UU LARAMIE NEWS

Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Laramie This edition includes end of the year reports.

UUFL meets Sundays at 10:00 am at 1402 E. Gibbon. Any changes will be noted in the description below. On most Sundays, except for the summer months, there are Religious Education classes for children 3-14 and care for younger children.

June 1 This discussion led by **Wes Hogg** will focus on the New Testament Apocrypha, including the Gospel of Pseudo-Matthew and the Gospel of Infancy Thomas (have you heard of them!?). Should you wish to have a head start on this information you can do so by going to http://gnosis.org/library/pseudomat.htmland htttp://gnosis.org/library/inftoma.htm. Both gospels are relatively short and were once considered canon of scripture. They were later rejected from the Bible by most Christian disciples. Join us for what will be something a little different on Sunday morning! (see details on page 8 for mid week meetings to continue this kind of discussion).

June 8 "Flower Communion" led by the Program Committee. A long standing and lovely tradition in UU Fellowships and churches across the world is the springtime "Flower Communion." As we in Laramie celebrate this simple ritual brought to the United States in 1940 from a Czechoslovakian Unitarian Church. We ask that those attending bring a flower ,which symbolizes "by their own free will they join with others". We will join our flowers together with accompanying readings and song. Unfolding before us is the importance and significance of religious community, with no two flowers alike, just as no two people are alike, Simply bring a flower, homegrown in tough Laramie soil, or one from the store . Our service is a wonderful way to welcome summer and acknowledge our shared community.

June 15: Minister Sarah: Celebrating Father's Day. This day will be for recognizing Fathers. It will include music offerings by Wes Hogg as he has previously shared.

June 22: Bring a Rock" to tell your story of love and connection or sorrow and loss. We will join **Catie Ballard** for a hands on workshop in exploring how and why the stacking of rocks or building of cairns is an integral part of who we are!

June 29: 8:30 am **"Hike to Hidden Falls"** Join **Nancy Lockwood** on a pleasant outing to Hidden Falls at Curt Gowdy State Park. This is a moderate hike that should take the group around 2 hours depending on pace and falls viewing time.

We will meet at the Fellowship parking lot at **8:30 a.m. on June 29** and car pool to the trail head. The drive to the trail head takes about 30 minutes. Following the hike, those that are interested can join in a *bring-your-own* picnic lunch. The State Park charges a \$4/vehicle day use fee for state residents. Bring your Driver's License for proof of residency. The National Forest Pass is not good at state parks. *No at the Fellowship building this day.*



June, 2014

UU Fellowship of Laramie 1402 E Gibbon ST Laramie, WY 82072 Minister Sarah Oglesby-Dunegan uuflminister@gmail.com 720-339-6779 Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 12-6 pm Call or email for appt.

2014-2015 Board Ken Chestek, , Nancy Fox, Laura Miller Linda Meeker Barbara Naughton UU Laramie Newsletter Editors: Clarine Dunder and Patricia Wiseman Deadline: 20th of each month uularamienews@hotmail.com

> Laramie UU website www.uularamie.org Facebook Page Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Laramie National UU website www.uua.org

Light's Out! Please double check doors are locked, lights are out, coffee is unplugged and no water is running when you are the last to leave the Fellowship building.

Ministry Matters

As you settle into the summer and the many plans for travel, relaxation, and recreation of all sorts, I want to offer some summer reading ideas and food for thought which may prepare you for returning to UUFL with renewed energy, new vision, and new ideas for creating a successful year. (See page 9)



Where is Sarah?

In June I will be in the pulpit June 15 for Father's Day, celebrating one year with UUFL. I will be cleaning up some in the office and doing some reading and planning. I plan to be on vacation and study leave for the end of June and beginning of July. Then we begin the work of planning the next year. I have begun to create a calendar, and am hoping you all will share ideas for religious education/faith formation activities and your talents such as storytelling, music, art, and others so that we can begin to add some new programs and events into the year. While you are out and about, pick another UU church to visit or visit the websites of the congregations. When you read a newsletter, what stands out as interesting and provocative to you? Is it something we can try here? Let your curiosity guide your inquiry.

