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Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Recap of the Art &
Service Auction
pages 4 & 7

ANNUAL MEETING MAY 6

Your board of
directors will be
presenting many
of the great
things happening
at PLUUF

We need your
input!



Calendar At-A-Glance

ENGAGE Sunday, May 6, 10:00 AM: THE ANNUAL MEETING! There is much good happening at Prairie Lakes UU Fellowship!! The PLUUF Annual meeting is an opportunity for members and friends to discuss how we want to move forward as a fellowship. We'll be discussing the possibility of adding a paid staff position and redeveloping our parking lot and green space. We also need to discuss some of the proposed changing roles of board members, review our budget and more. Brunch will be provided. (See Moderator's Message on next page for more information)

Worship Service Sunday, May 13, 10:00 AM: (Happy Mother's Day!) Rev. Jim Jaeger will lead this service. Topic to be announced.

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

ENGAGE Sunday, May 20, 10:00 AM: Ray Gurney will present "William L. White Meets the Three Poisons of Buddhism: A Way to Clarify Your Thinking about Addictions in the United States." Please see details on page 3 under ENGAGE Sundays.

Worship Service Sunday, May 27, 10:00 AM: Tanya Schwartz-Roeper will lead the Animal Blessing service. All varieties of critters are welcome to come via leash, aquarium, crate, birdcage, terrarium, or...? This is an intergenerational service that takes place only once every two years. We hope you can join us!

ENGAGE Sunday, June 3, 10:00 AM: Drumming Performance by Bill Kehl. Please invite anyone & everyone; this will be an amazing experience to share. See page 3 for more details.

We want photos of your pet(s) for the Animal Blessing Service!

Please submit photos of pets past and present. We'd like to honor them in a slide show presentation. Either e-mail photos to tanyapapermaker@gmail.com or bring a photo of your pet to PLUUF on May 6 or 13 so Tanya can copy it. Please include your pet's name.

Message from the Moderator by Becky Feyen



COME ONE, COME ALL – 2018 ANNUAL MEETING – MAY 6, 2018 10:00 am

We are coming to the end of another fiscal year – this always strikes me as an awkward reference, mostly because the ‘money thing’ makes me a little/lotta uncomfortable. Personally, I consider this the time to review where we are & what we are doing as a group. I prefer our reference of success to be these: How are we impacting each other & the greater community? Are we involved? Are we helpful? Are we challenging negativity and cruelty? Are we continuing to learn? What can we do better?

This is the perfect opportunity to address how we want to move forward as a Fellowship. Sunday, May 6, we are beginning with 15 minutes of coffee & suggestions for 2018/19. I participated in this exercise at a Wisconsin UU State Action Network meeting. Each of you will receive 3 pieces of paper to write ideas or areas of focus for the next year – these can be general or very specific. We will group like-ish items together to determine the area(s) of greatest interest & focus our resources towards a couple initiatives.

In an attempt to ‘do better’ in 2018/19, the board is proposing the development of a part-time contract position. Establishing an Administrative Manager will create cohesiveness within our Fellowship & provide an opportunity to reach out to the greater community. The responsibilities encompass administrative support, bookkeeping & financial responsibilities, along with advertising & promotion. The overall intent is to continue the development of our Fellowship & fulfill the initiatives that we want to accomplish. We are planning to offer this position to Tanya Schwartz-Roeper because she has the knowledge and experience to fulfill the requirements and more importantly the vision to promote Prairie Lakes & UU Principles to the greater community.

Prairie Lakes UU Fellowship has come a long way with your support of time, talent, & resources. We want to do more & be more, for you & the greater community. Please let us know how you want us to proceed to support your needs & wishes for our community.

Children’s Religious Education by Tanya Schwartz-Roeper



On April 8 Jonah teamed up with brother Oliver to teach a lesson on the meaning of Easter. Jonah read a story about Jesus while Oliver assisted Mason, Miguel and Emmy in acting it out. A game of Charades followed the story and an Easter themed coloring contest took place. Becky Feyen coordinated an Easter egg hunt after the service. All had fun and chocolate!

The RE session on April 22 was led by Oliver while I assisted. (Jonah was at a jazz festival). We discussed that Earth Day is a day to celebrate the Earth’s environment and help raise awareness of threats to our planet’s health. We discussed ways to reduce plastic pollution. We read a book and the boys drew pictures relating to animals and nature.



Above: After the Easter egg hunt.



Left: Earth Day



May Worship Services by Jill Stiemsma

First of all, thank you to Becky Feyen who stepped in to lead our Second Sunday service in April. All the subsequent discussion confirmed that members/friends were most interested in her topic. And, of course, we were delighted to have Brian Smith return on the 22nd when he tied religious perspectives to our current environmental crisis.

