not begin 2009 with this affirmation: "I am a member of a long and proud, liberal religious tradition called Unitarian Universalism. My community supports and encourages my spiritual growth as well as my moral and intellectual development. As a member of this community, I will do my part to help create a positive environment in which others may likewise grow and develop a healthy spiritual outlook."

Happy 2008----I mean 2009.

Suzanne

Visit our Website: [www.uucheyenne.org](http://www.uucheyenne.org)

# Special Events



## New Adult Education Coming in February

Join us four Sundays in February 1, 8, 15, and 22, promptly at 9:15 am in the church library for a new series entitled "Reading the Sacred In Everyday Life." You do not need to

prepare before the class, and all are welcomed. Topics include Attention, Beauty, Compassion and Devotion. If you wish to do reading prior to class: *Spiritual Literacy* by Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat is recommended.

## Special Cultural and Art Exhibit

A special exhibition of exquisitely colorful hand-made quilts and fiber arts will grace the Sanctuary walls and hang from December 7 through January 31, 2009 courtesy of a local group of women calling themselves the Quilting Friends (aka Town & Country Quilters). These quilters made this festive exhibit possible with their generous loan from: LeeAnn Hopson, Clarice Melnkovich, Cindy Paul, Sandy Pistono, Kathy Sconce and Jo Sunderman.

Cindy Paul made the unique "Celebration" quilted fiber piece that hangs to the right of the Chalice Mandala, center front silk, using the One Block Wonder pattern (Cindy is Birgitt Paul's mother and as well as cousin to Terry Kreuzer). "I feel that this quilt can be interpreted visually as a symbolic reference to The Biological Beginnings of Life at a cellular creation level or even a quantum physics level. Or consider it a kaleidoscopic view of Life's changing patterns or possibilities that a drop of ocean or rain water offers to the meaning or essence of Life's beginnings. Visual food for thought." Terry Kreuzer remarked. Another quilt made by Kathy Sconce utilizes this same interesting One Block Wonder pattern is hanging on the back wall nearest the Sanctuary door. It features white peonies and birds within a black field of flora & fauna.

Many thanks to Jeff Ross for ladder climbing with Terry Kreuzer to hang the quilts as well as Eddie Marron, Jack Runnels & Stan Clapp for their help.

The Quilting Friends have agreed to hang another exhibit of their quilts in the spring that will coincide with our "Spring into Art Festival," an arts & crafts show and sale, from May 1- 3 with an opening reception on May 1. It is our hope that the Quilt Friends and their work will become an annual part of our UCC cultural and art traditions for the winter and spring seasons' celebrations and holidays.

2009

**Service Auction**

**Coming February 28**

Save the Date. Please get it on your calendar NOW! A crazy evening of fun, food, and getting know each other better, and some great deals. For more information contact Mike Shonsey at 637-8016 or shonseym@aol.com.

## Up-Coming Cultural Event and UCC Fund-Raiser

Spring into Art Festival, an arts and crafts show and sale will be held in the UCC Social Hall from May 1- 3, the weekend before Mother's Day.

Interested Artists, Crafter and Makers of Special Things are invited to submit an entry form for inclusion into this event as there are only 25 booths available. Entry forms will be available by February 6 at UCC office and clip-board corner. For more information, contact Andrea in the administration office or Terry Kreuzer, 214-3932 or tkreuzer@terrykreuzer.com.

# Affirming Diversity / Community Outreach

## Do Something Good for Your Heart!

by Jim Gaulke

Does your New Year resolution call for improved heart health? We have a solution – helping with Cheyenne Interfaith Hospitality Network (CIHN). The CIHN is a network of churches that provides interim housing and food for families who are homeless. The UUCU will host families the week of January 4 through 11, 2009.

We will need volunteers to provide dinner in the evening from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m., stay in the church during the evening from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m., or overnight (we provide a comfortable bed and private room). We also need volunteers on Saturday and Sunday to stay with the families for a few hours or help setting up for the week and taking down at the end of the week. No training is required and if you have time to share with these families in need, please contact us or sign up on our CIHN board in the social hall. This will be Jim Gaulke's first rotation as co-coordinator and we extend a big welcome to him.

We hosted two families over Thanksgiving and one family in the network recently moved into an apartment. They were especially appreciative of the Sr. High Group for donating furniture to them. I would also like to thank all the volunteers who helped during the week, and extend a special kudos to Melanie Dutremble for her multiple shifts and to Laurie Magill for helping on Thanksgiving Day. Thank you to everyone who helped!

Finally, Superthrift on Lincolnway accepts donations in the name of CIHN. For the items sold at the thrift store tagged with "CIHN," the network will receive a portion of the proceeds. The items must be sellable and you can call 634.1503 to have the items picked up at your home. Again, please indicate these items should be sold for CIHN.

For more information contact CIHN co-coordinators Marci Linde, mhoffl@hotmail.com, 778.0742, or Jim Gaulke, sanji@bresnan.net, 632.7521.

The Special Collection in December which was designated for CIHN raised \$528.

## COMEA House Dinners

by Sandra Willoughby

Thank you to all of those people that made the December Comea Shelter dinner a success. December is always a wonderful month to give back and everyone loved the prime rib.

The menu for January includes:

Sloppy Joe Meat  
Sloppy Joe Buns  
Corn  
Salad  
Dessert of Your Choice  
Soft Fruit

Please plan on bringing your item to serve 12-15 people to the Shelter by 5:30P.M. on Saturday, January 17, 2009. If you can stay to help serve, that is always appreciated, too.

