



Unitarian Universalist Church of Greeley January Unifax 2019

*Helping you grow spiritually, live meaningfully, and have the courage
to help heal the world.*

**Join us for Sunday Services at 10:00am
929 15th Street, Greeley, CO 80631**

Childcare for babies and toddlers every Sunday during
services. **Find out more at www.greeleyuuc.org.**

970-351-6751 or Find us on Facebook.

Office Hours: M, 10a-12p /Tue & Fridays 1p – 3p

Worship Liberally

**Sunday, Jan. 6th - “Shakespeare For the New Year”
- Shelly Gaza**

RE: Spiritual Practices – Soul Collage

**Sunday, Jan. 13th - “Ubuntu – I Am Because We
Are” - Rev. Aaron Norris**

RE: Spiritual Practices - Yoga

Sunday Jan. 20th – “MLK’s Beloved Community”

Rev. Aaron Norris

RE: Spiritual Practices - Music

**Sunday, January 27th – “Building Your Own
Theology Class” – Rev. Aaron Norris**

RE: Play Day

Ministerial Musings

We are about to begin a new year. As a church, our year ended on a difficult moment with the sad and shocking death of our music director, Sam Henline who brought such wonderful talent and joy into our lives and sanctuary on Sundays. At the time of this writing, there are two planned memorials for Sam. There will be services both in his home town of South Platte, Nebraska on December 28th and here locally later in the year that his family would like to attend if possible. We will of course keep people aware of the dates. I am confident that both services will be well attended and celebrate a truly remarkable life that has had a profound impact on our church.

I want to take a moment as well to talk about the service we learned of Sam's passing to say how astonished I was at the depth of your commitment to one another and the compassion that I felt in the sanctuary that day. As a congregation, from leadership to worship to choir to folks simply in the pews, you said some profound and loving things and comforted one another in ways revealing the loving community I always knew you to be. I just wanted to repeat how proud I am to lead this congregation. I know that starting a new year in this manner can be incredibly difficult. Tragedy can crowd out all of the wonderful things that we have been blessed with the whole year through and also diminish the hope that remains. Even in our time of sorrow however, we have also had good fortune. Folks are seeing one another at Sunday services after some breaks and new folks are coming to see what Unitarian Universalism has to offer many communities in Weld County. For myself, I have been quite surprised to see the number of folks coming from Brush. You are quite the hardy people! As I said in the past year, in the New Year, stepping in our door (again or for the first time) will require acts of courage on their part; inviting people to come and continuing to make space for them at the table will be acts of generosity on ours; maintaining these relationships will be acts of love on everyone's part. May our faith community's life be filled with acts of courage, generosity, and love.

The winter solstice is an interesting and difficult time every year and always has been in the human experience. When the days have grown short and the nights are cold, it is important to remember the wisdom that ancient ancestors have come to recognize most characterizes the season: Hope. Hope is there, I promise. You won't find it among the temptations of nostalgia. Although hope may be rooted in the past, it has well outgrown that place. Hope is somewhere out in front of us in our future. Each day this time of year lengthens a moment at a time. It may be slow, but it is also comfortably steady.

No day is shorter than last and if this day was not long enough, tomorrow will be longer. That is why hope most characterizes this season. That is Nature's lesson for humanity at this time of year.

Emily Dickson once wrote a poem, which, like all her poetry, she kept privately, but we've been blessed to have:

"Hope" is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -
And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm -

I've heard it in the chilliest land -
And on the strangest Sea -
Yet - never - in Extremity,
It asked a crumb - of me.

Let's not keep our "Hope" this time of year private. In the New Year, let us share our hope with one another: our hope for ourselves, our lives and our families, our faith community, and our world. Not reaching back into an idyllic past but forward into a hopeful future. Come to Sunday services to share. Come to ministry meetings to bring your ideas. Come to classes and events to learn more.

I wish you a New Year that grows into your hopes, that deepens your relationships with our church. May our community and our world begin to reflect our hopes and dreams and, as I remind us on most Sundays, through the work of our hearts and hands, in acts of courage, generosity and love.

