

315 Eureka Street
Ripon, WI 54971
920-745-2446

www.pluuf.org
info@PLUUF.org

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Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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I AM A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

I am part of a community formed around respect & trust.

I am part of a movement to use love to heal the world.

I am part of a tradition of learning & responsibility.

*I am part of a religion that admits ignorance, and asks us
to seek truth and meaning honestly.*

I invite you to ask me why

I AM UU

Calendar At-A-Glance

ENGAGE Sunday, February 4: 10:00 AM A new book discussion begins:
Sapiens: A Brief History of Mankind by Yuval Noah Harari. Jeromy French will
lead the discussion. Please join us whether you are reading the book or not!

Worship Service Sunday, February 11: 10:00 AM PLUUF member Joe Hatcher
will lead a reflection on *The Importance of Play* (More information on page 3)

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

ENGAGE Sunday, February 18: 10:00 AM Book discussion continues *Sapiens: A
Brief History of Mankind* led by Jeromy French. You are invited to join us
whether you are reading the book or not 😊

Worship Service Sunday, February 25: 10:00 AM We welcome guest speaker
Jane Shoup leading a reflection on the impact of Homo Sapiens (More details on
page 3)

Ripon College Event Monday, February 26 4:30-5:45 PM Kresge Little Theater
in East Hall *Slave Trade in Libya Today: Implications for U.S. Foreign Policy*



Message from the Moderator by Becky Feyen

One of the best (or worst) aspects for being part of a Unitarian Universalist congregation is that you have a voice in the direction, dynamics and function of this Fellowship. You are the reason Prairie Lakes is here. I hope I pumped you up enough before assigning you the homework of reviewing our vision and mission statements ☺

Vision and mission statements (Congregational Covenant is coming soon) define who we are, as a Unitarian Universalist congregation - who we are, when we gather in this community - who we are, as a religious community. Without this knowledge and guidance we run the risk of losing relevance and effectiveness. All decisions, services, programs of the Fellowship align with the vision & mission statements.

The best vision & mission statements are developed from the group, giving you ownership of the outcome and future of our Fellowship. Well as always, we are a bit of an anomaly, since the board of directors has prepared statements for you to review. We want your input, & are willing to make changes, even have a meeting with the entire Fellowship if needed. The intent was to streamline the documents (the new direction of these statements) and the development process. I hope the visual and notes below help you with your evaluation. Please feel free to contact any one of your board members with questions, concerns, and suggestions.



PROPOSED VISION STATEMENT: As a Fellowship, we strive to support, promote and exemplify the Seven Unitarian Universalist Principles.

PROPOSED MISSION STATEMENT: Individually, collectively, internally and externally, we agree to be a transformative presence for our members, friends and the larger community by:

- Creating an atmosphere of love, compassion and care for all ages and stages in life's journey
- Promoting intellectual curiosity and open-minded discussion
- Acting as stewards of the Earth
- Advocating for a more just and equitable world
- Honoring the worth and dignity of all beings
- Nurturing our communal spiritual journey
- Being a catalyst for good in the world

Copies will also be posted at the Fellowship, allowing opportunities for suggestions (possibly with a notorious suggestion box). We intend to have the final vote take place at our Annual Meeting held in May. We want everyone's input, member or friend, but only members can vote for acceptance of the statements. So, if you have not signed our book to officially become a member, you can do that up to 30 days before our meeting to if you want to take part in the vote.

Please keep us updated on your thoughts – you all amaze me with your knowledge and creativity.

Thank you –

Becky



February Worship Services by Jill Stiemsma

Hello, everyone and greetings from El Salvador! I'm so sorry to have missed the January services; but thank you to Ellen Mueller for Reflecting on her struggles to adopt refugee children and to Becky Feyen for her Reflection reminding us of our ongoing struggle for justice that MLK Day represents. Thank you, both. (Also, thank you to the Worship Services team members for insuring our services continue like clockwork.)

So, here are the February services that will "broaden your horizons":

February 11: Hey - we welcome the return of Joe Hatcher whose services always bring joy to our hearts! This Sunday, Joe will focus on "The Importance of Play" - a valuable focus as we muddle through the winter blahs, don't you think? (We've had very strange January weather in ES - but I think this WI winter is even weirder.) Don't forget: It's Second Sunday potluck, too.

February 25: I suspect many of you will have participated in the Engage Sunday discussion on Homo Sapiens led by Jeromy French. Now you have the opportunity to hear from retired college professor Jane Shoup as she Reflects on the impact of Homo Sapiens. Great follow-up to what I'm sure was an illuminating discussion.