Sarah's blog and website: http://ministryandspirit.wordpress.com/



Board Report

Ken Chestek, our treasurer, presented a budget report and pledge campaign report. Pledges are under what were projected in the proposed budget. The board will continue to re-contact a few members who have not responded to the pledge campaign. The board approved the proposed budget as presented by the treasurer.

The nominating committee presented their report. They are still working to find nominees for one board position and will seek to find another person to fill a new vacancy on the Committee on Ministry position. Sara Blake resigned from the COM this week, creating a new vacancy.

The board discussed the annual meeting and finalized the agenda for the meeting.

The Board is continuing to look at building renovations. One bid has been received and we are in process of soliciting another bid.

The board approved providing scholarship funds to assist in the cost for Sara Blake's son, Indie, to attend a UU summer camp.

Our minister, Sarah Oglesby-Dunagen, presented her monthly report. She would like the Fellowship to form a Stewardship task force. She has been meeting with the Committee on Ministry. They are discussing some different assessment strategies for evaluating our Fellowship's ministries. She continues to meet with the post leadership retreat committee and they are working on a post retreat workshop for members later this summer. She also discussed her plans for Ordination this fall. The Foothills UU congregation in Ft. Collins will host the event and First Unitarian Universalist Church in Denver will be her sponsoring congregation.

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Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Laramie Board of Directors June 2013–May 2014

Members: Rich Barrans, Rosemary Bratton (departed mid-term), Ken Chestek,, Nancy Fox, Nancy Lockwood, Laura Miller (inaugurated mid-term)

Mission:

To manage the property and business affairs of the Fellowship to carry out the Fellowship's mission. Responsibilities

Manage the property of the Fellowship, execute business affairs, approve expenditures, conduct the Annual Meeting.

Accomplishments

New Minister

This fiscal year had an exciting beginning as we welcomed our new minister, Sarah Oglesby-Dunegan. **Endowment**

We had the pleasant task of deciding how to accept a very generous gift from John Dumbrill in memory of his late wife Sally Fife. This gift inaugurates the John Dumbrill and Sally Fife Endowment Fund, to be officially launched in a congregational vote at the Annual Meeting.

Building Enhancements

We have considered enhancements to the physical plant of the Fellowship. These items are not settled, and remain under consideration.

Sound system

The current sound system is limited, and does not meet the present or anticipated needs of the Fellowship. It has only one microphone and audio coverage is not uniform throughout the sanctuary. Additional sound inputs, such as recorded music and video sound tracks, are usually played on additional speakers. An integrated audio system with more microphones and a mixer board with multiple inputs and outputs would provide more versatility for programming and more control over what goes to the speakers.

Listening assistance system

Our building has no listening assistance system for the hard of hearing. We would like to install a system to provide intelligible sound conveniently to those who need it. We have explored several technologies: IR, FM, and induction loop. Each has its pros and cons in cost, convenience, reliability, and adjustability. We do not yet have a decision on what system would be best for us. Of course, any system will cost money. Social hall renovation

Paul Drake, an architectural Engineering student at the University of Wyoming, studied our social hall and designed changes to make the space more versatile, capacious, and inviting. Drawings and descriptions of his plans are posted to the Fellowship's web site. The principal ideas are

• Adding a storage room to the south side of the building, so that equipment doesn't take up space in the Social Hall

• Renovating and reorganizing of the rooms to the east of the Social Hall, to reduce the size of the office, make a separate kitchen, and combine the two rest rooms into one unisex handicapped-accessible rest room Upgrading the Social Hall ceiling to a vaulted ceiling with a skylight and can lighting.

We are in the process of pricing and prioritizing these enhancements, and welcome and invite all interested members to participate.

Chocolate Fiesta

The partner charitable organization this year was the same as last year: the Laramie Soup Kitchen. With that constant, there nonetheless were a few changes.

