



UU Laramie news matters January, 2025

Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Laramie, 1402 Gibbon, Laramie, WY. 82072. 307 745-8874

Services for January

January 5th, 10 am, “Burning Bowl Ceremony” led by Maya Gilmore & Barbara Bogart.

The New Year is traditionally a time for reflections and, often, resolutions. But, what if, instead of making resolutions that are likely to fizzle out within a few weeks, we choose to release old thoughts, ideas and habits to start the New Year fresh? The Burning Bowl Ceremony allows us to metaphorically burn what no longer serves us.

January 12th, 10 am, “Spirituality in the Age of Artificial Intelligence” led by Finbar Curtin.

In a technologically advanced future, how will we as humans find meaning and spirituality? What might brain emulation, genetic engineering, and a workless economy portend for the human experience?

Guided meditation at 3pm led by Catie Ballard

January 19th, 10 am, “A UU Response to Negativity: Kill it with Kindness?” led by Ken Chestek.

The overwhelming negativity of the recent Presidential election may have had a significant impact on the outcome of that election. Does that mean we are doomed to dwell in a rising tide of hatred and division? Our UU faith calls on us to seek the inherent worth and dignity of every individual, including those who disagree with us, attack us and seek to divide us. How can we avoid the downward spiral of negativity and pull ourselves out of the despair that seems to be rising from every aspect of our lives?

January 26th, 10 am, “What’s Next for our UUFL” led by Dan Elliot.

We’ll meet at 4:30 pm for a round-table discussion and priority-setting exercise to help decide what direction we want the Fellowship to take in our ministry to each other and to our community. Food will be provided.

Guided meditation at 3pm led by Catie Ballard

UUFL Board:

Linda Meeker, Chair
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David Perry, Treasurer
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Robin Chestek, Secretary
rchestek@gmail.com

Member: Jeff Lockwood
lockwood@uwyo.edu

Member: Sara Saulcy
s.saulcy@gmail.com

Laramie Zoom Room:

Meeting ID: 2907005294
No passcode needed

Chocolate Fiesta, February 8th, 2025 – Recipient: League of Women Voters

Call for volunteers for the 2025 Chocolate Fiesta! This year’s event is Saturday, February 8th. A range of opportunities are available such as pricing items, cashiers, setup, and advertising. Most of all, we need your chocolate confectionery and baking skills! Please contact Sara Saulcy at 307-247-2911 (call or text) or via email at s.saulcy@gmail.com with questions or concerns. Let’s make this year’s Chocolate Fiesta the best ever!

Contemplative Yarns meets on Saturdays at 1:15 pm at the Fellowship. Please contact Sara Saulcy at s.saulcy@gmail.com for more information. When the weather is nice, we meet at the same time at Harbon Park kitty-corner from the Fellowship.

Calendar for January:

The next Board meeting is on December 8th, 5pm at the Fellowship.

The next Program Committee meeting will be January 14th¹, at 5:15 pm, live/zoom.

Bulletin Board

**A chair dolly was approved, ordered and received. This will make rearranging the sanctuary much easier for the upcoming Chocolate Fiesta and other events.*

***Sara and David are looking into audio device options for folks with hearing problems. One option being considered is called the waveCAST that works through our WiFi system to transmit to a mobile phone app, which one can listen to on personal headphones or Bluetooth or other devices.*

****Building insurance has jumped to over \$6000. We will investigate who the insurance carriers are for other churches and what they may charge for our building.*

*****Chocolate Fiesta. The Board is considering several options for our partner organization this year. We hope to have the choice selected before the next Board meeting.*

To reserve the UUFL Building: Contact David Perry, 307 760-7879, dperry@uwyo.edu. See the current event calendar on the UUFL website. Covid Info: Please wear a mask if you are ill or have not been vaccinated; masks are suggested but not required. See UUFL covid policy on the UUFL website.

Please contact us if you would like to receive the **news matters** newsletter; check out the UU Laramie website, uularamie.org, and our **UUFL Facebook** page.

Robin Chestek and Ken Chestek (460-9139) maintain the Membership database; please contact Ken if you have changed your address or phone number.

If you have an item that Caring Committee should be aware of, please contact Jim Erdelyi (Chair) at 307 760-8274. Other Caring members: Ralph Garrett, Robin Chestek, Sara Saulcy can be contacted.