Assuming that snow storms will no longer affect our Worship Services schedule, here's our exciting schedule for May:

Worship Service Sunday, May 13 (Happy Mother's Day): While we don't have a definitive topic yet, Jim Jaeger returns to lead this service. Thank you to all who emailed topic suggestions which I did forward to Jim. While you might have other plans, do join us for Second Sunday Potluck if you can.

Worship Service Sunday, May 27: Here's the most fun we have in our services: It's our every-other-year Animal Blessing Service, led once again by Tanya Schwartz-Roeper. Bring your dog, cat, chicks, turtle, etc., to be blessed ... or, if not feasible, bring photos (including photos of those sentient friends who've passed but remain in our hearts). This service is always such a treat. Come whether or not you're a pet fancier.



ENGAGE Sundays by Judy Harris & Becky Feyen

ENGAGE SUNDAY May 6th ANNUAL MEETING 10:00am – 12:30pm

The most fun you can have on a Sunday morning! Seriously, just sit back & watch Becky run around like a completely crazed person & see her try to explain how this Fellowship functions under her 'leadership'. Actually, this is a great opportunity to get an overview of the background our Fellowship.

To begin the morning, we want your input on the direction and focus of Prairie Lakes for the next year. Please join us at 10:00 am for 15 minutes of coffee & gathering your ideas/interests/concerns. We will group which suggestions to see the topics have the greatest interest & work to address these issues in our programs & organizations outside our Fellowship. Please be prepared to share your ideas, interests, or concerns – you will have 3 pieces of paper on which to provide 3 different topics or similar topics. At 10:15 you get to sit back & enjoy the show – kind of, not really, but it will be OK.

ENGAGE SUNDAY May 20. 10 a.m. "William L. White Meets the Three Poisons of Buddhism: A Way to Clarify Your Thinking about Addictions in the United States." Ray Gurney will lead this discussion that melds the teaching of the leading student of the history of addiction and recovery in the United States, William White, with the Three Poisons of Buddhist enlightened awareness. This joining creates a workable schema for grasping the complexities of substance and non-substance addiction and recovery in the US. Using this formula, the discussion will cover (through brief videos and a PowerPoint presentation) key addiction topics such as gambling, mushrooms (yes, those kinds), cannabis, alcohol, Fentanyl, Kratom, Suboxone, and Narcan. Don't miss this intriguing presentation and discussion. Especially do not miss the trailer for the movie from 1936 that set the standard for national addiction policy that continues to this day. Thank you to Ray for leading this presentation.

ENGAGE SUNDAY June 3. 10 a.m. Drumming Performance by Bill Kehl. Please invite anyone & everyone; this will be an amazing experience to share. Bill Kehl has been performing for over 30 years, "presenting interactive and dynamic educational musical enrichment programs to audiences of all ages." He was part of the Prairie Lakes community in the early years at Ripon & performed for our first Summer Day Camp. Indigenous cultures have been practicing community percussion for thousands of years. Finally science is supporting the stress reducing benefits of drumming, which impacts many aspects of personal & community well-being. Thank you to Pat Dobrinska for organizing this program!

Art & Service Auction & PLUUF's Got Talent raises a phenomenal \$4,400 for Prairie Lakes UU Fellowship!!!

For the first time in PLUUF history the Art & Service Auction had to be postponed due to a dangerous "winter" weather forecast. Instead of April 14 the event took place on April 21 and turned out to be a PHENOMENAL SUCCESS! The event is hard to describe in words. Hopefully the photos will speak for themselves...😊



Live Auction
Silent Auction
50/50 raffle
Hilarious Skits!
Great Food
Camaraderie



THANK YOU to EVERYONE
for making this a wildly
successful event!

See more details on last page.



In Case You Missed It In April

ENGAGE Sunday April 1 with Ray Gurney Mary Magdela – Her Complete Story and Missing History



Ray Gurney started the presentation with a brief video describing the discovery of the Akhmim codex in Egypt in 1896. It was the setting for the gospel and demonstrated quick refutation that this is a "Gnostic" gospel.

Ray is holding "The Gospel of Mary Magdalene" in one hand; in the other is a book made by Tanya Schwartz-Roeper depicting the Coptic bookbinding technique developed in the 2nd century.

Worship Service April 8 with Becky Feyen *Be the Light*



Becky chose the topic "Be the Light" to inspire herself and everyone else to persist with kindness. She shared "The Light for Another" by Parker J. Palmer, "The Buddha's Last Instruction" by Mary Oliver and "Bearers of the Light" by Martha Valentine. Becky led a brief reflection to allow time for congregational feedback and insight. Conversation took place on how to accept and support one another and how to improve our relationships with those whom we may

disagree. Becky's aspiration is to create a supportive & caring community.

