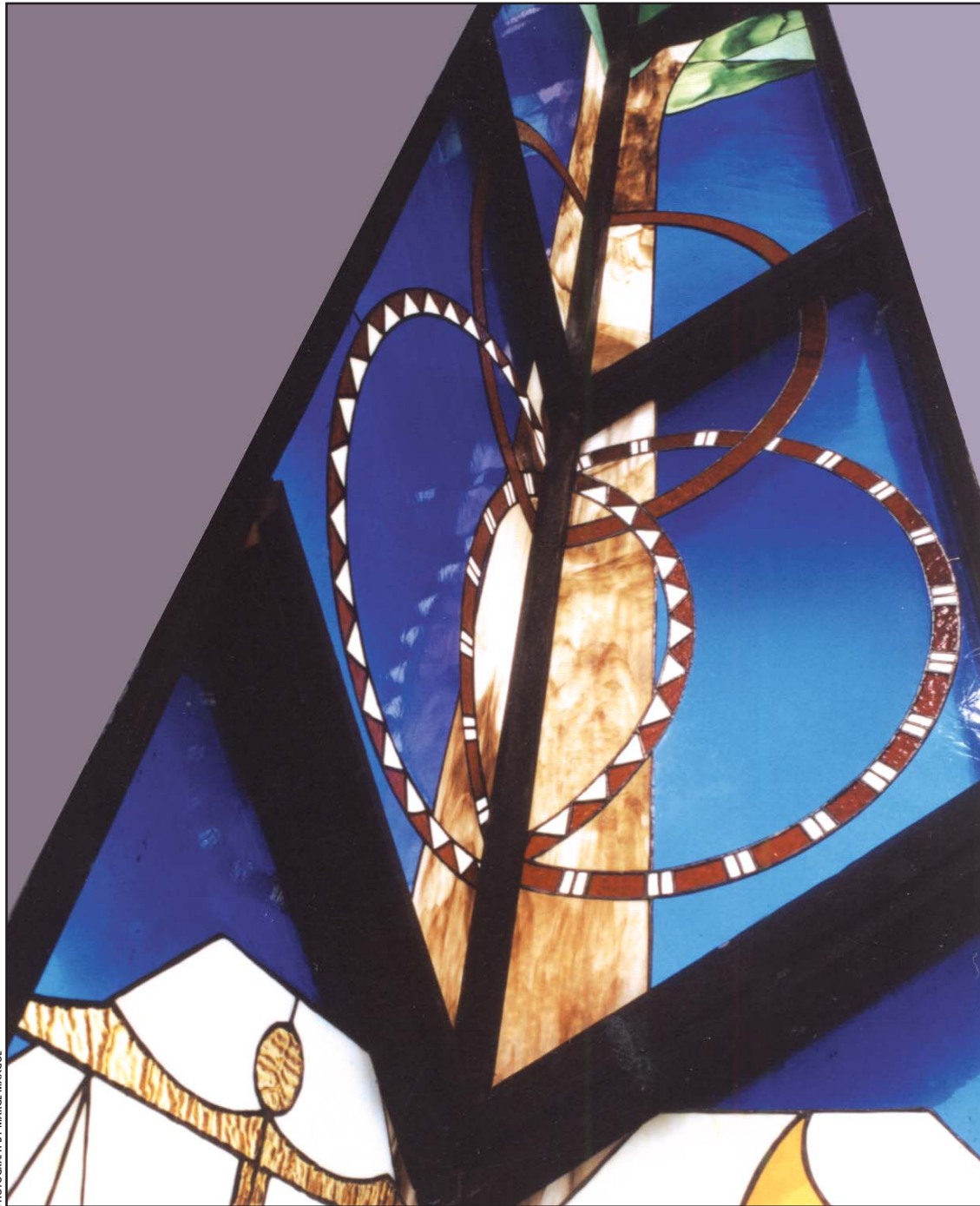


*Unitarian Universalist Church of Boulder*  
*Treasures of UUCB*



PHOTOGRAPH BY MARGE MAAGOE

*Researched and Written by Tessa Davis*  
*October 2010*



This booklet is a compilation, update, and expansion of articles that originally appeared in several issues of the 2006 – 2007 Clear Light Messenger. I am very grateful to all the individual members and friends, past and present, whose verbal and written memories contributed so significantly to the content, and especially to Eileen Tobin who worked with me to pull it all together into this permanent form.

Some of the art treasures I have written about may not currently be on display in the building or will have been moved to different locations. This booklet tries to capture, however, the art treasures of UUCB at this particular moment in time. As our building continues to be refurbished and new art and artifacts are received, there will, of course, be changes. All the “treasures” described, however, are in safekeeping and will be displayed on a rotating basis.

I dedicate this booklet as a tribute to the legacy of all the past, present and future artists and visionaries who have contributed and will continue to contribute to the beauty of our beloved Unitarian Universalist Church of Boulder.

*Tessa Davis* October 2010

Cover photograph by Marge Maagoe

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## Our Building



The following is a brief overview of how our present building came to be. A more detailed description of the building of the church can be found in Chapters 3 and 4 of the history of UUCB written by Maria Botsford and expanded by Pauline Lives and Forrest and Alice Davis, as well as in a wonderful album of photographs put together by Bill Mansfield in 1964. The quotes in the following article are all from this history. “The Building of the Sky Room” is a video (made by Alan Davis) of the presentations given by participants at a history forum held at the church in the spring of 2001. David Rowland, the architect of the original church building, was also present at this forum, and his remarks, as well as other long-time members’ memories about the original church building, were also captured on the video. All of these resources are currently housed in our church archives. We hope to make them more readily available for perusal or loan in the future.



BUILDING UUCB, SUMMER 1963



UUCB BEFORE THE SKY ROOM, 1970S

Our 3 acres of land at 5001 Pennsylvania (then called Redwood) was purchased by the Boulder Unitarians for approximately \$7000 in 1960, but it wasn’t until June 1961 that the congregation voted to build there and give up the idea of purchasing a downtown building. Even though an architect was hired, however, the actual groundbreaking did not take place until June 16, 1963. “The specifications of the building called for 5,000 square feet of floor space, comprising a meeting room for 140 people [the Earth Room] with overflow in the social (hearth room) area; [there were] two offices (one for the minister and one for the secretary), a kitchen, and four classrooms. All the ‘finish work’ was to be done by members. The contract called for \$30,288.78 and the Trustees were able to borrow \$33,200 at 6 percent for three years from the National State Bank.” (Page 14).

The congregation, which was without a minister at this time, did hire a professional fund-raiser, and with his help they organized themselves into the necessary committees and canvassing teams that ensured the loan was repaid in a timely fashion. It was also members of the congregation who “mixed cement, moved rock, stained ceilings,” painted walls, built cabinets, and engaged in countless other construction work during the summer and fall of 1963 that enabled the Women’s Alliance, chaired by our own Beverly Sears, to hold their annual very successful pre-Christmas Bazaar in the new building in December. The first services were held on Christmas Eve, with the congregation sitting on folding chairs which had been purchased for \$4 each.

By May, 1964, the congregation, now with Philip Pennington as their settled minister, had outgrown the church school rooms, and member Jack Gore directed a successful additional building fund to double the size of the RE wing. Six new classrooms were added to the



FIRST SUNDAY SERVICE IN 5001 PENNSYLVANIA AVE., DECEMBER 24, 1963

east of the original building during the summer of 1964. Because the congregation had run out of money, the building remained with a tar roof for the next six years. It was not until the summer of 1970, that members of the congregation (including our own Fred Cole) hammered down a cedar



shake roof and the building exterior was finally complete!

