

# UU LARAMIE NEWS

April 2015



## Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Laramie

UUFL meets Sundays at 10:00 am at 1402 E. Gibbon. Any changes will be noted in the description below. Except for the summer months, Religious Education classes for children 5-12 are held the second Sunday of the month at 10:00 a.m. Child care for all children is available every Sunday."

### April 5 "Our 7th Principle: Commit2Respond"

Our guest minister this Easter morning is **Ruth Rinehart**, a candidate for UU ministry, currently in her 3rd year of study at Iliff School of Theology in Denver. She asks us: "As the interdependent web awakens into spring, as the days lengthen and the deep of the dark earth offers its riches up into the sunlight, as our faith mobilizes around the importance of responding to climate change, how will we respond? In our individual personal lives, in our congregations, and in the wider world, what does this cycle of renewal bring?"

Ruth is also a member of the UU church in Golden and...a beekeeper.

*This Easter morning we will also have a simple finger food brunch after the service. Please bring fruit, bread, muffins or some morning food to add to the refreshment table. Children wishing to hunt Easter eggs need to bring 6 colored eggs per child and a basket to put them in during the hunt after our refreshments.*

### April 12 Rev. Leslie Kee "The Power of Place"

There is a place within each of us that needs to be connected with the land. An earth-based spiritual way of life is to understand this connection on a deeper level. Rev. Leslie Kee of the UU Church of Casper will explore why certain places, human-made or within the natural world, are essential to a healthy spiritual practice.

**Change for Change** Wild Earth Guardians presented by Ralph Garrett.

### April 19 "Local Food and Our Carbon Footprint: Making a Difference for Mother Earth"

What is the relationship between our carbon footprint and the food we grow and eat? Why does it matter? As we celebrate Earth Day, these concerns about food choices will be the topic of a panel of advocates of locally grown food. The panel includes: **Bren Lieske**, UUFL member and organic farmer, **Erika Shoen**, founder of ACRES, the UW student run farm, **Marla Peterson**, owner of our local food coop and **Sonya Moore** another person involved in local food. Please join us as our social action committee presents the last in a series of programs addressing Climate Change and Climate Justice.

**R.E.** today

### New Member orientation

### April 26 "Mission, Meaning and Memory: Celebrating Sixty years of UUFL"

"Sixty isn't old if you are a tortoise or an Elephant ... but it is if you are a liberal religious community in the middle of a conservative state...and that's just what the UUFL is. This year marks the **60th birthday** of our beloved religious community. It hasn't always been easy but as the Whos in Whoville proudly exclaim "we are here, we are here!" Come join us for a morning of "Meaning, Mission and Memories" as we celebrate our history, rejoice in the present and envision the future. *See page 3 for more information*

## UU Fellowship of Laramie

1402 E Gibbon ST  
Laramie, WY 82072

2014-2015 Board  
David Perry and Linda  
Meeker Co-Chairs  
Ken Chestek, Laura Miller,  
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.

Thanks

## Musings from a Co-chair



As the church year hurtles toward another close, we have two very pressing, intertwined issues that only you can address. First, we have had visits from two highly experienced ministers, both just completing tenures as interims, with very different styles. I hope you had a chance to meet both and to attend both of their sermons. The Ministerial Interview Committee is collecting your feedback as they try to determine which candidate to put forward for a congregational vote. Please respond to their survey if you have not already done so.

Second, once again we are coming up on the annual Pledge Drive. This year is particularly important as we will be budgeting for a resident, settled minister. This year's expenses have been kept in check in part by the fact that "pulpit service" is relatively cheap. A half-time minister will not only provide two services every month, but will also give us pastoral care as well as professional input into the Board and various committees. We encountered several situations this year where the presence, care, and words of a minister who personally knows the congregation would have been welcome in times of need and, unfortunately, grief. If you care about professional ministry, this is the year to consider giving at least your fair share, if not more, to the annual Pledge drive.