ENGAGE Sunday April 15: Ray Gurney's presentation cancelled due to major SNOW EVENT!

The storm began on Friday with heavy rain, hail & thunderstorms. By Saturday there was a massive icestorm. Winds were blowing gusts up to 50 miles per hour. With the ice creating dangerous conditions we decided to cancel Sunday's presentation with Ray. We made the right decision because by Sunday almost a foot of snow fell onto Ripon.

Lost a branch from the maple tree, too. After the snow melted, the branch mysteriously disappeared and the tree was pruned. Special thanks to Chuck Mirr of Green Lake Area Tree Service!



Worship Service April 22 with Brian Smith *Religions and the Environment*



Brian began his presentation acknowledging 4/22 is the 48th anniversary of the first Earth Day celebrated on this date in 1970 at the initiative of Wisconsin US Senator Gaylord Nelson. Brian explained how this movement began in the 60's and continued to gain momentum into the 2000's with Congress' taking action and passing legislation to curb air and water pollution, manage

solid waste more carefully, and protect endangered species. He pointed out, however, that in recent years the momentum to protect the earth has slowed, especially in our own country. He shared readings from Vaclav Havel, the renowned Czech defender of democracy and human rights in the late 20th century; Walt Whitman, 19th century American poet; Barbara Deming, the 20th century American Quaker, journalist, feminist and peace activist. A full transcript is available at PLUUF and can be viewed by request.

In Case You Missed It In April continued...

5th Sunday PLUUF Clean-Up Day by Tanya Schwartz-Roeper

As I was finishing up end-of-month treasurer business in the resource room (anything to get out of cleaning!), a group of mighty PLUUFers arrived to spruce up the fellowship inside and out. Flowerbeds were raked, sticks picked up, porches swept, windows washed, refrigerator & stove scrubbed, and sanctuary, entryway, business office and more were cleaned and decluttered!

Thank you to the mighty team: Laird DeCramer, Jessica & Molly French, Jim Goyette, Ray Gurney, Beth Howman Combs, Kate Klumb, Brad Roost, Jill Stiemsma, Don VanScotter and Bonnie Wagner. (I hope I didn't overlook anyone!) Thank you to Becky Feyen for leaving snacks at PLUUF before venturing to Michigan to be with her father & sister. Thank you to Judy & Dave Harris who spent hours after the service on 4/22 to get a head start on cleaning before leaving town.



Can this Fig Tree be saved?
Kate Klumb believes it can!



Do these fence posts belong to a
PLUUFer? Please claim before we
find a new home for them.



Art & Service Auction PLUUF Style

Thank you to the donors who provided items or services for the Live and Silent Auction AND to everyone who bid on them!!

Donors in Alphabetical Order:

Elisabeth Beuthin	Marjorie Kenyon-Cler
Jerry Davidson	Ellen & Bruce Mueller
Laird & Linda DeCramer	Brad, Nicole, Amelia & Brody Roost
Pat Dobrinska	Randy Roeper & Tanya Schwartz
Vicki & Felix Duhr	Kate Salas
Becky Feyen	Leslie Schwartz
Jeromy French	Jill Stiemsma
Jim Goyette	Donald VanScotter
Dave & Judy Harris	Bonnie Wagner
Joe Hatcher	
Hayden Holbert	
In Memory of Linda Holloway	

Thank you to Becky Bruce-Allington, Betsy Bruce-DeMuri, Linda DeCramer, and Nicole Roost for providing the HILLARIOUS entertainment. Thank you to Brad Roost for his role as auctioneer extraordinaire. Special thanks to everyone who bid on auction items (or bid by proxy), raffle ticket buyers, paint-the-sanctuary donors, food/beverage contributors, candy seller, cashiers, clean-up crew, and everyone who participated in one way or another to make it a huge success.

Treasurer's Report as of April 29, 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

Art & Service Auction Results

Live Auction : \$3,300
 Silent Auction: \$700
 50/50 Raffle: \$180 (Close estimate)
 Candy Sales: \$70 (Close estimate)
 Card Sales: \$30
 Direct Sale: \$43
 Miscellaneous Donations: \$117 (\$95 actual + \$22 estimate)

GRAND TOTAL:

\$4,440 was deposited into
 our Golden Rule Savings Vision Fund!!

	Current Month	Year to Date	Annual Budget
Income	\$8,736!	\$25,796.49	\$27,340
Expenses	\$1,363	\$14,362.65	\$27,340

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

tanyapapermaker@gmail.com

BMO Checking	\$31,282.45	Operating Fund
Golden Rule Savings*	\$15,349.19	Short term Vision Fund
UUCEF**	\$47,201.98	Long term Vision Fund
	\$93,833.62	

*BMO Savings was transferred into a new account at Golden Rule Credit Union

**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.