

"It isn't love that makes the world go round but compassion – starting over in gentleness when love hasn't been enough or other factors have failed: a gentle refusal to blame oneself or others and just begin again.

*-Nancy Shaffer
(Unitarian Universalist,
clergy)*

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Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Welcome to our monthly newsletter.

Inside this issue:

Page 2: News from the Outside
Page 3: Moderator's Message by Becky Feyen
Page 4: Worship Services & Alternative Sundays
Page 5: Committee Reports by Judy Harris
Page 6: In case you missed it
Page 7: Finance news and more



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Sunday, May 7: 10:00 AM ANNUAL MEETING Come one, come all. Only PLUUF members will be able to vote but **EVERYONE** is welcome to join us. Learn more about our committees, finances and much, much more! Brunch provided and childcare upon request.

Sunday, May 14: 10:00 AM Worship Service with **Stephanie Prellwitz**, director of the Green Lake Association. This service will focus both on Mother's Day and the need for potable water (See page 4 for more details.)

Please stay after the service for our second Sunday Potluck!!

Sunday, May 21: 10:00 AM Alternative Sunday Becky Feyen will lead a presentation & discussion concerning two issues in the forefront of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). (See page 4 for details under the 1 & 3rd Alternative Sundays heading)

Sunday, May 28: 10:00 AM Worship Service We welcome the return of Bradley Siebel. (See page 4 for more information)

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

Spring has Sprung at PLUUF!

Grounds & Facility Committee report by Laird DeCramer

The hard maple and oak tree at the southwest corner of the PLUUF grounds were trimmed last week by Chuck Mirr to get rid of the dead limbs and lower sucker branches. Chuck recommended keeping the old, large hard maple as it is starting to repair around the side where a large section broke off. He said the hard maples are quite resilient and hated to take it down at this point, as it may have many years left in it. I will be putting something at the base on the side where it was damaged to control the carpenter ants.

Also, Brody Roost has agreed to mow the lawn again this year.



Towering Oak



Majestic Maple



**Can this tree can be saved?
YES!!**

According to tree expert, Chuck Mirr, the trunk of our old maple is healing.

Prairie Lakes Annual Meeting May 7th at 10:00

Brunch provided and childcare upon request

Annual Meeting packets were sent or delivered to all members. **EVERYONE** is invited to attend our Annual Meeting. Only PLUUF members will be able to vote, though. There will be a light brunch for all and childcare upon request.

Exciting proposals for our outdoor/green space will be presented at the Annual Meeting!

Laird & Linda DeCramer have developed a design for our outdoor space based on the wishes of members and friends of our Fellowship. The proposed changes to our outdoor space include wide walkways to accommodate wheel chairs, a pergola, and a pavilion to accommodate outdoor classes with attached storage shed. All of this will be presented and discussed at the annual meeting on May 7. **Don't miss it!!**

Message from our Moderator by Becky Feyen



This month I want to share my concern for those facing life-changing illnesses; & I am going to say it – life-ending illnesses. It is true, that anyone of us could die in a minute, but we typically live our life without the thought of it ending. Our community has several people facing illnesses requiring life changes – changes in activities, relationships, plans, etc. I cannot claim to know what each individual, and those that love them are going through. I know my heart is very heavy & my concern is great.

On a personal note, I have lost 2 amazing women in the last couple months, my mom & the mother of my best friend (since 1st grade). The memories of my childhood have flooded back with a new clarity of what these women did to make my life special. All those things you don't realize as a kid, or as a busy adult. I share this because I am aware of how much our PLUUF community and each person has impacted my life. I realize how much I rely on each & every person to create a wonderful experience at Prairie Lakes. My friends, mentors, helpers, challengers, etc. are unable to be there, & I need these people!

I am unsure of how to proceed, how to be helpful & supportive, how to organize our community around our friends & their families. My hope and belief is that together, our Fellowship will be the support system that is needed.

Together we can make a difference.
With love –

Fellowship Notes

PLUUF members and friends had two opportunities in April to put their muscles to work and beautify outdoor space. The first opportunity was on April 8 for a PLUUF yard clean up day. The second was held on April 22 (Earth Day!) at Linda Holloway and Jim Goyette's homestead. It was a beautiful sunny day and almost a dozen PLUUFer's shoveled, raked, burned, sawed, hauled, and more. It was a great day to be outside and to be surrounded by amazing energy.

Thank you to everyone who participated!



2nd & 4th May Worship Services by Jill Stiemsma



Hello, all. Welcome to Wisconsin Spring - flowers, potential leaves, rain, thunderstorms, frost, and warm, breezy days. Hope you're enjoying it all!

New members have stepped up to aid our committee: Becky Feyen continues on, Pat Dobrinska has joined us officially, and Tanya Schwartz-Roeper, Lee Barzak and Bonnie Wagner are perhaps ex-officio but willing helpers. We welcome them - and any of you who'd like to be involved. Thank you to Tanya, especially, for producing our Order of Service; her artwork certainly adds to its welcoming and inclusive nature.

Here's what's on the docket for May:

May 14: What a privilege to have Stephanie Prellwitz lead this service focused both on Mother's Day (Happy Mother's Day, everyone!) and the need for potable water which, like mothers, nurtures us all. Stephanie is the Director of the Green Lake Association, the group that oversees the health of Green Lake. Indeed, this will prove to be a memorable service.