Raffle tickets were sold only at the event rather than in advance. Purchasers applied their tickets to a particular prize rather than having a random drawing award any prize to any purchaser. This assured purchasers that they only had chances to win prizes they wanted. *Continued on next page*

The entire net proceeds were donated to the partner charity. This is the first year that the Fellowship did not keep half the proceeds; we would like to repeat that going forward. Although demand for chocolate items exceeded supply, this year's Fiesta made a record donation to its partner organization. **Office Technology**

We upgraded some of the office technology.

- New phone service with voice mail instead of an answering machine
- Wi-Fi internet in the building

Purchased a printer/copier

Building Repairs

Dealt with some unplanned building repair issues and expenses.

- Patched the concrete at the front door
- Filled the sink hole in the parking lot at the northeast corner of the building

UUFL Annual Meeting Minutes May 18, 2014

Call to order: 11:05 AM Members present: 27 Total Membership: 56 Ouorum needed: 19 Simple majority of those members present and voting needed for elected positions:

Dunbrill Trust By-Law Amendment presentation by Treasurer Ken Chestek: Jeff Lockwood moved to approve amending the By-laws to create the trust as presented in the written hand out (on file) -

David Perry seconded to the motion

Discussion: Jeff Lockwood recommended that the monies be invested in funds that are consistent with UU Principles. Another member recommended this be done to the extent possible. Vote: - 27 in favor, 0 opposed; no abstentions; motion carried

Nominating Committee report presented by Rich Barrans: Nancy Lockwood moves we approve the slate of officers as presented in the agenda Catie Ballard Seconded the motion Discussion – Steve Hodder asked if there were any nominations from the floor – there were none Vote: 27 in favor, no opposed, no abstentions. Motion carried

Committee/Ministries and Board reports (on file) presented by Board Chair Rich Barrans: Bren Lieske commented on how nice it is to hear our advertisement on Wyoming Public Media Nancy Fox noted that the committees, ministries, and board have provided mission and duty statements in their reports to help members and friends better know the purpose of the Committees, Ministries, and Board.

Budget report presented by Treasurer Ken Chestek: Ken asked for suggestions for how to cover the anticipated \$6000 short fall Ideas provided and discussed: Cut the expenses in the 2014-15 budget.

Marian Erdelyi suggested we could hold fund raiser (s); Barbara Bogart noted that fund raisers could also increase our visibility in the community

It was noted by Nancy Lockwood that it might be preferable to meet our operating expenses through annual giving.

Steve Hodder mentioned we could be making more money from our Safeway and Albertson's grocery card sales/usage.

We can take the short fall from savings; we have savings in excess of 12 months operating expenses; however, it was noted this is not a long term sustainable practice. It was also noted that savings are usually held to cover unexpected expenses/circumstances not covered in the budget.

Increase income by increased pledges.

The Board will consider these ideas and make any adjustments to the 2014-15 budget.

Taskforce initiation presented by Rich Barrans

Stewardship task force – The mission of this task force is to investigate how to handle Stewardship and create a plan; Jeff Lockwood agreed to be on this committee if 2 others would also agree to be on the task force with him. Barbara Bogart and Steve Lieske agreed to serve with him.

By-Law Review/Revise task force– Laurie Edwards, Nancy Lockwood, Rich Barrans, and Ken Chestek agreed to serve on this task force.

Chocolate Fiesta task force – The mission of this task force is to develop policies and procedures to include how to choose the partner organization; Nancy Fox, Laura Miller, Barbara Bogart agreed to serve on this task force.

Pew Arrangement - discussion lead by Rich Barrans

Sue Wedel stated the ability to hear the speaker is better with pews in rows (our former arrangement). David Perry commented the new arrangement is too informal and wastes lots of floor space. Laura Miller added the new pew spacing is too crowded, especially when attendance is high.

Marian Erdelyi suggested we try angling pews a bit differently but basically keep arrangement in rows facing forward

Another member suggested we think about buying chairs that are more moveable; it was noted we considered this a few years ago and decided not against buying new chairs.

