



In Memory of Gil Knight  
October 22, 1952-September 11, 2017

Three days after moving to Ripon, Gil & Mary Knight walked through our doors at Prairie Lakes. That was in August of 2016. Within a month they were actively participating in attending Worship Services, ENGAGE Sundays and leading a 4 part video documentary series titled Inner Worlds/Outer Worlds.

Though your time with us was brief, we are grateful to have met you.

*"In the Infinite...  
we find only Love..."*

~ Gil Knight



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# Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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The annual water sharing ceremony combined with the Harvest Festival. See page 5 for more photos.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**Sunday, October 1: 10:00 AM** ENGAGE Sunday Oceans of garbage that won't go away. A video will be presented and discussion will follow.

**Sunday, October 8: 10:00 AM** Worship Service Tracy McDermott, a local environmental advocate, will talk about how nature sustained and created community long before we called this land home and how our UU Principles are connected. (See page 3 for more details).

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

**Sunday, October 15: 10:00 AM** ENGAGE Sunday Continued discussion of issues with plastics AND solutions.

**Sunday, October 22: 10:00 AM** Worship Service We welcome the return of Jim Jaeger!

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, October 29: 10:00 AM** ENGAGE Sunday TBA

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



## Technology Update

PLUUF has a new laptop computer, projector with ceiling mount and Multi media Stick!

Thank you, Jim Goyette, for researching our options and getting us a great deal on new equipment for PLUUF.

## Experience Midwest Paperfest 10/6-10/28

This special event takes place at the historic Town Square in downtown Green Lake. The exhibit consists of the remarkable work of eight Midwest hand-made paper artists. Stop by 8 am-5 pm Monday-Saturday or schedule a guided tour with Tanya by e-mailing [tanyapapermaker@gmail.com](mailto:tanyapapermaker@gmail.com)



Below is a sample of work along with the artist statement by Mel Kolstad:

*I received the wasp's nest, which is central to the idea of this piece, from one of my friends about two years ago. It is all at once beautiful and haunting, as there are still wasps in the nest, frozen in place, trying to escape.*

*The nest, combined with the ethereal nature of handmade paper and the conjoining yet separate hexagons, brought about the idea that while our "nests" may be conjoined, as in a neighborhood or a community, many of us still feel isolated or alone. We're more connected than ever, yet the feeling of togetherness is absent in a physical sense. We're all so "busy", and it's becoming more difficult to spend time with our friends, neighbors, and even family members without scheduling time to actually do that. I wanted to explore the paradox in this piece. – Mel Kolstad*

## Events of the Center for Politics and the People at Ripon College

October 2 "Asymmetric Politics: Ideological Republicans and Groups Interest Democrats" 4:30 – 5:45 Pm  
Kresge Little Theater, East Hall

October 23 "Outside Agitators: Ripon College and the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s"

October 24 "A View of Donald Trump from Europe"

## Meditation Group – Everyone is Welcome



The Chapel  
First Congregational Church  
220 Ransom Street, Ripon

### Ripon United Church of Christ Zen Meditation Group

Transition to Autumn – 7 weeks

4:00-4:15 Brief Introduction and/or Discussion of  
Meditation

4:15-5:15 PM Sundays

September 10 - October 22, 2016

All are welcome, no prior meditation experience required or expected.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> October Worship Services by Jill Stiemsma

Hello, again. September Worship Services started off with a bang with our traditional In-Gathering/Water Sharing Service combined with our Harvest Festival. Thanks to the many who led portions of that service, sang with the PLUUF Singers, and contributed food. Special thanks to the Roost family for taking all the food to local pantries for us. Pat Dobrinska's reading of "The Theist in Me" on September 24<sup>th</sup> sparked more conversation than we had time for! So, thank you, Pat, too.

Not to be outdone, however, here's the schedule for October:

**October 8:** We welcome Open Circle's Tracy McDermott who's "sort of" helping us celebrate Interfaith Energy Month. (You'll have to make the connection yourselves.)

Tracy is a local environmental advocate who has had the opportunity to work with many local environmental groups and education organizations. She is the current Executive Director of the Gottfried Prairie & Arboretum and Membership Coordinator/Office Administrator for OCUUF in FdL. When not spending time working with non-profits, she and her family enjoy educating folks about the importance of sustainable living and growing food at their hobby farm "Wander Way" in Eldorado.

Fond du Lac County was once covered with 60% prairie and oak savannah. These native plant communities sustained amazing amounts of life before they were settled by our ancestors.

Tracy will talk about how nature sustained and created community long before we called this land home and how our UU Principles are connected.

Join us for Second Sunday Potluck afterward!

**October 22:** Hey - we welcome the long-awaited return of Jim Jaeger. But the focus of his Reflection is as yet a "surprise". Come find out!

Blessings on all of you who attend services and attend to the business of PLUUF.

*Thank you to all for bringing a bounty of food to the Water Sharing/Harvest Fest Service. The Roost family has delivered it to our local food pantry.*





# ENGAGE Sundays by Judy Harris



**Explore**

**No Boundries**

**Gather**

**Activism**

**Go! Be the change**

**Educate**

**What can you expect on ENGAGE Sundays?**

- Book discussions
- Video Documentaries
- Special guest speakers
- Off-site events
- Community activities
- Social Action and much more!