Wishing you all a safe and "engaged" February - Adios de El Salvador --

Jill Stiemsma

(On a personal note, Rachael and Josue are now in Mexico. First they will visit his family for the first time since he crossed the border, some 12+ years ago. Then they will fly to Juarez for his interview. If all goes well, he will have the necessary documents to cross the border legally. Keep your fingers crossed! And please keep your fingers crossed for the kids who are being cared for by Rachael's 20-year-old cousin - I shudder to think how that will go - and Rachael's overbearing mother. Breathe, Mason, Miguel, Emmy, and Ylenia!)

Children's 2nd & 4th Sunday Religious Education (RE)



Jonah led a 2nd Sunday January RE classes focusing on the 7 UU principles with a reading for the opening chalice lighting, followed by a lesson. RE student, Molly, sketched and colored a beautiful flaming chalice image.

February RE will celebrate the achievements of black Americans with emphasis on Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King, Jr. and wife Coretta Scott King.



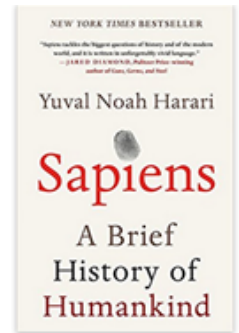


1st & 3rd ENGAGE Sundays by Becky Feyen

ENGAGE Sundays 2/4/18 and 2/18/18 - Book discussion led by Jeromy French (thank you!)

Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind – by: Yuval Noah Harari

This is an amazing book outlining the evolution of ‘us’, the development of our society, and our domination of the world. Harari’s perspective & concepts have generated ‘push-back’ from some anthropologists; but this is an engaging book worth reading. Jeromy has outlined chapters and questions for discussion. Feel free to join us even if you do not read the book; I guarantee you will enjoy the conversation.



February 4th ENGAGE Sunday “Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind” book discussion Part One: The Cognitive Revolution, chapters 1 & 2. Part Two: The Agricultural Revolution, chapters 5 & 6.

February 18th ENGAGE Sunday “Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind” book discussion Part Three: The Unification of Humankind, chapter 12. Part Four: The Scientific Revolution, chapters 14, 29, & 20.



Dear PLUUF Friends:

We miss you all! Our idyllic spot in Gulf Shores, Alabama has not escaped “unseasonable temperatures;” of course that’s relative! After 11 years as Alabama “Snowbirds,” Dave and I feel as though the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship offers us a substitute for PLUUF; a safe haven where we can share our beliefs and values. Most of the services that we’ve attended focus on the 4th principle: “...a free and responsible search for truth and meaning—more on that next month. We also pick up tidbits worth sharing. Here’s one: Most of you are probably aware of the movie, “The Post,” which refers to the Washington Post receiving and printing information from the Pentagon Papers. Though his part in the movie is apparently not as significant as the reality of what he did, journalist Ben Bagdikian, the journalist who received the Pentagon Papers and in great trepidation carried them on a flight to Washington, was an Armenian-American whose family escaped the Armenian genocide of the 1920’s. Wikipedia says that he had a “passion for social justice.” Winner of many awards including the Pulitzer Prize in 1971 and “hailed for his ethical standards,” Ben Bagdikian was a member of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Providence Rhode Island. The speaker who shared this information suggested “The Post” was worth seeing.

To quote Brad Roost: “Peace and unrest” to you all, Judy and Dave Harris

Looking back at our 5th Sunday in December: *Celebrating the last day of 2017*

December 31st of 2017 was celebrated at the home of PLUUF member Tanya Schwartz Roeper and husband, Randy, in Green Lake. Approximately two dozen PLUUFer’s came together to socialize, eat, watch the Packer Game, play ping pong, and more. Several brave souls experienced a short hike through the maple woods in single digit temps! For those of you who couldn’t make it to the event, hope you can join us to ring in the last Sunday of 2018!



In Case You Missed It In January

ENGAGE Sunday January 7 with Becky Feyen New Year Release & Renewal Ritual



PLUUF Moderator, Becky Feyen, led the first ENGAGE Sunday of 2018 with Release & Renewal Rituals. Becky guided our Fellowship through meditations, yoga movements & rituals to symbolically release the negativity of 2017 & move into 2018 with a renewed sense of hope. We need to take care of ourselves & not become overwhelmed by the situations around us. The best way forward is with light & love in 2018.

Thank you Becky for getting our New Year off to a great start!