Clarine Dunder suggested we arrange the pews in a slanted herringbone pattern in rows that face forward.

The following Pew arrangements were considered:

Keep in new arrangement Move back to old way (in rows facing forward) Herringbone arrangement Angle pews a bit more in the first few rows but keep pews in rows



Herringbone seating, with tables, we would have no tables. You can see that it is quite angled from what it was originally.

From the discussion, it seemed as if members were favoring the herringbone arrangement. It was agreed to take a "yes" or "no" vote on the Herring bone arrangement. Vote: all were in favor, no one opposed, and no abstentions.

The Board Chair, Rich Barrans recommended the meeting be adjourned and discussion of the last agenda items be conducted informally after adjournment for those interested.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM

Our Caring Community

Celebrating Life for Two of Our Members



There will be a celebration for Carolyn Thompson who had ties to the starting of our UUFL back in 1955. She was a quiet but delightful addition to our Fellowship. Her life will be celebrated

on June 5, 2014, 6:30 p.m. at the Fellowship.

Please join us for a Memorial Service for Robin Rawlings on June 7, 2014, 11am. Robin was a vital part of our Fellowship for several years. Rev. Penny Rather will perform this celebration of life in her honor.





With sunny skies and summer just around the corner, our front lawn will be needing some TLC. We need some volunteers to come over and cut the grass, maybe every 10 days or 2 weeks, and water once a week

at least. Last summer Rich Barrans and Bob Kelly took this job on with help from a few others. With Rich headed to Kenya soon, we will need a few others to volunteer to help get us through the summer. If you can take a week or two or even one month to do either mowing, watering, or weeding, even just once or twice, please contact Rich Barrans (RBARRANS@uwyo.edu), who will coordinate volunteers for first half of summer.

In Appreciation!

To the Fellowship We would like to thank you so much for the generous donation to our son Alden's fund. We truly appreciate your kindness. With much gratitude, Joelle and Marty Wedel

We owe much to out -going board members Nancy Lockwood and Rich Barrans who worked hard on behalf of our Fellowship as members of our Board of Trustees these last years. Nancy served three years, two as treasurer and we so appreciate her attention to detail, especially in all things financial as well as her institutional knowledge of the Fellowship of the last 26 years. We thank Rich, a relative newcomer to UU, for taking on Board chair this last year, a big job he did with a smile. Rich took on leadership of the board and was a real hands on volunteer in so many areas from working at the Chocolate Fiesta to mowing the grass to shoveling the walk just about every time we had snow (which was a lot over the last few years). We so appreciate Nancy and Rich's involvement and gifts of their time and talent!!

Thanks to Sara Blake for her work on the Committee on Ministry.

Christopher Watkins, thanks for sharing your Music.

Also thanks to Dave Perry, the greeters, worship associates, the choir, those preparing and cleaning for the coffee hour and all others who helped make this a special year.

Be sure to keep up with our very own Jeff Lockwood's articles. He is now a regular contributor to the UU World.

UUFL Community



Dine and Discover

Program at Lindfor Elementary school in which our members are helping.

Board Meeting 2nd and 4th Thursday at 6 p.m. Membership Committee third Thurs 6 p.m. Yoga Classes every Sunday 4-4:50 Meditation every Sunday at 5 pm Program Committee second Tuesday at 5 pm Contemplative Yarns every Tuesday 6:30-8 pm Social Action Committee As needed Change for Change resumes in the Fall. Caring Committee please notify Ralph Garrett, Sue Wedel, Mary Beth Baptiste, David Perry or Claudia Edwards. If any one in our congregation is in need or needs celebration these can be attended to also.

Committee on Ministry as needed

Care of Building

Lights Out Please double check doors are locked, lights are out and coffee is unplugged when you are the last the last to leave the fellowship building.

Building Use send committee meeting dates and other building times to UU Laramie News@hotmail.com so that we can include them in the newsletter calendar.

Upcoming Events

Save the Dates! July 6th, 2 pm for a summer picnic bring your own meat to grill and a pot to share, at Robin and Ken Chestick's house. 4317 Cliff St. 307-460-9139. Bring your family. Kids Welcome!