As the size of UUCB's congregation grew throughout the 1970s, the congregation voted in 1980 to add on to the original building. A fund raising effort was mounted, architect Dennis Holloway hired, and construction begun on the addition in 1981. The biggest part of the addition, the Sky Room, was designed very intentionally. It was Forrest Whitman's and others' vision that saw this room "as a complement to the Earth Room, with windows placed specifically to allow viewing of the moon's passage." (from page 6 of the February, 2006 Clear Light Messenger). The changes to the original entry and offices were completed first, and the Sky Room was officially dedicated on May 23, 1982. As with the original building, however, construction of the other rooms (minister's office, rest rooms) in the addition continued over several years, and the minister's office (called the Sky Room Kiva by Forrest and now the Archives and Store Room) wasn't finished until 1983. Members of our congregation were again heavily involved in all phases of the work. Josie Heath led the fund raising effort; Paul Berry, with the help of innumerable volunteers, oversaw the actual construction and monitored expenses; and Wes Sears directed a crew of many members and friends (including the youth) in the building of all the moss rock walls. The rocks themselves came from Alf Koenig's land in the foothills.

We current members and friends of UUCB should be forever grateful for the foresight, dedication and commitment of the many Boulder UUs who had the vision and courage to build our spiritual home. They have graced us with a building that, although it was built in three distinct stages over the last 47 years, not only appears today as a unified whole, but is also one that holds so much meaning and history for us in its walls. May we be inspired to safeguard and continue their legacy to us as we build for the future.

*Scrapbooks with photos of the building of both the original church and the Sky Room are stored in the Archives Room.*



**BUILDING THE SKY ROOM, 1981**



**COMPLETED SKY ROOM, 1981 OR 1982**

## *Treasures in Our Sky Room and West Hallway*

UUCB has been blessed with several art objects that you may or may not have noticed in our entryway, Sky Room and Earth Room.

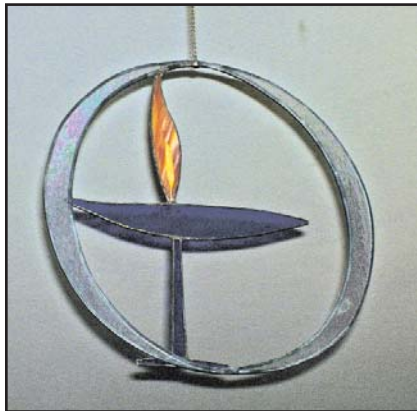
Walking down the entry hall, if you turn back towards the front doors and look up, you will see the lovely **Tree of Life stained glass window**, created in 1989 by an artist named Arkenstone. The clerestory window had been built with clear glass; but early in 2001, Kathryn Alexander saw an advertisement for the *Tree of Life* window in the *Boulder Daily Camera*. Kathryn contacted the sellers, Charles and Jeanette Bowles and successfully convinced them to donate the window to the

church and receive the tax benefit for the piece rather than sell it. It was valued at \$2200, and our church records reflect this amount as a tax deductible donation from the Bowles. A friend of Ed Trunck's created and attached the wooden frame that now surrounds the stained glass.

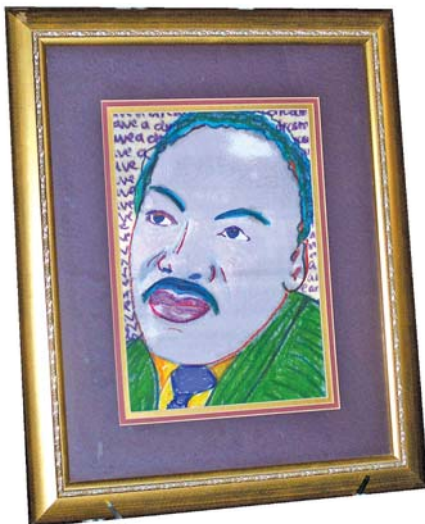
In the Sky Room hangs a beautiful **brass bell**, a farewell gift to our congregation from RE Director Jude Stirts when she left UUCB in June 2005.



TREE OF LIFE STAINED GLASS WINDOW



JAIME SHUEY'S FLAMING CHALICE



MARTIN LUTHER KING PORTRAIT

The bell was first placed on the east wall of the entryway by the hall to the RE wing. Across the hall from the bell's original location, behind the right hand door to the Earth Room is a plaque honoring donors to the UUCB Endowment.

In the window above the doors to the Sky Room hangs a beautiful **stained glass flaming chalice**. This was made and donated to our congregation by Jaime Shuey in 1997. She originally hung it in a Sky Room window, but it was recently moved to its current location. Jaime later made and donated the chalice stepping stone that sits outside our front door.

In the Sky Room, everyone has surely noticed the One World/One Family/Peace for All **rainbow flag** that hangs from the support column by the entrance to the kitchen. It was a gift to our congregation from Rev. Jackie Ziegler in 2002. The **portrait of Martin Luther King**, currently hanging in the west hallway, was one of the paintings in an art show that was hung in the Sky Room during 2000. The art show was organized by Dianne Ewing and featured work by students at Boulder's Family Learning Center in the San Juan trailer park. The assignment for the students was to paint over a photograph using bright colors and in the style of Andy Warhol. Unfortunately the name of the young artist, who was most likely a late elementary or middle school student, is not known. Several UUCB members pooled their money to purchase and donate this painting to our congregation.



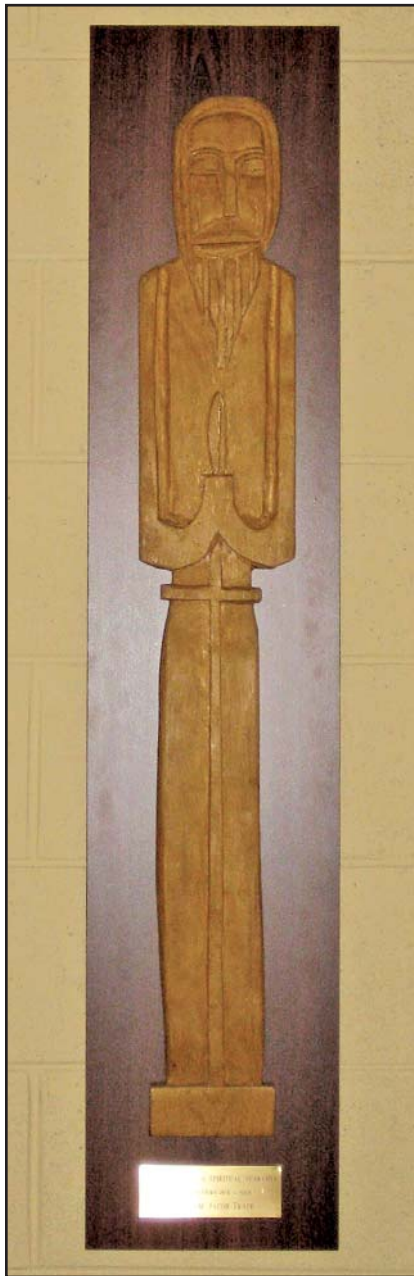
BRASS BELL



RAINBOW FLAG



## Treasures in Our Earth Room



JACOB TRAPP'S PULPIT CARVING

In the northwest alcove of the Earth Room, above the pew against the wall, is the lovely framed **Spirit of Life needlework**. Sally Rickert created this piece in the mid-1990s for a church auction. It was purchased by Mary Jean and Peter Ewing who then donated it to the church. Sally told me that she decided to embroider those particular words soon after we had begun singing the hymn regularly in our service. She was then, and continues to be, very moved by both the words and the music to *Spirit of Life*.



