

May, 2014

UU LARAMIE NEWS

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. On most Sundays, except for the summer months, there are Religious Education classes for children 3-14 and care for younger children.



May 4 Minister Sarah: “Mercy as a Restoration” As we celebrate Buddha’s Birthday (marked as May 6) we celebrate the idea of mercy as a gift and look at the idea of restorative justice as a form of this gift. As we delve into what is “right relationship” and how we can restore right relationship, we will take a look at the life and work of Quillen Shin, an early Universalist as well as the religious figure in Buddhism, Kwan Yin. Additionally, the traditions of many American Indian nations include practices to restore right relations and invoke mercy as a quality of life. We are joined again by musician and seminarian Christopher Watkins!

May 11 ‘Memories of Our Mothers’ This Sunday’s program is an eclectic, spiritual tribute to mothers, memories and music which we’ve combined into Memories of Our Mothers’ Music. You are invited to bring something musical that evokes a memory of your mother (or grandmother or even mother-in-law). You might perform a piece of music that your mother played or sang (maybe a lullaby?), OR you might bring a recording of a song that she loved, OR you might simply tell a story or anecdote of how your mother’s music touched your heart. As a special treat, we’ll have our own choir singing with the UU music director AND SOME MEMBERS from our sister congregation in Ft. Collins to provide musical interludes to our sharing.

May 18 Minister Sarah: “Hats Off to UU!” As we end one church and begin preparations for the next, Minister Sarah will review our year and preview our upcoming year. Offering a view of our accomplishments, ongoing challenges, and new opportunities as we move forward, Sarah will prepare our hearts and minds for the congregational meeting. We will talk about the hats we are wearing, hats we’d like to take off, and hats we’d like to try on. Bring a hat or two with you so we can play with this metaphor! We also are joined by musician Christopher Watkins. **Change for Change** today is for Cathedral Home for Children (Crisis Center)

May 25 Since it is a holiday weekend we will offer an informal morning of **"Coffee and Conversation"**; the coffee will be hot and the conversation, well, that will be up to those attending. No doubt though it will be a good way to spend part of your Memorial Day weekend.

All the great things are simple, and many can be expressed in a single word: freedom, justice, honor, duty, mercy, hope.
- Winston Churchill

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2013-2014 Board

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Laura Miller

UU Laramie Newsletter

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Laramie UU website

www.uularamie.org

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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 run-
ning when you are the last to
leave the Fellowship building.

Thanks

Ministry Matters



Mercy, the theme for May

Mercy evokes our experiences of compassion and forbearance, those moments in life in which we receive or offer an unexpected kindness or shift in outcome for the better. These might come from people in our lives, in the form of forgiveness and generosity or from an unknown source, a mysterious presence or turn of events. We may be able to offer mercy within a particular role (end of the semester grading, perhaps?) Mercy can be a way of “paying it forward,” a hopeful act on behalf of others which has no immediate benefit to us except in the joy of offering kindness. Many world religions have a concept of mercy and have attributed the quality of merciful to God, Allah, Mary, Jesus, Mohammed, Kwan Yin and many other divine presences and figures. For some, this is like the experience of a prayer “answered.” For others mercy may happen as a kind of profound coincidence. Many forms of prayer evoke mercy, whether we are asking for mercy, offering mercy along with loving-kindness. When have you experienced a sense of mercy, offered or received compassion, forgiveness, blessing or clemency? How can we practice mercy as individuals or a community? How can we teach or engage mercy?



Board Report

The board congratulated our minister on receiving her “Preliminary Fellowship” from the Unitarian Universalist Association. Now that she is in Preliminary Fellowship, she can be ordained. Sarah is considering Ordination in the fall of 2014 through the Boulder Valley UU Fellowship or First Unitarian Church of Denver, both congregations she has ties to through her studies for the ministry.

The board discussed the initiation of 2 new task forces, a Stewardship/annual giving Task Force and a By-Laws review Task Force. Task forces differ from committees in that they are generally limited in focus, task, and time commitment as opposed to committees, that are specified in the by-laws and duties outlined in the policies and procedures (both of which are accessible on our website). If you would be interested in serving on either of these task forces, please contact a board member.

