

# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Laramie

## February 2018 Newsletter



### February Services

#### February 4: “Thinking Anew About God: What God Do You Believe In?” - Rev. Ziegler

The Rev. John Buehrens, former President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, when he encountered someone who became upset with him for using the word “God” would ask that person, “What God do you not believe in? Maybe, I don’t believe in that one either.” He was lifting up that we often mean different things amongst ourselves when we say “God.” Distinguishing between theistic, pantheistic and panentheistic notions of God can clarify our discussions and help us know if we’re even talking about the same “God.” This reflection lifts up the differences between the pantheism and panentheism notions of God and explores those differences in relationship to sacredness.

#### February 11 - “A UU Glossary” - UUFL member Jeff Lockwood

“*We have needed to define ourselves by reclaiming the words that define us.*” (Selma James). And this is what we plan to do on this Sunday. Beginning in 2000, we have conducted workshops in which members and friends collaborate in small groups to craft OUR definitions of potent, powerful, and provocative religious words. How would you define: communion, evil, grace, prayer, sin, and worship? Those are 6 of the 38 words in our congregation’s glossary. And this Sunday we’ll expand our lexicon with such words as: guilt, miracle, mystery, peace, prophet, and sacrament. Come join a lively and engaging exploration how we can reclaim the vocabulary of religion for our Fellowship (and receive a FREE copy of the UUFL Glossary!).

#### February 18: “Men with Scientific Minds and Religious Souls: Charles Darwin and Asa Gray” - Rev. Ziegler and UUFL members Jeff Lockwood and Matt Stannard

As part of Evolution Weekend marking Charles Darwin’s birthday, Jeff Lockwood and Matt Stannard will share a dramatic reading based on correspondence between the Unitarian Charles Darwin and Asa Gray, a Harvard professor of botany and an orthodox Christian. Their correspondence helps shed light on the personal religious struggle Darwin had about publishing his book. The service will be followed by a “donation-suggested” chili luncheon prepared by Bren Lieske, a showing of “Paradise Lost: The Religious Life of Charles Darwin,” and a facilitated discussion of the continuous controversial debates about evolution, creationism and intelligent design.

#### February 25 - “Responding to Challenge in the Theater” - Sean Stone, UW Theatre

##### Department

Last fall’s production of *The Fantasticks* sparked a debate about presenting a classic work to a contemporary audience. Professor Stone explains how the entire production team responded to the challenge presented when Native American students walked out of the performance and invites discussion of the broader question of the role of the arts in society.

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Sunday services are held at 10 a.m. at 1402 East Gibbon Street  
unless otherwise noted.

*Sunday service topics may change due to unforeseen circumstances.*

*We regret any inconvenience this may cause.*

*Religious Education classes for children 5-12 are held every Sunday of the month from September to May.*

*Child care for all children is available every Sunday except for the summer months.*

## Bits from the Board

I just got back from the Women's March in Cheyenne. How inspirational. I saw many UU's at the March . It just felt good to be around people who are concerned about what is happening right now and like minded about issues.

Family Promise is starting in March and several interested volunteers got together with me in January to begin planning for our families. We could still use more help and ideas to make our participation run more smoothly.

In April, the Mountain District is planning a conference in Portland, Oregon. Anyone interested in going please contact a board member or get on UUA.org and check it out. In fact the UUA website has lots of information, including sermons you can listen to.

We are ready to order our new chairs. I hope you have had the opportunity to try out the two sample chairs and suggest what color you prefer. It will be great to have the option of changing the seating in the sanctuary without having to lug those heavy pews around. If anyone knows of a good source to get rid of our old pews, please let us know. It would be great to recycle them.

Well, stay warm and enjoy our winter days.

*Bren Lieske, UU Board of Directors President*  
761-0887 or bpatchranch@yahoo.com

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### **An Update on Our Food Insecurity Donation Program**

Our Food Insecurity Program, which began in the middle of September, donates food to the Good Samaritan Interfaith agency. Since then, we have donated 100 pounds of food and \$75.00 to this organization.