SPirit of LIFE NEEDLEWORK

Hanging on the south wall in the entrance to the room is Jacob Trapp's **Pulpit Carving**. The pulpit itself was built by Paul Berry, specifically to display the santo on the front, which was carved and given to UUCB by Jacob Trapp in 1978. Jacob, a UU minister and poet, had a special relationship with our congregation and its then minister, Forrest Whitman. The santo figure has been controversial to some, who saw it as a male Christian monk. Jacob himself never saw the carving as either male or female, but only as oracionero – a spiritual searcher. Paul Berry later (circa 1996) enlarged the top of the pulpit to hold more of the speaker's papers. In the fall of 2008, Jon Bond had the santo carving mounted on dark wood. It was dedicated and hung in its present place – on the south wall of the Earth Room entryway, on January 25, 2009.

**UUCB Banner:** Former UUCB member Sarah Watts created our double-sided banner (one with the rainbow road leading up to the Flatirons; the other with a flaming chalice and branch of leaves running through it) in June of 1999. It was first carried at the Salt Lake City General Assembly that year. After several years of hanging in the front of the church it now hangs on the SW alcove wall of the Earth Room.



UUCB BANNER

**Picture:** The etching of a woman with outstretched arms, and with what some people see as very Native American overtones, was made by April Hunt Good in 1980. Titled *Colorado*, April donated the print to the church sometime in the mid 1980s. She and



ETCHING "COLORADO"

her family were members of UUCB in the 1980s until they moved out of state. The picture, which used to hang on the west wall of the choir seats, was recently reframed and moved to its current location on the wall to the west of the choir seats.

**The Ministerial Legacy photographs** of UUCB's ministers, which used to hang in the front entry above the office counter, now hang in the back of the Earth Room (an area initially known as the Hearth Room) over the counter which links that room to the kitchen. These photographs were collected and framed in 2007.



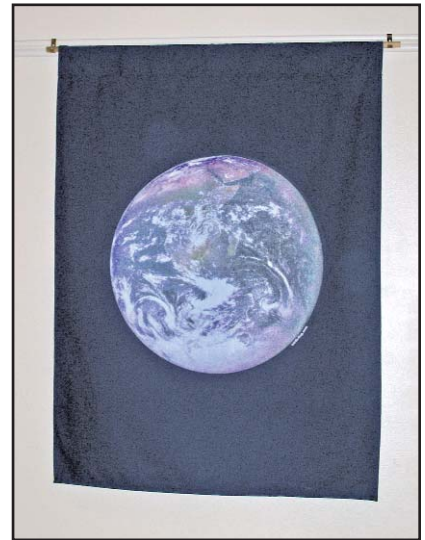
MINISTERIAL LEGACY PHOTOGRAPHS

**Earth Flag:** The Earth Flag was a gift to UUCB gift from Rev. Jackie Ziegler. After several years of hanging on the front wall of the Earth Room, it now hangs behind the choir seating on the East wall.

Sculpture: The **alabaster sculpture** of the woman's head which used to have a prominent place in the front of the Earth Room, was very unfortunately stolen from the church in March of 2004. Judy Feland was very moved by the piece when she first saw it (at an art show at CU's UMC), and bought and donated it to UUCB in 1984 or 1985. It was sculpted by Presley La Fontain, a member of the Turtle Mt. Band of Chippewa Indians and modeled after his wife, a Rosebud Sioux. Various titles, *Spring Winds* or *Looking into the Future*, the piece almost always aroused deep emotions in those who studied it closely. Paul Berry made the pedestal it stood upon for several years in the Sky Room before Forrest Whitman brought it to the front of the Earth Room. It was a beloved presence for our congregation for many years, and many of us still have hope that it will be returned.

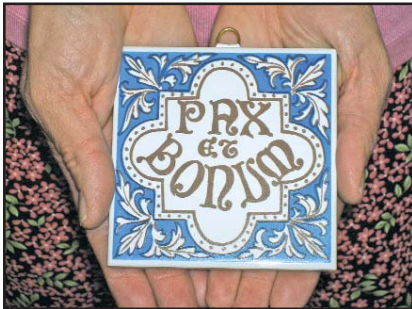


ALABASTER SCULPTURE (STOLEN)



EARTH FLAG

## Other Miscellany



"PEACE AND GOOD" TILE

Two other UUCB "artifacts" have been pointed out to me recently. One is the small **Pax et Bonum – "Peace and Good" – tile** that used to hang on the wall outside the church office. This tile was bought by Francesca and Peter Howell in Assisi, Italy, and was given to UUCB by the Howell family in March 2006 before they left to join Peter who is working in Milan, Italy for the next few years.

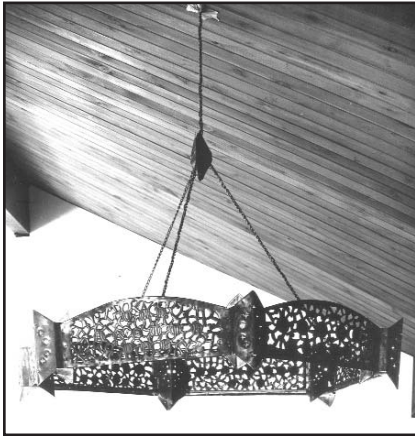
The other is the **brass candle snuffer** which was often used (when the Moderator doesn't use his or her own breath!) to extinguish our chalice flame each Sunday. When Barb Richard's mother, Mary Morganstein, lived on Manhattan Street in Boulder, she became good friends with Alma Gilbert who lived on the floor above her. Alma was the widow of Rudy Gilbert whose picture hangs in our Ministerial Legacy Photo Gallery. When Alma died in 1987, Mary purchased the candle snuffer knowing that it had belonged to Rudy. She gave it to Barb and Fred for them to present to the church. In the fall of 2008, this snuffer was replaced with the larger brass lighter/snuffer which was donated to us by our current minister, Howell K. Lind.



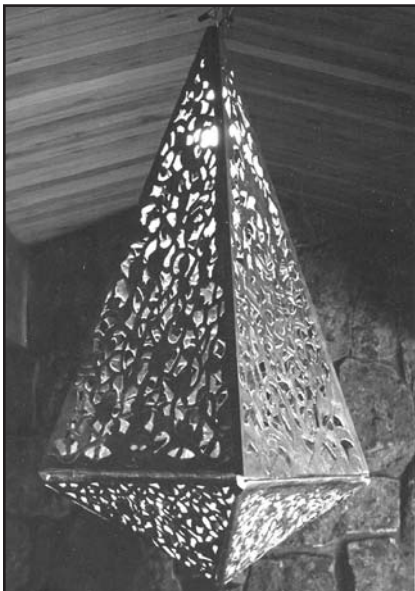
## The Copper Doors and Earth Room Chandeliers



COPPER DOORS



EARTH ROOM CHANDELIER



HEARTH ROOM CHANDELIER (REMOVED IN 2008)

Some of the most noticeable artistic features in our church building are the **metal chandeliers** in the Earth Room and the **copper doors** leading into what is now the minister's office, but what was previously known as the Meditation Room. They, along with another chandelier which hung in the front foyer and was unfortunately stolen in 1975, are the creation of Elsa Deutsch, a beloved member of the congregation, who designed and created them to be an integral part of the new church building being built on Pennsylvania (then Redwood) Avenue in 1963. These gifts to UUCB remain a visible reminder today not only of Elsa's artistic talent, but also of her dedication to the UU principles of inclusiveness and tolerance for all people. They are also a reminder of her love of beauty. When Elsa died in 1972, a memorial fund was established which was used to build the Meditation Garden, named in her honor. At the time, Forrest Whitman remarked that the garden was indeed a fitting way to say "thank you" to Elsa and that it was a reminder of her belief that "religion means creating beauty."

The quotes above and the following excerpt are from pp 10-11 of Chapter 5 of UUCB's *History*, written by Maria Botsford in 1973 and expanded in 1980 by Pauline Ives and Forrest and Alice Davis. Since the authors actually knew Elsa, it expresses much more clearly than I could, something about who this unique woman was.

