

High Plains News

“Building a liberal spiritual community that welcomes all to lives of wholeness”

March 2017

High Plains Church - Unitarian-Universalist

Vol 24, No 3

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The Beauty of Our Dreams

Stewardship Campaign – it's that time of year again.

Though, in some ways, it's not quite the same time as in previous years. We're a little later this year, pushed back a bit to enjoy some breathing space after a later-than-usual church auction. But stewardship this year is also different because of a future for HPCUU we are all working to re-imagine. It is a future bound up in hope tempered by apprehension, in excitement tinged with distress, and in vision veiled under uncertainty. We don't yet know how the sale of our facility will resolve, either in time or in dollars. Details remain to be ironed out regarding the prospect of shared space and common commitment with Vista Grande Community Church. Yet by survey and by congregational vote, it is clear that most among us are ready to follow the course our congregation and our board have charted.

We might be tempted to heave a sigh of relief at the coming elimination of mortgage payments and liability concerns associated with our current facility. We might be tempted to relax our financial commitment to our faith community. And we have, after all, been a generous lot in recent years, ranking high among UU congregations in our average annual pledge. It is partly in view of this past generosity that during this campaign we will be asking only for pledges that sustain giving a current levels and not for any percentage or dollar-amount increase in pledges – though hey, we'll be more than grateful for any we may see in the

assembled pledges we tally later this spring. But we do need to remember that mere solvency in the current fiscal year relied on generous one-time donations to avoid what would otherwise have been a substantial shortfall. We need to keep in mind as well the facility expenses we may incur by end of decade in order to establish the new interfaith center we envision. Any contributions beyond budget for the 2017/2018 fiscal year would be a great start on anticipated capital expenditures. And, of course, personnel and program costs remain, wherever we may later celebrate our church community.

We will build our re-imagined HPCUU future around our dreams of expanding interfaith cooperation in pursuit of shared values. It is an expansion much needed in our community, in our country, and in our world. A quotation attributed to Eleanor Roosevelt suggests, “The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” (And for those fact-checking Google hounds out there: Yes, I did notice the doubts expressed over that attribution, but I suspect that Famous People, looking back from The Great Beyond, may feel the most pride over credit they enjoy for remarks they never really made.) The theme for our 2017 stewardship campaign will be **Believing in the Beauty of Our Dreams**. When stewardship packets arrive in the mail in mid-March, let us all muster as much generosity as we reasonably can to honor and support the beauty of our HPCUU dreams.

Brent Dubach, 2017 Stewardship Chair

Events Calendar - March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Stitchers 9:30 am - 11:00 am	3	4
5 CUUPS Meeting 11:30 am - 12:30 pm YRUU Youth Group 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm	6 Navigators USA 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	7 Book Club 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	8 SGE Facilitators 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	9 Faith Formation Team 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	10 CUUPS Classes 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm	11 Youth Advisor Training 8:00 am - 6:00 pm
12 Coming of Age 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm 11th & 12th Grade OWL 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm 5th & 6th Grade OWL 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm	13	14 Young Adult OWL 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm	15 New Member Potluck 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	16 Stitchers 9:30 am - 11:00 am	17 Board Meeting 9:30 am - 12:00 pm HiP Parents Group 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm	18 Issues on Aging 10:30 am - 12:00 pm CUUPS - Ostara 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm
19 Book & Media Sale 9:00 am - 10:00 am 11:00 am - 12:00 pm YRUU Youth Group 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm	20 Navigators USA 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	21 Young Adult OWL 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm	22 Church Council 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm	23	24	25 Yoga Nidra 10:00 am - 11:30 am CUUPS Divination 3:30 pm - 9:30 pm
26 YRUU Youth Group 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm	27	28 Young Adult OWL 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm	29	30	31	

Be sure to check the Events Tag on the website at www.hpcuu.org for additions and corrections to the calendar.

March Services - Risk

March 5: "Working Together" with Rev. Dana Lightsey & the Social Justice Team. There are a multitude of non-profit organizations in Colorado Springs who share common goals and values with us. Now is the time for us to amplify our efforts by working together and building coalitions. This service will introduce us to many of these groups and help us learn how to get involved with both HPCUU's efforts and the work of these other organizations.