August 16th Picnic/ Workshop

Water Communion in the Fall.



Congratulations

Emma Fogel, daughter of Nancy Fox and also Wyatt Estes, son of members Karen Bartsch and David Estes, who just graduated from Laramie High School.



UUFL Community

For UU Kids of all Ages

The following seven UU principles have been modified for children. They reflect that Unitarian Universalists are united in their commitment to conduct a responsible search for meaning, to respect the interdependent web of existence that we are part of to be advocates and workers for social justice and honor

the inherent worth of all beings. (www.uufr.org/ education/children/ principles).

- 1. Each person is important.
- 2. Be kind in all you do
- 3. We're free to learn together.
- 4. We search for what is true
- 5. All people need a voice.
- 6. Build a fair and peaceful world.
- 7. We care for Earth's lifeboat.

*Look for "Did You Know?" in next month's UU Newsletter.

"SUMMER SCRIPTURE SERIES"

Wes Hogg has been attending UUFL for almost a vear and brings with him a lifelong interest in religion and spirituality. He is a Wyoming native who has studied religious studies and music at Northwest College, currently works in Laramie and also plays in an indie band! He is eager to continue his religious education in an informal way by discussing spiritual texts from all the worlds religions. Wes will be leading a Summer Scripture Series on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month beginning at 7 pm This is a good opportunity to learn more about scriptures. Refreshments will be served.



Please consider raising your 2014-2015 UUFL financial pledge (by 10% if possible) so that we can take care of operating expenses and continue with the meaningful work of our Fellowship. Your help (as a fellowship member or friend) is needed to address the approximately \$4,000 budget short fall for this next year. At the last UUFL Board of Director's meeting, the board approved cuts to the budget presented at the annual meeting by about \$2,000. These cuts, although difficult, reduced the short fall from

about \$6,000, to about \$4,000.



Please contact Ken Chestek (kchestek@uwyo.edu) our

treasurer in the next few weeks to raise your pledge. If you have not pledged yet, please consider doing so. We will report in the next newsletter the status of the budget and this extended pledge request (drive).

Save the Date

Saturday August 16 11:30-2:30/3 (times still a bit fluid)

Celebrating Our CommUUnity Garden: Harvest Picnic

Hello friends...we are planning a time to re-group for the next year, and want to invite you to a special event at UUFL:

11:30 Opening Celebration/Worship

12:00 picnic (potluck) and conversation (guided by questions/topics offered related to Fellowship activities and practices for the upcoming year); we will collect ideas and feedback to some key questions as we go.

1:00- 3:00 Member With Hats: Planning for the vear.

More to be revealed in July's Newsletter.

More from Sarah: What's on Your Bookshelf or in Your E-Reader?

As you settle into the summer and the many plans for travel, relaxation, and recreation of all sorts, I want to offer some summer reading ideas and food for thought which may prepare you for returning to UUFL with renewed energy, new vision, and new ideas for creating a successful year here.

For social justice folks, or anyone interested in checking out this work that hasn't before, I recommend the book by Richard Gilbert called *The Prophetic Imperative: Social Gospel in Theory and In Practice*. You can find it in the UUA bookstore and there is also a study guide to go with it that is free. This book was ideagenerating and moving for me, and gave me a UU context for social justice work as a ministry. I also think that Parker Palmer's book *Healing The Heart of Democracy: The Courage to Create a Politics That is Wor-thy of the Human Spirit* would be relevant and inspiring as the Fellowship moves into the next steps of social justice as a faith based activity, or a ministry.

For those of you who may be interested in strategic planning and understanding how to assess or evaluate the ministries of the congregation better, the Committee on Ministry has agreed to read *Completing the Circle: Reviewing Ministries in the Congregation* by David McMahill. This book offers a framework for how to review a congregation's work and gives tangible examples of the benefits of this work. Many UU congregations have used this book as a place to begin their assessment of their work and their vision for ministry. Join us, and share your ideas for how we can use assessment to learn and grow.