On a more joyous note, this year we are celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the founding of our congregation. Please make a special note on your calendar to join in the festivities marking that event on April 26th.

Normally, at this time of year, I would be bemoaning the late arrival of Spring on the High Plains as we suffer though yet another snowstorm. This year, I write these words from the deck of my cabin overlooking the Laramie River, completely ice-free almost a month earlier than usual. It's a feeling both pleasant, but extremely disconcerting. Just as we need an abundant mountain snowpack to provide us water through the summer, we need a successful pledge drive to provide the resources for the activities of the Fellowship. We have had to budget for slight deficits the last couple of years and while we can draw on our savings for a while, we cannot depend on melting glaciers to provide our water for the long term.

David

## Board Report



1. A congregational meeting is scheduled for March 29, 2015. Members will vote for a ministerial candidate (either Jackie Ziegler or Doak Mansfield) presented by the Board. Please plan to attend for this important vote!
2. Grocery cards are bringing in about \$300 per quarter. Thanks Steve Hodder for coordinating this effort.
3. UUFL needs 1 new Board member and 2 new COM members for the next year. If you are interested in serving UUFL in either capacity, please contact a current Board member.
4. Barbara Bogart has generously offered to create an archive of UUFL history.
5. Do you like to paint? We will be painting the RE rooms this summer. An anonymous donor will donate the paint. Thank You!
6. The next meeting is scheduled for April 8 at 6 pm at UUFL. All are welcome to attend.

# Important RE dates for the month of April

There is a lot going on for RE this month so read all the way through and mark your calendar. We hope to see you at each event!

## Thursday, April 2nd – Monthly Potluck

Join us again for the monthly potluck at 5:30 p.m. after wards we will dye Easter Eggs together!



## Sunday, April 5th – Easter Egg Hunt

It has been a long standing tradition to hunt for Easter Eggs after the service, so gather together some eggs (plastic ones may be filled with treasures or real ones) and bring a basket for collecting. If your child(ren) wishes to participate we encourage you bring six per participant, so there is plenty to go around. Please deliver them to Claire Moloney before the service on Easter Sunday.

## Sunday, April 19th – RE Sunday (Please note this is a change from the regular pattern)

RE Sunday will be held a bit later in the month so we can honor Earth Day with some planting of seeds in the UUFL gardens. We will be joined by the Program committee in honor of Climate Justice month. We will also read Owen and Mzee – a beautiful story of an unexpected friendship reminding us that when we value connections between all living beings that we can change the world. Not only will we honor the natural world in honor of Earth day but by adults and children of the Fellowship working together in our gardens we will also have opportunities to offer Random Acts of Kindness for the Earth in honor of our upcoming 60th anniversary!

## Sunday, April 26th – UUFL's 60th Anniversary!!

On this special Sunday in which we will celebrate 60 years of our Fellowship in Laramie, the children of UUFL have been invited to sing for the congregation the UU Principles Song. We have singing this song throughout the year in RE and this is a great opportunity for us to share it with the congregation in celebration of our years together.



*And...in keeping with Jubilee Celebration and acknowledgment of 60 years we are asking you to bring a Birthday'gift for our community, actually to the larger community of which we are a part. You are asked to, perform a random act of kindness sometime before this Sunday and then write it up and we will place it with others on our Diamond." Maybe scrape the snow off someone's car, take care of your neighbor's child, pay for a cup of coffee for a needy person, walk that lost dog back home,... The ideas are endless... (see our FB page for some ideas); anyone of any age can do an act of kindness. We hope to have 60 ACTS, one for each year of our Fellowship, to put on our Diamond"so please think how you can contribute. Balloons and birthday cake will round out the morning.*

# Our UUFL Community Activities



## Outreach

Membership's info table at the Union on March 4 was a great success (thank you, Christina Servetnick!) Our next info table is scheduled for Monday, April 6. Robin Chestek and Claire Moloney will be staffing the table and greeting students.

