

Journey to Transformation

In keeping with our vision, the theme for this year is *Journey to Transformation*. We are working to create pathways that will enhance the experiences that you have within First Universalist and within the wider community. This includes intellectual exploration, spiritual deepening, care and connection, and a passion for justice.



First Universalist Church
of Denver

Connection Guide
2008-2009

First Universalist Church
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Denver CO 80222-7262
303-759-2770
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www.firstuniversalist.org

Nurture Your Spirit
Help Heal Our World

ORIENTATION

OUR Vision

First Universalist Church will be a powerful center of transformation, committing us to find more meaning and purpose, to act with integrity and compassion, and to serve the wider community by pursuing justice and by living and promoting the principles of our Unitarian Universalist faith.

To Achieve Our Vision

- The people of First Universalist will connect in meaningful ways in our church community.
- The people of First Universalist will grow spiritually, intellectually, and emotionally.
- The wider community will be transformed by our living and sharing our Unitarian Universalist values and promoting social justice.
- First Universalist, as an institution, will be vital and effective in achieving this vision.

Introduction

This guide outlines the many ways to make connections at First Universalist Church: to give and receive support, to make and deepen friendships, to serve in meaningful ways, to work for justice, to develop a spiritual practice, to participate in lifespan education as a teacher or life-long learner, to grow by pursuing meaning and purpose, to engage in multigenerational activities, to do both church work and the work of the church, to enjoy social activities, and to have fun.

Welcome to First Universalist

This brief orientation program is offered every Sunday 15 minutes after the end of each service in the Senior Minister's office. Get a beverage and learn more about First Universalist and the ways to make connections.

Information about First Universalist & Unitarian Universalism

There is information in the foyer to Friendship Hall, behind the Welcome Center in Friendship Hall, and on the main pillar at Friendship Hall. We also recommend *Welcome to First Universalist: a guide to our church*.

INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

Pathway to Meaningful Membership

This one-session program is offered from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on five Saturdays during the church year to give interested newcomers an in-depth understanding of Unitarian Universalism's unique approach to religion. This program will provide you with an opportunity to assess your own journey, gain a better understanding of Unitarian Universalism, learn about our many church programs, and how to make connections. It concludes with the opportunity to become a member of First Universalist. Childcare is available with a reservation made in advance. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. Dates for the 2008-2009 church year are: **Saturday October 4th, November 15th, January 17th, March 21st, & May 2nd**. Contact: Kirk Loadman-Copeland at or kirk@firstuniversalist.org or 303-759-2770 x 26 for more



Roots & Branches for New Members

Roots & Branches is a new four-session small group experience for members generally and new members specifically. Each session is 2-hours long. The first two sessions deal with roots: our individual religious roots and the roots of Unitarian Universalism. The last two sessions deal with branches, how to "branch out" at First Universalist and make meaningful connections. The theme of session three is "growing," while session four explores "serving." If you are interested in participating in a Roots & Branches group please contact Kirk Loadman-Copeland at 303-759-2770 ext 26 or kirk@firstuniversalist.org. Groups will be led by either Kirk Loadman-Copeland or Joe Stone. We will launch groups when we have 8 to 10 people who can meet at a specific time

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COMMUNITY SUNDAYS

The following is a list of notable worship services during 2008-2009. *Many Sundays will feature a Chalice Reflection of 4 to 5 minutes long presented by a lay member based upon the monthly worship theme. If you would like to present a reflection, please contact a member of the Worship Committee.*

Date	Worship Service
September 7th	Ingathering Sunday and Water Communion
October 12th	Association Sunday, celebrating the tradition of Unitarian Universalism
November 2nd	All Soul's Sunday with the choir performing the Faure Requiem
November 27th	Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Christ the King Roman Catholic Church
December 14th	Music Sunday: Christmas in the Southwest
December 21	Ornament Sunday & Children's Pageant: Paint the Town December
December 24th	4:00 pm Family Service 6:00 pm Candlelight Service 8:00 pm Jazz on Christmas Eve 9:30 pm Lessons & Carols
December 28th	Intergenerational service at 10:00 am followed by potluck brunch
February 1st	Kövend Sunday, celebrating our partner church in Transylvania
February 22nd	9:00 am First Service 10:15 am Winter Congregational Mtg 11:30 am Second Service
March 1st	Worship Service by Youth Group
March 29th	Founder's Sunday & Church Birthday celebration
April 12th	Easter with Flower Communion 9:30 am: Family Service 11:30 am:
May 3rd	Music Sunday
May 17th	9:30 am Coming of Age Service 11:00 am Congregational Meeting
May 24th	10:00 am First Summer Service 11:30 am All Church Picnic

WORSHIP THEMES

The following is a list of the worship themes for this year. This is based upon a three-year rotation. These month-long themes makes it possible to explore subjects in greater depth.

Month	Worship Theme
September	Beloved Community
October	Faith
November	Letting Go
December	Hope
January	Justice
February	Gratitude
March	Mystery
April	Covenant
May	Freedom
June	Wisdom
July	Democracy
August	Transcendence

SOCIAL JUSTICE FOCUS

The following is a list of the social justice issue that we will explore each month, especially on Social Justice Sunday, which is the third Sunday of the month when the children will join us for the first part of the service as part of their Children Making Change program. The issues for the balance of the year are still being identified.

Month	Justice Issue
September	Immigration
October	Housing Justice/Habitat
November	Hunger Justice
December	The Giving Tree
January	Racial Justice
February	Neighbors Around the World
March	Education Justice
April	Environmental Justice
May	Health Care Justice
June	Gay Rights
July	Ethical Eating
August	Peace

SOCIAL EVENTS

What A Wednesday (WAW!)



“WAW!” dinners are held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, beginning on **September 24th**. Meals are either prepared by our wonderful Hospitality Committee or catered by a local restaurant. Dinner begins at 6:30 pm

and concludes by 7:30 pm. Please sign-up in advance by using the sign-up sheet in Friendship Hall or emailing the church office. The cost of the dinner is \$8 for adults and youth 10 and older. The cost for children 4 to 9 is \$3. Newborns to 3 are free. Childcare is provided after dinner if reserved in advance. Contact: Carole Duncan at 303-322-1955 or dunroit@comcast.net.

Sip 'n Sup Potluck Dinners

This is a popular, social activity that arranges potluck dinners for 8 to 18 people once a month at members' homes, October through May, on the first Saturday of the month, unless indicated otherwise. Contact: Gene Jurado at 303-770-6153 or juradog@aol.com

Family Fun & Sup Potluck Dinners

This is a wonderful way for families, individuals, and couples to share camaraderie, casseroles and community. The dinners are held in members' homes on the second Saturday of each month (unless indicated otherwise) at about 4:30 pm. This intergenerational buffet style potluck is a way for all ages to get together socialize in an enjoyable, relaxed atmosphere. Contact: Dawn O'Neill at dsoneil@msn.com

Thanksgiving Dinner

A Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner is held at the church on Thanksgiving Day. See the Unigram for details.

