



UU Laramie News

March 2022

Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Laramie
1402 E. Gibbon Street
Laramie, WY 82072
(307) 745-8874

Services for March



March 6 “The Spirituality of Getting (Un)stuck”

Living in Wyoming, we’ve all ended up high-centered in a snow drift, and we’ve all felt the camaraderie of the “shovel party” as people join together—without checking one another’s political or religious affiliation—to share in the process of digging out a vehicle. Why does simply and unconditionally helping another person feel so good, so right? This Sunday we’ll tell snow-and-mud stories, reflect on the literal and metaphorical meaning of getting (un)stuck, and ponder the gift of asking another person: “Please help me.”

March 13 “Rugged Individualism and the Western Tradition of Giving Help Freely” – coffee and conversation led by Ken Chestek.

March 20 “Giving and Receiving” – We are told as children that it is better to give than receive. But giving and receiving are reciprocal expressions of social connection. We’ll explore how recognizing the gifts that surround us enrich our spiritual sense of connection with others and the world.

March 27 Rev. Kee is in the pulpit.



Minister

Rev. Leslie Kee (lkee@wyoming.com)

UUFL Board

Board Co-Chairs: Linda Meeker (ldangrous1@gmail.com)

David Perry (dperry@uwo.edu)

Treasurer: Jennifer Wade (Jswade.wyo@gmail.com)

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Laura Miller (uularamienews@gmail.com)



Musings from the Co-Chair

Anniversaries are funny things. Some are somber remembrances, while others are cause for happy celebration. Either way they often prompt us to pause and reflect upon who we are, where we're going, what we're doing right, and what needs to change. It is a good exercise, I think, to engage in some annual introspection. March not only brings the first day of Spring. It holds several meaningful points in time--



March 13, 2020, is the date that sticks in my mind as the last day of pre-COVID life. Although the virus had been present and spreading for many weeks, the tsunami of new reality didn't seem to actually reach our WY shores until then. March 13 was a Friday that year, and I left work that afternoon to begin spring break week, wondering how things might be different when we returned 10 days later. We didn't return to in-person work until that Fall. Those days in between were fraught with concern for students, frustration with tech devices, and the strange disconnect of working in a "team" while sitting alone in a home office.

March 2020 was also the time that the UUFL started taking steps to comprehensively protect the health and safety of our members and friends. I can't confidently recall when we first posted guidelines for masking or cleaning or attending in-person, but it feels like a very long time ago. I suspect that we each feel a similar great weariness; the longing to be together on Sundays reminds us each week what it means to be a church family.

March 17, 1996, was when I signed The Book, under the encouraging gaze of Rev. Alan Shaw, in the sunny winter glow of our pyramid-shaped UUFL building. I can even recall what I was wearing. Previously, I couldn't imagine wanting to join any religious organization. Now 26 years later I can't imagine my life without UU/ UUFL/ you.

My life began on March 14, 1965. Speeding onward with another year completed, it does me good to consider the anniversaries in the calendar of my own life. With the promise of Spring renewal just ahead, these anniversaries remind me of my connection to time and history, to people and place, to the stardust in matter and the music of the spheres. This interdependent web existed eons before me and stretches ahead toward infinity; I am blessed and lucky to be here in this moment with you.

Linda Meeker



Facebook: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Laramie (public)
Facebook: UUFL Community Group (private) *This is a private group for UUFL members and friends who want to discuss current issues and challenges.*
Website: uularamie.org *For more news and events, and the latest updates!*

Condolences

Rev. Kee's mother, Dee Moodie, died February 25th, with her three daughters by her side. She was a wonderful mom, mother-in-law, grandma, great-grandma, aunt, friend, and award-winning Bookmobile Librarian. Please keep Rev. Kee's family in your thoughts.

Membership Committee

The UUFL Membership committee is Robin Chestek (Chair) and Laura Miller (Database Administrator). Please help keep the member / friend database up to date! If you have a change of address, phone number, or email address, please send your updated contact information to Robin at rchestek@gmail.com.

Welcome New Member, Dan Elliott

Dan signed the membership book on February 13, 2022. Here is a short note from Dan.