"Elsa Deutsch was a much loved and respected member of the congregation. She signed the membership book in 1959 and within months had taken charge of the library and enacted plans to enlarge it. Her personality combined an old-world charm with the feisty temperament of an artist. Elsa was an uninhibited individualist; she did not mince her words... Yet Elsa's twinkling eyes and warm smile seldom failed to heal the pricks made by her sharp mind and sometimes even sharper tongue."

"Elsa Deutsch was born in Vienna in 1895 and studied at the Austrian College of Applied Arts (Kunstgewerbeschule). In 1925 she was awarded a first prize for her sculpture work at an international exhibition in Paris. During World War II she came to the U.S.A. and lived in North Carolina before [getting divorced and] moving to Colorado in 1958. She continued to create in many artistic media in her tiny workshop on Ninth Street..."

"The copper double-doors, which were the entry to the Church building for many years, are a reminder to those who pause to look closely of what religion meant to Elsa: the different sectors depict similarities in the main ideas of the world's religions from pre-history through Sumarian, Greek, and Egyptian civilizations to Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism, Confucianism, and Islam. Quotations from ancient and more recent words of inspiration are worked into the design [and depictions of religious scenes]; and the signs of the zodiac in the border frame represent the link between earth and heaven. The 12-cornered shape, according to Elsa, is "a deviation from the circle and is the symbol of the diamond," but what that means only the artist seemed to know."

There are two small plaques on the bottom of the door. The one on the left reads "In Memoriam Cora Kerns," but no one seems to know who this was – maybe a family member who was a Holocaust victim? The plaque on the right reads "Elsa Deutsch, Winter 1965."

A pamphlet, *Key to the Door*, written by Elsa probably in 1965, describes in detail each of the 11 panels of the 12-sided door. A copy of Elsa's pamphlet is included on the next page. In the pamphlet Elsa wrote that it was the quotation from Fr. Schiller's *Ode to Joy* which surrounds the center panels with their symbols of the upspreading tree and the spiral of life leading upwards that "gives the theme of the panels." It seems fitting to end this article with those words:

*Joy, thou spark divine, eternal, daughter from Elysian heights, all men shall become as brothers, where thy glorious reign abides.*



FOYER CHANDELIER (STOLEN)

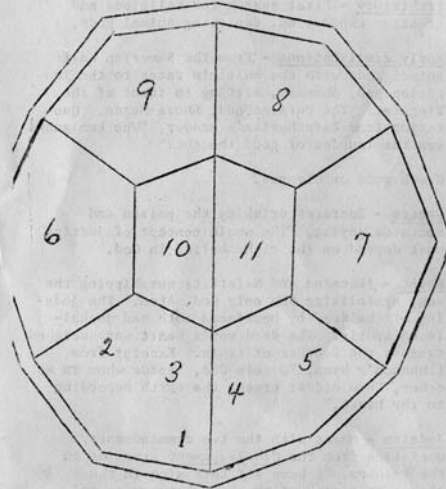


The signs of the zodiak in the border frame are a link between earth and the heaven. The verses in the frame are from Whittier's poem, "O Brother Man": "O brother man, fold to thy heart thy brother." "Love shall tread out the baleful fire of anger, And in its ashes plant the tree of Peace."

Design and execution by Elsa Deutsch

THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF BOULDER  
5001 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Boulder, Colorado 80303

- Key to the Door -



Important similarities in the leading ideas of the great religions are shown by pictorial designs and quotations in the panels of the front door of our church. The most significant, but not always well known, sayings have been quoted in the enclosing frames and sometimes inside the panels. The grouping begins on the lower left side of the door.

- Prehistory - First search for religious and creative expression, depicting animal gods.
- Early civilizations - From the Sumerian half animal gods with the multiple faces to the law-giving god, Shamash, sitting in front of the Ziggurat. The Persian god, Shura-Mazda. Quotation from Zarathustra's prayer, "Who benignant was the founder of good thought?"
- Greek gods on Olympus.
- Greece - Socrates drinking the poison and Socrates saying, "The whole concept of justice must depend on the right belief in God."
- Egypt - Ikhnoton and Nefertiti worshipping the sun, symbolising the only God, Aton. The judging of the dead by hawkfaced Toth and jackal-faced Anubis. The dead man's heart was weighed against the feather of truth. Excerpt from Ikhnoton's hymn, "O sole God, beside whom is no other, Thou did'st create the earth according to thy heart."
- Judaism - Moses with the ten commandments. Quotation from the Old Testament starting in the rainbow, "I have set this sign in the clouds as a sign of the bond between me and all living souls forever." From the Talmud, "Sin is the debasement of man's true nature."
- Christianity - Christ bearing the message of the Sermon on the Mount. The apostles and Paul. Some of the founders of Protestantism with Luther, nailing his thesis to the church door. Erasmus in his cell. Quotation from the New Testament. "Blessed are the peacemakers." A verse of a 17th century German Mystic (Angelus Silesius), "Oh man, where goest thou, In thee is paradise." From Paul XXIII Encyclica 1963, "Paxem in Terris."
- Hinduism and Buddhism - A Hindu temple covered with Hindu quotations, "The Kingdom of heaven is in the heart of man." "The only scriptur is the universe." "Be ye lamps unto yourself." Brahma's birth. Bodhisatta, the queen of heaven. Buddhists at prayer. Lao-Tse on a water buffalo. Quotation from Lao-Tse, "The truth which can be known is not the eternal truth."
- Confucianism and Islam - Confucius with disciples. A procession of kings who were considered incarnate divinity. Kwan-yin, mother goddess, the image of mercy of the Mahayanas. Confucius, "Without goodness, man cannot endure." Mohammed riding his winged horse. A muezzin calling to worship with the main creed: "Allah Il Allah" (There is only one God). Quotation from the koran, "The all-compassionate is without limitations."
- 10 & 11. The quotation surrounding the center panels gives the theme of the panels and is taken from Fr. Schiller's Ode to Joy. "Joy, thou spark divine, eternal, daughter from Elysian heights, all men shall become as brothers, where thy glorious reign abides." Two symbols have been used--the upspreading tree and the spiral of life leading upwards. The 12-cornered shape is a deviation from the circle. It is the symbol of the diamond.

## *Earth Room Pew Cushions*



The colorful and beautiful **cushions** that cover our Earth Room (Sanctuary) pews came to UUCB thanks to the creative, material and monetary gifts of several present and former members and friends – most notably Sunni Eckhardt and Carol Saunders.

The inspiration for the cushions came from Sunni who, at an Anti-Oppression committee meeting in August 2001, expressed the need for what at that time she envisioned as brightly-colored ethnic pillows that would not only bring color and comfort into the Earth Room, but would also be welcoming to individuals from different cultures and make visible our commitment to multicultural inclusion in our congregation.

During 2002, with input from the Buildings and Grounds Committee and the Board of Trustees, what Sunni had envisioned as a small home-sewing pillow project became a larger, more permanent (and less-likely-to-be-stolen), upholstered pew cushion project.

A request went out to the congregation for large pieces of ethnic fabric, and enough donations came in that the cushion on the greeter's bench in the front hall was added to the project's goals. Not all the fabric that was contributed was able to be used, but the material we sit on each week comes from these donors:

- Mali and Ghana: Katrina Petri Doumbia
- Peru: Martha Bushnell
- American denim: Sarah Watts
- South Africa, American Southwest, Japan, and VietNam: Sunni Eckhardt

- American Colonial roses: Shari Storm
- American striped cotton: Lee Redfield

Meg Preo, our Office Administrator at the time, suggested that the cushions be reversible, so that renters (especially for weddings and funerals) would be able to have the option of a solid color on the pews for their ceremony. In 2002 Kathryn Alexander had found the Sherpa dark blue fabric that covers our upholstered chairs from Bertolini Inc. in Chino, California. More of this fabric was ordered for the pew cushions as well as enough extra to cover the two chairs on the stage.