According to the Laramie Boomerang on January 24, Good Samaritan Interfaith agency's food pantry is very low on supplies while demand is high and growing. As you can surmise, our "Food Insecurity" donation program makes a difference. As gentle reminder, **IF** you can, please continue to bring one non-perishable food item to Fellowship on Sundays and place it in the large basket in the front of the sanctuary and, **IF** you can, put a donation of \$1.00 in the small donation box on the table above the basket. You don't have to give both the food item and the \$1.00, although making both donations would be very helpful. You can include treats as well as basic nutritious food. People really appreciate, too, personal care items and food for their pets. Feel free to bring more than one non-perishable food item, etc. and offer more than \$1.00 if you'd like. **IF** you can make an offering every Sunday that would be wonderful! In any case, please participate whenever you can!

These extraordinary times require extraordinary measures. We are helping in these extraordinary times. The Board of Trustees and I thank all of you for helping meet this great need.

On behalf of The Board of Trustees and Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler

## Committee News

### Committee on Ministry

Thank you to everyone who completed the on-line Annual Evaluation of Ministries survey. Your input is valuable to the health of our Fellowship. If you did not receive an e-mail with the survey link and would like to give input, please contact Laura Miller ([307-742-5252](tel:307-742-5252), [lmg7200@gmail.com](mailto:lmg7200@gmail.com)) as soon as possible.

UUFL Committee on Ministry  
Madeline Dalrymple, Jeff Lockwood, Laura Miller, Rev. Jackie Ziegler

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### Social Action News

January Change-for-Change was for The Downtown Clinic. You gave \$163.37 for them. Thank you. Next month's Change-for-Change recipient will be Cathedral Home.

Family Promise is moving ahead. They've raised enough funds to have a director, and with 10 or 11 participating churches, they hope to begin serving families by March first.

We are following the proposed for-profit immigration prison (concentration camp) in Uinta County. This prison goes against everything we stand for.

Also we are watching the Medicine Bow Landscape Vegetation Analysis project. This involves a lot of timber removal and roads. If you use the Medicine Bow National Forest, you may want to attend the public meetings on January 30 and 31, 4:00- 7:00 P.M. at the Lincoln Community Center.

Ralph Garrett

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### Caring Committee

The caring committee is available to respond to members and active friends in need of celebration or support. When you or someone you know has experienced illness, the loss of a loved one, a professional milestone, the birth or adoption of a child, or any other significant life event, please contact a member of the committee or Rev. Jackie. Members of the committee are Jim Erdelyi ([erdelyi@uwyo.edu](mailto:erdelyi@uwyo.edu)), Ralph Garrett ([randmgarrett@centurylink.net](mailto:randmgarrett@centurylink.net)), and Sara Blake ([sarasushma@gmail.com](mailto:sarasushma@gmail.com)).

## More Committee News

### Membership Committee

Rev. Ziegler and Robin Chestek are offering the **Path to Membership** course in early March. This is a two-part course . The first part, on Saturday, March 3, from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm, will feature a video and discussion about Unitarian Universalism in the US; the second part, on Sunday, March 4, from noon to 2:30 pm, will feature members of the UUFL Board, who will discuss the history and future of the UUFL and the pledging process.

Anyone can attend either one or both sessions. However, if a person has NOT been a past member of a UU congregation BOTH sessions are required for those interested in becoming a member. If a person has been a past member of a UU congregation and is interested in becoming a member of UUFL only the second session is required. For more information, please contact Robin Chestek at [rchestek@gmail.com](mailto:rchestek@gmail.com) .

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Are you looking for a way to help the Fellowship without a huge time commitment? Join the Rotating Greeters! The Greeters welcome folks as they arrive on Sundays for the service, especially our visitors, help collect the offering, and take a headcount of attendees. That's it! We need two greeters every Sunday (either a couple or two individuals to team up), and you'd be scheduled once a month or every month and a half. Interested? Please contact Robin Chestek at [rchestek@gmail.com](mailto:rchestek@gmail.com).

Have you moved recently? Do you have a new phone number or email address? Please contact Robin Chestek at [rchestek@gmail.com](mailto:rchestek@gmail.com) with your new info so we can update our database.