Holiday Celebrations

Intergenerational Holiday Celebrations at First Universalist include the Halloween Carnival (November 1st), Holiday Concert and Party – includes caroling and tree decorating (December 14th), Passover Seder, etc. See the Unigram for details.

Special Sunday Events

A number of Sundays include a special event: Ice Cream Social on September 7th; cookie reception after each of the Christmas Eve Services; brunch after the December 28th service; birthday cake after the services on Founder's Sunday, March 29th, and All Church Picnic following the service on May 24th.

ACTIVITIES

Bridge

We play duplicate bridge on the 1st Monday of the month. 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, with players scheduled in advance. On the 3rd Monday, all are invited to play without a reservation. Contacts: 1st Monday: Joyce Quigley 303-773-3406 or jquigley36@msn.com, 3rd Monday Carmen Schwartz 303-779-6201 or rcdeltio@aol.com

Chess Club

The Chess Corner is located in the southwest corner of Friendship Hall. Games are played before, between, and after church services. We also play chess once a month in Friendship Hall at 7:30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month. Contact: John Doughty at 303-758-7316.

Opera Lovers

Gathers after church to watch and discuss an opera, including a brown bag lunch. Third Sunday of each month, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm when there are two services, 12:15 pm to 3:00 pm during the summer, Room 3. Contact: Gavin Mallett at 303-773-3713 or gavinmary@aol.com.

Reader's Theater - A Class Act

Theater buffs share a potluck dinner and read an engaging one-act play on the third Saturday of the month at 5:30 pm in Friendship Hall. The potluck begins at 5:30 pm and with play reading starting at 7:15 pm. There are also occasional theater outings. Contact: Jo Hehnke, 303-740-0588 or email@JosephineHehnke.net

Scrabble Night

Join Scrabble enthusiasts on the fourth Saturday of the month from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Contact: Maida Deborah at 303-988-9384.

UU Movie Group

The UU Movie Group gathers 2-3 times a month on a Friday or Saturday to see an independent/art film, with an occasional blockbuster. We often head for a watering hole afterward and sometimes discuss the movie! Notices go out on e-mail. No dues, no obligations, no suggestion ignored. Contact: Diane Pugh at dkpugh@sprynet.com

Campouts

Church campouts are scheduled for 5 weekends throughout the summer and are usually first publicized in mid-winter. Campouts are for day visitors and overnight camping. For info, visit www.firstuniversalist.org, pick up a flyer at church, or read the Unigram for information about each weekend. Contact: Jane Mataich at mataich@excite.com or 303-908-3017.

FORUM FOR THE MIND

Community Forum

This Sunday morning group discusses topics ranging from the arts to politics to religion. Usually a guest speaker presents a lecture, which is followed by a spirited discussion. Sundays, 9:30 am to 10:45 am in Colvin Commons. Contacts: Earl Staelin at 303-794-5565 or estaelin@comcast.net or Richard Smith at 720-283-4397 or smityo925@aol.com

Friday Morning Discussion Group

Do you like to make friends, talk, express opinions, and listen to others do the same? Well, if 10:00 am Friday mornings is not too early for you, join this group of lively, intelligent people who discuss current issues of all kinds. The group meets year around, is open to all, but is mostly attended by seniors. Regular attendance ranges from 20 to 25 people. Coffee and tea are served at no cost. Contact: Ed Schreiber at 303-770-3253 or ed@estival.com

Great Books Discussion Group

Join in reading and discussing some of the greatest books ever written. Upcoming titles are publicized in the Unigram. The group usually meets on the third Monday of the month at 1:00 pm. Contact: Anne Yondorf at 303-329-9059.

Humanist Book Group

For the fall, the Humanist Book Group will read articles downloaded from some Humanist web sites. The first meeting for the Fall will be on Monday, September 29th at 7:00 pm in room 4 to discuss the article, *Strained Bedfellows: Pagans, New Agers, and "Starchy Humanists"* in *Unitarian Universalism* by Richard Wayne Lee. The article can be found at www.huumanists.org/rh/lee.html. In October, November, and December, the group will meet on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7:00 pm in room 4. The members of the group will rotate choosing the articles to be read. Consult the Unigram for information about future meetings. Contact: Ellen Chilikas at outdoorsdiva@yahoo.com.

Cole Book Store

The Cole Book Store is located in the northeast corner of Friendship Hall and is open every Sunday. The store offers a wide range of engaging books and also takes special orders. Managers: Diane Pugh, Jeanne Smith, and Tracey Maxwell.

OASIS FOR THE SPIRIT

Buddhism Study Group – First Universalist Sangha

Study Buddhism with other friendly and inquisitive people. Meetings are centered around readings, discussing key topics, and integrating key elements of Buddhism into one's life and practice. The group meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Sitting meditation starts at 7:30 pm, discussion starts at 8:00 pm. Contact: Gary Reser at 303-722-2041 or gary.reser@earthlink.net



Denver Center for Spiritual Renewal

The mission of the Denver Center for Spiritual Renewal is to be a source of renewal and development where people can acquire the tools, practices, beliefs, and wisdom to lead rich and fulfilling lives and add to the common good. Instructors include members or staff of cluster Unitarian Universalist congregations or people from the community who offer courses for which they have a particular expertise and passion. Course topics include the arts, environmentalism, everyday living, parenting, religion & politics, social justice, spiritual & theological exploration, and world religions. See our newsletter, the *Unigram*, for details. Contact : Joe Stone, Ministerial Intern, at 303-759-2770 ext. 23 or joe@firstuniversalist.org.

Silent Retreats

The tradition of silent retreats continues at First Universalist. Retreats are held two or three times a year at various retreat centers. Some are for the weekend while others are just for an afternoon. Elements of retreats include soul nurturing, silence and contemplation, hiking, drumming, and just being. Cost and other information are published in the Unigram. Contact: Kathryn Jens at 303-773-8991 or kjens5146@aol.com.



PROGRAMS FOR MEN

Support Groups for Men

A key aspect of the men's program at First Universalist is self-directed support groups that typically meet every other week. There are currently three or four support groups meeting. While these groups are closed, there are occasional openings in a group. New groups are formed as interest for them emerges. If you would like to be in a support group, let us know. Contacts: Howard Roitman at dunroit@comcast.net or 303-322-1955.



Living With A Man's Heart

Jefferson Unitarian Church is hosting a men's retreat on **Saturday, March 21, 2009 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm** that will feature a keynote address by the Rev. Tom Owen-Towle. Tom has been a pioneer in ministry to men, writing books on the subject and founding the Unitarian Universalist Men's Network.

