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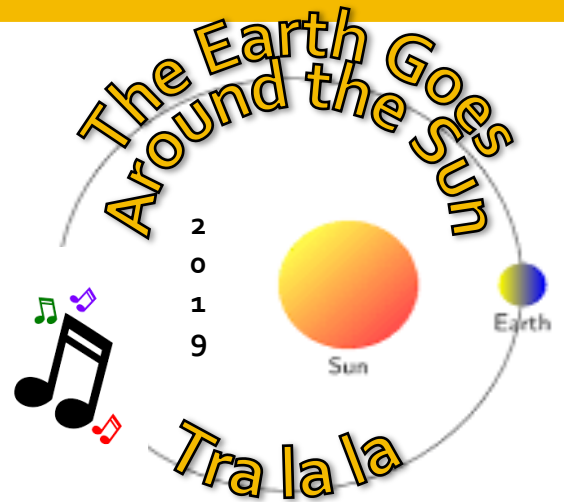
Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



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*We light this chalice for a fresh start.
May this New Year spark new ideas
and create lasting connections.*

Calendar At-A-Glance



ENGAGE Sunday, January 6: 10:00 AM

January 6, 2019 - Book Discussion: *Siddhartha* - a novel by Hermann Hesse that deals with the spiritual journey of self-discovery of a man named Siddhartha during the time of the Gautama Buddha. Led by Don VanScotter. (See page 5)

Saturday, January 5: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Board Retreat

Worship Service Sunday, January 13: 10:00 AM The Importance of silence by Brother Steve Herro .

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

ENGAGE Sunday, January 20: 10:00 AM Martin Luther King Commemoration. Becky will read an excerpt from the 1966 Ware Lecture: "Don't Sleep Through the Revolution" presented by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly. We will discuss and develop ideas based on our reading of *Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and the Environment*. (See page 5)

Worship Service Sunday, January 27: 10:00 AM We welcome back professor Paul Jeffries from Ripon College. The topic will be announced.

Moments from 2018

Recap of ENGAGE and Worship Service Sundays on pages 4 & 5

PLUUF Founders Event



Art & Service Auction raises \$4,000+!



3rd annual Kids Camp – Not-So-Fantastic-Plastic



ENGAGE Sunday: "What Breaks Your Heart" breaks an attendance record!



PLUUF invites Wade Fernandez to Ripon



PLUUF' sanctuary gets painted And entryway gets a makeover



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Annual meeting reveals PLUUF exceeded budgeted income and kept expenses below budget for 2017-18 fiscal year ☺

Administrative Manager staff position is created and approved at annual meeting

3 New Members

Robyn Davis Bartow
Randy Roeper
Don VanScotter

Festival of Lights



Remembering David Conover
January 8, 1928-March 2, 2018



Remembering Jean Conover
July 14, 1927-November 6, 2018

You will always be in our hearts & memories

Message from the Moderator by Becky Feyen



2019! 2019! 2019!!! Wow, how did that happen already? Well, here it is & we are going to ROCK this year!

I am so encouraged by our group at Prairie Lakes; you all really show up and make things happen. I am also energized by your interest & commitment to live the 7 Principles of Unitarian Universalism. My hope/objective for Prairie Lakes is to become more involved in the community by supporting organizations that align with our Principles and personal beliefs.

There are so many wonderful opportunities for us to share our talents & lend a hand. I want your input on the types of social action initiatives you are interested in. A form is available to help identify the direction for programming & events. The intent is to establish a focus; however most social situations are affected by, or have an effect on other areas – environmental issues really cannot be addressed without considering economic inequality, racism, capitalism, etc. We will ultimately address a variety of topics, providing opportunities to support your passion & continue learning about other areas.

We have already taken steps to support our community, through supporting UUA initiatives, donating our facility as a meeting place for Families United, and joining the Green Lake Association (greenlakeassociation.com). Tanya has suggested a few opportunities with the following organizations, Freeland Film Festival (freelandfilmfest.org) & League of Women Voters; now we just need your input and support.

Along the same line; your board of directors will be meeting January 5th for a day-long retreat, to regroup & plan for 2019. We want to ensure your leadership team is focused & engaged, to take on the projects & responsibilities that keep Prairie Lakes moving forward. 2019 is going to be a wonderful year and we are going to take action!

Thank you for being a part of our group. We need you to help us, help others.
Happy New Year!
Becky

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



Jonah will continue to lead RE on worship service Sundays. With Jill Stiemsma's departure to El Salvador, the Luna boys will not be attending till spring.

January RE classes will focus on the 7 UU principles with a reading for the opening chalice lighting, followed by a lesson and a

craft activity or game.

December's RE class included lessons highlighting 9 winter festivals including Chalica, Saint Lucia's Day, Kwanzaa, Los Posadas, Hanukkah, Winter Solstice, Diwali, Bodhi Day and Christmas. The children made swag wreaths as a craft activity.



Molly, Emmy, Aya, Cy, Mason & Jonah



January Worship Services by Jill Stiemsma

Hi, Everyone. We now enter a new year with a great roster of service leaders. Let me thank all of you who participated in and/or led services in 2018. And thank you to Tanya for producing the Orders of Service and for accompanying services in my absence.

