



## News of the Fellowship

December 2010

December 5

***Growing in the Darkness*** – Rev. Barbara Coeyman

All of us have gone through periods of sadness or frustration or loss. Such times of personal darkness might feel stronger at this time of year as we approach various holidays as well as the winter solstice. The good news is, that the dark need not be debilitating. The dark --- of the calendar, of our souls --- can become a source of positive personal transformation.

Rev. Dr. Barbara Coeyman again takes time away from her post as Consulting Minister for Columbine UU Church in Littleton, CO to come to our Fellowship. She has served interim ministries in Stony Brook, NY; Bridgewater, MA; and Portsmouth, NH; and consulting ministries in San Antonio and Houston, TX. As a parish minister, she has a special passion for creative worship, and loves to teach adult education classes. She received a Masters of Divinity degree from Austin Presbyterian Seminary in 2001.

December 12

***The Growth of Political Tribalism*** – Ed Funk

"Kurt Vonnegut once said *'The two real political parties in America are the winners and the losers.'* The American congress is at war with itself and legislation no longer appears as its main purpose. In short, the defined historical function of "congress" may have been to come together to "discuss the common interests" of the nation. Today, however, it appears that our dominant political groups primarily want to promote their party's agenda so they can achieve tribal dominance, with the interests of the nation being secondary."

These words from Ed give us a peak into his subject for Sunday. Ed describes himself as a guy who moved to Pagosa in 1999 led by his wife, Lynn - a former pres of PUUF, a former journalist, a former teacher, and a struggling cynic who wants to find balance between hope and pessimism by never ceasing to marvel and laugh at the absurd human comedy.

December 19

***No-Rehearsal Nativity Pageant*** – De Anna Hoyle

This Sunday may just be the highlight of the season as we come together for the ***No-Rehearsal Nativity Pageant*** by Jory Agate of the First Parish in Cambridge. This multigenerational service, adapted from the Canadian Unitarian Universalist Educators, is a participatory re-living of Jesus' birth. Instead of hearing or watching the nativity, we are going to get inside it and make it our own. With all those willing to take part, we will add music and relive this holy moment.

Join us for this festive event as we light our tree with the joy and wonder of the season, and don't forget the annual **All-Fellowship Potluck** after the service. Everyone is welcome. Bring a dish to share and **BE GREEN**, by bringing your own place setting.



December 26

***A World of Unitarian Universalists*** - Rev. Christine Robinson

When there is a Tsunami in Sri Lanka, a Typhoon in the South Pacific, an Earthquake in Haiti or a Hurricane in New Orleans - and the media is filled with people's suffering, we are flooded with compassion. Ours is a faith which inspires us to feel connection with the rest of the world, in essence the Unity of God, which enables us also to respect the faith of others. In this DVD produced by First Unitarian Church of Albuquerque, where Rev. Christine Robinson is senior minister, we hear collaborative contributions from ministers around the world, which can enrich the meaning of our lives, as we step outside the boundaries of orthodoxy.

## President's Letter -

. . . Joan Ward

What a family we are! For all of you who took part in our service the Sunday before Thanksgiving and the potluck afterwards, thank you! What a wonderful day. Our fellowship is a haven of support and comfort, a place to center yourself after the slings and arrows of the week in the world.

I am especially grateful for the generosity of everyone in contributing to the special collection that Sunday and the last Sunday in November to help those both within and outside the fellowship. We will have one more opportunity to donate to the special collection the first Sunday in December, for those who weren't present previously and want to give something.

**Enjoy this December and the winter solstice.**

*Joan Ward*



## Treasurer's Report for November 2010

Our income was higher than our expenses for October, and overall we are in a positive financial status. I will report on the special collection funds in the January newsletter. Thank you for supporting your fellowship!