Robin Chestek

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### UUFL Safety Committee

At the request of the UUFL Board and some individual members, a new UUFL Safety Committee has been formed. We met for the first time on Jan. 8. After introductions from all the members, we started examining the issues we will discuss in upcoming meetings. These include strategies for dealing with intruders, transients, or even a shooter in the building. We also discussed security system improvements, key management, action plans for events such as a fire, and ways to communicate the plans to UUFL members. The discussions were serious and lively.

Besides on-going committee meetings, we will meet soon with a representative from the Laramie Police Department. If you would like to join this committee or to send recommendations, please contact Bob Kelly (Chair, [rkelly@uwyo.edu](mailto:rkelly@uwyo.edu)), Robin Chestek, Manda Still, Steve Hodder, or Rev. Jackie.

Bob Kelly

## What's going on . . .



### **33rd Annual CHOCOLATE FIESTA** **Saturday, February 10, from 10 am to 1 pm** **Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Laramie** **1402 Gibbon Street**

The Chocolate Fiesta is UUFL's big event of the year, featuring dozens and dozens of chocolate goodies for sale. This year's Fiesta also includes a silent auction of work by local and regional authors -- some of whom are UUFL members!

All proceeds from this year's Fiesta go to Hospice of Laramie. Hospice's mission is to promote the acceptance of the process of dying as a natural part of life while providing emotional, spiritual, social and material resources to support the dying and their families and friends. Hospice House is located at 1754 Centennial Drive.

For anyone interested in volunteering to help with the Fiesta, set-up will begin on Friday, February 9 at 5 pm. If you wish to make chocolate treats to be sold at the Chocolate Fiesta, please contact Rebecca Roberts at [beccajuly@gmail.com](mailto:beccajuly@gmail.com) or 760-6513 for a copy of the guidelines. You can bring your contributions to the Fellowship on Friday evening or Saturday morning. If you would like to donate items to the silent auction, contact Donna Hodder at 760-3023 or [ewfgalleries@qwestoffice.net](mailto:ewfgalleries@qwestoffice.net).

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### **Double Your Love on Valentine's Day** **Enjoy a Dinner with Your Sweetie and Help Family Promise of Albany County Too**

On Saturday, February 10 at 6 p.m., Family Promise of Albany County is hosting a "Trattoria Promessa" at the Eppson Center, 1560 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. It is an Italian -style dinner with appetizers, wine, a main entrée, entertainment, silent auction and a 50/50 raffle! Its goals are to celebrate the upcoming opening of Family Promise in Albany County, to educate people about Family Promise, and to raise funds for its operation. You may recall that UUFL is one of its host congregations.

Tickets are \$40 per person or \$75 per couple. Tickets are available during business hours at The Still, First Interstate Bank and The Eppson Center or at <http://www.familypromiseofalbanycounty.org/> (will -call only).

This lovely dinner is offered the evening of the same day we're holding our major fundraising event, the Chocolate Fiesta. After the Fiesta you can treat yourself and your sweetie to a delicious Italian dinner at the Eppson Center at 6 pm!

## More goings on . . .

### “Messages from the Oracle - Our Dreams”

Saturday, February 3, 2018

10 AM to 5 PM at the Fellowship

This workshop will explore such important questions as: Where do dreams come from? Do we dream more during times of political restlessness and personal stress? Can dreams predict world events, and how do we know if the message of our dream is meant for us as individuals or as a warning about an event that will affect us all? Can a person’s dream speak about the next phase of her or his life: and can the dream suggest what resolution is needed to “wrap up” the last phase?

There will not be any “bloodletting” in the workshop nor will anyone have to reveal any personal material he or she does not wish to. The workshop explorations will remain confidential. As the workshop finishes, people will have strategies for working with their dreams on their own. Jamie Egolf’s training includes cognitive behavioral, humanistic, gestalt, rational emotive, and ego-oriented strategies, but she relies principally on more than three decades of experience with post-Jungian and psychodramatic training in working with dreams.

The workshop will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with a potluck lunch. **Please note that the deadline to register to participate in the workshop is by the end of the evening on Thursday, February 1st.** A minimum of 10 people will be needed to hold the workshop. The cost is \$35.00. A limited number of partial scholarships are available through Rev. Ziegler. Contact her for details at [revziegler369@yahoo.com](mailto:revziegler369@yahoo.com) or 307-460-9066.

