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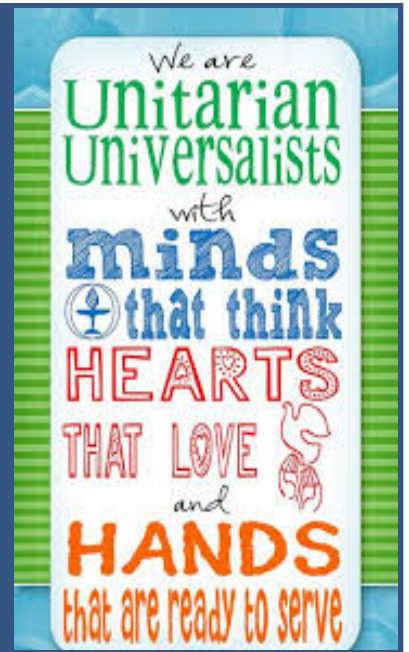
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Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Calendar At-A-Glance

ENGAGE Sunday, March 4, 10:00 AM: Book discussion continues: *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.

Ripon College Event, Tuesday, March 6, 4:30 - 5:45 PM in the Kresge Little Theater in East Hall "Democracy Beyond the Ballot Box": Panelists will address practical political projects that make their communities more democratic.

Community Narcan Training, Thursday, March 8, 7:00 PM at Prairie Lakes

Worship Service Sunday, March 11, 10:00 AM: Jim Jaeger returns
Please stay after the service for our second Sunday Potluck!!

ENGAGE Sunday, March 18, 10:00 AM: New member Don VanScotter will lead a presentation and discussion on biodiversity and the seventh UU Principle.

A Celebration of the Life of Mary Brandt, Saturday, March 24, 3:00 PM at Ripon College in Demmer Recital Hall. (More information on page 5)

Worship Service Sunday, March 25, 10:00 AM: We welcome Judy Goldsmith from Open Circle UU in FDL PLUS the return of Jill Stiemsma from El Salvador!

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, April 14, ART & SERVICE AUCTION/TALENT SHOW
More details on page 7

In Case You Missed It In February

ENGAGE Sunday February 4

Sapiens discussion postponed due to slippery roads



The Saturday snowstorm left the roads a bit slippery on Sunday morning. Becky sent out a message postponing the book discussion that was to be led by Jeromy French. Despite the slick roads and cancellation notice, at least 10 PLUUFer's showed up. Coffee was served and a casual discussion took place regarding the *Sapiens* book.

ENGAGE Sunday February 18
Book Discussion With Jeromy French
Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind



Jeromy French led part one of a two-part book discussion on *Sapiens: A Brief History of Human Kind* by Yuval Noah Harari. Harari surveys the history of human kind from the evolution of archaic human species in the Stone Age up to the twenty-first century, focusing on our species of human, *Homo sapiens*. The book is divided in four major parts: the Cognitive Revolution, the Agricultural Revolution, the unification of humankind and the Scientific Revolution.

Discussion focused on both the Cognitive and Agricultural Revolutions. What seems to be most striking at this point in the book is the fact that regardless of the isolation or distance of one continent from another, or the remote origins of peoples, the pattern of man's progress developed everywhere in the same way; the steps involved in the growth of civilization were almost identical. Join us for the second discussion on March 4!

Worship Service February 11 with Dr. Joe Hatcher
The Importance of Play



PLUUF member and Ripon College professor, Joe Hatcher discussed the importance of play in life, along with our tendency toward busyness and our dislike of idleness. Prescriptions for play were offered and all participants shared what they do for "play". Many years ago Joe discovered a life-changing book "The Importance of Living" by Lin Yutang. A copy at PLUUF is available for check-out.

