

"To grow restless with who we are helps us move toward our ideals. Perfection is impossible, but we all have the potential to be more patient, more compassionate, more open-minded."

-Stephen Shick
(Unitarian Universalist, peace activist, reformer, clergy)

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Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



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Welcome to our monthly newsletter.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Sunday, April 2: 10:00 AM Alternative Sunday Part III of "Inner Worlds, Outer Worlds" 30-minute video followed by discussion. (See page 6).

Saturday, April 8: 9 A.M.-noon VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for our annual spring grounds cleanup. Please bring rakes and Laird DeCramer will provide wheelbarrow, tarps, and a trailer to load the debris. We hope you can join us!

Sunday, April 9: 10:00 AM Worship Service with **Paul Jeffries**, (See page 3 for more details.) **Please stay after the service for our second Sunday Potluck!!**

Sunday, April 16: 10:00 AM Easter Sunday The conclusion of "Inner Worlds, Outer Worlds" OR change to an Easter themed event - brunch, egg hunt, etc. Final decision will be e-mailed & posted on FB.

Sunday, April 23: 10:00 AM Worship Service with **Myron Eshowski**. He will discuss his worldwide work as a Shaman. (See page 3 for more details).

Sunday, April 30: 10:00 AM PLUUF welcomes **Kat Griffith** as she facilitates Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change. (See page 2 for more details and how you can participate).

A 10-MINUTE MEDITATION SESSION FROM 9:40-9:50 TAKES
PLACE ALMOST EVERY SUNDAY.

Message from the Moderator by Becky Feyen

April is the month of showers; as spring rains create mud, & sometimes destruction; it also helps to melt the frost, & bring dormant vegetation back to life. The cloudy, rainy, cool days can be relentless, wearing away our energy. When the sun breaks through the clouds it is a special treat, & usually the topic of conversation that day. We notice & welcome the needed change - don't forget, in July or August we might be wishing for some cool rainy days ☺

Does 2017 feel like one long April? Does it seem like we have been weathering a deluge for months? It is important to notice & welcome the needed change. All that seems to be muddying & destroying how we perceived the world might not clear away like a sunny day. We need to notice the light, search for the silver lining, and focus on new growth. I see it all around – I see it in all of you. Thank you for sharing your light, to support our growth & regain our energy.

With much appreciation -

Message from Linda DeCramer

On April 30th PLUUF welcomes local activist **Kat Griffith** who will be our facilitator for the event called Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change. It is an interactive presentation, open to the public, developed to raise awareness about the historical and ongoing injustices committed against Native peoples, and to seek ways of building right relationship with them in accord with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. (You can read more about it here. <http://www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-right-relationship/>)

I'm looking for 3-4 readers for our event.

Several of us from PLUUF attended a presentation in Oshkosh this past spring and were quite moved by the experience and feel that it fits our Fellowship's goals for promoting social justice. A brief description of the workshop - **Four speakers read a script in the voices of (1) the Native Peoples of Turtle Island, the land that is now called the United States, (2) the European colonizers of the United States, (3) Western historians, and (4) a Narrator.** The workshop participants stand (or sit on chairs, as needed) on a circle of blankets that represent the land mass of the United States. The participants represent the original inhabitants of this land, before 1492. As the four speakers relate the chronology of colonization, the participants symbolically experience its impacts on the Indigenous peoples and their land. The script ends with a story of a reconciliation and healing process that is happening now. Our hope is that it will motivate and inspire participants to take actions toward healing among all the peoples of our land. At the end of the participatory exercise, we enter into a period of reflection and sharing.

I'm looking for 3-4 readers (Memorization is not required nor suggested.) who are available on April 23 at 11:00 a.m. for a read through of the script, and the morning of April 30! With very little personal effort, you can help to make a memorable and positive impact on our society's attitudes and perceptions with regard to its native peoples!

Please let me know if you are interested.