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### A Chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) Launched in Laramie

As a longtime supporter of the LGBTQ community, I am delighted to announce that at a January 24, 2018 meeting a Laramie PFLAG chapter was launched. Founded in 1972 with the simple act of a mother publicly supporting her gay son, PFLAG is the nation's largest family and ally organization.

Uniting people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) with families, friends, and allies, PFLAG is committed to advancing equality through its mission of support for LGBTQ people, education, and advocacy. It has 400 chapters and 200,000 supporters in major urban centers, small cities, and rural areas in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Unitarian-Universalism has a **long** history of support for the LGBTQ community. Since the 1970s we have ordained people regardless of sexual orientation making us one of the earliest denominations to do this. In 1988 we ordained our first openly transgender person. In 1989, a General Assembly resolution urged the UUA to implement the [Welcoming Congregation program](#), and the first edition of the curriculum was published in 1990. As of May 2012, there were 697 UU Welcoming Congregations in the United States (64% of U.S. congregations), and all but 3 Canadian congregations are recognized as Welcoming (94%). When broken down by size, 95% of U.S. congregations with more than 150 members are recognized as Welcoming Congregations. The UnitarianUniversalist Fellowship of Laramie is an official Welcoming Congregation so we’re proudly one of the smaller congregations to be so.

Laramie’s new PFLAG chapter is asking us to help get the word out to the larger community about its existence and its mission and goals. One of the issues they want to work on is helping LGBTQ youth who are homeless and those who are suicidal because the statistics on these two issues are staggering. If you know of a LGBTQ youth or a LGBTQ family who could use the services of PFLAG please invite them to talk to me or Rev. Ken Ingram at St. Paul’s United Church of Christ in Laramie.

Rev. Ziegler

## Why Become a Member of Our Fellowship?

If you are starting to feel at home when you come to services and/or the other activities the Fellowship offers, consider becoming a member. **It's not that you necessarily need a religious community, it's really that we need you to stand with us to promote and carry a much-needed liberal religious voice in a world that is increasingly losing ground in religious and civil freedoms.** We need your support! Furthermore, we welcome your participation because we believe you will enrich the ongoing life of our community as much as we hope we will enrich yours.

Let me deepen the reason why you might want to become a member by sharing this article that The Rev. Dr. Michael Schuler, minister at The First Unitarian Society of Madison, Wisconsin (FUS) wrote about the importance of Unitarian Universalism in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and, thus, why being a member of FUS is important. He wrote:

“At a time of so much rancor and personal animosity, we need an institution where ‘active’ toleration is practiced. It is not enough grudgingly to put up with our differences. True toleration means celebrating those differences for the opportunity they provide for broadening our perspective.

At a time when old and young people have become preoccupied with the affairs of their own peers, while those in the middle are consumed with careers, we need an institution that will draw the generations together and re-invent the spirit of community.

At a time when the word "spirituality" has been cheapened and degraded, and people desperate for meaning are either retreating to old platitudes or grasping at New Age straws, we need an institution which challenges us to question and reconsider the quality of our religious lives.

At a time when provincial boundaries and parochial attitudes are being resurrected, we need an institution that will keep us connected with a more global consciousness. To know and to cherish one's own religious tradition is indeed important, and that importance is not diminished by the cultivation of a universal, interfaith outlook.

Clearly, we need an institution like the First Unitarian Society.

If you have been thinking about signing our Membership Book, why not act upon it this month?”

Becoming a member requires being informed beyond a cursory level about Unitarian Universalism and about the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's history, and its governance process. It also requires some familiarity with the responsibilities and benefits of membership. To help you meet those requirements, the Membership Committee will be offering a course called “The Pathway to Membership” the weekend of March 3 and 4. If you're interested in knowing more about the course and/or participating in the course, please talk to me or Robin Chestek, Chairperson of the Membership Committee.

Please know that I am also available to meet with you to discuss Unitarian Universalism and the Fellowship too. Shoot me an email at [revziegler369@yahoo.com](mailto:revziegler369@yahoo.com) or call me, 307-460-9066, to schedule a mutually convenient time to get together. As you no doubt know, I LOVE to talk about Unitarian Universalism!