Fifth Annual Men's Renewal Weekend

Join First Universalist Men for a weekend of fellowship in beautiful Allenspark, Colorado on **April 24-26, 2009** at the Highlands Presbyterian Camp & Retreat Center. Program information will be available in mid-winter. Typically, 35 to 40 men attend. There is a thoughtful blend programming, recreation, and free time. The registration fee covers two nights of lodging and six meals. Contact: Howard Roitman at dunroit@comcast.net or 303-322-1955.

YOUNG ADULTS

Programs for Young Adults

First Universalist is launching a new initiative to create a range of programs to engage young adult (18 to 40). Our Young Adult Program Coordinator, Amanda Gonzalez, will be working with the Young Adult Steering Committee to assess interests and needs and develop meaningful programs. Sign up for our list serve at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FirstU_YoungAdults/join Contact: Amanda Gonzalez, 303-759-2770, ext 22 or amanda@firstuniversalist.org.

UUnited Co-ed Soccer Team

Join our co-ed soccer team and enjoy a spirited time. The team plays in a year-round soccer league and welcomes people of all ability levels. Contact: Cody Hufstedler at 303-681-7493 or cody.hufstedler@gmail.com.

PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN

Bricolage

This women's discussion group reads and discusses books and holds discussions on topics of general interest. The group meets the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 9:30 am (year-round) in Room 4 at church. Contact: Lois Howard at 303-798-6768 or lois7how@aol.com.

Opsimaths

This women's group has been meeting for some forty years. (Opsimath means a person who undertakes study late in life, a person who learns late in life.) The women, who are now elders in the church, have met weekly for all of those years and developed deep connections. They read challenging books on a wide range of subjects. While the group is closed, it is a testament to the power of small groups.

Women's Friendship & Sharing Group

This women's group shares joys and concerns in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. Meets weekly on **Tuesdays at 1:30 pm** in Room 4. Contact: Lois Martin at 303-753-6533 or ladyjunk@comcast.com

Women's Get-Away Weekend

Join other friends and members at First Universalist in escaping to the mountains from **September 19 (3:00 pm) through Sunday, September 21 (10:00 am)** at the YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, CO (Reserved Cabin). There will be no set agenda, no official programming – just a time and space for women to be together for whoever wants to be there. The cost is \$68 for the weekend, due by September 5. Brought to you by: WomenSong at First Universalist. Contact Sara Murray at 303-759-5980 or slsmurray@msn.com.

WomenSong: support groups for women

WomenSong is a support program for women. They have a drop-in meeting on the first Sunday of the month from 6:15 pm to 8:00 pm in Room 12 in the Lower Commons. It is open to women of any age. Based on interest, WomenSong also creates support groups for women. Currently, there are three or four support groups. While these groups are closed, there are occasional openings in a group. New groups are formed as interest for them emerges. WomenSong also sponsors other activities for women. Consult the unigram for details. Contact Sara Murray at 303-759-5980 or slsmurray@msn.com.

CARE & CONNECTION

Ministry of All Members

The foundation of our volunteer program is the Ministry of All Members, which staffs key positions for Sunday morning as part of our practice radical hospitality. You are encouraged to volunteer at least four times during the year on Sunday morning. You can do this by signing-up in Friendship Hall (across from the kitchen), contacting Kim Henson in the office at kim@firstuniversalist.org, contacting a captain, or by going to firstuniversalist.org/ volunteer. The volunteer positions and captains are as follows: Sunday Morning Managers—Mary Emlen; Greeters—Sally Bradley; Ushers—*Vacant*; Welcome Center—John Shell; Sound Room—Marcus Bianchi & Coffee—Hospitality Committee.

A Caring Community

Our Caring Community Committee coordinates a number of important programs that include

- Provides cards after each service on Sunday at the Caring Table in Friendship Hall that you are invited to sign. These cards express our collective caring for the joys and sorrows being experienced by our members and friends.
- Maintains a Watch List of members and friends who are hospitalized, homebound, or have other special needs.
- Maintains a Care List of members and friends who are willing to volunteer to help members and friends in need with transportation, meals, childcare, etc.
- Provides CD players to members who are shut-in so they can listen to CDs of our worship services.
- Calls members to congratulate them on the anniversary date of their joining the church.
- Creates telephone partnerships for people living alone to check-in with each other.

Contacts: Joyce Quigley, jquigley36@msn.com 303-773-3406 or Dana Lightsey, Care & Connection Coordinator at dana@firstuniversalist.org, or 303-759-2770, ext 22.

Candles of Community & The Book of Life

On Sunday mornings, during the worship service, people are invited to briefly share joys and sorrows as they light a candle. People can also light silent candles and write their joys and sorrows in the *Book of Life* on the dais.

Caring Corner

The *Caring Corner* is listed in the Sunday Bulletin and the Unigram as a way of communicating the joys and sorrows being experienced by our members and friends. To list information listed, contact Kirk Loadman-Copeland at 303-759-2770, ext. 26 or kirk@firstuniversalist.org.

Committee on Ministry

This congregational committee has six elected lay members who work with our ministerial staff to evaluate and promote the overall effectiveness of the ministry of the congregation. They conduct a comprehensive survey every three years and work to support the shared ministry provided by our committees and groups with the church. If you have suggestions about how we can strengthen our shared ministry please let them know. Contacts: Mimzy Tackney-Moen, Chair at 303-798-5527 or mimzyt@gmail.com or Rev. Kirk Loadman-Copeland, kirk@firstuniversalist.org 303-759-2770, ext 26.

Pastoral Care Task Force

The Pastoral Care Task Force is responsible for developing pastoral care resources and programs to serve the members and friends of First Universalist Church. Contacts: Barbara Snook at bs1951@comcast.net or 303-722-1326; Dana Lightsey, Care & Connection Coordinator at dana@firstuniversalist.org, or 303-759-2770, ext 22.; and Rev. Kirk Loadman-Copeland, kirk@firstuniversalist.org 303-759-2770, ext 26.

Pastoral Care Staff

Our pastoral care staff is always available for support, visitation, and brief counseling, as well as rites of passage. Please avail yourself of these services by contacting Rev. Kirk Loadman-Copeland, kirk@firstuniversalist.org 303-759-2770, ext 26; Dana Lightsey, Care & Connection Coordinator at dana@firstuniversalist.org, or 303-759-2770, ext 22, or Joe Stone, Ministerial Intern, at 303-759-2770 ext. 23 or joe@firstuniversalist.org.

SHAPE

First Universalist is committed to helping people connect in meaningful ways. To do this, we use SHAPE assessments. SHAPE means S=Spiritual gifts & interests; H = Heart and identifies one's passions; A = Abilities; P = Personality (we use Meyers Briggs Type Indicator); and E = Experiences, both positive and negative, that have been transforming. We use the results to help individuals identify activities and volunteer opportunities that will be meaningful. Contact: Janice Dau at 303-759-2770 ext. 24 or janice@firstuniversalist.org.