March 12: "Beyond No, Beyond Not, Beyond Don't: Affirmative Ethics for This Moment in Time" with Amanda Udis-Kessler. For many people the past few weeks have involved an exhausting and overwhelming attempt to resist and reject the actions of the current administration. At times like these it is crucial to remember, not just what we are against but what we are for. Join Amanda for a positive reflection on our Unitarian Universalist values as affirmed through our Principles and Sources.

March 19: "Believing in the Beauty of Our Dreams" with Brent Dubach & Dana Lightsey. A quotation attributed to Eleanor Roosevelt suggests, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." As we embark on our annual stewardship campaign, we have great, and beautiful dreams that are already becoming a new reality for HPCUU. Come, be a part of supporting this new and compelling vision for a whole new way of "doing church" in the 21st century.

March 26: "Cherish Your Doubt 2.0" with Dana Lightsey. We like to be sure about things and we like to know what to expect. It is comforting to be clear about our beliefs, yet there are times when our world-view is shaken and doubt begins to erode away our solid perspective. This doesn't usually feel like a gift, but it often is one of the best gifts life has to offer.



Minister's Musings

by Rev Dana Lightsey

The biggest risk is not taking any risk... In a world that is changing really quickly, the only strategy that is guaranteed to fail is not taking risks. ~Mark Zuckerberg

"Risk" is our theme this month and it couldn't be more timely for us. The congregational vote on January 29 put us on an exciting, yet a bit risky trek. We don't know when our building will sell. We are unsure how this new scenario is going to work out. Even as we work to manage the risk of this transition as best as possible, there is simply much we do not know. But there's no getting around the reality that life is full of risk. I'm picking up on a great deal of excitement in the air, along with some trepidation, simply because our decision to move has opened up new and exciting possibilities for taking meaningful action that has a lasting positive impact not only on ourselves but countless others in our community.

"How are we a people of Risk?" is the big question of the month and it seems that many of us have been experiencing new levels of risk-taking through new participation in rallies, protests, letter-writing campaigns, visiting (or trying to visit) with local and national legislators, etc. The ground swell of resistance is happening because the threat to our well being and the well being of others has become so great that we are willing to face the risk of becoming active in the work to resist and hopefully prevent the threats. There are times when we must take a stand and rally around the causes we believe in. I am with you in these efforts and attend as many events as I can. Yet, I am reminded that with any movement, there is the risk of taking it too far and losing perspective. Our greatest challenge as

UU's is to walk that razor's edge of working towards equality and human rights while continuing to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of all people (not just the one's we agree with). In other words, standing on the side of love without giving in to our own inclinations toward hatred and bitterness.

As I ponder these things, I ask myself an even bigger question, what must we risk to make a lasting difference in stopping and reversing this out-of-control division in our country? Aside from all of the policies and executive orders and laws that we must fight, what concerns me the most is the schism that is growing. At some point, the most powerful resistance force any of us could create is the one that brings people together from all sides. Granted, there are plenty of people on all sides who are not willing to go there, not willing to take THAT risk. But I am convinced that there are plenty of other people from all sides who are good people with common sense who are willing to engage in meaningful dialogue and unified action. I am reminded of a quote by Winston Churchill, "Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."

Perhaps our greatest calling is to take the riskiest path of all, to uphold the value of listening to those with whom we disagree, to find common ground, and begin working together. The greatest risk has the greatest reward. May we find the courage to love for the hope of healing and to find others, from all sides, willing to do the same.

With love,
Rev. Dana Lightsey



Faith Formation

by Jessica Laike

What's Happening in Faith Formation?

Please note that this is not meant to be a comprehensive list of everything that has happened in the church in regard to Faith Formation, but instead to serve as a highlight reel of the last month and a look at what is coming up in the next month.