Worship Service February 25
Jane R. Shoup
Homo Sapiens: Clever But Seldom Wise



Stefan & Jane Shoup

Our current existential dilemma – intimately intertwined over-population, over-consumption, and myriad environmental quagmires – can best be understood in the light of human behavioral characteristics that have arisen over evolutionary time. The "agenda of the gene" is baked into our DNA: to reproduce, to consume, to compete and seek status ensured our survival through evolutionary history as cavemen and savannah dwellers. But our most unique trait as a species, our clever brain, has gotten us into a lot of trouble. Chiefly through the discovery of fossil sunlight (i.e. fossil fuels), the problem has come full center. Our exploitation of this one-time carbon bonanza has allowed humans – for a time- to circumvent the natural laws which ultimately limit all life on the planet. Jane argued that humans have a "brain problem" from which energy, resource, population, and climate disruption problems emerge. Understanding and facing up to that reality will provide our best hope for securing a meaningful future.

Jane R. Shoup is Professor Emerita of Biological Sciences at Purdue University Calumet (now Purdue University Northwest), Hammond, IN, where she taught for 33 years.

Editors Note: Jane sent an e-mail to PLUUF after the service and here are her kind words, "Stefan and I really enjoyed our visit to PLUUF. You have a nice friendly group of members as well as a beautiful space. We hope we will have occasion to return sometime in the not-too-distant future."

Message from the Moderator by Becky Feyen



Spring officially begins March 20th! The transition from winter to spring is an amazing time, honored around the world and throughout history; filled with events and stories of renewal & resurrection. The actualities and symbolism of this time of year can be exciting & eventful, if we choose to make it so. All those hopes for 2018 can be refreshed & refocused. Personally, I get a little (or rather, a-lot-a) freaked out since ¼ of the year is almost gone and typically very little has been accomplished.

I have a 2018 aspiration that Prairie Lakes will be a place of continual renewal, strength and support for members and friends, as we strive to be a positive force for social and environmental justice. With all the political turmoil of 2017 and losses of several members and friends, it was actually a very stable year for Prairie Lakes. I feel we have settled in a bit & it is time for us to be a force in our community. I recently listened to the On Being podcast interview with Brené Brown titled "Strong Back, Soft Front, Wild Heart", in which Ms. Brown stated: "He or she who chooses comfort — over courage and facilitating real conversations in towns and cities and synagogues and areas who need it; when you choose your own comfort over trying to bring people together, and you're a leader, either a civic leader or a faith leader, your days of relevance are numbered." I am not worried about my position as a leader, rather that of Prairie Lakes & our relevance to each of you and our community.

The beauty of Prairie Lakes is that we help each other. I need your help to create fearless community which enables Prairie Lakes to remain relevant & become a positive force in our community. I want each of you to be impassioned, or challenged, or whatever you need to be. We don't need to do great big things; we can be the helpers and the questioners, as we strive to create a kind and compassionate community.

Here are a few issues we have shared: white supremacy | human trafficking | repeal of DACA & immigration reform | environmental protection | incarceration rates | addiction | & so much more! There are many organizations that could use our help: we can host education, information & discussion events, promote controversial positions, & so much more. What are your thoughts about stepping up our social action?

I will arrange for us to develop a direction, plan, and action steps. This could possibly be part of our annual meeting. May 6, 10:00am – mark your calendars! You don't want to miss it!

We are the change!

Prairie Lakes UU Fellowship Proposed Vision & Mission Statements (revised since last newsletter) *Please review because we will vote on the statements at the Annual Meeting on May 6*

PROPOSED VISION STATEMENT: As a Fellowship, we strive to support, promote and exemplify **the ideals of** 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.



March Worship Services by Jill Stiemsma

Hola de El Salvador! If you're at all human, you're probably chomping at the bit for the winter to end so you can see signs of spring. Hang on! It's gotta come! (You'll see us again on March 25 - a sure sign winter has come to an end. Time's a flyin'.)

Here are the March Worship services:

March 11: Hey - we welcome the return of Jim Jaeger! However, at the time of this writing, his Reflection focus is a "surprise". Come find out - and then join the Second Sunday Potluck.

March 25: And then we get to welcome Open Circle's Judy Goldsmith again. Judy, a former President of the National Organization for Women, will focus her attention on International Women's History month. Women are making headlines these days - and creating quite a stir. Surely, Judy can add to it!

Tanya tells me that Jeromy French led a great discussion on the Sapien book; I was sad to miss that discussion as well as Jane Shoup's follow-up service. Hopefully, both aided your understanding of our impact on the world.