A COLLABORATION OF UU CONGREGATIONS

Mountain Desert District The Mountain Desert District serves 6,845 Unitarian Universalists in 46 congregations in eight states Colorado (20), Idaho (2), Montana (5), Nebraska (1), New Mexico (9), Texas (1), Utah (4), and Wyoming (4) and 10 emerging congregations. The vision of the MDD Board of Trustees is “to lead and inspire the congregations of the District to be a voice of progressive spirituality in order to promote justice, compassion, and peace in the mountain west. Their mission “is to strengthen congregations, helping them to extend the identity, values and ideals of Unitarian Universalism through cooperative efforts.” The district is headquartered in Denver. Contact: Rev. Nancy Bowen, District Executive 303-756-9676 or executive@mdduua.org.

MDD Annual Conference

This year’s Mountain Desert District (46 congregations in 8 states) Annual Conference will be held the weekend of **October 17-19, 2008** at the Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown Hotel in Albuquerque, New Mexico with the theme *Reason & Reverence—Gathering the Sacred Circle*. The keynote speaker will be the Rev. Dr. William R. Murry, former president of Meadville Lombard Theological School. He is the author of *Reason & Reverence: Religious Humanism for the 21st century*. You can register for the conference at www.uua.org/mdd. You can also pick-up registration packets at First Universalist. If you plan on attending, please also contact Pris Ledbury at 303-306-1569 or pledbury@earthlink.net.

UUA Candidates’ Forum

This MDD event will be held in Denver on **March 14, 2009** with the Revs. Laurel Hallman and Peter Morales for UUA President, and candidates for the MDD Trustee on the UUA’s Board. Election of the MDD Trustee will be by congregational absentee ballots due by mid-April 2009.

Journeying to Leadership

The MDD Russell Lockwood Leadership School (RLLS) is a weeklong (Sunday to Saturday) leadership immersion experience that will be offered in late July/early August 2009 for lay leaders. The curriculum features leadership development, UU religious heritage and values, and worship. Attendees also participate in a covenant group. Considered one of the best leadership schools in the country, RLLS explores a progression of themes: *Affirming our Covenant, Deepening our Call to Leadership, Claiming our Prophetic Voice, Nurturing our Faith as Leaders, Building Beloved Community, and Living Out our Mission*. Contacts: Rusty Robison, Dean & Sarah Manning, Registrar. Visit the MDD website for more details: www.mdduua.org.

Care & Connection Conference

MDD plans to sponsor a Care & Connection conference in the spring of 2009. It will explore various models of providing pastoral care within a congregation, including small group ministry.

Building the Beloved Community: How Do We Talk about Race, Class & Privilege?

The Mountain Desert District will sponsor *Building the Beloved Community* on **Friday and Saturday, January 23-24, 2009**. It will be held at First Universalist. The featured presenter will be Dr. Vincent Harding. Dr. Harding is an African American historian and a scholar of religion and society. An activist as well, he is best known for his work with and writings about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He and his wife, Rosemarie Freeney Harding, traveled and worked in the South during the Civil Rights Movement. The couple traveled throughout the South in the early 1960s working as reconcilers, counselors and participants in the Movement. He also was the senior academic consultant for the PBS television series *Eyes on the Prize*. Harding currently serves as Chairperson of the *Veterans of Hope Project: A Center for the Study of Religion and Democratic Renewal*, located at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver. Harding taught at Iliff as Professor of Religion and Social Transformation from 1981 to 2004. Registration information will be publicized in the Unigram.

MDD in Action

Continuing the success of last year, MDD is again requesting district congregations to designate a weekend in April 2009 as Social Action Weekend and to create a variety of experiences to engage people of all ages in social justice activities. First Universalist will be joining in this effort. Details will be forthcoming in the Unigram.

MDD Chalice Lighters Program

Become a MDD chalice lighter and contribute a minimum of \$10 up to four times a year to provide funds to help support congregations in the district cross major thresholds: starting a congregation, helping call the first minister to a congregation, supporting the purchase of a building, improving a RE program, etc. In 2008, the Chalice Lighters (close to 900) gave more than \$35,000 to three individual congregations and to district projects to help small congregations. Join more than 70 chalice lighters at First Universalist. Contact: Nancy Kneipple, 303-771-2777 or nkneipp@msn.com.

A COLLABORATION OF UU CONGREGATIONS

Boulder Denver Cluster

The Boulder Denver Cluster is made up of eight Unitarian Universalist congregations. Representatives from the congregations and other UU constituencies meet five times a year to advance the cluster's mission: *The Boulder Denver Cluster will support Unitarian Universalist congregations and organizations to foster their excellence, increase the visibility of Unitarian Universalism, grow our Unitarian Universalist faith, and transform the wider community through social justice and interfaith partnerships.* The following programs are coordinated by the cluster.

Exploring The Gifts Among Us

The Boulder Denver Cluster will hold this leadership development workshop on **Saturday, October 11, 2008 from 8:30 am to 11:30 am** at First Universalist Church, led by Rev. Nancy Bowen, Mountain Desert District Executive. It will explore generative leadership, culture shifts required by different generational perspectives on leadership, how to bridge these gaps and the impediments to doing so, changing the culture regarding leadership, empowerment, gift-based leadership, and much more.

Sources Cantata

The UU choirs of the Boulder Denver cluster and those from Ft. Collins, Loveland, and Greeley, along with a small orchestra, will perform the *Sources Cantata* on **Saturday, April 25, 2009 at 6:00 pm** at Bethany Lutheran Church, 4500 E. Hampden Avenue, Denver. It is based on the six sources of Unitarian Universalism with words by Rev. Kendyl Gibbons & music by Rev. Jason Shelton.

MLK Marade 2009

Join people of all ages from UU churches in the 24th MLK Marade (march + parade) from the MLK monument in City Park and to Civic Center Park. It will be held on **Monday, January 19, 2009**. The event starts at 8:30 am near the Dr. King statue in City Park. The 2 mile Marade procession begins at 10:00 am and concludes at the Denver Civic Center Park by 1:00 pm. Colorado recognized Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a state holiday in 1984.

Boards Meeting Together

This gathering of board members from our cluster congregations will be held on **Saturday, May 30, 2009 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**. It is an opportunity for leadership development, networking, and sharing best practices.

Living Into Covenant

This new program is an invitation to depth and dialogue for ministerial students and congregational leaders offered by ministers and congregations in the Boulder Denver Cluster. It is designed to enhance learning and fellowship among our congregations and lay leaders as we invest in the formation of UU ministerial students at Iliff School of Theology. The program, funded by the UUA's Panel on Theological Education, will also provide opportunities for lay leadership development, support for Internship Committees, and resources for people considering ministry. Events will be publicized in the *Unigram*.

Communication & Technology Workshop

The Boulder Denver Cluster will sponsor a Communications & Technology Workshop on **Saturday, February 28, 2009 from 8:30 am to 11:30 pm**. While the major focus will be on maximizing the effectiveness of websites, we will also be sharing best practices involving technology.