After getting bids from several upholstery shops, Robert Fuglar of Robert's Upholstery in Longmont was chosen to do the work. Robert not only understood what the project was all about, he also came through with the lowest bid – one that was severely discounted and a real gift to the church. Sunni understands that it was Robert's last project before retiring and that he considered his work an act of grace and a gift to the community.

With material gathered and an upholsterer found, but no funds to pay the necessary upholstery costs, the project stalled a bit until September 2003 when Carol Saunders came forward with a generous offer to match Sunni's financial contribution of \$1600 in order to cover the total project cost of \$3200.

The finished pew cushions were delivered to UUCB in time for Easter 2004. A wooden backstop had been part of the original plans for the cushions; and when Carol Saunders noticed that they were indeed slipping around on the pews, she bought, cut, stained and installed the wooden planks on the back of the pews that now keep the cushions more stable. Carol has also taken on the task of repairing the cushions when they start to fray.

In telling the story of our pew cushions on the Sunday morning when they were first presented to the church, Sunni said the following: "I find I am doing this to be 'a Good Ancestor.' I do not know the final effect of these cushions; but I do know that as guests and newcomers enter this space, they will see material from their own culture and will receive a silent 'Welcome, friend. We are expecting you. Be comfortable and become part of our family.'" Whether from near or far, member, friend or visitor – all who sit in our pews are indeed comfortable and reminded of our welcoming diversity thanks to Sunni, Carol and all who contributed to this special project.



## Our Chancel Furniture

by Shari Storm  
Reprinted from the June 2008  
Clear Light Messenger



NEW PULPIT ACQUIRED 2008

In the fall of 2007, Rev. Becky approached the Committee on Ministry (CoM) with the suggestion that we get new chancel furniture to make our sanctuary reflect our theology and make it more welcoming for our new minister and other speakers. After discussions and suggested requirements, the CoM approached the Program Planning Council (PPC) to see if they would like to take on this project. PPC agreed to this challenge, created a committee (Rene VanMeter, Kathryn Alexander, Alan Davis, Sally Du Gar and Shari Storm) and submitted a proposal request to the Endowment Committee for funding. The original proposal was just for a pulpit, but the Endowment Committee, with the support of the Board of Trustees, granted us extra monies to include other furniture (tables, chairs, pedestal).

So the search was on! In January, after many hours of internet searching (and finding beautiful furniture), we really didn't find what we wanted per some of our requirements – height adjustable, handicapped accessible, easily moveable, ability to have a permanent microphone stand. Either the pulpit was too small, too “churchy,” too large, or too much like a “hotel” podium. We finally narrowed it down to a few and set off to do further research. There were several sites that could custom-make a pulpit, but they were located on the East Coast and not really accessible for design, and the cost was out of our budget.

In a “middle of the night” inspiration, I contacted the woodworkers at the Broomfield Senior Resource Center to see if they might be interested in taking on a project like this. I was familiar with their quality of work and felt that we could come up with something. They said that they would be interested. At the start-up meeting of the Earth Room Beautification Committee, Jon Bond suggested someone he knew that might also be interested. However, he was not and gave us a name of someone who might be. That person never returned my calls. After meeting with the Broomfield woodworkers, they presented a set of blueprints and suggestions of what they could do for us (pulpit, tables and pedestal). So the committee voted to go with them.

As I live in Broomfield, it fell to me to keep on top of the work. Reports on progress were made and details were worked out. They obtained a carver from among the Wood Carvers Association that also meets at the Senior Center and produced the wonderful carving on our pulpit. His name is Ben Kembel.

The woodworkers at the Senior Center are all retired gentlemen who have a love of woodworking. The money that we are paying for our furniture goes directly to the woodworking shop and the Broomfield Senior Resource Center. None of the money goes to the woodworkers directly. I have gotten to know these wonderful gentlemen – Wayne Burt, Jim Sparks, Joe Weibel, Tom Szydlowski, Bill Snyder and Ben Kembel. They truly love their work and have had a great time working on this project – the largest that they have done.

Our new pulpit was delivered on June 21, just in time for Rev. Becky to preach from it on her last Sunday in the pulpit. The remaining furniture (two tables and pedestal) were delivered July 31. Just a note, the woodworkers build prototypes before they build the final pieces. When I was finalizing the stain on the pulpit (with the help of Eileen Tobin), they had built the prototype of the tables. Joe Weibel said that he was just going to give away the prototype. I said that if he was going to do that, we would take it and use it for our Usher's table. I mentioned that we usually have a drawer in it, but we could work something out. Two days later when I returned, they had put a drawer in it. So, we will get an extra table! What a wonderful group!

We still have chairs to obtain, but wanted to wait until Rev. Lind arrived to get his input.

So, out of love and dedication, we have new furniture for our sanctuary. Thanks go to Rev. Becky for starting it, to the committee who trusted me and to the wonderful woodworkers at the Broomfield Senior Resource Center. If you have any woodworking projects, be sure to contact them, they do wonderful work!

## *Chalice, Vase, and Water Flask*

Our beautiful **chalice bowl**, as well as the lovely **water vessel** we use on Homecoming Sunday and the **vase** we use on Flower Sunday, come from Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic and one of the spiritual birthplaces of Unitarianism. What makes them all even more special treasures for us is that they were gifts to UUCB from members of the Cole-Richards family who, unbeknownst to each other, purchased them from the same small shop during separate visits to Prague in the fall of 1993.

It was Morgan Richards, Barb's daughter and UUCB's Office Manager at the time, who purchased and donated our chalice bowl. Morgan had taken a much needed vacation to Hungary, Austria and the Czech Republic in October, 1993. She was visiting her brother in Prague when she found the bowl. The story she wrote about finding it appeared in the February 1994 Clear Light Messenger. Unfortunately, it is too long to reprint in its entirety here, but what follows are excerpts from her article and tells, in Morgan's words, the heart of the story behind her wonderful gift to us.

"In preparing for a July 4 service about historical UUs 'who had dedicated themselves to provide people with personal and civil freedoms... [Morgan and Jude, then UUCB's RE Director] had come across the story of Jan Hus, a Czech priest who had been burned at the stake on July 6, 1415, for spreading anti-trinitarian doctrine and giving sermons in Czech, the language of his people, rather than Latin... Jude and I thought it would be a great opportunity to bring back something special for our church..."

"Jan Hus is a national Czech hero. His 80-foot statue dwarfs the old town square of Prague. This man died in 1415 because he believed in the right of all of us to have access to a God of our own

understanding. Hus, the first anti-trinitarian to use a chalice, lit one to start his services... After Hus' execution, the Catholic church took down the gold-leaf chalice that adorned the outside of his meeting hall... Despite such controlling attempts, the Czech people never abandoned their faith and pride in Hus. When I talked with Czech people ALL of them talked about Hus with great reverence. Boris, a man whose extra bedroom I stayed in for 2 nights, told me, 'Hus is a symbol of our spirit'... My brother and I went to Hus' meeting hall that afternoon and I cried.

"After we left the hall, we headed towards one of the bridges that spans the Vital River. In a shop window on the same block as Hus' hall, I spotted a bowl that looked like a chalice. Made by a group of young Czech artisans, the crystal bowl was clear and reflected the sunlight. It sang to me to take it home..."

"I give this chalice with love to our congregation for as long as it would like to use it. I hope it can help us focus our love, courage and commitment as we define ourselves in the coming year."

Meanwhile, a little later in October, 1993, Morgan's parents, Barb Richards (then UUCB's President) and Fred Cole, had also decided to visit Fred's son, JB, during a well-deserved vacation of their own to Vienna, Salzburg, and Prague. Fred wrote up the story of their finding and buying the water flask and vase from which I quote below.