– Joan Ward



**Join our Fellowship for a Christmas Feast**

**Sunday, December 19 following service**

**It's a potluck**

**Please sign up on the Backroom Bulletin Board**

**Be GREEN and bring your own place setting**



## Loaves and Fishes – Thursday, December 16

The third Thursday in December, December 16, is our day at Loaves and Fishes, the community hot lunch at the Parish Hall on Lewis Street. Come see what I cook up for lunch this month - reindeer ragout? holly hash? gingerbread soup? Please let me know if you can help. Plan to arrive about 10:45 am. Ho, ho, ho!

Joan Ward - 398-9057, [joanyward@gmail.com](mailto:joanyward@gmail.com)

Planetary Gong Journey  
A Sound Healing Experience with  
Visudha de los Santos  
from Taos, New Mexico

**Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m.**  
**Pagosa UU Fellowship Hall \$20**

Please bring: a mat, pillow and blanket to lay down  
for the journey (approximately 1 ½ hrs)

Information: Pam, 264-6129, [pk@pamkircher.com](mailto:pk@pamkircher.com)  
Visudha, 575737.0408, [Info@moveandbremoved.net](mailto:Info@moveandbremoved.net)

**TARA MANDALA**  
**SATURDAY WINTER MEDITATION**

**beginning Saturday, January 8**

We are happy to announce a collaborative activity  
during the months of January-February-March

Pagosa UU Fellowship will sponsor a Saturday Morning  
Meditation at the Fellowship from 10:30 am - 12 noon

Tara Mandala's Debra Travis will lead the weekly  
Meditation which is offered to everyone in the wider  
Pagosa community. A love offering is requested.

## Helping Hands for Christmas

Special collections will be made during the next several Sunday Services to be used to help the needy families during the holidays here in Pagosa. **Please consider bringing a little extra to donate or write a check to PUUF with "holiday" on the memo line when you come next Sunday.** We will match the total collected from funds we still have left in a grant we had received to use for community needs. With the loss of the Helping Hands organization, we will have to choose from several organizations which are collecting individually.

Rotary (games to go in the boxes)

Realtors (bike for kids)

Library (children's books)

Other???

A full accounting for the use of our donations will be made in January.



### The PUUF Caring Network – in times of need

*Each morning we must hold out the chalice of our being to receive, to carry, and give back.* - Dag Hammarskjöld

This time of year we turn our attention to the needs of others. For many it is a time of stress or loneliness who are away from their families or friends, and may need a little extra care. We know there are needs in the wider community but we may not know about someone in our own fellowship who needs support, and although there are limits to what the Caring Network can do, we want to extend a special invitation to those who may need it.

Contact Marilyn Moorhead (731-2323) for assistance. All requests will be kept confidential. We hope that in this time of want you reach out your hand to clasp the one being extended in your direction.

**The Caring Network** is a group of individuals within the Pagosah UU Fellowship providing care and concern for members and friends of the Pagosah UU community. You will find the monthly contact in your newsletter on the Calendar page and posted on the bulletin board at the fellowship.

We are looking for one individual to take the lead on this very important network. It requires very little time, and a compassionate heart. Contact De Anna or Marilyn, if you can help.

The contacts for December are Carol Otis, 731-9459 and De Anna Hoyle, 264-7224.

### Invite a Guest to Your Table

**Invite a Guest to Your Table this holiday season to add to your family's traditions.** The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) continues it's work around the world and to see how your donations are put to use, click this link. <http://www.uusc.org/guest/donations>



You can also download **Stories of Hope**, make a donation on-line, and read more about the work of UUSC.

A large donation box and envelopes are on display at the fellowship. Bring your donation any time between now and the new year. **To find out more, or to have a box at your table, ask De Anna.**

### THANKSGIVING BOXES delivered to almost 300 families

Phyl Daleske, Deni Blaisch, Mary Willcox, Cheryl Scheller, Zoe Grouix and Marilyn Moorhead helped to assemble and distribute Thanksgiving boxes and turkeys to almost 300 families. Thanks for a valuable volunteer effort.

### BELL RINGING

On a very cold day an intrepid band of UU Bell Ringers: Tim Bristow, Phyl Daleske, Ann Graves, Nan Rowe, Marilyn Moorhead, Carol Otis, and Joan Ward helped raise money for the needy in our community by ringing the bells. Again a special thanks to those who helped.