Yours in Faith and Fellowship,
Rev. Aaron Norris
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Your Board at Work

The BOT has been busy setting up and evaluation process for our new minister. The shorter version that will be administered in early January, will only have input from Board members, many of whom participate in any number of activities throughout the church. We have also been listening to your comments and will be sharing those with Reverend Norris, as well. We hope to have an annual process and evaluation tool ready prior to the annual Congregational Meeting in May, in which we will be soliciting information from a wider audience. In the past, these have been provided by the UUA, but our goal is to have something in place for UUCG, as we currently do not have this. We also

will be looking to develop evaluations for our employees, as well. It's time for us to be ready for our next step upward. For now, though, it is felt important to provide feedback to Reverend Norris on our journey together, thus far. Certainly, do not hesitate to talk with me if you have any questions or concerns about the process.

With a sad and heavy heart, we also have begun the search for a new Music Director. Sam has left some big shoes to fill, but the life of the church continues on, as does the music he has left in our hearts. We will begin a formal search after the first of the year and it may take some time to fill. In the interim, please be patient with us, as we work diligently on filling the emptiness, we all now feel in the Sanctuary.

We will be contacting the City of Greeley to conduct an internal water audit for the church, sometime after the first of the year. In keeping with our green policies, the City was helpful in providing future direction for us with the sprinklers. They also conduct indoor audits to help us conserve water, often times replaces certain fixtures for free. This can also be done at your home. Thank you, Margaret!

Please watch for future fundraisers coming early next year and we continue to grow and manage our finances. Certainly, it's not one of my favorite tasks, but nonetheless, a necessary one. We do hope to offer another garage sale in the spring, as Kathy Vaughn and Eulice Kogovsek have graciously offered to organize one for us. It was a lot of work, but also a lot of fun and I certainly look forward to 2019 being even bigger and better.

I cannot tell you how proud I am of our church, especially with regard to our giving generously. We have been working hard as a community to serve others through recognizing non-profits in the area. Please remember, you can offer suggestions in our suggestion box at any time.

I hope you all had a safe and enjoyable holiday or anticipate the same (depending upon when you read this). On behalf of the board, we look forward to working with you in 2019, as we continue to shape our voice in Northern Colorado. If you listen, I think you can already hear the hum and it's getting louder.

Julie Miller, President UUCG BOT

Contacting UUCG Staff and Board

Reverend Aaron Norris: minister@greeleyuuc.org

Board President, Julie Miller:

jmilleruucg@gmail.com

Board Vice President, Kathy Wise:

Tucker3747@gmail.com

Board Treasurer, Kathy Vaughn

Kathy.jinka@gmail.com

Board Member At Large, Sharlene Meydell

smahrdesign@gmail.com

Board Secretary, Josette Schaffer

josetteschaffer@msn.com

Office Manager, Margaret Chiniquy

office_manager@greeleyuuc.org

Grow In Spirit



Youth Religious Education.

R.E. Teachers are Miles Holcomb, and Kathy Vaughn.

January 6- Spiritual Practices- Soul Collage

January 13- Spiritual Practices-Yoga

January 20- Spiritual Practices- Music

January 27- Spiritual Practices- Meditation

Treasurers Report

Nov. 2018

Income: \$ 7654.55

Expenses: \$ 5462.50

checkbook balance ..\$ 2192.05

Savings \$48757.50

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Vaughn, Treasurer

Our Year of Living Generously

Please be sure to add your non-profits to the potential organizations that may be recipients of our plate as we continue our Year of Living Generously. So far, the recipients have been The Weld Food Bank, LFS's Refugee & Asylee Programs, SAVA (serving victims of sexual assault) and SPLASH, a non-profit serving LGBTQIA+ children, adolescents, and their families in Northern Colorado. It is a testament to our Stone Soup (if you don't know what that's about, just ask Reverend Norris).

Roof Replacement

Our roof replacement will be taking place sometime next year, as all the roofers in town have had to halt work due to the weather. Supplies, due to the number of natural disasters in the country will be in heavy demand, as well, so it may be even summer before the roof gets done. Fortunately, we have no major leaks, but this is definitely a reality as our natural world and we deal with the ever-present concern of global warming. UUCG will continue to help

make our community aware of the importance of environmental conservation.

Humbly, your BOT President, Julie Miller

Happy Birthday!



January

Claire Barta – 11
Doug Marek – 15
Shell Hanselman – 15
Debbie Peyton – 24
August Gaza – 25

If we forgot your January Birthday, please let us know- we would love to add yours to the list! Send an email to office_manager@greeleyuuc.org. Birthdays are celebrated every first Sunday with cake.