ENGAGE Sunday January 21 Becky Feyen *Depolarizing Habits and Compassionate Conversations*



Becky shared the 7 Habits of Highly Depolarizing People for a group discussion. We worked through some of the 'why & how' to have conversations with people of opposing views. As often happens, our time ran short to review the UU Peacemakers Compassionate Conversations; hopefully everyone had an opportunity to read through the copies provided.



Worship Service January 14 with Ellen Mueller *Making a Case for Compassion Towards Undocumented Immigrants*

Why do we have over 10 million undocumented immigrants here and why didn't they just follow our laws and come here legally? For the residents of more than 20 countries, there is no legal route into the United States unless an individual has a close family member already here or is highly educated with specialized skills that an employer is requesting. Asylum seekers, if allowed into the country, are often returned to their country of origin after a review. With no qualifying family member in the USA, lacking the education and skills desired, and no case for asylum, illegal entry is the only route. Desperate to be here, individuals crossing through Mexico face the possibility of death, and for women, a 60-80% chance of being raped. Once here, undocumented immigrants are GOOD for our economy according to 44 of 46 economists interviewed for a Wall Street Journal Report. Unable to obtain a valid social security number, they are forced to use a false SSN or a taxpayer identification number. Thus, three out of four pay taxes but are unable to collect social security, SSI, or use Medicaid, housing subsidies, etc. They take jobs that need to be done but that others do not want to do.

Ellen shared her personal story of obtaining proof of citizenship for two of her daughters who were born in refugee camps. It took three years which included many hours of paper work, phone calls, the help of a judge, being on Homeland Security waiting lists for months, and a very difficult Wisconsin Vital Records employee. In spite of most people being kind and sympathetic, all agreeing that the law clearly indicated her daughters were indeed US citizens, it was all but impossible to get any of the "big four": SSN, state ID, birth certificate, and passport because all required one or two of the other documents! This experience, although not a direct equivalent, engendered an understanding of the great difficulty involved when dealing with government processes and a deep sense of compassion for those less likely to have the skills, much less the advantages she had, to obtain needed documentation.

Worship Service January 28 Becky Feyen *Honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. and UUA Promise & Practice*

This MLK service featured A Letter From the Birmingham Jail, in which Dr. King outlined his disappointment with the white clergy and churches of the south. The supporting resources outlined current black UU's disappointment with our religion. What can we do to support & develop a multicultural community? All cash & specified checks were donated to Black Lives of UU (BLUU) with a matching donation from Social Action & Justice funds.



Fellowship Notes

- Welcome new PLUUF member Donald VanScotter! Don signed the membership book on the 1st worship service of the New Year.
- Thank you to Marjorie Kenyon-Cler for providing 25 stunning nature photographs that were turned into a slide show and projected onto the screen during the prelude at our 2nd Sunday worship service.
- Former PLUUF Moderator Lyn Corder wrote us from Carlsbad, California, wishing everyone a great year. She hopes to plan a trip to Ripon sometime.
- Former PLUUF members David and Karen Williams wrote us from Menomonie, WI, wishing all PLUUFers a happy New Year.
- Condolences to Pat Dobrinska who recently lost her sister, Mary, to cancer.
- Condolences to Becky Feyen and partner Kip on the loss of their beloved dog, Goofy.
- Thank you to Jill Stiemsma for proofreading the PLUUF newsletter every month before it is sent to members & friends. She continues to fulfill this duty from El Salvador!

Editors Note: If you have information to be included in the newsletter, please submit it by the 22nd of the month to tanyapapermaker@gmail.com

Treasurer's Report as of January 29, 2018 by Tanya Schwartz Roeper

Thank you to everyone who contributed pledges to PLUUF's operating fund and/or donated to Black Lives UU this month!



Board of Directors*

Moderator

Becky Feyen

Secretary

Linda DeCramer

Treasurer

Tanya Schwartz Roeper

At Large Representative

Judy Harris

At Large Representative

Jessica French

	Current Month	Year to Date	Annual Budget
Income	\$1,053	\$14,364.04	\$27,340
Expenses	\$985.52	\$9,469.33	\$27,340

Detailed monthly financial reports are always available at PLUUF or by request:

tanyapapermaker@gmail.com

BMO Checking	\$29,831.64	Operating Fund
BMO Savings	\$10,907.86	Short term Vision Fund
UUCEF*	\$46,865.93	Long term Vision Fund
	\$87,605.43	

*Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund

*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 2nd 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 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 20th of each month to tanyapapermaker@gmail.com