## CRE \* Children's Religious Exploration Happenings for December

This month, as we continue to explore the world's religions, we turn our attention to Judaism.



Also note the special holiday service on Sunday, December 19. We will need lots of you to participate and assist with this event. If you are able to help either before in preparing costumes or on that Sunday, please RSVP to De Anna Hoyle for an assignment. Thank you in advance for helping out!

DEC 5: **Celebration of Hanukkah** – We begin our month of Judaism with a minor holiday in the tradition, but important nonetheless. It will help us understand something about Judaism and we'll have fun making and playing with dreidels.

DEC 12: **Judaism Theology and Origin** – One of the many stories from the sacred Hebrew text, called the Torah, is about Noah and the Rainbow Covenant. We will explore the story, play an ark game and write a covenant of our own.

DEC 19: **Nativity: A Multigenerational, Participatory Re-Living** – join us, one and all, for a special holiday service. SEE FRONT CALENDAR FOR SPECIFICS.

DEC 26: **Jewish Spiritual Practices, Prayer** – As we explore the idea of prayer and what it means to Judaism, we'll make friendship bracelets and work on our rag rug as a way of being in community.



## Seminars on Early Christian History

We will continue our series on *The Hidden History of Christianity and the Gnostic Gospel* facilitated by Julie Loar. Sunday, December 12 at 1:00pm we will explore the *Gospel of Mary*.

Bring a bag lunch and join us for this exciting discussion. A \$10 suggested donation will be taken.

Also, mark your calendar for January 9, the final gathering for this series with the topic of the *Gospel of Judas*.

## Let's Talk UU World!

Come a bit early on Sunday December 5th (9:00 am to be exact) and join us in a discussion of the ideas you found in *UU World* and want to chew over a bit. That's how I felt after reading "Corporate Responsibility" by Rev. Nate Walker. Monsanto and the Hippocratic oath? How would that work? Let's see what ideas come up in our discussion. Hopefully, Rev. Barbara Coeyman will be there also.

UU Spooks  
on  
Halloween



## The UU Book Club

We will not meet in December but plan to meet on January 10 at 1:30 pm.

We will continue our discussion of the book, *This I Believe* (personal philosophies of remarkable men and women) and we will begin work on our project of writing our own personal essay: *This I Believe*.

Merilyn Moorhead, 731-2323

## Continuing A Conversation

. . . Pauline Benetti

October 24<sup>th</sup> I gave a talk to the Fellowship about the *Question of Corporations*. I would like to continue that conversation. If the editor of our newsletter will allow, I hope to make it a regular contribution. If you think it is a bad idea, please let the editor know your reasons.

Are you curious to know my intentions? As I said in that talk, "the questions of corporations is so critical that if we don't deal with it, we may find our government and ourselves changed irrevocably to the point that we cannot deal effectively with immigration or any other critical social issue."

As far as I can see there is only one way to deal with the question and that is to pass the 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution. Now I have to admit that this is *not* my idea and I am *not* alone in believing that this is the only solution. So what I intend to do is to follow the trail of this idea online to see what I can come up with; I intend to share my findings with you and I will not do this alone. We have a small but active team: myself, Marilyn and Susan. Would you like to join? Let me know and begin by visiting the websites that I have already indicated to you with the addition of one new one. You will notice that on several of these sites there is an opportunity to sign a petition to pass a 28<sup>th</sup> amendment. Sign!