May you continue the good fight - see you the 25th!

Social Action Update by Tanya Schwartz Roeper

Black Lives UU: At two recent Sunday worship services members and friends had the opportunity to contribute to Black Lives UU. *Black Lives UU provides information, resources and support for Black Unitarian Universalists and works to expand the role & visibility of Black UUs within our faith.* \$130 was collected and PLUUF matched the gift. A total of \$260 was donated to BLUU. Thank you to Becky for initiating this collection and to everyone who made contributions.

Guest at your Table (GAYT): A total of \$120 was donated to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). *In more than a dozen countries throughout the world, UUSC fosters social justice and works toward a world free from oppression.* Thank you to everyone who put money in the GAYT box!



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

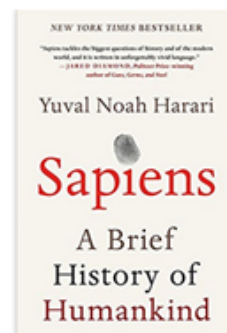
Since our 2nd Sunday Service ended up being adults only Jonah postponed his RE lesson to the 4th Sunday. Jonah led a lesson on Harriet Tubman. RE started with chalice lighting and opening words. Jonah read the book, "Before She was Harriet" by Lesa Cline-Ransome and illustrated by James Ransome. After the book Molly drew a picture relating to the story and recited closing words. Thanks for being a great student, Molly!

1st & 3rd ENGAGE Sundays by Becky Feyen



ENGAGE Sunday 3/4/18 – “*Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*” –
by: Yuval Noah Harari

Book discussion led by Jeromy French (thank you!) Part Three: The Unification of Humankind, chapter 12. Part Four: The Scientific Revolution, chapters 14, 29, & 20.



This amazing book outlines 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.

ENGAGE Sunday 3/18/18: Biodiversity and the Seventh UU Principle - presented by Don VanScotter

Don will present a tribute to biologist Edward O. Wilson with an emphasis on “respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part.” Wilson is an American biologist, researcher, theorist, naturalist and author. He has been called “the father of [sociobiology](#)” and “the father of [biodiversity](#)” for his [environmental](#) advocacy, and his [secular-humanist](#) and [deist](#) ideas pertaining to religious and ethical matters.

A data DVD containing videos, e-books, audio books and web links was distributed 2/25/18. A bibliography and suggested reading will also be emailed.

PLUUF Receives Grant From the Webster Foundation



We’re planning our 3rd annual Summer Camp For Kids. The Webster Foundation donated \$100 that will be combined with the funds left over from last year. Trees and water have been the focus of 2016 and 2017 summer camps. This year our focus will be on reducing waste that is causing health issues for people, our oceans and their inhabitants.

Thank you Judy for applying for the Webster Grant for the third year in a row!

A Celebration of the Life of Mary Howe AtLee Brandt

March 24 at 3:00 PM

Demmer Recital Hall at the C.J. Rodman Center for the Arts at Ripon College
300 West Seward Street Ripon, WI 54971

For more information contact: Maggie Brandt Maggie@litttleikiicelandics.com

Mary served on many PLUUF committees and had the role of treasurer in the early days. She was an activist writing letters, demonstrating and advocating for social justice. She described herself as “an ecumenical seeker with a biblical heritage, old and new testament, but question creed and doctrine.”

Let’s honor Mary on March 24. Her 3 daughters will be coordinating the service.



Mary is pictured holding the PLUUF checkbook during her stint as treasurer during PLUUF’s early days.



Bill Hoch

News from the Outside

On February 21st PLUUF board members and Laird of the Facility Committee met with Bill Hoch of the Ripon Plan Commission. Green space and parking lot improvement plans are underway!

More information will be presented at the Annual Meeting on May 6.

News from the Inside

PLUUF's Resource Room has been reorganized. We have a wonderful library of books available for check out. In addition, the file cabinet has been reorganized and it is easy to find information on past services, PLUUF adult and children's RE information, and MUCH more. On the table are forms to fill out if you have an idea for an ENGAGE Sunday or proposal for a Social Action project.



