



# High Plains News

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

November 2016

High Plains Church - Unitarian-Universalist

Vol 23, No 11

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## Social Justice Film Screening

Friday, November 4 • 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the Main Sanctuary

**Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War** is an account of a daring rescue mission that occurred on the precipice of World War II. It tells the story of Waitstill & Martha Sharp, a Unitarian minister and his wife from Wellesley, Massachusetts, who left their children behind in the care of their parish and boldly committed to multiple life-threatening missions in Europe Over two dangerous years they helped to save hundreds of imperiled political dissidents and Jewish refugees fleeing the Nazi occupation across Europe.

## Thanksgiving Day Potluck



HPCUU will be holding our annual Thanksgiving Day potluck again this year on November 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. All members, friends and guests are welcome! Last year, we had lots of fun in addition to having ALL of your favorite holiday foods – but you only have to cook/buy 1 or 2 dishes!

Please sign up at the Fellowship counter or RSVP to [fellowship@hpcuu.org](mailto:fellowship@hpcuu.org). Many thanks!

## Events Calendar - November 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 One Dhama 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	2	3 Stitchers 9:30 am - 11:00 am Theology on Tap 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	4 Social Justice Movie: <b>Defying the Nazis</b> 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm	5 Path to Membership 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Mindfulness for Youth 9:30 am - 11:00 am
6 CUUPS Meeting 11:30 am - 12:30 pm YRUU Youth Group 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm	7 Navigators USA 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	8 One Dhama 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	9 Faith Formation Team 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm SGE Meeting 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	10 Theology on Tap 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	11	12 Mindfulness for Youth 9:30 am - 11:00 am Popcorn Theology 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
13 Social Justice Forum 11:30 am - 12:30 pm Coming of Age 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm OWL - 11th & 12th 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm	14	15 One Dhama 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	16	17 Stitchers 9:30 am - 11:00 am Theology on Tap 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	18 Board Meeting 9:30 am - 12:00 pm Hip Parents Group 06:00 pm - 09:00 pm	19 Mindfulness for Youth 9:30 am - 11:00 am Issues on Aging 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
20 YRUU Youth Group 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm	21 Navigators USA 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Spanish Conversation 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	22 One Dhama 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	23	24 Thanksgiving Potluck 1:00 pm	25	26 Deck the Hall 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
27 Fourth Sunday Forum 11:45 am - 12:45 pm YRUU Youth Group 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm	28 Spanish Conversation 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	29 One Dhama 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	30			
Be sure to check the Events Tag on the website at <a href="http://www.hpcuu.org">www.hpcuu.org</a> for additions and corrections to the calendar.						

### November Services - Story

**Nov 6:** We are delighted to welcome back the Award Winning Slam Poetry Group "Hear, Here" to High Plains! "Hear, Here" will present their incredible poetry in a service that promises to be both moving and meaningful. You won't want to miss it!

**Nov 13:** *"Honoring All Who Serve"* with Rev. Dana Lightsey. This Veteran's Day service is our opportunity to lift up those who serve or have served in the military. This service will honor our rich military heritage and our never-ending pursuit of world peace. Let us join together in honoring all those who serve.

**Nov 20:** *"Transgender Day of Remembrance"* with Nico Wilkinson. There have been numerous issues around people who are trans in the news lately. The truth, that often doesn't come out, is that they are targets of hate crimes all over the world and hundreds are killed each year or die by suicide. Join guest presenter, Nico Wilkinson as we honor and commemorate their lives on this annual Transgender Day of Remembrance. Nico is a trans poet and speaker and a member of the Poetry group, "Hear, Here".

**Nov 27:** *"Old and New Stories of Hope"* with Rev. Dana Lightsey. Are you feeling challenged to be thankful after our brutal and emotionally damaging election season? The idealized story of the pilgrims misrepresents the atrocities committed by our forefathers in order to create our nation. The old narrative of "Manifest Destiny" is still playing out today with the Native Americans at Standing Rock. We need to tell better stories, stories of hope from the past. And we need to be a part of a new story for our world that brings healing and hope. What are those stories?



## Minister's Musings

by Rev Dana Lightsey

*The truth about stories is that that is all we are. ~ Thomas King*

We think our lives are made up of objective reality, but really, if you think about it, our lives are instead made up of the stories we tell ourselves. Something happens to us and we immediately create a story about it to give it an interpretation, to help us fit this new experience into our current world-view. It is in these moments we have the choice to shape our entire outlook. Are we pessimistic or optimistic? Is the world out to get us, or are we surrounded by good people who help each other out? This campaign season has been a stark and painful reminder of the power of story to sway people's perspectives.

