



UU Laramie news matters February, 2025

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

Services for February

February 2nd, 10 am, Roundtable discussion: Groundhog Day: More Than a Movie, led by Nancy Lockwood and Barbara Bogart

February 2 is a turning point in the seasonal swing of the earth, when the sun begins to strengthen again. It calls us to consider what we hope for as winter melts into spring (eventually). And just as the groundhog's shadow may or may not appear, what are we willing to leave to chance?

February 9th, 10 am, Formal service: Great Expectations: Preparing for disappointment on our search for truth and meaning, led by Maya Gilmore

In this talk, Maya Gilmore will discuss the pitfalls and power of expectations. They can help us achieve our dreams – or keep us paralyzed. How do we understand what we expect (and why), deal with disappointment, and keep hoping for the best, even when the outlook seems grim?

February 16th, 10 am, Roundtable discussion: The Power of Love, led by Linda Meeker

Join Linda Meeker in a lively conversation about this season of love and the obligations it might bring. What does it mean to act out of love, or to love thy neighbor as thyself? At the UUA's General Assembly of 2024, it was decided that the Seven Principles would be replaced by a "love-centered" approach to theology and worship. Does this reflect your current belief system, or compel you to act or think differently about our religion? To quote the revered sage, Tina Turner, *What's love got to do with it?* And if you want to bring any unwanted Valentine's Day candy or gifts to donate to the experience, that's OK too...

February 23rd, 4:30 pm, Formal service: The Spiritual Nature of Presence, led by Victor Ashear

Victor Ashear, PhD, from the UU Fellowship of Sheridan will present "The Spiritual Nature of Presence." The message expresses the idea that the practice of presence is open to all regardless of your belief system. When practiced at a deep level, presence is transformative in that it desolates the boundaries between subject and object. Dr. Ashear will offer three perspectives to illustrate this. **There will be a potluck following the service.**

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

*Coming Saturday, February 8th, from 10 am to 2 pm: The 40th Annual Chocolate Fiesta! The proceeds will go to the Laramie League of Women Voters. **Please bring your homemade chocolate goodies to the Fellowship on Friday, February 7th between 4 and 6 pm or Saturday, February 8th between 8 and 9:45 am. If cooking or baking aren't your forte, there are plenty of other ways to help. Any amount of time you have to contribute will be appreciated. Please contact Sara Saulcy at 307-247-2911 (call or text) or via email at s.saulcy@gmail.com to volunteer or with questions. Here's to making this the best Chocolate Fiesta 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 February:

The next **Board** meeting is on February 4th, 5pm at the Fellowship.

The next **Program Committee** meeting will be February 18th, at 5:00 pm, live/zoom.

Bulletin Board

The Treasurer's report shows we're lagging slightly in how quickly pledges are coming in (51% when we are through 58% of church year) but expenses are also significantly lower than anticipated (32%).

- > The chair dolly the Board authorized has been assembled in time to help with the rearrangement of the Sanctuary for the coming Chocolate Fiesta.
- > The Board is investigating audio device options focusing on waveCAST, an app that transmits our sound system directly to hearing aid users.
- > The Board is considering the option of joining the North American Unitarian Association as well as the UUA. This is a topic we will bring up at the annual meeting to be considered by the entire congregation.
- > The Board discussed a revision to our outdated COVID policy.
- > The Board will meet after service on Sunday, February 2nd to complete our annual UUA Certification Data.

UUFL Board:

Linda Meeker, Chair
ldangrous1@gmail.com
David Perry, Treasurer
dperry@uwyo.edu
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



As you likely know, at the 2024 General Assembly, the UUA adopted a new Statement of Values although the UUFL voted to retain the long-standing Seven Principles (<https://www.uua.org/beliefs/what-we-believe/principles>). While the UUA has headed towards a social justice-based identity that forefronts political action, there is a newly emerged UU organization that holds fast to the traditional and foundational principles of freedom, reason, and tolerance while focusing on spiritual growth and intellectual engagement. The North American Unitarian Association (<https://naunitarians.org/>) offers a wide range of online programs (Saturday worship services, discussion circles, book clubs, and courses) and a lively newsletter (<https://naunitarians.org/liberal-beacon/>) that you might find stimulating and valuable. Perhaps for each of us and the UUFL, there might be a place for a both-and (rather than either-or) relationship with these two organizations that each advance important elements of liberal religion.

Jeff Lockwood, UUFL Board co-chair

Update from the Committee on Ministry:

UUFL needs your help in setting our Fellowship's priorities for our ministry to each other and the community. We got off to a great start at our Jan. 26 round table and dinner, where 20 people participated in a priority-setting exercise. If you were unable to attend, there's still time. Please email Dan Elliott at peak14259@gmail.com and we'll arrange to get you a packet of cards listing the nine priorities we've developed over the past few months of meetings and conversations. Instructions are included in the packet. The packets will also be available at our Feb. 2 and Feb. 9 services. You can complete the exercise on your own time and turn the packet in on Feb. 2 or Feb. 9. Or if you prefer, you can just look over the list below, rank them in order of importance to you (No. 1 is most important, No. 2 is next most important, and so on) and email the list back to Dan. (No ties, please.) Please join in! We want to make sure everyone is heard.

Here's the list:

Ceremony and Ritual
Educational Programs for Children, Youth, Adults
Fellowship and Community
Intellectual Stimulation
Music
Organizational Leadership
Outreach and Social Action
Pastoral Care
Spiritual Enrichment

To reserve the UUFL Building: Contact David Perry, 307 760-7879, dperry@uwyo.edu. See the current event calendar on the UUFL website. If you are feeling ill, please attend church services or meetings via zoom.

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.