In Prague, 'JB would show us 'his city' — complete with Norbert Chapek's church and the John Hus statue. Walking from the old town square, towards the Charles Bridge, we passed a shop selling Czech crys-



VASE, CHALICE AND WATER FLASK



tal. In the window was a flask which I noticed, because its stopper reminded me of our chalice flame.

“I/we decided that it would be a perfect fit for our Homecoming water gathering ceremony. We went in, purchased the flask, and I made a very complicated arrangement to have it shipped back to Boulder. As we were leaving the shop, Barbara saw the vase, with its beautiful, green accents. She said it would be a perfect centerpiece for our Flower Sunday service and wanted to give it to the church as well... Aware of the perils of shipping fragile pieces, Barb decided to carry the vase in her backpack for the next five days before they all arrived safely back in Boulder.

“It was only after our return that Morgan, Barb and I would determine that the chalice bowl, the water flask, and the vase all came from that same, small shop, just off the Karlcova in Prague. It is a very small world, after all.”

And a wonderful one, as well, with UUCB being the beneficiary of such unique and beautiful treasures!

## *The Stained Glass Window at the Front of the Earth Room*

When our Earth Room/Sanctuary was built, the raised platform at the front did not extend all the way to the raised side seating areas. The current, broadened stage was added in the mid-1980s, in part to accommodate several intergenerational church plays that were produced during that time.

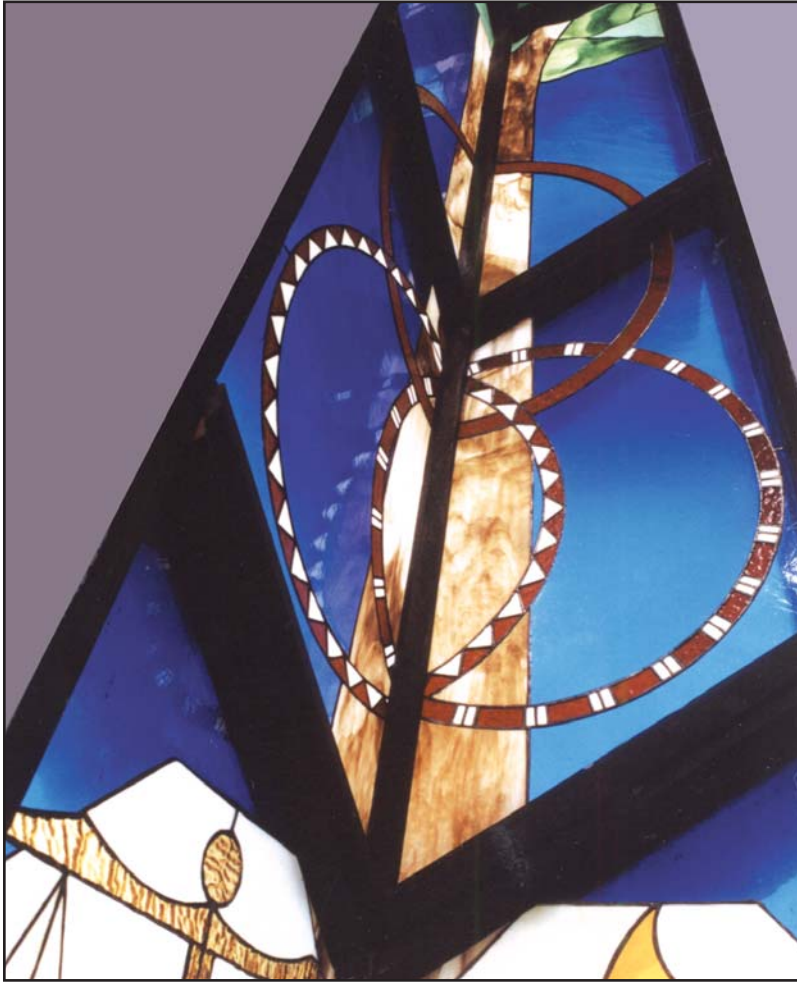
The beautiful **stained glass window** was also not part of the original building. It was given to UUCB by past members Laura and Ray Sangster in memory of Laura's mother, Marie Farnum. Marie, a beloved member of our congregation who retired to Boulder to be near her children after a long teaching career in Texas.

Tragically, she was killed in an automobile crash. The window was made by stained glass artist, Ann Johns (not a member) and installed by master craftsman and beloved UUCB member Paul Berry. The outdoor light that shines through the window was given in honor and memory of Paul by Sherry King, past member and President of our congregation just before Paul's death in 2000. More recently, the window itself was restored and reinforced, probably by past UUCB member Jamie Shuey, though it is not known for sure who did the work. (If anyone knows, please let me know.)

In his dedication remarks on August 30, 1981, Forrest Whitman talked about the parts of the window – all of which represented important beliefs and values held dear by Marie. The quotations in the description of the window that follows are from Forrest's remarks:

"The flaming chalice... is quite prominent in the window as it was in Marie's life... The U.U. approach to religion was basic to her whole way of living..." One way of looking at the three circles in the window, Forrest believed, is that they symbolize the three basic points of our faith that Maria learned from Duncan Howlett, a prominent UU minister in the 20th century: (1) "continuity in the world;" (2) "the autonomy of human experience and human reason;" and (3) "the dynamism of life." The scale of justice on the left of the tree trunk is tipped,

just, as Forrest says, Marie "thought justice was tipped in this world. Often she thought of it as tipped against women." She was part of a successful lawsuit with Texas schools that mandated equal pay for equal work. The window's Tree of Life grows out of mountains and the earth which Marie dearly loved. "We [humans] are the trunk, we are the growing and knowing of our mother. We, with the tree, stretch upward toward Father Sky. We are sisters and brothers in this one life... The meaning of the tree of life is that we are the sap, we are the blossoms, we are the health of the whole. No cosmic gardener will come to make it all right now. Of course the old wisdom of Earth and Sky are there for us to know. Of course we live in continuity. Yet, we must act toward life. That is our faith."



PHOTOGRAPH BY MARGE MAAGE



## *Steinway Pianos*

The **Steinway Grand Piano** in the Earth Room (Model # 60674B) was built at the Steinway factory in New York City in 1887. It is 6'10" long; and like all Steinway Bs of the time, was built with only 85 keys. Grand pianos with 88 keys were not introduced until later. The piano was initially shipped in August 1887 to a music store (now defunct) in Chicago, but I have not been able to find out to whom it was sold. Likewise, it has been impossible to know how the piano made its way from Chicago to Colorado and how many homes it had before it came to our church. Warren Groff, the piano tuner and rebuilder in Colorado Springs from whom the piano was bought, believes that it probably came to him from a church on the eastern plains, but there is no documentation



STEINWAY GRAND PIANO

to support this. Sometime in the summer of 1963, however, as the Unitarian Universalist Church of Boulder was building its new home on Pennsylvania (then Redwood) Avenue, our congregation decided that the new building deserved a new, and grand, piano. Jim Boratgis, an active member of the church at the time, actually found the piano at Warren Groff's Colorado Springs shop, and our beautiful and well-loved Steinway arrived in the Earth Room in either December 1963 or early 1964 – no one can remember the exact date, but it was before Phil Pennington was installed as Minister. Norman Savig, Choir Director and very involved in the music program at the church while he lived in Boulder from 1962-68, went to Colorado Springs with Jim to collect the piano. Norm remembers that Warren had a rig and levers that enabled him to move the piano himself. Norm and Jim drove back to Boulder ahead of Warren

who followed with the piano in his trailer. Norm also fronted the \$1500 (!) purchase price for the church. The congregation raised the money to pay him back with fundraising events, including a concert series Norm put together in 1964.