## Many Hands Make Light Work

We really need volunteers for Sunday mornings to help make our gatherings more comfortable. Needed are, people to:

- Welcome, (greeters)
- Worship associates
- Coffee hour for bringing food
- Cleaners

Without these vital people, we are less than the loving community that we try to be.

So sign up in the meeting room and help our services become warmer and comforting.

## Getting to Know UU

*Join us for a "Getting to Know UU" informal get-together and light lunch on Sunday, April 19 at Noon in the Social Hall. Learn more about the history and organization of the Fellowship and the national association. Childcare provided. RSVP by April 12 to Robin Chestek, 307-460-9139, rchestek@gmail.com.*



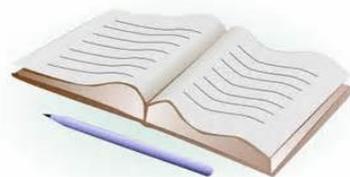
## Respecting our Earth

The Social Action Committee has partnered with the program committee to put together several services between WORLD WATER DAY, March 22 and EARTH DAY, April 22. Many of these services will have the theme of climate justice. The UUSC has put together resources that UU Fellowships will use nationwide to delve deeper and learn more about climate justice over the course of this month. Please join us as we reveal, reckon, reconnect and discover more about the climate crisis and what we can do to respond to it.



## It's No Joke! -- "An Evening with Authors" on April 1st

Three award-winning authors -- Mary Beth Baptiste, Alyson Hagy and Brad Watson -- will be the featured presenters at "An Evening with Authors" on Wednesday, April 1. from 7 to 9 pm at the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Laramie, 1402 Gibbon Street. All three will read from their published work. The readings will be followed by conversation at an informal wine and cheese reception. For more information, contact Marian at 742-0372 or Barbara at 399-0806.



*"In our springtime! every day has its hidden growth in the mind as it has in the earth when the little folded blades are getting ready to pierce the earth."  
George Elliot*

# UUFL Community

## Committees

**Board Meeting** 2nd Wed. 6-7:30 p.m.

**Membership Committee** 3rd Thurs 6 p.m.

Members: Robin Chestek, Sue Wedel, Claudia Thompson

**Program Committee** 2nd Tuesday at 5 pm

Members: Linda Goldman, Nancy and Jeff Lockwood, Ken Chestek, Barbara Bogart, David Perry

**Social Action Committee** Members are Sue Wedel, Marian Erdelyi, Claire Maloney, Bob Strayer Barbra Naughton, Madeline Darymple and Ralph Garrett. They meet 2nd Monday, 10:30 a.m. at the Grounds, Internet and Coffee Lounge, 171 N 3th St.

**Committee on Ministry** as needed.

Members: Michelle Vissar, Claire Maloney, Jim Erdelyi

**Endowment Trust Board:** Laurie Edwards, Linda Goldman and Ken Chestek

**Caring Committee** Please notify Mary Beth Baptiste, Sara Blake, Ralph Garrett, Sue Wedel if any one in our congregation is in need or needs celebration.

**Ministerial Interview Committee** Jeff Lockwood, Linda Goldman, and Ken Chestek

## Care of Building

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

### Building Use

Please send committee meeting dates and other building use information to:  
UULaramieNews@hotmail.com so that we can include them in the newsletter calendar.

*“Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed.”*

— Mahatma Gandhi

## Regular UU Activities

**Meditation** every Sunday at 5 pm

**Monthly Potlucks** 1st Thursday, 5:30pm

**RE Monthly Event** 1st Thurs at 6:15pm

**Contemplative Yarns** We meet Tuesdays at 6:30, mostly at the Fellowship, but sometimes we attend events in Laramie or meet somewhere else. If you are new to the group and would like to attend, please contact Laura Miller (742-5252) for the meeting place.

**Change for Change** is a project of the Social Action Committee collected on the 2nd Sunday



## Welcome to:

Dan Moyer and his wife, Erin, and their two children, Wesley and Vanessa who came the first time on March 22nd.