March 6:	Navigators USA (co-ed UU scouting group) from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
March 12:	Coming of Age for 9th-10th graders from 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm Sr. High OWL for 11th-12th graders from 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm 5th/6th Grade OWL Final Session from 3:00 pm - 5:30 pm
March 3-4:	MDD Middle School Retreat at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Boulder
March 4-5:	9th Grade Trip Retreat at All Souls UU Young Adult OWL retreat at La Foret
March 5:	YRUU Youth Group from 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
March 9:	Faith Formation Team Meeting from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
March 11:	MDD Youth Advisor Training from 8:00 am – 5:30 pm
March 14-16:	Liberal Religious Educators Association chapter retreat in Boulder
March 14:	Young Adult OWL at High Plains from 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm
March 19:	Children's Chapel YRUU Youth Group from 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
March 20:	Navigators USA (co-ed UU scouting group) from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
March 21:	Young Adult OWL at First Congregational from 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm
March 24-26:	Pacific Western Region YRUU Board Meeting in Las Vegas, NV
March 25:	Yoga Nidra Workshop with Sonya Bergeron (ages 12+) from 10:00 am - 11:30 am
March 26:	YRUU Youth Group from 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
March 28:	Young Adult OWL at High Plains from 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm
March 31-April 2:	MDD Youth Bridging Con at Foothills Unitarian Church in Ft Collins

If you have a group which you believe works toward the goals of Faith Formation please contact Jessica at dff@hpcuu.org about including your meetings on the monthly list of Faith Formation Programming events.

Yoga Nidra Coming to High Plains!

We are thrilled to welcome Sonya Bergeron, a student at Naropa University, for two Saturday workshops on Yoga Nidra. Sonya is a Yoga Alliance 200 hour RYT (Registered Yoga Teacher). After practicing yoga nidra, she detected a renewed calmness in the mind and a sense of peace. This peace of mind drives her motivation to teach and share yoga nidra with others. Yoga nidra is a series of structured awareness techniques that induce full-body relaxation and a deep meditative state of consciousness. In the threshold between the waking and sleeping states, the superconscious mind is accessible. By practicing yoga nidra, you are opening up

to your true self. The aim of yoga nidra is to develop a deep and true understanding that you are all that you have been looking for.

Join Sonya Saturday, March 25th and April 1st from 10:00 am - 11:30 am in the Spirit Play (elementary) room. There is no cost to attend these workshops, however registration is requested (https://secure.jotform.us/HighPlainsDFF/Adult_Ed_Registration).

Classes are open to anyone 12 years of age and up. Sonya will provide yoga mats, but participants are encouraged to bring their own yoga mats and resting props if they have them.



The President's Post

by Fran Pilch

Hello Everyone!

I can't believe it! Several little crocuses have popped up by my front door! I hope they don't get blindsided by a Spring snowstorm, but that's Colorado weather for you. Meanwhile, I am loving the warm days and cool nights and hope you are too. Haven't seen a robin yet. Have you?



Bringing you up to date on the sale of our property and rental possibilities - John Atkinson and I met with Taylor and Dale Stamp of Quantum Realty, shortly after the congregational vote. We told them that we appreciated their help during the strategic planning process, and that if they were willing to reduce their commission on the sale of our building, we would choose them to represent us. They were happy to do so, and as you can see, we are now on the multiple listing service and they have placed For Sale signs on our property. The listing price is \$1.5 million.

A while ago I served on the board of TESSA, the nonprofit in Colorado Springs that advocates for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The President of the Board at that time was Alex Dumas of Olive Realty. As it happens, he is the realtor for the owner of the building at 5510 Union where the Buddhist Center is located. As you know, half of that building is vacant. The big question is how do we pay for that rental while we are waiting for our facility to sell. The Board also decided that we ought to have professional advice on rental terms and a potential lease. Therefore, we engaged

Quantum Realty, the same realtors who are selling our building, to assist us with renting space. I'll try to keep you posted as we proceed with all negotiations. So far we have had two inquiries about Dominion Way - both churches. They will be looking at our property in the next two weeks.

Be on the lookout for notice of an Active Shooter training session. We hope to hold one soon, in cooperation with Vista Grande.

The Stewardship Campaign is almost here, and I would like to make a personal plea to each and every one of you to give as generously as you are able. Even though we have taken substantial steps to stabilize our financial situation, we still need to meet our operating costs - like the cost of our staff - and make our loan payments. Once the building is sold, we will pay off our loans, but will still have costs of sharing space with Vista Grande, utilities, staff, and team expenses, among others. So please continue your generous level of giving. We are counting on it!