The board discussed the May 18 annual meeting. The agenda for the annual meeting will be published prior to the annual meeting. The agenda will include committee reports, budget report, Endowment Fund and a slate of candidates for elected positions to be voted upon at the annual meeting. There are 3 openings for officers of the board, 1 opening on the Committee on Ministry, and a position to be filled on a newly created Endowment Fund Trustee board. If you are interested in serving in any of these capacities, please contact one of the Nominating committee members: Linda Goldman, David Perry, and Nancy Lockwood.

The Pledge drive is ongoing, but many persons had not yet responded regarding their pledge at the time of our meeting on April 10. So if you have not yet contacted our pledge drive chairs regarding your pledge, please do so.

The board has decided to have meetings twice a month, but shorter in duration – 1.5 hours, due to the length of the meetings of late and our flagging energy levels after a couple of hours. This is a sign of a vibrant Fellowship!

Our Caring Community



In Sympathy:

Our sympathies to Alice Freeman whose father, Bill Dunwiddie died last month. May memories of happy times sustain you in this time of sadness.

It is with sincere sympathy that we announce the recent death of member Carolyn Thompson. Carolyn and her daughter, Claudia, started attending our Fellowship about 4 years ago when Carolyn came back to Laramie after living in California for many years. Born in 1929, Carolyn had a BA from UW in English and married a journalist. She was very interested in History, especially women's history and the suffragists. Carolyn's parents, Helen and George Hollister were instrumental in starting our UUFL back in 1955; a fact she was justifiably proud of. Although Carolyn and her husband moved quite a bit to accommodate his work as a journalist, her parents were Laramie, Wyoming regulars and so this is where she eventually came back to. Her parents also were part of a group of people who started a UU Fellowship in the Denver area during the Vietnam War to allow some of the young men in the community to avoid the draft as conscientious objectors. She was a quiet but delightful addition to our Fellowship. She is survived by daughter Claudia, a member of our Fellowship as well, and sons, Bruce and Douglas who will be in Laramie for her memorial service on June 5th. Our condolences to the family of Claudia Thompson.

Way to Go!

Congratulations to Sheldon Williams, son of Amy Parker Williams and Mark Williams, for winning the State Regional History Day contest earlier this month. Sheldon and his partner, Autumn Scherden, will now go on to compete at the national level in Washington D.C this summer.



For UU Kids of All Ages

After a busy year, it's time to say goodbye for the summer to friends and teachers. Be sure to take the time with each to share what you enjoyed about them as you say goodbye. This is important even though you will be seeing some in the fall. Some of your relationships (i.e. with teachers) will be different in the fall not allowing for the time to talk with them.

The editors, Clarine and Patricia; however, will continue to provide ideas for you in the summer newsletter editions. Remember to collect water (wherever you roam) for the Water Communion in the fall. That is when we will reunite again for our continued learning and friendship.

I have always found that mercy bears richer fruits than strict justice.” — Abraham Lincoln



Board Meeting second Thursday at 6 p.m.
Monthly Potluck first Thursday at 6 pm, plus Vespers this month
Membership Committee third Thurs 6 p.m.
New Yoga Classes every Sunday 4-4:50
Meditation every Sunday at 5 pm
Program Committee second Tuesday at 5 pm
Contemplative Yarns every Tuesday 6:30-8 pm
Social Action Committee, after the service on the 18th
Change for Change During the 5-18 service and it supports the Cathedral Home Crisis Center
Caring Committee please notify Ralph Garrett, Sue Wedel, Mary Beth Baptiste, David Perry or Claudia Edwards. If any one in our congregation is in need or needs celebration these can be attended to also.

Care of Building

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

Building Use send committee meeting dates and other building times to UU Laramie News@hotmail.com so that we can include them in the newsletter calendar.