As Unitarian Universalists, we have a long legacy of challenging stories that are damaging, divisive, or simply do not make any sense such as a pre-destined heaven and hell, or justifications for slavery and other injustices. And, we are called by our faith tradition of Unitarian Universalism to work toward rewriting the stories of inequality and injustice in our culture.

So what is the story of High Plains Church, UU and how do you tell it? We are in the midst of trying to sort out how best to move into the future. The Board of Trustees is putting together a plan to share information and gather input from the congregation over the next couple of months. There is no question that we are facing some kind of change.

So, how we decide to move into the future has a lot to do with the stories we tell about ourselves right now.

We could choose to think about our future from a strictly pragmatic perspective of finding a solution so we can at

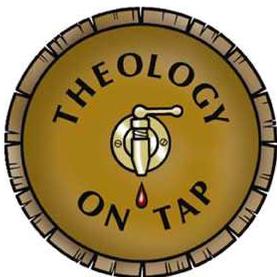
least survive. This seems logical until we remember why we exist in the first place. Instead of focusing on mere survival, we could choose to let our imaginations have a bigger vision based on how we want to live our values in the world. How are WE going to rewrite the cultural norms that promote injustice and inequality? Do we see ourselves as having that capacity? We will make different choices based on the answers to these questions.

Is it possible to see before us a great opportunity to create a bold and inspiring vision that has the power to transform this entire congregation and community? Many of you have told me how inspired you are by the idea of creating an interfaith center. An interfaith center has the potential to bring a number of faith communities together to create a coalition that becomes a powerful force for healing in our community and in our world. There is so much more we could accomplish together than by staying separated. What if we dedicated ourselves to this vision? *This is a story that is truly big enough and powerful enough to be worthy of your future.*

You may have other powerful ideas and stories that are worthy of this congregation. If so, I hope you share your thoughts with me and with the board in the next couple of months.

Whatever happens, may our future be guided by a deeply meaningful and inspiring purpose that expresses the very heart and soul of this great church.

In faith,  
Rev. Dana Lightsey



Want to discuss theology over a nice cold beer (or other beverage)? Come join us at the Whistle Pig Brewery every Thursday night for drinks, food and deeper discussion about our various theological principles, ideas and beliefs.

Drop-in attendance welcome!

Meetings will be facilitated by Vista Grande's Rev. Clare Twomey and Rev. Dana Lightsey from High Plains Church, UU.

Please note that your drink is your choice – no alcohol is required to join in! Also, feel free to have a meal, the Whistle Pig has great food.



# Faith Formation

by Jessica Laike



Have a child between the ages of 5 & 7 looking for a positive scouting experience? Then Navigators USA might be for you.

Our goal is teach outdoor skills, first aid, cultural awareness, science, history, and other subjects that will help promote confidence, citizenship, and good leadership in our children.

We meet the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at High Plains Unitarian Universalist Church, 6:00 p.m. We will try to have one weekend day outing a month. Older and younger siblings can participate if desired.

Yearly dues are \$50 per child.



**MORAL COMPASS**  
 As a Navigator I promise to do my best  
 To create a world free of prejudice and ignorance.

To treat people of every race, creed,  
 Lifestyle and ability with dignity and respect.

To strengthen my body and improve  
 My mind to reach my full potential.

To protect our planet and  
 Preserve our freedom.

**Navigator Cardinal Points**  
 A Navigator is:  
 Trustful  
 Respectful  
 Inclusive  
 Generous  
 Polite  
 Dependable  
 Resourceful  
 And Cooperative.

**Navigator Motto**  
 Stay On Course

**Navigator Slogan**  
 The more you give  
 The more you get

**Navigators USA is a coed, secular, inclusive organization dedicated to helping our children, the next generation of leaders, reach their full potential and make sound choices for the future.**

If interested, please contact [chapter103@navigatorusa.org](mailto:chapter103@navigatorusa.org)  
 For more information, about NavigatorsUSA, go to [www.navigatorusa.org](http://www.navigatorusa.org)