Thank you,

Linda [920-229-0186](tel:920-229-0186) lindadecramer@yahoo.com

2nd & 4th Sunday Worship Services by Jill Stiemsma

Hi, everyone. Welcome back, snowbirds! Judy Harris arrived home in time to deliver a *wonderful* service in recognition of the women who've inspired her, including our own Chris Poortenga. And I hear that Ray Gurney did a bang-up job arranging and/or leading two services this winter - thank you, Ray. The disadvantage of volunteering in El Salvador is that I miss these great opportunities.

Now - to keep these inspiring services afloat -- the Worship Services Committee invites you to join us at **9AM on Sunday, April 9**, for our next meeting. We really do need fresh faces. As an incentive, be aware that as the committee is structured, your involvement requires very little effort! Woo hoo. So, please, any and everyone, do join us! And even if you choose not to attend, as always we appreciate your suggestions for topics as well as improvements to the structure of our services. Pass them along, please!

So, let's continue. Here's what's on the docket for April services:

April 9: Ripon College Professor **Paul Jeffries** returns to reflect on the difference between what's legal and what's ethical, a topic requested by Judy Harris. In this particular era, that's a potent message for reflection, wouldn't you say?

April 23: **This will be a very special service**, probably structured a bit differently to give our presenter **Myron Eshowsky** as much time as possible to discuss his world-wide work as a Shaman. Bring your friends - spread the word. It's not everyday that you get to meet such a remarkable man. For more information, Google his name. Amazing.

Finally, let's give a shout-out to those who have served on the Worship Services Committee for years: Becky Feyen, Jean Johnson, Nicole Roost, and Elisabeth Beuthin. And, yes, we must thank Tanya Schwartz-Roeper for her beautiful artistry as she develops both the Order of Service and this newsletter - what an upgrade that is! Yea for all of you!

1st & 3rd & 5th Alternative Sundays

Sunday, April 2: 10:00 AM Part III of "Inner Worlds, Outer Worlds" 30-minute video followed by discussion. Inner Worlds, Outer World's is a 4-part documentary. (See page 6 for more details.)

Sunday, April 16: 10:00 AM Easter Sunday The conclusion of "Inner Worlds, Outer Worlds" OR change to an Easter themed event - brunch, egg hunt, etc. Final decision will be e-mailed & posted on FB.

Sunday, April 30: 10:00 AM PLUUF welcomes **Kat Griffith** as she facilitates Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change. (See message from Linda on page 2 for more details).

Committee Reports by Judy Harris

Community Outreach/Membership

Most exciting is the addition of Lee Barczak, Jessica French, Kate Klumb and Dave Harris to our membership. Welcome Lee, Jessica, Kate and Dave!

Eric Bartelme reports that ads are ready to go in the Ripon Commonwealth Press and its Commonwealth Express. Each month, one of our Principles will be featured to introduce Unitarian Universalism to readers.

Becky and Eric will be meeting with our web site developer in early April and expect that the new website will be up shortly after that meeting.

Ellen is working on publicity for our April 30th workshop: "Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change." Registration will be available online at a site called "EventBrite" or by signing up at PLUUF.

Adult Religious Education

- "Inner Worlds, Outer Worlds" continues on April 2 and possibly April 16.
- "Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change" 2-hour workshop on April 30. (see Message from Linda DeCramer on page 2)

Children's Religious Education

2nd & 4th Sundays Children's Religious Education will focus on Sources of Wisdom such as holy books, story telling, mythology, etc.

Social Action

The goal of our April 30th workshop is "for participants to understand the legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery as it has affected both the European colonizers and the Indigenous peoples of the U.S. since 1492. We hope to stimulate reflection, discussion, and appropriate actions toward justice, healing, and 'right relationship' among all the peoples of this land." The words are those of the creator of this workshop, Paula Palmer, a member of the Boulder Friends Meeting, which is the group that sponsored the development of this 2-hour interactive workshop. It is an experience that builds on the videos we saw last fall that included "The Doctrine of Discovery" and our support of "Standing Rock."

Camp PLUUF

Once again PLUUF has received a grant to provide 2, (Yes, Two!) days of summer camp. Right now the plan is to hold two separate camps (repeats of each other) on July 25 and July 31st for 2 groups of 20 children (no repeats of children). So, the planning must begin. A tentative meeting planning is scheduled for April 23rd after the service. Come one, come all, lend us your ideas and a hand if you are able. This year's topic is water.