Resource Room

Fellowship Notes

- Marjorie Kenyon-Cler's beautiful nature photography was presented as a slideshow during our 2nd Sunday Worship Service while the prelude was being played. Thank you for sharing your beautiful images!
- Please keep Bonnie Wagner in your thoughts as she's facing some crucial medical tests.
- Amelia Roost, daughter of Brad and Nicole, played the part of Emily in the Berlin High School play "Our Town" while brother Brody was in charge of lights.
- Oliver Roeper, son of Randy and Tanya, appeared in the Ripon Commonwealth Press with 5 classmates for raising money for Theda Care's cancer patients.
- Callista DeCramer, daughter of Laird and Linda, broke her third track record at Ripon College!



Amelia Roost as Emily



Julia Salomon writes: *I miss PLUUF so much. Unfortunately Sofia's equestrian training keeps us out of town many weekends. That and needing all of our spare time completing homework assignments (she doesn't want to break her straight A's streak!). We are very proud of our student athlete, who is now competing regionally (she is the current equestrian champion for 11 to 17 year olds in the Midwest). That level of commitment on her part does mean compromises on the family schedule though. Please know we keep everyone in our hearts and thoughts. Peace! Julia, Mark and Sofia.*



Snowbirds Judy & Dave Harris have been in Alabama since early January. They have been frequent visitors to Fairhope UU Fellowship and consider it their 2nd UU home. We look forward to their return to WI around the 10th of March!

We have a new address for David & Jean Conover and a beautiful post card sent by their daughter Emily. As co-founders of Prairie Lakes UU Fellowship, David and Jean occupy a special place in our PLUUF history. If you'd like to drop them a note, their new address is 1130 N. Westfield Street Oshkosh, WI 54902



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 We love hearing from members and friends near and far!

You are invited to Prairie Lakes UU Fellowship Art & Service Auction & PLUUF's got Talent

On Saturday, **April 14th at 6:00 p.m.** we will see the return of Prairie Lakes largest fundraiser of the year... the Art & Service Auction & PLUUF's got Talent! The evening will include a Live Auction, Silent Auction, Raffle and Direct Sale Items with entertainment throughout the evening.

We need everyone's participation to make this event a success.

Here are a few ways you can help:

1. Donate an item for the silent or live auction and/or basket raffle.
2. Provide food and/or beverages for the evening.
3. Participate in the event by bidding and buying.
4. Invite friends, family and coworkers to the event to bid and buy.
5. Participate in the talent show!

Auction ideas:

- Make dinner for another family
- Dessert every month for a year
- Original art or craft item
- Pre-owned art or craft item
- Handyman special-build or repair something
- Pontoon Boat Use
- Yard work/house work
- Pies galore
- Camping get-a-way
- Restaurant certificates
- Theater Tickets
- Teach a new skill like knitting/baking/art/photography/computer
- A guided walk in South Woods
- Dog walker/pet sitter
- Bird watching
- Learn to kayak/canoe Windsurfing/water

Please e-mail tanyapapermaker@gmail.com if you'd like to participate in the talent show or have something you'd like to donate to the Live or Silent Auctions.

Treasurer's Report as of February 28, 2018 by Tanya Schwartz Roeper



Board of Directors*

Moderator

Becky Feyen

Secretary

Linda DeCramer

Treasurer

Tanya Schwartz Roeper

At Large Representative

Judy Harris

At Large Representative

Jessica French

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, April 14

Art & Service Auction/PLUUFs Got Talent

Doors open at 6 p.m.

PLUUFs largest, best (& only!) fundraiser of the year:
We hope you can join us for an evening of FUN & FUNDRAISING!!

	Current Month	Year to Date	Annual Budget
Income	\$1,363	\$15,727.04	\$27,340
Expenses	\$1,469.41	\$10,938.74	\$27,340

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

tanyapapermaker@gmail.com

BMO Checking	\$29,176.08 Operating Fund
BMO Savings	\$10,908.32 Short term Vision Fund
UUCEF*	<u>\$48,706.93 Long term Vision Fund</u>
	\$88,791.33

*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. 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.