## What's Happening in Faith Formation?

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

- Every Thursday** Theology on Tap at Whistle Pig Brewery at 6:00 pm
- November 1:** *One Dharma* with Ayya Dhammadhira at 7:00 pm
- November 4-6:** 9<sup>th</sup> Grade trip retreat at Foothills Unitarian, Ft. Collins, CO
- November 5:** *Mindfulness for Children* with Sister Ayya Dhammadhira for children age 5-8 at 9:30 am - 10 am  
*Mindfulness for Children & Youth* with Sister Ayya Dhammadhira for children age 9 and up at 10:15 am - 11:00 am
- November 6:** CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) Meeting at 11:30 am
- November 6:** YRUU Youth Group at 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
- November 7:** Navigators USA (co-ed scouting group) at 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- November 8:** *One Dharma* with Ayya Dhammadhira at 7:00 pm
- November 9:** Faith Formation Team Meeting at 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
- November 11-13:** MDD Leadership Development Conference, First Unitarian Society of Denver
- November 12:** *Mindfulness for Children* with Sister Ayya Dhammadhira for children age 5-8 at 9:30 am - 10:00 am  
*Mindfulness for Children & Youth* with Sister Ayya Dhammadhira for children age 9 and up at 10:15 am - 11:00 am
- November 12:** Popcorn Theology for Young Adults (18-35ish) potluck and movie night at 6:00 pm
- November 13:** Coming of Age (9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grade) & Our Whole Lives (11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade) at 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
- November 15:** *One Dharma* with Ayya Dhammadhira at 7:00 pm
- November 18:** Open Covenant Parent's Group at 6:00 pm
- November 19:** *Mindfulness for Children* with Sister Ayya Dhammadhira for children age 5-8 at 9:30 am - 10:00 am  
*Mindfulness for Children & Youth* with Sister Ayya Dhammadhira for children age 9 and up at 10:15 am - 11:00 am
- November 20:** Children's Chapel at 11:00 am - 11:00 am  
YRUU Youth Group - Thanksgiving Potluck at 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
- November 21:** Navigators USA (co-ed scouting group) at 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- November 21:** Spanish Conversation Class with Alcira Estevez at 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
- November 22:** *One Dharma* with Ayya Dhammadhira at 7:00 pm
- November 26:** Deck the Hall at 10:00 am
- November 28:** Spanish Conversation Class with Alcira Estevez at 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
- November 29:** *One Dharma* with Ayya Dhammadhira at 7:00 pm

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



## The President's Post

by Fran Pilch

Hello Everyone!

I can't believe it is November! I do love this time of year. Especially Thanksgiving! I value the reminder to be grateful for the abundance with which we have been blessed. Our food and shelter, our friends and family. I am grateful to all of YOU, who help sustain and support High Plains Church.

Your Board has been working overtime for the past two months. We have had several sessions of more than five hours each, and added biweekly sessions as we attempt to fashion the way forward to address our problem with financial stability. Right now, our number one priority is to make sure the congregation is informed of everything that is happening concerning our future, and that every single member of the congregation has the opportunity to provide his or her input into the decision-making process. To that end, let me bring you up to date on what has been on our agenda.

We met with one of the real estate agents whom the Strategic Planning Committee had consulted. Our objective at this meeting was to better understand the valuation of our property, to obtain information about rental options (both the possibility of our renting space and also of others renting space from us), and to discuss the real estate climate this year. We did not make any decisions or enter into any agreements. We were simply seeking information to supplement the SPC Report.

The Vista Grande situation is still unresolved. We don't have any further information to give you concerning their timetable for the sale of their property or for their potential sharing of space with us, though they have indicated that they are interested in considering doing so if things fall into place for them.

We have developed a timetable for informing the congregation further concerning our options. In addition to seeking input from YOU concerning whether we should stay in our facility or go elsewhere, we are interested in sharing more ideas about an interfaith community as an option. We intend to open up considerable dialogue on that possibility. We seek to remind you that staying in our facility is dependent upon 1) raising considerable funds to balance our budget, pay down our debt, and see to a lot of deferred maintenance that is absolutely necessary for our facility or 2) cutting our budget (or a combination of the two).

By November 6 we will have an "executive summary" to distribute to you concerning various options. On Sunday November 13, following the church service, we will hold a forum to make sure you understand the summary and to begin to collect input from you. On December 4th, Sunday, following the church service, we will hold another Forum with breakout groups (world café concept) to discuss options in more detail. In addition, every Sunday after church, at least one board member, and probably more, will be available to converse with anyone who wants to offer his/her opinions or who needs clarification on our progress. On January 8th, we will hold a Congregational Meeting to convey to you the information we have gathered concerning your inputs and ideas, and the "WAY FORWARD" that the board proposes.

Your opinions MATTER. High Plains Church is truly a vibrant community with a unique and important voice in Colorado Springs. Please read your emails, participate in discussions, and understand that we will find a way through this dilemma, but only with YOUR HELP!

In gratitude,  
Fran Pilch

## Halloween Carnival

By Snoi Fellows

Thank you to all who came out to the Halloween Carnival. It was a great time! We raised \$311.00 for next summer's Chalice of Fire Camp. The winners of the raffle baskets were:  
 Getta Palumbo - Fesgen artwork  
 Logan Bliss - World treats basket  
 Dante Baptist - Netflix basket.  
 Thank you to all the volunteers who've helped make it such a success.



## High Plains Stitchers

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

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

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

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

Questions? Contact Ruby Doyle at [stitchers@hpcuu.org](mailto:stitchers@hpcuu.org).





