



UU Laramie News

October 2022

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

Services for October

“The Challenge of Change” continues to be the theme of our programs in October. Services begin at 10 am, unless noted in the service description. All our services are held in person at the Fellowship building, with zoom access. Masks are recommended for those attending services in the Fellowship building.



October 2 *Results of the Committee on Ministry Survey - Sara Saulcy and Catie Ballard*

This annual survey takes the temperature of the UUFL membership. Sara and Catie will lead a discussion of this year’s results.

October 9 *Rev. Sarah Schurr will be in the pulpit*

Sarah is the Pacific Western Region’s Small Congregations Specialist and our staff liaison.

October 16 *“Perspectives from the Past” - Sara Saulcy*

The past few years have rocked our understanding of the world and how it works. Sara Saulcy provides some perspective on how we can assess the recent -- and ongoing -- political, social, and medical turmoil in light of similar events in the past.

October 23 *Rev. Kee will be in the pulpit*

October 30 *Coffee & Conversation with Barbara Bogart*



Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Laramie

Minister

Rev. Leslie Kee (lkee@wyoming.com)

UUFL Board

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

David Perry (dperry@uwo.edu)

Treasurer: Matt Stannard (stannard67@gmail.com)

Secretary: Robin Chestek (rchestek@gmail.com)

Member: Catie Ballard (Catie.Ballard43@gmail.com)

UU Laramie News Editor

Laura Miller (uularamienews@gmail.com)



Minister's Musings

A couple of good things to look forward to and get involved with this fall, the first of which is a visit from the Pacific Western Region's Small Congregations Specialist (and our staff liaison), the Rev. Sarah Schurr. Since travel budgets for PWR staff are not huge, we're lucky Sarah will be coming to Wyoming in October. She will be in the UUFL pulpit October 9, and we'll have a potluck lunch followed by a congregational meeting. I too will be in Laramie for the day.



In the early spring of 2021, we had a congregational meeting where Board Co-President, Linda Meeker, and I facilitated a values-based conversation which helped us refocus on many of the values, beliefs, and behaviors that drew many of us to Unitarian Universalism and have kept us coming back. We left that congregational gathering with a question for everyone to ponder: what would we like UUFL to look like five years from now? It's been over a year, and now it is time for the next conversation.

I hope you will make plans to give UUFL one day, October 9, and participate in this important discussion facilitated by a competent, caring and well-versed UU who is just as interested in helping UUFL make some dreams for the future come true. If you haven't met Sarah already, you are in for a treat!

In addition to planning for a congregational meeting on the 9th, I met with some families recently who are interested in bringing their children into the UUFL sphere. Since the RE rooms are not yet functional and we have a very real volunteer capacity concern, we prepared a proposal for the board and congregation at large. Basically, the parents will take the lead the first weekend of the month and plan an outdoor activity – like the Pumpkin Walk in October, hiking, and snowshoeing in the coming winter months. (We will have the rec center and other indoor venues as inclement weather options). On the fourth weekend when I am in Laramie, we have planned Friday Family & Friends Fun Night at the church. There is a plethora of wonderful games and activities which can be adapted for the span of ages, and which are contextualized in UU values. These Family & Friends Fridays will run from 4:30 – 6:30 pm and include dinner. Everyone is welcome to bring your inner child and join in the fun.

I have always believed a congregation is built one relationship at a time. I am confident we can transcend our individual and collective comfort zones and re-focus on a vision for the future of UUFL that will re-energize us while creating an inviting and welcoming atmosphere for visitors of all ages. We have waited patiently for the worst of the pandemic to pass so we can gather inside our beautiful space, and we have waited patiently to measure the movements under our building's walls. Now we are at the time for creating a more detailed plan on how to invest some of our treasure and talent in ways which will get us moving purposefully and joyfully through the next five years.

See you in church!

Rev. Kee



Musings of a Co-Chair

Of all the seasonal transitions, I find Fall to be the most bittersweet. In Wyoming, winters can be endless, spring arrives late and barely lingers, and the summers are divine and always too short. Fall spools out slowly, the sun rises later every morning, and as the darkness of winter slowly descends, sporadic beautiful days appear to remind of us of the summer lost. Fall is also the transition to the new year of social occasions, the concert and opera seasons, and the church year.

Every new church year feels like a new beginning, but this one more so. After two years of sporadic pandemic-induced disruptions, we are returning to more “normal” Sunday services, social gatherings, and in-person committee meetings. We are still feeling our way to what the new “normal” looks like. We have all been changed by our experiences throughout the pandemic. Exactly how we “do church” has become a touch rusty. Some of us have gotten completely out of the habit of church attendance. Religious Education fell by the wayside and will have to be rebuilt entirely from scratch. Regaining a sense of the seasonal rhythms of the church year will take some time for all of us.



Throughout this transition, and indeed all the many transitions this Fellowship has gone through in the 27 years I have been part of this community, new faces have stepped forward and regretfully, some old ones may have fall away. This is the nature of our community. However, new faces and new perspectives always refresh the way we do things. I am particularly pleased that Rev. Kee has reached out to a couple of families to help redesign the beginnings of the RE program. Those of us who were parents of young children long ago cannot pretend to know what best serves today’s parents.

Thus, in this bittersweet season of Autumn, I look forward to what will come next. If we are to remain a vibrant community that serves the needs of its members, we need to constantly adapt to those needs. It may not be easy; it never is. Please join me in the work ahead.

David

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).



Family Promise

Our week to host families is October 16 - 23. Families stay in a motel, but we deliver food to the Presbyterian Church on Tuesday and Thursdays for them to deliver to the families. Thanks for your continued support of Family Promise. It is a much-needed resource in our community. Bren Lieske, Volunteer Coordinator UUFL/Family Promise, 307.761.0887 or Bpatchranch@yahoo.com.

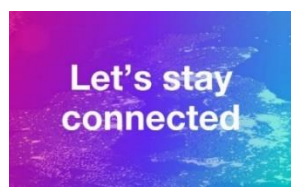


Membership Committee

The UUFL Membership committee is Robin Chestek (Chair) and Ken Chestek (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.

Contemplative Yarns

We meet at 3:45 pm on Saturdays at Harbon Park, weather permitting. We'll move our meeting to the Fellowship once the weather turns colder. If you are interested in participating, e-mail uularamieneews@gmail.com or drop by on a Saturday.



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!

COVID Policy *updated March 25, 2022*

We strongly encourage all eligible members to be fully vaccinated and we continue to recommend indoor masking as ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect our community. However, we no longer require masks inside the Fellowship. In addition, use of the kitchen and food service is permitted by groups that wish to do so. The Board will continue to monitor pandemic conditions and adjust our policies if we need to return to more restrictive measures.

Zoom Room Information

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

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