We need **volunteers** to help with the Sunday services to:
 help as greeters; bring snacks for coffee hour, and clean-up afterwards.
 This is a great opportunity to contribute your time and energy to enriching our Fellowship. Making our Sunday time together more friendly and welcoming is rewarding. Please look for the sign-up sheet on the clipboard...and sign up now! If you have any questions, please contact Robin Chestek (317)402-1948 or rchestek@gmail.com.
 Want to help with a reading? Contact Sarah at uufminister@gmail.com to volunteer your talents.



June 5 @ 6:30 p.m. @ UUFL; no regular potluck this night but volunteers who want to help provide refreshments, flowers, set up or clean up for the Claudia Thompson Memorial should contact Sarah at uufminister@gmail.com to volunteer your talents.

Change for Change this month is Cathedral Home for Children's Crisis Center. Their aim is to: Restore Hope. Strengthen Relationships. Build Futures. Since 1910

UUFL Community

In Appreciation!

Thanks to the April Speakers-Franz Peter Griesmaier and Mary Beth Baptiste.



The Easter service was wonderful. Thank you Dave Perry and choir for the music, all the story tellers and participating children added spice.

The gift of coffee hour to continue our connections is present because of those who prepare, serve and clean up. Bouquets to you.

Greeters begin our services with a smile and information. Thank you for good beginnings.

Facebook reminder! Join our Facebook group for updates and UU related posts. Search



Celebrate the End of the Academic Year!

May I invite you to a FUNdraiser for WYGAP* happening on Saturday, May 3, 2014

*Wyoming Guatemala Accompaniment Project

UUFL worked with WYGAP to bring a guest speaker from GTA to Laramie last Fall; Now we have a chance to enjoy music and food while supporting their further work in the area of human rights for indigenous/all peoples in GTA.

eternal spring MAY DANCE
Hart's Alley
404 South First

Starts at 7:00pm
Features Wyoming's own Chad Lore live music
Includes a Guatemalan dinner

Funds will be used to support WYGAP's human rights work

Costs \$20
Tickets may be purchased
at www.wygap.org
Or at Mimi's downtown
Or by emailing wygap@live.com

People are like bones, there are four kinds:

1. The wishbone people: They hope for, they long for, they wish for, they sigh.
- 2.. The funnybone people: they laugh, grin and giggle, with a twinkle in their eye..
3. The jawbone people: They scold, jaw and sputter, they froth and cry:
They are long on talk but they're short on try.
4. The backbone people: They pitch in and do it, they never say die.
They come forth victorious, for they know how to try.

We are looking for some backbone people to serve on next year's board of trustees. If you are willing to serve your Fellowship by contributing some time each month to meet with other board members and help shape decisions affecting our Fellowship---- please see a member of the nominating committee, Nancy Fox, David Perry or Linda Goldman. (funnybone people welcome too!)

May 2014



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Sarah's schedule: May 6, 8, 13, 15, 20 and 22 Sarah will be in Laramie. Call or e-mail to set up an appointment! 720-339-6779 uufminister@gmail.com

				1 <i>6 pm Potluck and Vespers</i>	2	3 <i>7PM WYGAP FUNdraiser</i>
4 <i>10 AM Mercy as Restoration</i>	5 <i>1-3PM Building in</i>	6 <i>6:30-8PM Contemplative</i>	7	8 <i>8PM Board Meeting</i>	9	10
11 <i>10 AM Memories of Our Mother's Music Combined UU Choirs</i>	12 <i>1-3 PM Building in Use</i>	13 <i>6:30-8PM Contemplative Yarns</i>	14 <i>Noon-Build ng in use</i>	15 <i>6PM Member-ship Committee</i>	16	17
18 <i>10AM Hats off to UU! Change for change (Crisis Center) 4-4:50PM Yoga</i>	19 <i>1-3PM Building in Use</i>	20 <i>News letter items due 6:30-8PM Contemplative Yarns</i>	21	22	23	24
25 <i>10AM Coffee and Conversation 4-4:50PM Yoga 5PM Meditation</i>	26 <i>Memorial Day</i>	27 <i>6:30-8PM Contemplative Yarns</i>	28	29	30	31



Unitarian Universalist

Fellowship of Laramie

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