For folks interested in deepening Sunday worship programs, I recommend checking out the book *Worship that Works: Theory and Practice for Unitarian Universalists* by UU ministers Wayne Arnason and Kathleen Rolenz. Some of this material is available on the UUA website for FREE! http://www.uua.org/worship/theory/worshipworks/index.shtml In fact, the site has many resources for worship planning and development, and if you are considering being a worship associate or leader next year, this is a great place to begin thinking about what makes for a great Sunday.

For the newly formed Stewardship task force anyone interested in developing a culture of generosity, there is a set in the UUA bookstore called: "*The Giving and Generosity Set.*" This includes *The Abundance of our Faith:* Award Winning Sermons on Giving plus suggestions for group discussion. Other readings are; *Beyond Fundraising: the Complete Guide to Congregational Stewardship and Giving* and *The Sacred Art: Creating a Lifestyle of Generosity.* I highly recommend this last book especially, as it focuses on giving and generosity as spiritual practices that have implications for all areas of our lives.

I have used some material this year from Galen Guengerich's book *God Revised: How Religion Must Evolve in a Scientific Age.* This book helps us connect with an idea of the holy that is in alignment with science and with mystery, to understand what our particular religious movement has to offer our larger communities (and us!) and bridges our discussion of humanism and theism within the UU movement.

In exploring religious education, perhaps you might pick up *The Parent Trilogy: Three Programs for UU Parents and Other Adults* or *Full Circle: 15 Ways to Grow Lifelong UU's*. Another that I have consulted from outside of our tradition is called *Intergenerational Christian Formation: Bringing the Whole Church Together For Ministry*, *Community and Worship*. This community needs to develop a conversation about what our kids and families need and want as they travel this path of Unitarian Universalist community and faith formation. Visiting other churches is another great way to begin to ask ourselves what we'd like to see happen here and how we can use and adapt ideas.

Finally—for anyone wanting to engage more deeply in community, I recommend these small group ministry books: *Heart to Heart: Fourteen Gatherings For Reflection and Sharing* and the second one *Soul to Soul: Fourteen Gatherings For Reflection and Sharing* by Christine Robinson and Alicia Hawkins. These are a great framework for adult faith formation and community building, and could be used to develop more small group ministry here or to augment Sunday programming. Perhaps some of you will be moved to offer to lead a small group after reading these!

This summer, I plan to read some of these and to explore my own toolkit for leading and facilitating growth on both a personal and communal level. I hope that we will be able to share our insights and ideas, enthusi-asms and critiques as we move into the next year of ministry and community. *Have a great summer*!

JUNE 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Wes Hogg Dis- cussion on New Testament 4-4:50 pm Yoga 5: pm Meditation	2	3 6:30-8pm Contemplative Yarns	4	5 6:30 pm Memorial Service for Carolyn Thompson	6	7 11 am Memorial Service for Robin Rawlings
8 10 am Flower Communion 4-4:50 pm Yoga 5: pm Meditation	9	<i>10</i> 5:pm Program Committee 6:30-8pm Contemplative Yarns	11 Noon Building in use 7 pm Summer Scripture Series	<i>12</i> 6:00 pm Board meeting	13	14
<i>15</i> 10: am "Celebrating Father's Day" 4-4:50 pm Yoga 5: pm Meditation	16	<i>17</i> 6:30-8pm Contemplative Yarns	18	19	20	21
22 10:am "Bring a Rock" 4-4:50 pm Yoga 5: pm Meditation	23	<i>24</i> 6:30-8pm Contemplative Yarns	<i>25</i> 7 pm Summer Scripture Series	26 6:00 pm Board meeting & Membership Committee	27	28
29 8:30 am "Hike to Hidden Falls" 4-4:50 pm Yoga 5: pm Meditation	30 Don't FORGET! The fellowship will be celebrating Water Communion upon our return in the fall. Remember to save water from your summer journeys!					



1402 Gibbon Laramie, WY 82072