34th PrideFest 2009

Denver's PrideFest 2009, recognized as one of the top ten pride events in the country, will be held on **Saturday and Sunday, June 27-28, 2009**. The parade begins at 9.30 am from Cheesman Park, and goes west on Colfax Avenue directly to Civic Center Park. People walking in the parade from each cluster church wear a different colored shirt. First Universalist's shirt color is red.

General Assembly is Coming to the Mountain Desert District

The General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, **June 24-28, 2009**. MDD is the host district, which requires recruiting several hundred volunteers to work at GA. Lew Phinney is our GA District Coordinator, 719-332-3562 or lew@usa.net. John Hubert will be the Music Coordinator for Salt Lake (2009) and Minneapolis (2010). This GA will be historic. The Commission on Appraisal will deliver its report on our Principles and Sources with recommendations for changes, and we will be electing the next President of the UUA. GA Planning Committee sponsored workshop proposals are due on October 15, 2008 by 5:00 pm EDT. Start planning now to attend.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

Making & Deepening Connections

Small groups are a key way of making connections at First Universalist. Please see pages 4 through 6 for a number of small groups that are a part of First Universalist. The Small Group Ministry Council is working to create other small groups, beginning with the *EvenSong* groups described below. Newer members are encouraged to participate in the Roots & Branches program (see page 2.)

EvenSong Groups

The Small Group Ministry Council is organizing a number of *EvenSong* groups. Each group will meet for 5 two-hour sessions in homes or at the church. We are looking for leaders and participants. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Joe Stone at 303-759-2770 ext 23 or joe@firstuniversalist.org. We will be forming groups of 8 to 10 people and will launch groups as soon as we have enough people.

EvenSong is a remarkable series of gatherings that offers participants the opportunity to share their life experiences, emotions, and questions with others in an atmosphere of attentive listening. As Thich Nhat Hahn suggested: "When we offer others the gift of our presence, they open up the truths of their lives to us, and in return we also may speak our own truth." The sessions for this *EvenSong* cycle (there are two others) are as follows:

- Ø *Religious and Spiritual Experiences*
- Ø *The Divine: Meanings Old and New*
- Ø *The Human: What Limits Do I Encounter?*
- Ø *The Messiah & the Buddha: What Keeps Me Going?*
- Ø *Ministry*

Taizé Service

On the third Sunday of every month we hold prayerful services in the style of Taizé at 5:00 pm in our Sanctuary. Taizé is a quiet, simple way of praying for peace in our community and the world through song. This meditative candlelit service will include: simple chants sung repeatedly; rich silence; short but profound readings; and guided prayers and meditations for peace. The tradition comes out of France in WWII during the occupation as a way to find peace in a time of war using traditional Christian melodies. We will be using the traditional Christian music as well as other music that represents the many sources of our faith. Join us in song and spirit on Sunday evenings at First Universalist. For more information, please contact John Hubert at john@firstuniversalist.org

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Blueprint for Transformation:

Strategic Planning Initiative for 2008-2009

For First Universalist strategic planning means embarking on a path that maximizes our ability to bring our vision to life by transforming individual lives, creating a Beloved Community, and seeking a better world. The essence of our strategic planning process is improving our health, clarifying our vision, and deepening our commitment. Attributes of healthy congregations include institutional spirituality, radical hospitality, truth seeking, a continuum of care, democratic decision-making, a unifying belief in diversity, pursuit of justice, spreading good words and deeds, practicing right relations, and being good stewards. One other attribute is essential: reverence for the past coupled with effort in the present that is informed by a vision of the future.

We will be using the Appreciative Inquiry (AI) process, which seeks to identify the hidden and underutilized core of strengths of an organization—the positive core. AI's steps include (1) discovery, (2) dream, (3) design, and (4) destiny. The purpose of the **discovery** phase is to search for, highlight, and illuminate those factors that give life to First Universalist, the "best of what is" in any given situation. We hope to conduct at least 200 interviews in this phase. The second phase is to **dream** about what could be. In a Dream Summit we will create a compelling picture of what First Universalist could and should become as it pursues people's deepest hopes and highest aspirations. The third phase is to **design** the church's social architecture – norms, values, structures, strategies, systems, patterns of relationship, ways of doing things – in order to bring the dream to life. The final phase, **destiny**, is an invitation to construct the future through innovation and action. Strategic Planning Team: Kathie Fliss and Jeff Baldwin, Co-chairs, Lenny Obolsky, Charlie Lyon, Mark Kirchhofer, Diane Butler, Gene Drumm, and Spud Van de Water, staff liaison. Go to www.firstuniversalist.org, click on Our Church and then Strategic Planning for updates.

Time Line	Scope of Work
Sept-Nov 2008	Conduct AI Interviews
Nov-Dec 2008	Summarize interviews; map positive core
Jan 10, 2009	Hold Dream Summit
Jan-Feb 2009	Design Phase
March 2009	Outline plan & submit to Board
April 2009	Complete report & submit to Board
May 2009	Congregation votes on strategic plan

WORKSHOP FOR JUSTICE

Justice Making

First Universalist explores a social justice issue each month to lead to deeper engagement. To put our money where our heart is, 20% of the cash in the weekly offering (excluding pledges and other specifically designated contributions) goes to social justice, in addition to the change put in the offering basket for *Children Making Change*. Your generosity will make a difference in the lives of those suffering injustice. Half of this amount will support community organizations doing social justice work aligned with our UU principles. The balance will help fund our internal social justice efforts. Contact: Laura Hoepfner, Social Justice Coordinator at 303-759-2770 or laura@firstuniversalist.org.

Children Making Change

Children have a natural desire to bring positive change to our world. When they are provided with opportunities to help others, it gives them a sense of efficacy and self-worth. Through the *Children Making Change* program, RE students at First Universalist learn about social issues and raise money to support non-profit organizations working for justice. This is also supported by the "change" contributed weekly to the offering during the worship service.

The third Sunday of the month is *Children Making Change* Sunday. This coincides with our Sanctuary Sunday and Social Justice Sunday. (The monthly social justice issues are listed on page 3). To help with *Children Making Change*, contact Erica Stetson at 303-300-3991 or kirkerica@comcast.net. (Organizations supported since February 2005 include: Aids Walk, Angel Heart, Colorado Anti-Bullying Project, Earthforce, Earthlinks, Habitat Interfaith Alliance, Heifer Project International, KIPP Foundation, NAMES, The Gathering Place, , UNICEF, Partner Church & Transylvanian Scholarship, and the UU Service Committee for a total of \$7,700!)

3rd Annual Rex Morgan Social Action Awards

Denis Moynihan will be the keynote speaker for the 3rd Annual Rex Morgan Social Action Awards Event to be held on **April 11, 2009**. Moynihan was the former outreach director for Democracy Now! and currently is CEO of Free Speech TV. Denis has a long history of community activism and organizing and has worked on issues involving globalization, indigenous rights, political prisoners, community organizing and corporate reform as well as extensive experience networking with grassroots groups. Contact Roland Halpern at roland-halpern@msn.com or 303-249-3491.