# “Deck the Hall”

Saturday, November 26

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

*Please join the Aesthetics Team as we decorate HPCUU for the holiday season!*

Kids of all ages are welcome!

Holiday treats will be provided.



G's - J's It's your turn  
to “HiP Snack” this month!  
~ **November** ~

If your last name begins with **G, H, I or J**, please pick a Sunday this month and bring a snack for after the service:

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

For questions, contact: [HiPSnacks@hpcuu.org](mailto:HiPSnacks@hpcuu.org)

## 2017 High Plains Annual Auction

**Saturday Night January 21, 2017**

By Gretchen Hein - Auction Chair

This year's theme is Rock n Roll. Are you a 60's Beatle fan or an 80's U2 fan, either way come as a groupie, rocker or the whole band and expect to have fun.

High Plains has a long tradition of supporting our church with this popular event. We raise money for the church while we eat, drink and party to live music. Put this date on your calendar now and consider your offering for either the Silent Auction or the Live Auction.

If you have a vacation home or condo please offer it for a long weekend or week, and if you enjoy cooking, offer a Mexican Dinner for 8, plan a Murder Mystery Night, or donate items like jewelry, pottery, gift baskets or snowboards.

This year I need help from everyone to go out of their comfort zone and solicit big items like a T.V, original art, hiking equipment, a bicycle, grill etc. for the Live Auction.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**2017 High Plains Church Annual Auction**



**When: Saturday January 21, 2017**

**Where: High Plains Church**

**Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm**

**There will be a Silent Auction and Live Auction**

**Live entertainment**

**Food and Beverages**

**Opportunity for drawings**

**CONTACT Gretchen Hein for more information**

### Something new this year too:

The Auction team would like to have members of the congregation decorate one table with a Rock Band in mind. We will help brainstorm ideas and even help setting the table, but we need you all to gather the decorations. I would like to be able to volunteer many of you for this. ?

The Auction Donation forms will be ready online on Nov 1st, 2016 and at church on November 6, 2016.

I will be available after church on Sundays to answer Auction questions.

## Issues on Aging for November

By Sue Neufeld

Our November 19th Issues on Aging meeting will feature our own Dr. Bill Hein speaking on the common ailments of aging. Learn about testing, treating, and preventing the health conditions that take the joy out of aging. All are welcome. We will meet in the Middle School classroom from 10:30 am - noon. Call Sue Neufeld (260-9625) if you have any questions.

## The Small Group Experience

By Jill Forney

*I wish there was more time for discussion!* That is what we heard from those of you who attended the service on October 16 and got a taste of the small group experience. Reverend Dana spoke about how the simple act of talking - connecting with one another - is the thing we UU's do the best. If you were there, you experienced that first hand. And wanted more!

The good news is we have a number of new groups forming for the Spring Session (January - April). Come and forge deeper bonds with your fellow UU's than coffee hour or other church activities allow. Come and discover how the groups create a safe space for spiritual exploration, deepen our connections with one another, and provide opportunities for inspired action. Come and experience firsthand why our small groups, and the relationships formed there, are credited by so many as a highlight of church involvement.

If the Spring Session doesn't work for you, just let us know and we will sign you up for the Summer Session (June-July), or the Fall Session (August - November). Meanwhile, if you don't want to wait, groups are always open and there are no rules or timeframes to join.

We are currently accepting and recruiting facilitators and co-facilitators for the Spring, Summer and Fall sessions. If you are interested in learning more, please join us for a facilitator training on Saturday, November 12! You can always contact your Small Group Experience Steering Committee at [sgm-steering@hpcuu.org](mailto:sgm-steering@hpcuu.org).

**We hope to see you in a small group!**





**HPCUU**  
1825 Dominion Way  
Colorado Springs CO 80918

High Plains Church 719-260-1080  
Unitarian Universalist

Member of Unitarian Universalist Association

Sunday Services at 10:00 AM

Come Join Us!

**Inside:**

- Social Justice Movie Night**
- Annual Thanksgiving Potluck?**
- Deck the Hall**
- Annual Auction**

**Send Comments to:** [editor@hpcuu.org](mailto:editor@hpcuu.org)  
**Send Articles to:** [newsletter@hpcuu.org](mailto:newsletter@hpcuu.org)

**Please submit your articles for the December newsletter by November 25, 2016**

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

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

Contact the Publicity team at [publicity@hpcuu.org](mailto:publicity@hpcuu.org) if you would like to place an add in the HPCUU Newsletter.



**Water** (Ionized, Alkaline) – What you should be drinking  
**Coffee/Tea** (Organo Gold) – Healthy Herb; great taste  
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## ReVISIONS by Jonathan

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