## 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> ENGAGE Sundays

**Sunday, October 1: 10:00 AM** ENGAGE Sunday Oceans of garbage that won't go away. A video will be presented and discussion will follow.

**Sunday, October 15: 10:00 AM** ENGAGE Sunday Continued discussion of issues with plastics AND solutions.

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, October 29: TBA**

**Children's Religious Education (RE):** Jonah Roeper has volunteered to lead RE. He had a "working interview" on Sunday, September 24, and all went well. He'll return on 10/8 and 10/22 and looks forward to getting to know the kids. Jonah is a sophomore at Ripon High School.



## ENGAGE Sundays off to a great start!

On September 3, **Daniel Wehrwein** shared his ideas about "The Three Stages of Christianity" to a full house around the tables in the social room. Daniel's knowledge of early Christianity and historical research prompted a lively range of insights and questions. Thank you, Daniel!

On September 17 several books were recommended for our upcoming book discussion. The decision was made that **Pat Dobrinska** will lead a book discussion on The Climate of Hope by Michael Bloomberg and Carl Pope on November 5 and 19.

**Jeromy French** has offered to lead a book discussion this winter on Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind by Yuval Noah Harari.

**Social Action:** The 14 attendees unanimously agreed to support the UUA's efforts to assist hurricane victims. Judy and Tanya will send your individual contributions to UUA. A special collection was taken on September 24 and another on October 1.

After watching the Video of Rev. Dr. William Barber (see next page), attendees discussed the possibility of bringing Dr. Barber to Ripon. Local churches and college leaders will be contacted to find out what may be possible.

# In Case You Missed It In September

## ENGAGE Sunday September 3 Daniel Wehrwein:



On September 3, Daniel Wehrwein shared his ideas on the "The Three Stages of Christianity." Daniel has been a Friend of PLUUF since August 2016 after moving from Madison. One of his favorite authors is Bart Ehrmann, a religion professor at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

*Daniel recently moved to Fond du Lac. If you would like to visit or send a note, his current address is: Hospice Hope  
400 County Road K  
Fond du Lac, WI 54935*

## ENGAGE Sunday September 17 YouTube video of Rev. Dr William Barber



Judy Harris shared the youTube video of Rev. Dr. William Barber declaring at the UUA General Assembly that Hate, Discrimination, and Violence cannot

have the 1st, Last, and Loudest Word.

The Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, UUA President Peter Morales, and others exhorted the crowd of Unitarian Universalists to say "enough!" to white supremacy, classism, homophobia, and "other kinds of violence perpetrated by fear," as Morales said.

## Worship Service September 10 Water Sharing/Harvest Fest ...in photos.



## Worship Service September 24 With Pat Dobrinska "Why I'm A Theist"



Pat Dobrinska presented the reflection written by Bruce Clear of the UUA: The Theist In Me. Here's an excerpt:  
*There is a theist in me as well as a humanist. The God of this theism, though, is a natural, not a supernatural, God. It is not the God of children's stories, nor is it the God of traditional lore. This*

*God is not easy to describe or explain, so it deserves having a whole sermon devoted to it....*

*...I do not believe that God exists. I do not believe in the existence of a Being to which I ascribe the name "God." And yet, at the same time, I do believe in God. I believe in a unifying force of the universe to which I may relate, and on which I may rely.*

You can read the entire reflection by going on-line to the UUA website.



## Treasurer's Report by Tanya Schwartz Roeper

### PLUUF Accounts as of September 28, 2017:

BMO Checking	\$24,952.48	Operating Fund
BMO Savings	\$10,906.04	Short term Vision Fund
UUCEF* (As of 9/28)	<u>\$44,631.01</u>	Long term Vision Fund
	\$80,489.53	

\*Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund

Back in June a storm hit Ripon. PLUUF's gutters sustained \$878 of damage. Fortunately, our insurance policy covered \$628 of the bill. ☺

One of our biggest September expenses (and worth every penny) was the purchase of our new lap top computer, projector with ceiling mount and multi media stick! Jim Goyette did his research and found PLUUF a great deal.

Thanks Jim!

### Financial Report as of September 28, 2017

	Current Month	Year to Date	Annual Budget
Income	\$1,885.55	\$4,515.54	\$27,340
Expenses	\$2,952.26	\$5,404.45	\$27,340

Detailed monthly financial reports are always available at PLUUF or by request: [tanyapapermaker@gmail.com](mailto:tanyapapermaker@gmail.com)

### Board of Directors\*

#### Moderator

Becky Feyen

#### Secretary

Linda DeCramer

#### Treasurer

Tanya Schwartz Roeper

#### At Large Representative

Judy Harris

#### At Large Representative

Jessica French

### Standing Committees

Worship Committee Chair: Jill Stiemsma

Pat Dobrinska, Lee Barczak, Becky Feyen, Bonnie Wagner, & Ray Gurney

Membership Committee Co-Chairs: Eric Bartelme & Ellen Mueller

RE Co-Chair: Judy Harris

Finance Committee: Tanya Schwartz Roeper

Facility Committee: Laird DeCramer & Brad Roost

### Ad Hoc Committees and Task Groups

Alternate Sunday Programs Co Chairs: Judy Harris

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 on the Monday after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 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](mailto:lindadecramer@yahoo.com) or Becky Feyen [r.feyen@yahoo.com](mailto: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 20<sup>th</sup> of each month to [tanyapapermaker@gmail.com](mailto:tanyapapermaker@gmail.com)