## Eggstra Special People

Thanks to Catie Ballard, Erik Molvar and The Social Action Committee who led services for us in March! We appreciate members who take on these important roles!

## OOPS.....

Think of the damage a coffee pot plugged in and unsupervised for 3 days could cause! Ours was left on for almost three days two weeks ago. Lights were also left on the previous week. PLEASE check these small but important details when your group is using the building.



# From the Editors:



## **A Reflection on the Fourth Principle**

### **\*A Free and Responsible Search for Meaning\***

“As responsible religious seekers, we recognize that we are privileged to be free, to have resources to pursue life beyond mere survival, to continually search for truth and meaning, to exist beyond bonds of dogma and oppression, and to wrestle freely with truth and meaning as they evolve.

“This privilege calls us not to be isolated and self-centered, believing that our single perspective trumps all others, but rather to be humble, to be open to the great mysteries of truth and meaning that life offers. And those mysteries may speak to us through our own intuition and experience—but also through tradition, community, conflict, nature, and relationships.

“As a faith tradition, Unitarian Universalism makes sacred the right and responsibility to engage in this free and responsible quest as an act of religious devotion. Institutionally, we have left open the questions of what truth and meaning are, acknowledging that mindful people will, in every age, discover new insights.”

—Rev. Paige Getty, UU Congregation of Columbia, Maryland (read more from Paige in *The Seven Principles in Word and Worship*, ed. Ellen Brandenburg)

“Find your place on the planet. Dig in, and take responsibility from there.”  
— Gary Snyder

## **Thanks to the Program Committee**

What would we do without the program Committee who arrange our special speakers for the Programs? This last month they had Rev Leslie Kee and Dr. Antoinette DeNapoli leading programs.

## **Looking Forward**

Remember that the congregational meeting takes place in May along with our Pledge Drive.



# April 2015



| Sun  | Mon   | Tue   | Wed  | Thu   | Fri                                       | Sat                                   |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|---------------------------------------|
|  |   | <i>(Check Facebook page for time and place for CY)</i>          | 1<br>7-9 Evening<br>with Authors<br>night  | 2<br>5:30<br>Potluck<br>6:15 R.E                        | 3<br>Good<br>Friday<br>Passover<br>begins | 4<br>8-10 a.m.<br>Building in<br>use  |
| 5 10 a.m.<br>7th Principle<br>Easter<br>Brunch<br>Egg Hunt<br>5 p.m.                               | 6   | 7<br>6:30 p.m.<br>Completive<br>Yarns                           | 8<br>6-7:30<br>Board<br>Meeting  | 9<br>2-3:30<br>"Gold<br>Fever" Film<br>Wyoming<br>Union | 10  | 11<br>8-10 a.m.<br>Building in<br>use |
| 12<br>10 a.m.<br>Power of<br>Place<br>Change for<br>Change   | 13<br>10:30 a.m<br>Social Action<br>at the<br>Grounds | 14<br>5 p.m.<br>Program<br>Committee<br>6:30 p.m.<br>Completive | 15   | 16  | 17  | 18<br>8-10 a.m.<br>Building in<br>use |
| 19<br>10 a.m.<br>Local Food<br>and Carbon<br>Footprints<br>R.E Sunday<br>New Member<br>Orientation | 20  | 21<br>6:30 p.m.<br>Completive<br>Yarns                          | 22<br>World Earth<br>Day<br>  | 23<br>6 p.m.<br>Membership<br>Committee                 | 24<br>Arbor Day                           | 25<br>8-10 a.m.<br>Building in<br>use |
| 26 10 a.m.<br>60th<br>Anniversary<br>2p.m.<br>Interfaith<br>Walk<br>5 p.m.<br>Meditation           | 27  | 28<br>6:30 p.m.<br>Completive<br>Yarns                          | 29<br>Even if you don't come to the program on March 29th, please come to the congregational meeting after the program any way or get your proxy in to be counted so we have a quorum. | 30  |   |                                       |