[www.moveon.org](http://www.moveon.org)

[www.commoncause.org](http://www.commoncause.org) (petition)

[www.poclad.org](http://www.poclad.org) (petition)

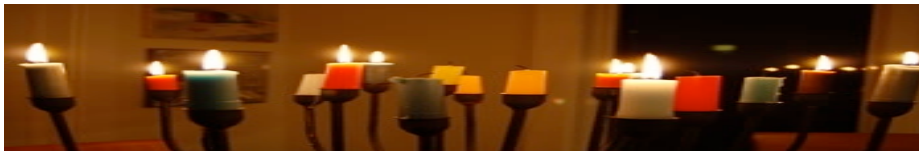
[www.reclaimdemocracy.org](http://www.reclaimdemocracy.org) (petition)

[www.commondreams.org](http://www.commondreams.org)

[www.movetoamend.org](http://www.movetoamend.org) (petition)

[www.freespeechforpeople.org](http://www.freespeechforpeople.org) (new) (petition)

Here's an interesting statistic that I just learned from an email coming from the new website quoting a Washington Post article of 2/17/10, 80% of Americans polled oppose the Supreme Court's decision regarding campaign finance and that includes 76% of Republicans, 81% of Independents and 85% of Democrats. If that is really accurate then is it such a stretch to believe that "we the people" can make our voices heard AND get an amendment to the Constitution passed? The enemy is apathy! Much easier to hope that others will carry the flag.



"Don't curse the darkness, light a candle." from *Common Dreams.org*

## Musing - *What Is Fair Trade?*

The other day, while sitting in a coffee bar, I heard a couple ask, "what is fair trade"? I must say I was astounded that those folks didn't know. Then I got to thinking that they might not be the only ones.

*Fair Trade is a way of doing business that ultimately aims to keep small farmers an active part of the world marketplace, and aims to empower consumers to make purchases that support their values. Fair Trade is a set of business practices voluntarily adopted by the producers and buyers of agricultural commodities and hand-made crafts that are designed to advance many economic, social and environmental goals.* (reprinted from Equal Exchange website)

I encourage you to check out a few options of fair trade products when making holiday purchases.

<http://www.equalexchange.coop/index.php>

<https://www.thehungersite.com/store>

<http://www.globalexchangestore.org/>

Of course it's always good to shop local as well, so ask for fair trade products where you shop. When many of us ask, the shop owners may start to see a trend, and begin carrying fair trade products. It's up to us to make the world a brighter place.

Walk softly, speak truthfully, love gently, breathe deeply, live wisely, go in peace. - De Anna



## We welcome everyone to the events of the Fellowship

(Events are at PUUF Hall unless otherwise noted)

### Sunday Services begin at 10:30 am

Re classes offered for children 3 to 11 years

<b>Sun Dec 5</b>	<b>9:00</b>	<b>UU World discussion</b>	Pauline Benetti, 264-5232
<b>Mon Dec 6</b>	<b>6:00</b>	<b>Planetary Gong Journey</b>	Pam Kircher, 264-6129
<b>Fri Dec 10</b>	<b>1:00</b> <b>3:00</b>	<b>Steering Cmte</b> <b>Sunday Service Cmte</b>	Joan Ward, 398-9057 Susan Junta. 731-0918
<b>Sun Dec 12</b>	<b>1:00</b>	<b>Christian History Seminar</b> Gospel of Mary	Julie Loar, 731-4744
<b>Thu Dec 16</b>	<b>10:45</b>	<b>Loaves and Fishes</b> Parish Hall on Lewis St	Joan Ward, 398-9057
<b>Sun Dec 19</b>	<b>12:00</b>	<b>Fellowship Christmas Feast</b> <b>Potluck following Sunday Service</b>	Sign up on Bulletin Board
<b>Mon Dec 20</b>	<b>6:00</b>	<b>Full Moon Meditation</b> <b>and Winter Solstice</b>	Julie Loar, 731-4744
<b>Mon Dec 27</b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>WISEQ Circle</b> Seeking answers to many questions	John Graves, 731-9863

#### Caring Network Contact

Carol Otis, 731-94599  
De Anna Hoyle, 264-7224

#### Space Coordinator

Abby Linzie, 731-6412  
[ajlinzie@gmail.com](mailto:ajlinzie@gmail.com)



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Pagosah UU Fellowship Location: 301 N. Pagosa Blvd, Greenbriar Plaza, Unit # B 15

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5984, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Voice Mail: 970-731-7900

Visit PUUF on the web: [www.pagosauu.org](http://www.pagosauu.org)

**Newsletter deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.**

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