We appreciate everything you do for High Plains, as well as your financial contributions!

With love and respect to each of you,
 Fran Pilch - President of the Board of Trustees

High Plains Stitchers

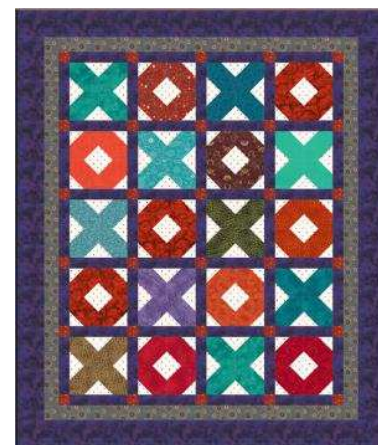
Bring your stitching project (knit, crochet, quilting, or any easily transportable craft) and join us on 1st and 3rd Thursdays at **La Tartine Bistro** from 9:30 am - 11:00 am.

Our group mainly works on their own projects - but we also create blankets for members/friends suffering severe illness, undergoing surgery or experiencing a loss, and to welcome new babies :)

The cafe is located in a small shopping center on the NW corner of Academy and Briargate Blvd (opposite Security Service bank, behind the Burger King).

Don't stitch? Why not come anyway and just "hang out" with us??

Questions? Contact Ruby Doyle at stitchers@hpcuu.org.



4th Sunday Recipient for March

By Social Justice Team

The 4th Sunday recipient is Positive Impact Colorado, which



brings faith and community-based organizations and leaders together to create solutions to critical concerns in employability, education & training, housing and other barriers to re-entry success.

A project of the NAACP CO MT WY State Conference and Christ Temple Community Church, the vision for Positive Impact Colorado was birthed in 2005 when the NAACP helped lead the relocation of 2,300 adults and children from hurricane-torn Gulf Coast to the Pikes Peak Region of Colorado.

Positive Impact Colorado works to reduce recidivism and increase public safety by helping people formerly incarcerated face and conquer the barriers to successfully returning to their families, to their communities and to society. For more information, please visit their website at:

<http://positiveimpactco.org>

Issues On Aging For March

Becoming A More Assertive Health Consumer

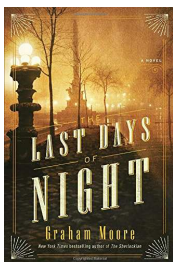
By Sue Neufeld

When you become a more assertive health consumer, care improves, costs come down and hassles become fewer. Join Sue Neufeld on Saturday, March 18 from 10:30 am - 12:00 pm in the Middle School classroom to discuss how you might get today's health care system to work harder for you. All are welcome. Call Sue at 260-9625 if you have any questions.

Book Club

By Heather Mitchell

Book Club's topic for March is Inventors and Inventions. Read any book, fiction or nonfiction. Some suggestions: the novel *The Last Days of Night* by Graham Moore, *Inventology: How We Dream Up Things That Change the World* by Pagan Kennedy. We will meet on March 7 at 6:30 pm in the Main Sanctuary.



Book/Media Sale

Fundraiser At HPCUU In March

Sue Neufeld and her book-loving Covenant Group friends will hold a used book/media sale at HPCUU on March 19th. All proceeds will be given to the church. Please go through your adult and children's books, CDs, and DVDs and consider donating them to the church for the sale. You may deliver them to the church between the 12th and 18th of March, in bags or boxes. We will sort them and have them out for sale on tables before and after the Sunday service on March 19th. Please don't bring textbooks and older media (audio- and videotapes), as they don't sell well. This will be a great chance for you to purge your bookshelves before you reload them with these great bargains. We will set up for the sale the afternoon of March 18th, so get your donations in. You may call Sue Neufeld if you have questions (260-9625).

"Mr. Scrip" is Stepping Down

For 15 years, Joe Catalano has been "Mr. Scrip." "Get your scrip here" is the booming voice heard at coffee hour. During his time as Mr. Scrip, the church has been the beneficiary of many thousands of dollars in rebates earned when you, members of this congregation, purchased King Sooper reloadable cards, went out to lunch using your Panera gift card, or bought that wedding gift at Bed Bath and Beyond.