\$3,000 raised at the annual Art & Service Auction & PLUUF's got Talent event!!!

It was another amazing and unforgettable evening of fundraising, entertainment, great food, and friendship held on April Fools Day. Brad Roost led the auction while the dynamic sister duo of Becky Bruce-Allington and Betsy Bruce-Demuri teamed up with Linda DeCramer and Nicole Roost to provide the entertainment. It takes a village to put on this event. Thanks to EVERYONE who made it happen. To everyone who attended this very special event, donated auction items and baskets, participated in the raffle and auction, brought food and drink, invited guests, participated in the talent show, or sent positive vibes for a fun-filled and successful evening...THANK YOU!!



An evening of hilarious skits!



Special tribute was made to Linda & Jim as they celebrated their 17 wedding anniversary at the event.



New member, Jessica French, was officially recognized and was a great sport when she ended up in the "(New) Blood Drive" skit!



Brad Roost:
Auctioneer Extraordinaire



Poppy & Petunia played by Betsy Bruce Demuri & Becky Bruce Allington (AND Nicole Roost & Linda DeCramer in "rear").

**THANK YOU TO
EVERYONE FOR AN
UNFORGETTABLE
EVENING OF FUN &
FUNDRAISING!!**

In Case You Missed It

Alternative Sunday March 5



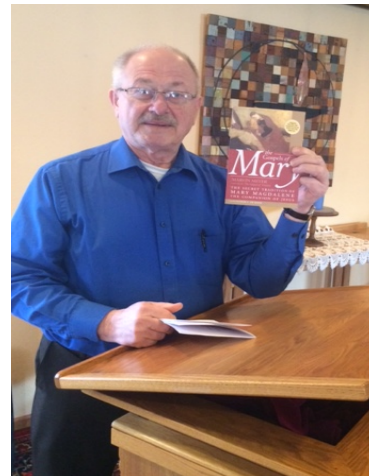
Mary and Gil Knight led their second alternate Sunday event and showed part II of the video documentary, *Inner Worlds, Outer Worlds* followed by discussion. Part II: "The Spiral, quoted Plato who hinted that there was a golden key that unified all of the mysteries of the universe. The source of this divine symmetry is the greatest mystery of our existence."

Alternative Sunday March 19 with our Muslim visitors.

A little over a year ago Moosa Syed, a Fond du Lac High School junior; Hasan Manasrah, a freshman at UW-Madison; Kenan Saleh, a freshman at the Wharton School of Business; and 6th grader Ayah El Mehdati visited PLUUF to lead a service.

PLUUF friend, Pat Dobrinska, was so moved by the students sharing their experiences growing up Muslim in a largely Christian Community she decided to invite the adults for a similar discussion. Our Muslim visitors on March 19th took turns telling us why they came to America, what is happening now, and talked about Islam. Thoughtful questions and discussion followed.

Worship Service March 12



Ray Gurney led the worship service, "Why other Christians Don't Like Me: Reasons 41-53." Ray shared reasons why he is often rejected by all but the most progressive Christian thinkers. One consequence is that after visiting nearly all of the churches in Ripon, he can find not one that conforms to his view of Christianity. Ray shared his spiritual journey through life and quoted excerpts from a book that has helped shape his journey, the ***Gospel of Mary***. This is an [apocryphal book](#) discovered in 1896 in a 5th-century papyrus codex written in Sahidic Coptic.

Worship Service March 26 "Lighting the Flame Within"

Celebrating Women's History month with Judy Harris. Judy Harris led a heartfelt service highlighting influential women past and present.



"Singing Rosa, Rosa
Don't you take the back of no bus.
Every woman here deserves respect,
ain't nothing too good for us, sweet women,

Nothing too good for us."