Building the Beloved Community: How Do We talk About Race, Class & Privilege?

The Mountain Desert District will sponsor *Building the Beloved Community* on **Friday and Saturday, January 23-24, 2009**. It will be held at First Universalist. See page 8.

World Gift Market

The annual World Gift Market will be held on **Saturday, November 22, 2008**. It features gifts and cards supporting work for justice all over the globe (weavings by women in Guatemala, jewelry from Ethiopia, embroidery Transylvania, Potter's for Peace pottery, UU jewelry, greeting cards from the Gathering Place, and Heifer Project's farm animals for families in distant lands. Vendors represent non-profit organizations that support humanitarian work in urban, rural and Third World settings. Contact: Toni Nading, 303-791-3361 or tnading@comcast.net

Gathering Place Women's Shelter Note Cards

These note cards are created by homeless women served by the Gathering Place and can be purchased at the Cole Book Store on Sunday mornings. The women get receive proceeds from these to help them. Contact: Charlene Davis at charlenedavis35@comcast.net or 303-715-0870.

21st Annual AIDS Walk Colorado

AIDS Walk Colorado was started in 1987. It is the largest AIDS fundraiser in the Rockies with over 7000 participants. It benefits the Colorado AIDS Project and 30 other AIDS service and education organizations in Colorado. Support our high school youth in raising money for the AIDS walk, which will be held on **Saturday, September 8, 2008**. Contact: Vincent Hostak at vhostak@comcast.net or 303-955-7599 or Dana Lightsey at 303-759-2770 ext. 22 or dana@firstuniversalist.org

Freedom Fund

The Freedom Fund offers counseling and assistance for low-income women considering abortion. Contact: Rhoda Whitney at rwhitney41@earthlink.net or 303-306-1569.

The Giving Tree

At Christmas-time, we invite members of the church to purchase gifts for deserving people using a wish list provided by the Salvation Army. Tags for desired gifts decorate the Giving Tree at church. People take tags, purchase the gifts, and return them unwrapped to the church. See the Unigram for details. Contact: Pris Ledbury, at 303-306-1569 or pledbury@earthlink.net

WORKSHOP FOR JUSTICE

NAMES

The Native American Multi-Cultural Education School, Inc. (NAMES, Inc.) serves all cultures by teaching Adult Basic Education, General Education Diploma (GED), Computer Competencies, Workplace and Family Literacy. NAMES serves those who seek to improve their education, increase career opportunities, and build their leadership potential. First Universalist has been providing tutors to NAMES since 1999. Contact: Toni Nading, 303-791-3361 or tnading@comcast.net



Guest At Your Table

The *Guest At Your Table (GAYT)* program supports the worldwide humanitarian efforts of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Place the *GAYT* box on your table and put money in it at each meal to reach out across barriers of race, language, and religion to make a difference in the lives of people in America and around the world. Contact: Dan Moen at 303-798-5527 or dmoe54@gmail.com



Inter-Faith Community Services

Inter-Faith Community Services helps meet the basic human needs of food, clothing and shelter. It is the largest emergency and continual support system in South Metro Denver for low-income families, children and seniors. With a philosophy of "a hand up, not a hand out," the agency supports clients' journeys to self-sufficiency and success. Contact: Jean James at 303-688-9474.



Partner Church Task Force

Since 1990, our church has been a partner to the Unitarian church in the village of Kövend (Plaiesti), Romania. Most villagers are Unitarian and most are subsistence farmers. Our Task Force corresponds with our partner church, celebrates our relation each year in February, organizes visits to our partner church (so far, 18 people have visited Kövend and Rev. Szekely and his son, Hunor, visited us in February 2007), provides financial support for special projects (e.g., new gutters for the church), and provides scholarships for room and board so that students from the village can attend the Unitarian High School in the region. Contact: Jo Hehnke at 303-740-0588 or email@JosphineHehnke.net.



TASK FORCES FOR JUSTICE

End-of-Life Task Force

The task force serves as a resource for end-of-life issues: filling out advance health care directives (living wills) and providing information on current legal options for end-of-life care. The task force coordinates with the church to keep end-of-life documents on file to assist in times of need. It conducts workshops on completing living wills, and provides speakers about hospice, physician-aid-in-dying, end-of-life pain management and similar subjects. Contacts: Co-Chairs: Nancy Bale at 303-973-5418 or nhbale@msn.com and Ardis Westwood 303-9529700 or ardisjean@comcast.net.

Gay Rights Task Force

This task force works within First Universalist to educate members of our congregation about GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender) problems, and to encourage participation in specific programs and activities that extend love and caring support to the GLBT community. It also works with other GLBT coalitions and the legislature to change local, state, and federal discriminatory laws. Contact: Pris Ledbury at 303-306-1569 or pledbury@earthlink.net



Green First Task Force

This task force works in four major areas:

- Ø **Green Sanctuary Project:** We are seeking certification as a UUA Green Sanctuary that involves a focus in worship, religious education, sustainable living, and environmental justice. Contacts: Tom Abood at tabood@dsl-mail.com or 303-721-1505 or Janice Dau at 303-759-2770 ext. 24 or janice@firstuniversalist.org
- Ø **Green Team:** This team adapted the national Green Action Guide to Denver, which has become the education program for *Greenprint Denver*. The guide deals with issues and actions involving waste, chemicals, energy, transportation, water and the community. This group forms teams to use the guide. Contact: Toni Nading at 303-791-3361 or tnading@comcast.net.
- Ø **Earth Fair:** This will be held in May 2009, featuring 25 sustainable-living booths with local environmental non-profit and small business groups, information on renewable energy, organic vegetarian lunch, performances by local musicians, and a Kids' Zone for children. Contacts: Toni Nading, Marilyn Halpern, and Janet Melody.
- Ø **Recycling:** First Universalist has several recycling programs. Contact: Kim Henson at 303-759-2770 ext. 10 or kim@firstuniversalist.org.