Lead and Manage Mindfully

The Standing Group Meetings are as follows:

Social Justice Group – 2nd Tues. @ 10am

Board of Trustees – 3rd Monday @ 6pm

Contact Julie Miller with any care or concerns at Jmilleruucg@gmail.com or Magaret Chiniquy at office_manager@greeleyuuc.org or 970-351-6751.

Gather in a Caring Community

Social Justice

Social Justice Meeting Tuesday Jan. 8th, at 10:30 am. Thanks for all the warm clothing donations! They were distributed to Lutheran Social Services and the Guadalupe Homeless Shelter.



Fermenting Spirituality

I have thoroughly enjoyed my participation in the monthly Fermenting Spirituality sessions! I have joined Reverend Aaron at Patrick's Irish Pub and discussed the monthly theme. In November, we considered

justice. What does justice look like? Where does it come from? Does it change? If so, how? In December, family was the theme. What is family? Where does family originate? Is family fixed? What is the role of human nature in family? I am looking forward to 6:00 January 14th at Patrick's Irish Pub to discuss Community. I hope you come join us, I want to learn from you!

Josette

Women's March in Greeley

at Lincoln Park Saturday January 19th at 10:00a. Meet at the UUCG at 9:30a if you'd like to carpool. No need to go to Denver or anywhere else. Locally we are coming together to celebrate the women of our city, county and state. From business owners to physicians. Come out and support these ladies! Featured speakers are:

Honorable Representative Betsy Markey

Honorable Senator Polly B. Baca

Honorable councilwoman Pamela Shaddock

Healthcare advocate Deb Bennett Woods

Past Weld Democrats Chair Patricia Bruner

Honorable councilwoman Stacy Suniga

Weld District Six Board member Rhonda Solis

Hispanic Women Of Weld County President Juanita Martinez

Immigrant Refugee of NOCO Director- Lisa Taylor
Hope to see you there!

Sponsored by- League of Women Voters, Greeley Indivisible, Woman's International League of Peace and Freedom, Weld County Democratic Party, Greeley Human Relations Commission, Hispanic Women of Weld County, and Pirate radio 104.7

Just Like Us, by Karen Zacarias

January 25 & 26, 2019 at Hansel Phelps Theatre (inside the Union Colony Civic Center in Greeley) \$5 suggested donation at the door (general admission seating) **All donations collected will benefit the UNC DREAMers scholarship fund.** About the play: Directed by UUCG friend Jose David Renoza (who spoke at UUCG in September), *Just Like Us* follows four Latina teenage girls in Denver — two of whom are documented and two who are not—through young adulthood. Written by Mexican American playwright Karen Zacarias and based on the bestselling book by Helen Thorpe.

PSWD 2019 District Assembly

Save the weekend of April 26-28, 2019, for the next **Pacific Southwest District Assembly** at the UU Church of Long Beach, California! Our theme will be, "From the Ground Up: The Power of Our PSWD Communities." The congregation is the foundation of our Unitarian Universalist faith. Everything we do as an expression of our faith is grounded in the local communities from which we all take comfort and strength. Some of our greatest joys sprout from the spiritual communities and the congregations of the Pacific Southwest District – both large and small. How does the theme apply to your congregation or your life?

Looking for way to contribute to UUCG on Sundays?

You don't have to speak in public or have the best voice in the world, as there are a number of ways in which you can help UUCG on Sundays.

- **Bring a snack for coffee/volunteer** - Our volunteers not only make the coffee but they often donate their own dollars for snacks for coffee. Your \$\$ donation for coffee time or snack donation can help offset those costs for our Coffee Hour volunteers. You can also volunteer to make coffee and help with clean-up. Talk to Margaret and she will get you connected.
- **Offer to shovel the sidewalks when it snows** - Just contact Julie Miller to help with the task. The more, the merrier and it will get done quickly. Shovels and snow remover are readily available at the church.
- **Greet** - A warm smile and a "hello" are a wonderful start to any Sunday morning. Bulletins are printed and waiting. You help us take a tally on attendance and make sure our guests are contacted by board members or our minister.
- **Help with our AV team** - We can always use some extra hands running our AV equipment - microphones, slideshows, videos & training is provided. Volunteers often are scheduled 1 time or less per month, based on availability.
- **Special Music** - Do you have some musical talent you would like to share? Please consider sharing it with us.