Many years ago, Joe introduced the scrip program to HPCUU and has been its steward ever since. We are greatly indebted to him for his dedication to this highly successful program. Now it is time for him to move on as he and his wife, Linda Grimaldi, prepare to sell their home here in the Springs and some months ahead embark on a world tour starting with a trip to Spain. We wish him and Linda all the best as they start this new chapter in their lives!

Patricia Rose, whom many of you know as the "For Love of Chocolate" gal, and the mother of Jessica Laike, will be taking over the scrip program.





A's & B's – It's your turn to "HiP Snack" this month!

~ *March* ~

If your last name begins with **A** or **B**, please pick a Sunday this month and bring a snack for after the service:

Fresh fruit, crackers, cheese, fresh veggies w/ dip or hummus, chips, donuts, muffins, cupcakes, cookies, pre-popped popcorn, etc.

For questions, contact HiPSnacks@hpcuu.org.

An American Conscience:

The Reinhold Niebuhr Story

Sunday, March 5th at 3:00 pm in the Library 21C

Although he may be best remembered today as the author of the famed "Serenity Prayer," Reinhold Niebuhr – an outspoken American-born pastor, writer, and political activist – remains one of the most influential public theologians of our time. Presidents from Barack Obama to Jimmy Carter have credited his impact on their thinking, as well as John McCain, countless historians, theologians, political thinkers, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who cited Niebuhr in his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail,"

Niebuhr's career spanned some of the most tumultuous decades in American history, from World War I through Vietnam, from the Great Depression through the Civil Rights Movement. An early pacifist and socialist, he was closely monitored by J. Edgar Hoover's FBI throughout his life, but would later serve as a consultant to the State Department during the Cold War.

Niebuhr rose from a small Midwest church pulpit to become the nation's moral voice – an American conscience – during some of the most defining moments in recent history. His books, *Moral Man and Immoral Society* (1932), *The Nature and Destiny of Man* (1941-43) and *The Irony of American History* (1952), continue to influence theological and political thinking. An American original, his unique insights into human nature and its relationship to political movements and social justice propelled him to speak openly, and often critically, to an America consumed by moral certainty. For Niebuhr the priority was always justice, his guiding

principle was hope in a redeemer God, and his weapon was an extraordinary gift for clarity of thought that made him a leading voice of conscience for his time.

A Transgender Journey with Jessica Lynn

Tuesday, March 14th from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

At the UCCS University Center, Room 116

Professional speaker and transgender advocate Jessica Lynn is renowned for her dynamic and refreshingly honest speaking style. She is constantly in demand, nationally and internationally, and travels to colleges, universities, and other speaking engagements to educate attendees on what it means to be a transgender woman in 21st century America. Ms. Lynn's trademark post-presentation question-and-answer session is unique in that no trans subject is off-limits. The take away is a clear and deep understanding of issues facing transgender people today.



Please join the conversation for an evening of refreshing honesty and connection, and hear one woman's story of loss, grief, and ultimate transcendence as she continues to battle the legal system for parental rights to her youngest son.



HPCUU
 1825 Dominion Way
 Colorado Springs CO 80918

High Plains Church 719-260-1080
 Unitarian Universalist

Member of Unitarian Universalist Association

Sunday Services at 10:00 AM

Come Join Us!

Inside:

- Stewardship Kickoff**
- Minister's Musings**
- Faith Formation**
- President's Post**

Send Comments to: editor@hpcuu.org
Send Articles to: newsletter@hpcuu.org

All articles for the April newsletter must be received by the end of day on March 26, 2017.

Rev Dana's Hours:
 Tue, Wed, Thu: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
 Please don't hesitate to call her at 970-590-6978
 if there is a serious or emergency situation.

Office Hours:
 Mon, Thu: 8:30 am - 12:30 pm
 Tue, Wed, Fri: 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Contact the Publicity team at publicity@hpcuu.org if you would like to place an add in the HPCUU Newsletter.



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