TASK FORCES FOR JUSTICE

Habitat/Housing Justice



First Universalist is a founding congregation of The Habitat Interfaith Alliance (HIA), an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver (Habitat of Metro Denver was began in 1979 and has built 320 homes). HIA is a group of 12 congregations whose mission is to utilize the energy and commitment of their faith

communities to build homes for families in need, while building a foundation for interfaith trust, communication, and understanding. We built our first home in 2002 and we are now raising money to build our 8th home. Please help us raise the \$70,000 required for our next home by helping with our Pumpkin Patch, Soup Cook-off, and Gold Tournament. Please also volunteer to help build our next home. (Member congregations: B'nai Havurah, Central Christian Church, Christ the King Catholic Church, First Universalist Church, Hebrew Educational Alliance, Prairie Unitarian Universalist Church, Rodef Shalom, St. John's Cathedral, Temple Emanuel, Temple Micah, Temple Sinai, and Trinity United Methodist Church.) Contact: Molly Frank at 303-692-8359 or franksden@msn.com

Health Care Task Force

The goal of this task force is to promote social justice, by working toward equal access to health care for every individual in the United States. They (1) educate First Universalist regarding the current health care crisis, and the injustice of unequal access to health care; (2) educate church members and visitors about emerging national and state health care reform legislation; (3) join existing networks of health care advocates, as well as local ecumenical, interfaith, and community groups, so that individual church members can support their efforts; and (4) encourage concerned individuals to share information, lobby their elected officials, and raise our religious voice in the public policy debate. Contacts: Virginia Johnson at 303-333-6246 or Mvjjohncomcast.net; Ruth Gilbert at 303-757-3622 or Ruth.gilbert@uchsc.edu

Human Rights Task Force

The Human Rights Task Force raises awareness of current social injustices and emergency crises on both a local and national basis. Its primary focus is on Economic Justice, Environmental Justice, Civil Liberties, and Rights in Humanitarian Crises. Past efforts have included the Gulf Coast clean-up following Hurricane Katrina, speaking out about the crisis in Darfur, raising awareness of the privatization of water and other pressing issues. The task force works to encourage people to take action in the way of financial contributions, educating others on the issues, petition signing, contacting elected officials and writing letters to the editors. Contacts: Dan Moen and Mimzy Tackney-Moen at 303-798-5527 or dmoe54@gmail.com

Refugee Assistance Task Force

The Refugee Assistance Task Force (FUURAC) works in concert with Ecumenical Refugee and Immigration Services to help resettle refugees who are legally in Colorado. Assistance includes welcoming families, getting them situated in an apartment, helping them to learn how to shop, taking them to medical appointments, assisting with enrollment of children in local schools and assuring the overall well being of the families. The goal is to get the families to be self-sufficient in as brief a time as possible. We are currently working with two families from Burma, members of the Karen minority, who were living in a refugee camp in Thailand.

Contact: Jessica Montgomerie at 303-330-6167 or jessica@randomchaos.com

OTHER JUSTICE PROJECTS

UNICEF

Contact: Kendra Quinn 303-759-2770 or Kendra@firstuniversalist.org

United Nations Seminar

Contacts: Sandy Schuster, sandra@schusterpost.com or 303-770-3253 and Jackie Greenberg, 303-751-7728 or jglovesbooks@comcast.net

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Contact: Dan Moen and Mimzy Tackney-Moen at 303-798-5527 or dmoe54@gmail.com

UUs for a Slave-Free Mauritania

Contact: Phil McCready at 303-984-6170 or philmccready@msn.com

MUSIC AT FIRST



First Universalist Singers

Come join our exciting 50+ voiced choir! We begin rehearsals on **Wednesday August 20th from 7:15 to 8:45 pm in the Sanctuary**. Highlights of our 2008-2009 season include Gabriel Fauré's exquisite *Requiem* in November and the Colorado premier of Jason Shelton's new work *Sources: A Unitarian Universalist Cantata* with 180 voices and orchestra on April 25, 2009.

Cantabile Chorale

Our auditioned Chamber choir is looking for new members interested in sharing their musical talents with our congregation. This season we will be performing *Carols and Lullabies: Christmas in the Southwest*, a beautiful piece written for chorus, marimba, harp, and guitar by Conrad Susa. We begin weekly rehearsals on **Wednesday, August 27 from 6:15 to 7:15 pm**. Please contact John Hubert.

Women's Chorus

Our new Women's Chorus will perform three times per church year and is looking for new members. There is no regular rehearsal schedule. We will meet the 3 Mondays previous to a performance on Sunday morning. If interested, please contact John Hubert.

Standard Transmission

This is a group of fine musicians who love to play all types of jazz. They are looking for singers or instrumentalists interested in performing on the Sunday service once every few months. Please contact Mark Jennings at mjennings@lgc.com if you are interested.

URockU

We have the great fortune of having a 6-piece band with 4 fabulous singers that like to perform rock and popular music for our services and social events. They rehearse on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month and usually perform 2-3 times a church year. Please contact Pam Donnelly at pameladonnelly@comcast.net if interested.

MUSIC FOR CHILDREN

Chalice Sparks

Open to all children grades K-2. We will introduce each child to the interactive wonders of music through games, songs, and experiences. We will have fun learning all the parts that make up music and deepen the desire to sing! The Chalice Sparks meet on **Thursdays from 5-5:30 pm in Room 12** and perform at the 9:30 am worship service one Sunday a month.

Chalice Flames

Open to all children grades 2/3-5. Our purpose is to continue developing the voice and to introduce the children to melodic and percussive Orff instruments. The Chalice Flames meet on **Thursdays from 5:45-6:30 pm in Room 12** and perform at both worship services on Sunday once a month.

Chalice Singers

Open to all youth in grades 6 through 8. Rehearsals are the **2nd and 4th Sundays of the month between services from 10:45 to 11:15 am**. We sing every other month and help out with the Christmas Musical.



Intergenerational Orchestra

A new group is starting this fall to provide music for the 4:00 pm service on Christmas Eve and the 9:30 am service on Easter. If you have any experience playing ANY instrument and are between the ages of 8 and 105, we invite you to play with our orchestra. We will arrange a part for you that will (hopefully) meet your skill level. Please contact John Hubert as soon as you are able to let him know you are interested.

Stewardship Musical

Our Fourth Annual Stewardship Musical to kick off our canvass campaign will be held on **Saturday, March 7, 2009!** We will present an adaptation of musical theatre tunes around the subject of giving. If you are interested in performing, or helping with this production, please contact John Hubert at 303-759-2770, ext. 35 or John@firstuniversalist.org.

For questions, comments, suggestions, or more information feel free to contact our Director of Music, John Hubert at 303-759-2770 ext. 35 or john@firstuniversalist.org

MUSIC AT FIRST — 2008-2009 CONCERT SERIES

Our Concert Series is designed to bring joy to our members, friends, and the Denver community. Tickets are available online at www.firstuniversalist.org or from John Hubert at john@firstuniversalist.org or 303-759-2770 x 35. You can purchase tickets for individual concerts or for the season. **If you do buy the entire series, you get one concert free!**



Jim Scott

Friday, September 26, 7:30pm

Many people know Jim as a member of the Paul Winter Consort. Jim has a long connection with UUs and has visited our church before.