Jim Boratgis and his wife Malena for many years performed the tuning and maintenance on the Steinway grand piano in exchange for using it for their students and Malena's practicing. They gave the Church a new piano bench in the early 1990s in return for this privilege. The piano was partially rebuilt in 1975 by Warren Groff – the same man from whom it was bought. It has again been completely refurbished – new hammers, whippens, bushings and strings – between 2003 and 2006. Two Endowment Fund grants, private donations and proceeds from the 2004 Darrell Grant jazz concert, raised the funds (\$6,995) necessary to pay for this work. It was done by Boulder piano tuner and rebuilder, Richard Capp, who has also taken over the regular tuning and maintenance of the piano. In 2004, after a near-accident, the Board of Trustees paid to put the piano on a wheeled dolly so that it can be easily moved when necessary.

As integral a part of our congregational life as it is, no one seems to remember a dedication service for our piano. Norm Savig says we just started using it! With its rich, mellow tone and excellent volume, our Steinway has continued to be used regularly over the years for student recitals and concerts by both church members and musicians from the wider Boulder and Colorado community. Musicians who play the instrument all fall in love with it; and having an opportunity to play our wonderful piano in the Earth Room with its marvelous acoustics is a much sought-after privilege. We are indeed fortunate to be able to count this magnificent 119-year old Steinway as one of our most beloved congregational treasures.

The **Steinway upright piano** in the Sky Room was donated to the UU Church of Boulder by Gerald and Dorothy Wheeler in 1992. They brought it with them from Maryland where they had been active members of the second largest UU Church in the country for 18+ years. Once in Estes Park, however, the Wheelers realized that Gerald wasn't playing it very much any more and would be just as happy with a smaller keyboard. They, at first, decided to sell the piano, hoping it could go to a situation where it would be more used – children learning to play, etc. When no one was willing to pay the appraised value of \$3,000 (in fact, no one offered more than \$500), however, they decided to donate the piano to our church. They had come to services a few times, met and liked Forrest, and felt that their piano would be well used and appreciated here. The piano has exceptionally good tone for an old upright. It has been regularly tuned and recently had a missing key replaced.



STEINWAY UPRIGHT PIANO

## Fabric Creations by Shari Storm

Shari Storm has graced our congregation with several artistic creations, many of them designed by her husband Steve. She considers the gift of her beautiful **fabric quilts** and **choir stoles** as one of her ministries to our church.

The most visible of Shari's creations are the circular fabric pieces depicting symbols from various world religions, which hang on the front wall of the Earth Room. Shari originally designed these symbols for the ministerial stoles she made – first for Rev. Joan Van Becelaere when Joan was the chair of the Metro area UU Pagans, and then for both Rev. Kurt Kuhwald and Rev. Jackie Ziegler. The fabric symbols are each on a different rainbow colored background. Shari got help in this project from both her husband, Steve, and from son Shane who is especially helpful in laying out the design on the computer.

In the Listening Room hangs a beautiful fabric quilt which portrays a UU chalice with a flower growing out of it. Titled, *Flower Sunday Stained Glass*, Shari wrote the following on the back. "On Flower Sunday 1998, I had a vision of a flower rising from a flaming chalice. With the loving design

abilities of my husband, this vision became a reality. The [piece of blue] fabric at the base of the chalice is from Paul Berry's wife." Shari finished this quilt and presented it to UUCB in May of 2001. It now (summer 2009) hangs in the Listening Room

Another of Shari's artistic quilt creations now hangs in the West Hallway. Shari presented this quilt to the church in 2000. She remembers being asked to create a quilt specifically for the Meditation Room where it originally hung. Husband Steve again provided the design for the hanging, which was conceived as a kind of mandala with its interlocking squares. Shari decided to make it double-sided, and very carefully stitched the rainbow motif on the reverse side so that the stitched lines exactly match the ones of the squares. The quilt is turned around to show this rainbow side during Gay Pride month each year.



QUILTED WORLD RELIGION SYMBOLS AND REVERSIBLE CHOIR STOLES, RAINBOW SIDES OUT



QUILTED MANDALA



"FLOWER SUNDAY STAINED GLASS"



REVERSIBLE CHOIR STOLES, BLOCK-PRINTED SIDES OUT

The stoles that you see our choir director, accompanist, and choir members wear on the Sundays when the choir sings are also Shari's handiwork – with the help of Eileen Tobin who provided the block printed flaming chalices. These stoles are also reversible. At times you will see the black fabric side with the flaming chalice; at other times you will see the reverse sides – each with a different colored fabric.



## *Elsa Deutsch Memorial Garden*

The sliding doors in current Minister's office lead out to the beautiful walled garden, named in honor of Elsa Deutsch and built with funds collected in her memory after she died in 1972. This garden was originally called the Meditation Garden, but it is now also often referred to as the Memorial Garden. The garden was designed by Neal Lebsack. He and his family were active church members, and Neal was an active member of LRY (Liberal Religious Youth – forerunner to YRUU).

Originally, there were plans to hang plaques on one of the garden walls commemorating the people who chose to have their ashes buried there. According to Bev Sears, this plan, however, was never fully carried out, and no name plaques were ever erected. Unfortunately, I have not been able to find any record listing the names of all those who chose to have their ashes buried or scattered in the garden over the years. Only three names – Edward V. Condon, A. B. John, and a child of Greg and Lynn Kimball – are listed in the back of one of UUCB's Membership Books as having been so memorialized. Curiously each of these names has a number (983, 984, and 985) next to it; but it remains a mystery as to what the numbers signify. It is a vision of mine and several other people that we would one day revive the original idea and put plaques with the names of UUCB's deceased grandmothers and grandfathers on one of the garden's walls.



When the garden was first built, inner walls enclosed a patio directly outside the minister's office. Carved into the patio cement are the initials LRY and what looks like the year 1973. It is nice to think of the youth group (LRY stands for Liberal Religious Youth, the former name for our current YRUU) helping to pour the cement and participating in the garden's creation.

Those inner walls made both the garden and the Meditation Room very dark, however; and around 2000, the decision was made to take them down. Wes Sears, Fred Cole, and Dan Anderson were three of the key leaders of the tear-down crew, and if you go to the Archives Pages of our website, you will find pictures of the day-long destruction process.

I do not know the names of all those who tended the garden in its early years; but for the past eight or nine years, it has been lovingly cared for and nurtured by Kathy Sievering. (Kathy also takes care of the garden to the right of the church entrance as well as several other areas around the building. She has been helped by Reed Bailey (who installed the irrigation/watering system and, with Wes Sears, painted the lower walls) as well as by her husband, Herm in her work; but the clean-up, design, planting, and weeding that has turned the garden into the place of beauty and solace that it now is are all the result of Kathy's many hours of tender loving care. The archway that now frames the outside garden entrance, the wall plaques, the tree ornaments, the trellis, the statues, the water fountain, the patio rug, the decorative stones, and countless other touches are all gifts from Kathy and Herm and



REMOVING INTERNAL GARDEN WALLS,  
CIRCA 2000

spring from their commitment to UUCB and, most especially, from Kathy's wonderful ability and desire to bring beauty into her surroundings through her love of gardening.

Kathy's love of digging in the earth came in part from her father who was a farmer in Sterling, Colorado. She has always felt connected to the rebirth that happens every spring; but particularly as an adult, the immediate results of gardening have been a healing counterbalance to the intense and sometimes heart-wrenching work she experienced in her 23-year career as a school psychologist in Jefferson County schools. Gardening, for Kathy, has been a peaceful way of reconnecting to nature, to beauty and to goodness.

The plants in the garden are a mixture of native plants (including wild hyacinths and onions) and new and transplanted bulbs, perennials and annuals – the irises were transplanted from the front of the church – descendants of some of the original church plantings, and the lilies came from Meri Gibb's garden. Kathy focused on color and texture in her choice of plants and their placement. But before planting could begin, getting rid of the weeds that had overgrown the garden was Kathy's first big challenge. She has used no pesticides or fertilizer inside the walled Meditation/Memorial garden; but did have to resort to weed killer to get rid of the thousands of thistles that covered the ground between the garden and canal.