Rev. Jackie Ziegler

## **Serious *and* Light-Hearted Ponderings from Rev. Jackie**

Although I will not be offering my service on evolution until February 18, I want to lift up that on the weekend of February 10 -11, religious people from many diverse faith traditions and locations around the world will celebrate Charles Darwin's birthday by participating in the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Evolution Weekend. Evolution Weekend offers an opportunity for serious discussion and reflection on the relationship between religion and science. The ongoing goal of the weekend has been to elevate the quality of the discussion on this critical topic, and to show that religion and science are not adversaries. Rather, they look at the natural world from quite different perspectives and ask, and answer, different questions. Many people, including myself and other Unitarian Universalist ministers and lay people, understand that evolution is quite simply sound science; for them, it does not in any way threaten, demean, or diminish their faith in God. In fact, for many, the wonders of science often enhance and deepen their awe and gratitude towards God.

Indeed, evolution has shown us that religion and science, each working through their specific lens, have come to the same conclusion: racial divisions are neither meaningful nor productive. Religion teaches us that we are of "one family" and that we need to care for each other, while evolutionary biology and genetics teach us that race is a human rather than a natural construct. As members of a single species, we can move past the superficial differences that have divided us and create a healthier, more equitable environment for all. The genetic testing services of companies such as Ancestry, Family Tree DNA, 23 and Me and Living DNA are distinctly demonstrating just how much humanity is "one family."

I hope you'll join me for my February 18 service when I'll offer my Evolution Weekend service honoring Darwin's birthday and his foundational contribution to the development of the science of evolution. I encourage you too to plan to stay after the service for a chili luncheon followed by the showing of an enlightening DVD of Darwin's religious beliefs and life. There is a lot of incorrect information about Darwin's religious life and this DVD sets the record straight! This information will help you in conversations with people who have inaccurate information about his religious life and beliefs.

Good people, I look forward to seeing you at our services or some other Fellowship event or around town.

Rev. Jackie



# February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Dream Workshop 10-5
4 Service 10am Meditation 4pm	5	6	7	8	9	10 Chocolate Fiesta 10-1 Family Promise dinner at Eppson Center, 6 pm
11 Service 10am Meditation 4pm	12	13 Program Committee 6 pm	14 Board meeting Noon	15	16	17
18 Service 10am Meditation 4pm	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Service 10am Meditation 4pm	26	27	28			

Upcoming Events - Path to Membership , March 3 and 4

## Good to know . . .

### Lights Out!

Whenever you use the Fellowship building, please double check to make sure that

- trash in both the kitchen and the bathroom has been emptied
- stove and oven are off and coffee pots are unplugged
- the floors have been swept and vacuumed

### Building Reservations

The Fellowship building is available for use by reservation. To make a reservation, go to [uularamie.org](http://uularamie.org) and click on the calendar to check building availability for the date you want. Then email David Perry at [dperry@uwyo.edu](mailto:dperry@uwyo.edu) with the particulars (date, time, purpose, etc.), and he will add your event to the calendar.

### Meditation Group

The meditation group meets on Sundays at 4 pm. Everyone is welcome to join us for an hour's guided meditation.

## UUFL

1402 E Gibbon St.

Laramie, WY 82072

[www.uularamie.org](http://www.uularamie.org)

*On Facebook:*

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
of Laramie

### Minister

Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler

307-460-9066

### 2017-2018 Board

Bren Lieske, President

Bob Kelly

Andi Noakes

Matt Stannard, Secretary

Bob Strayer, Treasurer

## Sunday Service and Other Events Cancellation Policy

Please note that Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Laramie's (UUFL) services or other sponsored events may be cancelled during snow or other weather emergencies (when weather is bad enough that the authorities don't want people out and about). If there is such a city/county-wide emergency, and the minister and the Board of Trustees' Chair deem it appropriate to cancel a service or event, if possible, the cancellation notices will be sent out through an emergency congregation-wide email, its website and Facebook, and a message on the UUFL's office phone answering system.

The Board encourages people to use discretion and not attend any service or event if they feel the weather conditions are not suitable for driving, regardless of whether or not a service or a UUFL event has been officially cancelled.

-- The Board of Trustees