His hymn, "Gather the Spirit" has become a staple for many congregations, one of three he has in the new Hymnbook. Appearing as guest artist with choirs performing his music, Jim brings together his classical training and a world music consciousness, inspiring singers to stretch to a different level of communication and celebration. Many of his choral pieces use the accompaniment of rhythm section and other instruments. Jim's concerts are often participatory, turning the audience into a choir singing in three and four parts. Come support members of the First Universalist Singers as they perform with Jim on this collaborative concert!

www.jimscottmusic.com

\$12 in advance, \$15 at the door



Southern Journey

Featuring Marta Burton & Stray Dog
Saturday, October 25, 7:30 pm

Concert artist Marta Burton & Stray Dog join forces for *Southern Journey ~ A Tribute to Alan Lomax* and all those dedicated to preserving the folk music of the American South. Burton, who has performed internationally with dozens of symphony orchestras including the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center, began the project in 2007 as a way to honor Lomax and celebrate what he called the "deep river of song...that has coursed through the lives of all Americans. Diverse musicians, including Stray Dog members, Eric Woods (guitar, banjo, mandolin, fiddle and vocals), Joseph Rigley (guitar), Jeff Hooton (bass, accordion and vocals), and Anne Zinschlag (vocals) are joined by singers Chuck Stevenson, Dan Raybon and Richard Pettis. The concert includes extraordinary original versions of well-known and not-so-well-known American folk songs, tunes, spirituals and folk hymns. Performances of *Southern Journey* at *Swallow Hill* and at the *Ellie Caulkins Opera House* were described as "powerful" and "inspiring."

www.martaburton.com

\$15 in advance, \$20 at the door



Saturday, February 7, 7:30 pm



The 17th Avenue All*Stars are recognized as one of the bright stars of contemporary a cappella ... a journey that started over 17 years ago at the legendary club Acappellas in Denver, Colorado. Whether they are performing at a family concert, corporate event, nightclub or large scale music festival, one thing is for sure, the All*Stars always "go the distance to create a completely entertaining and astounding musical experience for their audiences! The 17th Avenue All*Stars are three time Western Regional A Cappella Winners and achieved top honors in 1993 as National A Cappella Champions at the Harmony Sweepstakes, the "super bowl" of a cappella competition. The group's soulful renditions of popular music cover a wide variety of musical styles and span six decades of hits.

www.17thavenueallstars.com

\$15 in advance, \$20 at the door



LIBANA

Saturday, April 17
7:30 pm

Libana is a women's world music ensemble that illuminates the creativity, vision, and spirit of the world's women through the performance of traditional and contemporary music and dance. By raising awareness and appreciation for diverse cultural expressions and the universal themes that unite us all, Libana inspires intercultural understanding, healing, and peacebuilding. Their repertoire of ancient melodies and contemporary tunes is performed a cappella and with a vast array of instruments including guitar, dumbek, accordion, oud, naqqara, clarinet and double bass. Their music is drawn from the divergent cultural expressions of the Mediterranean, the Balkans, the Middle East, Europe, Africa, Asia and South America. Libana's music and dance go directly to the heart, inspiring audiences with wonder in the commonality of the global community.

www.libana.com

\$15 in advance, \$20 at the door

FUN WITH FUNDRAISING

Rock & Roll BBQ Fund Raiser

Plan to attend this delightful event on **Saturday, September 20, 4:30 to 9:30 pm** at the home of Margaret and Doug Griffes. Tickets can be bought in Friendship Hall after services. There will be, delicious BBQ style fare prepared by members of our Hospitality Committee, Cash bar and complimentary soft drinks, wonderful music performed by our talented First U Rock Band who have been practicing for this party for a year and Swimming for adults and children in the Griffes' heated pool (bring your own towel). Join your church community in celebration of the new church year. This is a FUNdraiser for the benefit of our church. Tickets are \$20.00 per adult and \$10.00 per child under 12, large families \$50.00.

Annual Auction

We will hold our annual auction of goods and services **Saturday, November 8, 2008** beginning at **5:00 pm**, with the opportunity to bid on the many phenomenal treasures donated by members and friends. After the silent auction, there will be a delicious light supper. The always popular live auction follows supper. This will be a fantastic time as well as an opportunity to contribute to this important fund-raiser for the church. Contacts: Jo Hehnke at email@JosphineHehnke.net or 303-740-0588 or Jan O'Reilly at jan@firstuniversalist.org or 303-759-2770 x30.



Chili Cook-off

Our annual Chili Cook-off will be held on Saturday evening, **January 31, 2009**. If you're an expert chili maker, submit your chili! If not, come and partake of some wonderful food. We'll have chili tastings complete with celebrity judges, voting for people's favorites, and awards. Wonderful food and fun events makes this a special evening while raising money for the church. Contact: Jan O'Reilly 303-759-2770 x30 or jan@firstuniversalist.org

Wine & Cheese Tasting Party

Join us on Saturday, **March 14, 2009 at 6:00 pm** for a festive evening that combines tasting enchanting wines combined and exotic cheeses. This is followed by a sumptuous dinner and decadent dessert. Participate by volunteering or partaking of this wonderful event. Contacts: William & Terri Connors at 303-766-3440 or bc@valuefin.com

Scripts Program

Need a birthday present for a family member or friend? Are you going to make a purchase that could involve a gift card? Before you make that purchase, stop by the church and order a scrip! The merchants that provide these scrips return a percentage to help support non-profit organizations. Please peruse the list of merchants on the order form in Friendship Hall and purchase a scrip (or 2, or 20!) by the **2nd Sunday of the month** and we will order them. Your scrips will be waiting for you on the **3rd Sunday of each month**. This is an opportunity to purchase products you would buy anyway and support the church at the same time!

First Universalist Craft Fair

This annual 2-day event on **April 25-26, 2009** brings together over 20 artisans and crafters featuring their hand-made items and baked goodies. Bring your friends and treat them to a delicious lunch while shopping for holiday gifts and teacher presents! 20% of gross sales go to First Universalist Church. Contact: Jan O'Reilly 303-759-2770 x30 or jan@firstuniversalist.org

Spring Plant & Flower Sale

Support the church and beautify your home by ordering hanging baskets and bedding plants after services in Friendship Hall throughout the month of March! You can pick up your beautiful plants and flowers just in time for Mother's Day. Contact: Jan O'Reilly at 303-759-2770 x30 or jan@firstuniversalist.org.

Garage Sale

Each spring we hold a garage sale. Begin collecting your gently used treasures and bring them to the church the week before the sale. The date of the sale is tentatively set for Saturday, **June 13, 2009**. Please consider serving on the planning committee for this important church fundraiser. Please contact Jan O'Reilly at 303-759-2770 X30 or jan@firstuniversalist.org. We need 6 to 8 people who can help make this the best garage sale ever!

Grocery Certificates — No Cost Fundraiser

Stop at the Grocery Certificates display in Friendship Hall to help raise money for the church at no cost to you! We sell \$10 and \$25 certificates for King Soopers and \$25 and \$50 Safeway cards before and after every Sunday service. Use the certificates to purchase anything at King Soopers, Safeway, or Vitamin Cottage. The church receives 5% of the proceeds. (Safeway does accept King Soopers certificates.) You may also purchase selected gift cards or Escript cards for a wide variety of retailers. Contact: Jo Hehnke at 303-740-0588 or email@JosphineHehnke.net.