Hello, everyone! I'm looking forward to meeting the members of UUFL and getting involved in local issues. I'm especially interested in social and environmental justice. My wife, Mitzi, and I moved to Laramie in 2020 from Longmont, Colorado, where we had lived since 1999. I retired in 2019 from the Associated Press, where I worked for 20 years in the Denver bureau, reporting on natural resources, the military, the Aurora theater shooting court case, and other topics. Before joining the AP, I worked as an editor for a handful of newspapers from Montana to Texas, including the Rawlins Daily Times, Casper Star-Tribune and Rocky Mountain News (in Denver). Now I spend my time on home improvements, woodworking and drawing. Mitzi and I enjoy hiking, snowshoeing and travel. I've been a member of one other Unitarian group, the UU Church of Tahlequah (Oklahoma) in the late 1990s.

Family Promise

Cole Nutter, the Director of Family Promise, has moved on to a job in Washington D.C. Josh Hopin is the interim Director if you have inquiries. Their one family, in the motel, graduated from the program on March 1st. At this time there are no families in housing, but the program can always use self-stable food supplies and/or diapers for their pantry. Our week to help this month is March 20 - 27th. If you have questions, please give me a call or text me at 307.761.0887.

Bren Lieske, Family Promise Coordinator.

2022 UUFL / Family Promise Dates

March 20-27

May 1-8

July 31-August 7

September 11-18

October 16-23



Social Action

The Social Action Committee will be taking a hiatus until May and then regroup and refocus with current members and, hopefully, new committee members. It is with appreciation for their on-going contributions to our Fellowship that we thank the following individuals for their service: David Perry for his music each Sunday we meet in person; the Caring Committee (Sarah Saulcy, Robin Chestek, Ralph Garrett and Jim Erdelyi, Chair) for their kindness and caring to all of us; and Laura Miller for the outstanding UUFL newsletter she creates each month.

Chocolate Fiesta

UUFL raised \$970 for the Laramie Downtown Clinic. Thanks for your contributions to this wonderful organization that does so much for our community. Thanks to Rich Barrans for sending us delicious home-made biscotti. To learn more about the Laramie Downtown Clinic, visit <https://downtownclinic.org>.



“For two decades, the Downtown Clinic has provided primary and specialty healthcare services to residents and homeless individuals of Albany County, Wyoming. With two full-time employees, four part-time staff members, and over 80 community volunteers, the Downtown Clinic provides free healthcare to over 500 individuals (with no health insurance and at <175% of the Federal Poverty Level) annually and receives nearly 75% of its funding from local sources.”

Contemplative Yarns

We meet at the Fellowship at 12:30 pm on Saturdays. We welcome others to join us. If you are interested in participating, e-mail uularamienews@gmail.com.

UUFL Calendar of Events

David Perry maintains a current event calendar on the UUFL website (uularamie.org). You can always check there to see what is happening. Remember, all scheduling for use of the building must be done through David (dperry@uwyo.edu).



Building Use Policy *updated December 1, 2021*

As we face the new Omicron variant of the coronavirus, the Board will be constantly monitoring the transmission metrics in Albany County on the Wyoming Department of Health, the CDC, and the COVIDActNow websites. The UUFL COVID policy will be updated as necessary. Please keep tabs on our Facebook page and Website for any potential changes in our Sunday services and other activities.

Requirements:

1. **Users must wear masks or cloth facial coverings inside** the building.
2. Users are responsible for cleaning tables, doorknobs, and bathroom surfaces with appropriate solvents.
3. There must be a gap of one hour between groups using the building.
4. A maximum of 20 household groups is allowed in the Sanctuary and no more than 12 people are allowed in the Social Hall.
5. While individuals may bring their own food or drink, food may not be prepared or served to groups without advance agreement by the Board.

Exceptions:

Speakers who are fully vaccinated and boosted and are actively engaged in leading religious services may remove their face covering so long as they maintain at least **twelve (12) feet distance** from non-household members indoors. Currently the only place in our sanctuary that is 12 feet or more from the nearest row of chairs is the pulpit.

Recommendations:

1. Please maintain a social distance of 6 feet or more.
2. The doors and windows should be opened for ventilation, weather permitting.

Indoor Church Services and Meetings:

We are allowing in-person services inside, but to protect those among us who might be vulnerable to infection, **we continue to require masks or facial coverings inside** the building. The Board will continue to monitor the advisability of indoor services and meetings as circumstances evolve.

Zoom Room Information

UUFL has a Zoom room members and friends may use to host UUFL related events. Contact Michael Wade (darooke22@gmail.com) for details on how to use the Laramie Zoom Room to host a meeting. Below is the Zoom access information for both the Laramie and Casper Zoom Rooms.

Laramie Zoom Room
Meeting ID: 290 700 5294
Passcode: no passcode needed

Casper Zoom Room
Meeting ID: 459 187 0381
Passcode: 084964