If you have questions or need more information feel free to contact Sandra Willoughby at 632-1417 or by e-mail at wyowindy@msn.com, or Ilse Sorensen at 635-8222.



## Eco Film Fest

by Sandi Gaulke

Saturday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2 PM in the Cottonwood Room of Laramie County Library. The UUCU Green Sanctuary Committee invites you to the first in a series of documentaries about current environmental issues. *The 11<sup>th</sup> Hour* (Rated PG, 92 minutes), produced and directed by Leonardo DiCaprio, presents thinkers from around the world discussing the current critical state of life on planet earth and offering possible solutions to save the planet for future generations. Free admission, FREE popcorn, provided by City News, and free drinks! Call Laurie at 630-4118 for more information.

# Creating A Caring Community



## Wheel of Life

- ★ Luke Greene is at the Davis Hospice Center, Suite 6. He would welcome and enjoy cards, calls and visits. His phone number is 432-2693.
- ★ Wavis Twyford is at LifeCare. She and her husband, Bob, would enjoy cards of greeting.
- ★ Howard Nigey is back at Point Frontier and would also enjoy cards of greeting.
- ★ Shelly Montgomery, Director of Religious Education, is recovering from surgery.
- ★ Ed Warsaw is anticipating surgery for a total hip replacement early in the new year.
- ★ After our Support the Troops project this fall, we received the following note from Capt. Matt James:

All,

I just wanted to take a moment to thank everyone for the care packages. At first, I thought there was no way we would be able to eat so many cookies--- I figured we had a stockpile that would last for months. To my surprise, everything was gone in THREE DAYS! I work at the Central Criminal Court of Iraq in Baghdad. In addition to our staff, we have many soldiers who come as witnesses straight from the front lines. I made sure they were able to enjoy the treats as much as everyone else.

I also had the opportunity to see many confused faces when I told people that the Church was Unitarian Universalist. One of my fellow Captains actually didn't believe me when I told him that the Church was very open

to members of all faiths and belief systems, and that UU Sunday school taught our children to respect diversity. At one point, he actually demanded proof for the existence of Unitarian Universalists! It was definitely the strangest theological debate I have ever been involved in. Fortunately for us all, I was able in the end to convince him that we do in fact exist and that he would be welcome to come to services if he wanted to see for himself. I would say it was a great experience for all.

Thank you!  
Matt

## Pastoral Care Committee News

By *Sandi Gaulke*



The Pastoral Care Committee at UCC works to keep in touch with members who are home-bound, provides food or transportation to those who are ill, visits people in the hospital, assists each other through life transitions, helps with memorial services, generally keeps the minister aware of the pastoral

needs of the church, and spends time listening to friends. If you would be interested in supporting the work of this committee, we would love to have you involved. Please visit with Sandi Gaulke at [sanji@bresnan.net](mailto:sanji@bresnan.net) or 632-7521. This does not take a big time commitment because it is only on an "as-needed" basis, but we can't do it without YOU!

**Do you have thoughts you would like to share about how we are doing as religious community?**

**Do you know about the Committee on Ministry?**

Some of you may not be aware that UCC has a Committee on Ministry (COM) which, according to our by-laws, "is responsible for strengthening the quality of the total ministry for the congregation." Serving on this year's committee are Judy Lebsack, Kathy Jenkins and Elizabeth Thorson. One of our responsibilities is to serve as a communication channel between the minister and the congregation and facilitate communication between the various parts of the congregation related to our members' wishes, visions and concerns. What are we doing well as a religious community? What can we do better? If you have thoughts you would like to share, please let us know.

# Our Wider UU World

## Building Beloved Community: How Do we Talk About Race, Class & Privilege?

All people alive today are a part of the global community. What can religious professionals and lay leaders do to raise awareness of social class and growing economic inequality? What can we do together to create welcoming and inclusive communities and work against racism and classism? What



spiritual resources help heal the wounds of living in a dehumanized world?

### Highlights

- ◆ Conversation with Dr. Vincent Harding
- ◆ Training with Class Action consultants on race & class
- ◆ Jazz del Barrio Band & Nashon Cooke Spoken Word

**WHEN:** January 23 through January 25, 2009

**WHERE:** First Universalist Church, 4101 E. Hampden Ave., Denver, CO 80222

**CONTACT INFO:** Deborah Holder MDD Program Consultant, 505-231-7724 or [programconsultant@mdduua.org](mailto:programconsultant@mdduua.org).

More information and registration forms are available at the Mountain Desert District (MDD) Website, [mdduua.org](http://mdduua.org).

## General Assembly, A Meeting of Congregations

**June 24-28, 2009  
Salt Lake City, Utah**

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. General Assemblies shall make overall policy for carrying out the purposes of the Association and shall direct and control its affairs. Voting at each regular and special General Assembly shall be by accredited delegates from certified member congregations, certified associate member organizations, and trustees.

For information about programming, registration and more, visit the Unitarian Universalist Association Website, [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org).



## Wild West Show Case

Monte Burzynski's paintings, Wild West Showcase, are on exhibit in the lobby. Special thanks to Eddie Marron for arranging and hanging the show.

## **Mark Your Calendars Upcoming Events**

**Meditation Retreat: January 30-February 1**

**“Reading the Sacred In Everyday Life”:  
Sunday mornings, February 1, 8, 15 & 22 at 9:15 am**

**Service Auction: Saturday evening, February 28**

**FOCUS deadline is the 20th of each month.  
E-mail your copy to [Focus@uucheyenne.org](mailto:Focus@uucheyenne.org)  
or drop it by the church office.**

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