May 28: Yea! We welcome the return of Marian University Theology graduate (as of May 13 - congratulations, Bradley!) and UU member Bradley Seibel. He'll figure out his topic when he's done with his finals, etc.!

Just a "heads-up": Our annual flower communion is scheduled for June 11th. For those of you unfamiliar with UU traditions, this service offers an opportunity to celebrate our faith community by joining our flowers together. So think about what will be growing in your yard about that time!

See you in the neighborhood -

1st & 3rd Alternative Sundays

Sunday, May 7: 10:00 AM It's our ANNUAL MEETING and EVERYONE is welcomed to join us. Only members can vote, though. Brunch will be provided.

Sunday, May 21: 10:00 AM Becky Feyen will lead a presentation & discussion concerning two issues in the forefront of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). We will decide how to be involved with these important issues of race, equality, & compassion. Jean Johnson suggested that Prairie Lakes publish the UUA Declaration of Conscience in local newspapers. We will discuss how publishing that document influences the actions of our Fellowship and us as individuals.

1. Declaration of Conscience - "...we are called to affirm our profound commitment to the fundamental principles of justice, equity and compassion, to truth and core values of American society." <http://www.uua.org/lovesresists/declaration-conscience>
2. Resignation of UUA President over hiring practices & diversity within the UUA. Our MidAmerica Region is addressing the issue of whiteness within our association congregations. <https://www.midamericauua.org/resources/justice>

Committee Reports by Judy Harris



Community Outreach/Membership

Eric Bartelme reports that ads have been submitted to the Ripon Commonwealth Press and Commonwealth Express. Each month, one of our Principles will be featured to introduce Unitarian Universalism to readers.

Becky Feyen and **Eric Bartelme** met with our web site developer on April 23. PLUUF's website will be launched VERY soon! Join us at the Annual Meeting to find out more!

Thank you to **Ellen Mueller** for handling the publicity for our April 30th workshop: "Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change." Registration is available online at a site called "EventBrite".

Adult Religious Education

- "Inner Worlds, Outer Worlds" concluded on April 16. Please see page 6 for a summary. Thank you to **Gil & Mary Knight** for bringing this documentary to PLUUF.
- "Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change" 2-hour workshop on April 30. (A summary of the event will be covered in the June edition of our PLUUF newsletter).

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.

Camp PLUUF

Thanks to a generous grant from the Webster Foundation our youth summer camp will return! 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! This year's topic is water.

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

In Case You Missed It

Alternative Sunday April 2 & 16



Gil & Mary Knight brought us the four part documentary series *Inner Worlds, Outer Worlds*. This documentary was created by Canadian filmmaker, musician and mediation teacher Daniel Schmidt. The film could be described as the external reflection of his own adventures in mediation.

Part I: Akasha is the unmanifested, the “nothing” or emptiness which fills the vacuum of space.

Part II: The Spiral. The philosopher Plato hinted that there was a golden key that unified all the mysteries of the universe.

Part III: The Serpent and the Lotus. The spiral as often been represented by the snake, the downward current, while the bird or blooming lotus flower has represented the upward current or transcendence.

Part IV: Beyond Thinking. Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We live our lives pursuing happiness “out there” as if it is a commodity. We have become slaves to our own desires and craving.

Special Thanks to Gil and Mary Knight for sharing this documentary with PLUUF. Thank you to **Jim Goyette** for assisting with the audiovisual equipment to make this happen. Thank you to **Becky Feyen** for presenting Part III when Gil & Mary were unable to attend AND providing brunch AND an Easter egg hunt on May 16.

Worship Service April 9



Paul Jeffries, professor of philosophy at Ripon College, led the worship service, “Can Morality be Legislated?

Legality, Ethics, and Justice.” His opening words were from, *Seven Social Deadly Sins* by Gandhi and Closing words *Letter from a Birmingham Jail* by MLK.

Worship Service April 23 Jill Stiemsma saves the day!



Myron Eshowsky was originally scheduled to lead the service to discuss his world-wide work as a Shaman. Sadly he had a family emergency and could not attend

the service. Although she only had a few days to prepare, Jill Stiemsma put together a beautiful service titled, *How Can I Live My Spiritual Practice? How Can I Bring It to Flower Every Day of My Life?* Thank you Jill!

Alternative Sunday April 30 Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change facilitated by Kat Griffith

(Editors note: This newsletter is being printed and sent prior to the event. *Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change* will be covered in the June edition).

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 April 27, 2017

INCOME	Current Month	Year to date	Annual Budget
Member/Friend contributions/income	\$4,325.50	\$31,846.88	\$25,289
EXPENSES			
Administration	\$57.42	\$3,124.24	\$5,450
Social Action	\$0	\$650.57	\$700
Worship Service	\$254.03	\$1,873.76	\$2,325
Facility	\$822.09	\$8,911.93	\$7,800
Casual Labor	\$0	\$270.00	\$5,714
Membership/PR	\$94.90	\$1,220.87	\$3,300
RE	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$60</u>	<u>\$0</u>
	\$1,228.44	\$16,111.37	\$25,289

PLUUF Accounts as April 27, 2017:

BMO Checking	\$23,753.02 Operating Fund	<i>*\$3,000 of the Art & Service Auction income transferred into our BMO Savings account</i>
BMO Savings	\$10,903.80 Short term Vision Fund*	
UUCEF (As of 4/27)	<u>\$42,085.16 Long term Vision Fund</u>	
	\$76,741.98	

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