After Millie Hering's memorial service at UUCB in March 2007, her family gave the church two statues – one of St. Francis and one of St. Christopher – that had been in Millie's garden, and they have been placed in the Meditation / Memorial Garden in Millie's memory.

When the garden was first built, inner walls enclosed a patio directly outside the Meditation Room. Carved into the patio cement are the initials LRY and what looks like the year 1973. It is nice to think of the youth group (LRY stands for Liberal Religious Youth, the former name for our current YRUU) helping to pour the cement and participating in the garden's creation. One of Jacobb Trapp's framed sculptures is now hanging in the patio. It was returned to UUCB in the fall of 2009 by Patricia Cassells, a former member, who had, in turn, received it as a gift from Diana Clark Maiden when they both worked in the UUCB office.



OUTSIDE ENTRANCE TO THE MEDITATION GARDEN

What may be surprising to many is the fact that our Meditation/Memorial garden has many more visitors than just UUCB members and friends. This has been especially true since the bike path behind the church was completed. Many people, especially children, who are passing by often come to visit and spend time enjoying its beauty. A particularly poignant visitor who came one day while Kathy was working was a neighborhood mom whose son had died and who came to sit in the garden for solace. Kathy told me that everyone who comes treats the garden with respect and seems to know that it is a sacred, quiet space. The garden was created, in Elsa Deutsch's memory, to be a sacred place of beauty and memory; and now, thanks to Kathy, it continues to be that and more. It is indeed one of UUCB's treasures.



## *Gardens and Landscaping in Front and Sides of Building*



**M**y thanks to all the current and recent church gardeners who provided information for this article. Special recognition and thanks are given to Bill Bulla for the delightful morning I spent with him and Shirley when he shared with me much important historical information about early landscaping efforts around the church.

The landscaping of our church began even as it was being built in 1963-64. Ralph Coulter, a member at the time who was very knowledgeable and connected to a landscaping business, helped the church acquire 150 trees (Russian Olive, ash, and scholar oaks among others) from a Fort Collins nursery. They were planted by many volunteers, including Bill Bulla, in one whirlwind weekend, and it is thanks to their efforts that we now enjoy having shade and breezes especially on the south and west sides of our building.

I do not know much about the gardening and landscaping that went on between the original planting of trees and the building of the Meditation/Memorial Garden in 1971, but surely there were gardeners over the years who cared about creating order and beauty outside our building. I do know that several of the original iris and rose bushes have been lovingly divided and transplanted over the years.

In the early 1980s, when the Sky Room addition was being built, volunteer church members constructed the patio and planters in the front of the church. It was architects Dave Rowland and Dennis Holloway who suggested that this area should continue the distinct and unifying architecture (in the style of Frank Lloyd Wright) of no right angles that is so central to the rest of our church building. It is for this reason that the planters are triangular and situated as they are. More trees in and around the patio were planted at this time – many by Bill Bulla and his fellow gardening ladies. Paul Berry donated the oaks in the planters. The benches and tables (several generations of them) have been donated by various church members or purchased with Endowment Fund grants over the years.

Bill Bulla designed, planted and tended for several years the garden to the right of the church entrance. Since 2000, it has been nurtured by Kathy Sievering. She sees this garden – with its animal statues, bird baths and feeders, mobiles, marbles, and decorations that change with the holidays – as a children's garden and loves seeing our children enjoy it. She has added roses and other perennials to Bill's original plants and focuses on color and texture patterns in her selections. As a side note, Bill told me that the rock path beside this garden was originally made as a path to a door into the building that is now never used. He thinks it is time to do something about it!

Daphne Lewin created the crescent garden beside the path to the west parking lot around 1984. In keeping with her English heritage, she planted a lot of tulips and daffodils in this space. Sharon Jewell took over this garden, as well as the nearby planter in 2005. She likes to plant annuals, both sun-loving and shade-loving ones, and has added crocuses and more tulips in both gardens. Sharon told me that often when she works there in the evenings, neighbors who are walking by comment about how much they enjoy our beautiful gardens.

The planters in the front patio were all constructed at the same time as the Sky Room was built (circa 1982). It is my understanding that at the beginning they were cared for by various, mostly one-time volunteers – especially during the fall and spring clean up days. Recently, however, they have been “adopted” by church members. They all now have sprinkler systems and have all recently (2006 and 2008) had their wooden frames replaced, thanks to teams led by Don Lilley and Reed Bailey.



**ELIZABETH VANRENEN, BILL BULLA, MARY GREY AND DAPHNE LEWIN, CHURCH GARDENERS EXTRAORDINAIRE (EARLY 1980S)**



**DON LILLEY AND REED BAILEY REPLACING WOODEN PLANTER FRAMES (CIRCA 2006)**



The big planter was lovingly tended by Margie Sugar beginning in 2001, soon after she and George moved to their condo and she no longer had a garden at home to nurture. As a memorial to Margie after her death in 2009, the planter was named and marked with a small stone plaque in her honor and memory. A long-time gardener, Margie also tended two plots in the medians at 9th and University in Boulder. At UUCB, she worked hard to provide an interesting variety of year-round colors and textures. Her planter contains many ever-green plants (pines, conifers and pfitzers) as well as spring, summer and fall blooming perennials. It was challenging for Margie to find suitable plants, especially as the planter became more and more shaded by the growing trees. She kept a very detailed notebook of all the plants she planted in the planter, which has been very helpful to Becky Palmer, who has taken over its care.



MARGIE SUGAR AT HER PLANTER

The small planter nearest the church, looked after for a few years by Debbie Grove, is now lovingly tended by Daphne Lewin. This is the planter with the Peace Pole, which was placed there in the late 1990s as the result of a fundraising effort by then-member Joe Stein. The geranium in the planter is a gift from Janet Sullivan who gave it to the church as a remembrance when she and her family moved away from Boulder in the summer of 2008.



DEB GROVE TENDS HER PLANTER

The berm by Pennsylvania Avenue was a constant eyesore and embarrassment to UUCB, despite the occasional efforts to plant trees and deal with the ever-present weeds, until 2005. It was then, on May 12th that the Wes Sears Memorial Garden was dedicated. This garden was a project of the Audubon Society, and was the first in Colorado of their *Audubon at Home* projects that encourage the use of native plants. \$7,000 was contributed to the building of the garden by Wes' UUCB Memorial Fund. Audubon members Susan Tweitt and Connie Holsinger were the project designers and overseers of this wonderful berm transformation. It is indeed a lasting tribute to Wes' memory and his long-term contributions to our congregation. Many church members and friends joined Audubon volunteers when the berm was planted in the spring of 2005. Since that time, Bev Sears and other volunteers – including church members Bev Carter, Jean LaDue and Rebecca Struik – have spent long hours lovingly tending it.



BOULDER MARKING THE WES SEARS MEMORIAL GARDEN

The west patio (where we have our Homecoming barbecue in September) and the area between it and the Meditation/Memorial Garden have also been getting attention in recent years, thanks largely to Kathy Sievering. Not only has she planted borders next to the building, she also laid the flagstone path and has put a lot of effort into getting rid of all the weeds to the north of the church by the fence and the bike path. Kathy recently painted the barbecue barrel, Big Blue. Much of the patio furniture was donated by Paul and Susan Riederer.

All of our volunteer gardeners put in countless hours (an average of 2 hours twice a week in the summer) and a good deal of their own money to make our grounds and gardens look as beautiful as they do.

Planning for the future development of our property is currently underway. A task force, established in the spring of 2010, is looking at the playground improvements and long term development of the currently vacant land to the north and east of our church.



KATHY SEIVERING AT THE FRON GARDEN