Giving in Gratitude



Scrip Announcement

A Scrip Order will be placed on December 2nd, with the cards returning by December 9th! This is a great way to buy gift cards as stocking stuffers or reorder some

Sprouts cards. The order forms are on the bulletin board. Please return checks and order forms to Josette on December 2nd. The last order brought in over \$30.00 for our congregation (and that was only three people ordering)! Also, King Soopers and Safeway cards can be purchased on December 2nd. To do this at home online our enrollment code is **L4FL5B2532434** Let me know if you have questions. Josette 381-7891 or josetteschaffer@msn.com

Buy your rechargeable King Sooper and Safeway cards on the first Sunday of each month in the foyer!

Don't forget to refill your King Soopers Cards. The church receives 5% of your purchase.

\$10 will get you a refillable Safeway Card!!

Reviving the UUCG Birthday Fund



Our first UU Principle affirms "the inherent worth and dignity of every person." This means that, "It's a blessing you were born," as the catchy song we sing says! Blessings lead to gratitude, and the privilege of "paying it forward." We say in our service each week, "we are blessed, and so we are called to be a blessing." Have you recently been blessed with another year of life? Have you been blessed by someone else's life? Either way, the tradition of the UUCG Birthday Fund offers an opportunity to bless UUCG with an amount of money equal to the number of years of life (your own, or that of a person who has blessed you with their presence). Our seventh UU Principle affirms "respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." Maybe you

would like to contribute in honor of another year in the life of your beloved pet, a beloved tree/river/garden, or some other way to honor the interdependent web of life? Maybe you would like to honor the loss of a life you held dear (person, animal or nature)? Maybe you would like to begin teaching your children about honoring the gift of life, UU principles, generosity, paying it forward, etc. by helping them contribute on their birthdays, or that of a pet or another part of the interdependent web when you are out in nature? Simply write a check with "birthday fund" in the memo, or place cash in an envelope with "birthday fund" written on the outside. Each month as we report in the Unifax how much money we've taken in with pledges and offerings in the plate, we will also report how much we've taken in for our Birthday Fund. Please help us revive this UUCG tradition which reminds us of the quote by Albert Schweitzer, "What we call love is in its essence reverence for life.

and its place throughout the lives of the Jewish people in Europe during the Holocaust. At his 2018 performance, the band performed a song Sam had written and he received a standing ovation. In the year ahead, Sam was planning to depart UUCG and pursue his doctorate in Klezmer music. It should come as no surprise that he had been accepted into three separate programs. Oh, the places he would have gone! Sam was not only known to us at UUCG, but he was also known throughout many musical circles. He travelled to Europe for several summers playing music in castles and spoke enthusiastically of performing with an opera group and the many, many adventures he had while travelling. Sundays, of course, he provided us with music and diligently worked with the UUCG choir to build a program from which so many of us benefitted. Through his work, Sam showed us the power of music. Some words that have been used to describe him since the day of his passing are, "gifted", "gentle", "sensitive", "delightful", and "calm". For me, I shall remember Sam as humble and insightful. He knew that music could find something in all of us that words often cannot. Having known Sam, we all are richer having found a little bit more of ourselves.



In Memoriam: Sam Henline by Julie Miller

For most of us, Sunday, December 16th took our breath away as we heard about the death of Sam Henline, our Music Director. Sam, as most of you now know died tragically the day before in an accident at

his residence. Although, Sam participated in a number of musical groups throughout Colorado, most of us knew him, not only as our Music Director, but as Shmuel, the front man for Shmuel and the Mentshn. Shmuel introduced us to the world of Klezmer music. When the group performed, the church was packed with heads bobbing and people weaving side-to-side as they were mesmerized by the music slowly building and erupting into a toe tapping rhythm. Some of us would dance arm in arm because we just could not help ourselves. During those performances, Sam also educated us on the history of Klezmer

Echoes of Gratitude

The UU church would like to Thank the Following

Thank you to : Claire Metuslaem, Kathy Vaughn, Shelly Gaza, and Danelle Beauvais for your time and efforts in Worship. Thank you to Brian & Shelly Gaza for continuing to Co-Chair the Worship Associate Committee.

Thank You to: Josette Schafer, Michelle Noftsker, Ana Schultz, and Kristina Bain for your Happy Smiling Faces in Greeting!

Thank you to: Julie Miller, Joe Joyner, and Brian Gaza in A/V. Your time and talents in A/V are much appreciated!

Thank you to: The Gaza Family, Romy Miller, Ana Schultz and Dianne Culver for your help with the Coffee and Clean up on Sundays!

Thank you to Linda Beauvais for your accompanist talents for our Christmas Eve Service!