Annual Meeting

WHAT: Annual Meeting

WHERE: Prairie Lakes

WHEN: Sunday, May 7 10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Brunch provided and childcare upon request

Annual Meeting packets will be sent to all members by April 7. **Everyone** is invited to attend our Annual Meeting on May 7. We want to remind our congregation that you must become a member of PLUUF at least 1 month prior to the Annual Meeting to vote. Becoming a member is easy. Once you decide to take the leap to become a member of PLUUF you just need to sign the Membership book. Becky Feyen rfeyen@yahoo.com or Tanya Schwartz Roeper tanyapapermaker@gmail.com or Judy Harris jdlake@centurytel.net will be happy to assist you and answer any questions you may have.

Fellowship Notes



Rachael Steiner, senior at Ripon College, led a service at PLUUF back in October and shared the issues that her fellow LGBTQ students are addressing at the college. It was recently announced she is recipient of the 2017 Student Activist Award from the WI Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies. Congratulations Rachael!

- Our condolences go out to PLUUF Moderator Becky Feyen and the passing of her mother.
- We're pleased to welcome back our PLUUF snowbirds.

Please Help Us Update Our Fellowship Directory

Whether you are officially a member, someone who comes periodically, or someone who has moved away but remains in our PLUUF hearts, we would very much appreciate a record of your current and preferred contact info. Please include name, mailing address, phone number(s) and email as willing. This information will be shared as a printed resource within the Fellowship building and will be available, in print form, to members and friends. Please give this information to PLUUF Secretary Linda DeCramer at lindadecramer@yahoo.com

Finance News by Tanya Schwartz Roeper

Thank you members and friends of PLUUF for your financial support! Detailed treasurer reports are available at PLUUF.

As of March 31, 2017

INCOME	Current Month	Year to date	Annual Budget
Member/Friend contributions	\$1,638.55	\$27,521.38	\$25,289
EXPENSES			
Administration	\$65.99	\$3,066.82	\$5,450
Social Action	\$0	\$650.57	\$700
Worship Service	\$150	\$1,619.73	\$2,325
Facility	\$2,724.56	\$8,089.84	\$7,800
Casual Labor	\$0	\$270.00	\$5,714
Membership/PR	\$72.77	\$1,125.97	\$3,300
RE	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$60</u>	<u>\$0</u>
	\$3,013.32	\$14,882.93	\$25,289

PLUUF Accounts as March 31, 2017:

BMO Checking	\$23,055.76 Operating Expenses
BMO Savings	\$ 7,903.80 Vision Fund
UUCEF (As of 3/31)	<u>\$41,560.31 Vision Fund</u>
	\$72,519.87

Board of Directors*

Moderator

Becky Feyen

Secretary

Linda DeCramer

Treasurer

Tanya Schwartz Roeper

At Large Representative

Judy Harris

At Large Representative

Laird DeCramer

Administrative Assistant

Linda Holloway

Standing Committees

Worship committee chair: Jill Stiemsma

Pat Dobrinska, Jean Johnson, Nicole Roost, Elisabeth Beuthin & Becky Feyen

Membership Committee Co-Chairs: Eric Bartelme & Ellen Mueller

RE Co-Chair: Judy Harris

Finance Committee: Linda Holloway & Tanya Schwartz Roeper

Facility Committee: Laird DeCramer & Brad Roost

Ad Hoc Committees and Task Groups

Alternate Sunday Programs Co Chairs: Judy Harris & Elisabeth Beuthin

Care & Concern Co-Chairs: Bonnie Wagner & Beth Howman-Combs

Social Justice Committee: ALL

Newsletter Editor: Tanya Schwartz Roeper

Community Outreach/Advertising: Eric Bartelme & Ellen Mueller, Tanya S-R

Music Coordinator: Jill Stiemsma

Supplies: Eric Bartelme

OWL Certified: Nicole Roost & Linda DeCramer

*Past and present board minutes and detailed treasurer reports are available for viewing at the fellowship or obtain a copy by request.

- Board meetings take place the 2nd Monday of the month at 4:30 p.m. If there is anything you'd like to put on the agenda please contact Linda DeCramer lindadecramer@yahoo.com or Becky Feyen r.feyen@yahoo.com at least one week in advance.
- All board and committee members are encouraged to submit information to be included in the newsletter by the 25th of each month to tanyapapermaker@gmail.com