And a shout-out to all of you who brought food, led a portion of the service, decorated, managed the unmanageable children, and created music for our Festival of Lights. As per usual, it was another great service! Thank you in particular to organizer Tanya.

So, here's how we enter 2019:

Sunday, January 13: Some of you may remember Brother Steve Herro who led a service more than 2 years ago. Now he'll address a most relevant issue given today's political (and familial) climate: The Importance of Silence. Hopefully those of you who aren't wintering can join this conversation.

Sunday, January 27: Now that Brian Smith is no longer leading services for us (boo hoo), we are excited that Paul Jeffries from Ripon College can fill his shoes, at least sometimes. His topic is yet to be determined, but he's always a welcome addition to our services.

Here's hoping I get to see a little snow before I leave! Ripon has had a lot in comparison to Fond du Lac. See you in March. Happy 2019, one and all!

The Earth Goes Around the Sun Tra la la....

2018 Worship Services in Review (Services in blue are annual)

- 1/14 Ellen Mueller, *Making a Case for Compassion Towards Undocumented Immigrants*
- 1/28 Becky Feyen, *Honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. and UUA Promise & Practice*
- 2/11 Joe Hatcher, *The Importance of Play*
- 2/25 Jane Shoup, *Homo Sapiens: Clever But Seldom Wise*
- 3/11 Jim Jaeger, *When Thoughts & Prayers Aren't Enough*
- 3/25 Judy Goldsmith, *Emerging Women*
- 4/8 Becky Feyen, *Be the Light: Facing Life's Challenges and changes*
- 4/22 Brian Smith, *Religions and the Environment*
- 5/13 Jim Jaeger, *#Us Too: Remembering the Women of the Jesus movement*
- 5/27 Tanya Schwartz-Roeper, *Animal Blessing Service*
- 6/10 Paul Jeffries, *Defending Truth: Some philosophical & historical paradoxes*
- 6/24 *Flower Communion*
- 7/8 *What Breaks Your Heart* with Leslie Wood, Pat Dobrinska & Joe Hatcher
- 7/22 Penny Andrews, *Meaning of the 60's*
- 8/12 Tom Montag, *Poets Praying*
- 8/26 Dave Harris read portions from his long promised novel, *Paradise Tost*.
- 9/9 *Water Sharing AND Harvest Fest*
- 9/23 Ray Gurney, *The Gospel of Thomas*
- 10/14 Michael Ketterhagen, *People Get Ready*
- 10/28 Jill Stiemsma, *Oneness vs. Dualism*
- 11/11 Jim Jaeger, *Ground Hog Day: Have We Seen This Movie Before*
- 11/25 Jill Stiemsma, *Expressions of Gratitude*
- 12/9 John Burr, *A Believable and Livable Conception of Religion for Today*
- 12/23 Jill Stiemsma provides the music of the season on the piano



1st & 3rd January 2019 ENGAGE Sundays

January 6, 2019 – Book Discussion: ***Siddhartha*** - a novel by Hermann Hesse that deals with the spiritual journey of self-discovery of a man named Siddhartha during the time of the Gautama Buddha. This classic novel of a quest for knowledge that has delighted, inspired, and influenced generations of readers, writers, and thinkers. Please join us for an 'enlightening' conversation.

January 20, 2019 – Martin Luther King Commemoration. Becky will read an excerpt from the 1966 Ware Lecture: "Don't Sleep Through the Revolution" presented by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly. We will discuss and develop ideas based on our reading of *Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and the Environment*. Documents from previous presentations on White Supremacy will also be available for reference & review. "One of the great misfortunes of history is that all too many individuals and institutions find themselves in a great period of change and yet fail to achieve the new attitudes and outlooks that the new situation demands."-MLK

The Earth Goes Around the Sun Tra la la.... 2018 ENGAGE Sundays in Review

- 1/7 **Becky Feyen** led a New Year Release & Renewal Ritual
- 1/21 **Becky Feyen** led Compassionate Conversations: A mini workshop combining info from "the Seven Habits of Highly Depolarizing People"
- 2/4, 2/18 & 3/4 **Jeremy French** led the book discussion on "Sapiens: A Brief History of Mankind by Yuval Noah Harari."
- 3/18 **Don VanScotter** led a presentation/discussion on "Biodiversity and the 7th UU Principle."
- 4/1 **Ray Gurney** led a presentation on "Mary of Magdela – Her Complete Story & Missing History."
- 4/15 **Ray Gurney** led a presentation, "How to Conceptualize Addiction in the U.S. in 2018"
- 5/6 PLUUF Annual Meeting led by **Becky Feyen** and **Tanya Schwartz-Roeper**
- 5/20 **Ray Gurney** led, "William L. White Meets the Three Poisons of Buddhism."
- 6/3 **Bill Kehl**, Drumming Circle
- 6/17 **Becky Feyen & Linda Decramer** Green Space Planning Meeting
- 7/1 **Becky Feyen**, *The Plastic Pledge Game Show Challenge*
- 7/14 **Becky Feyen** showed video on Zero Waste and presented ideas on how to reduce our use of plastic.
- 8/5 Interfaith Gathering in Neenah sponsored by Fox Valley Islamic Society
- 8/19 **Jackie Dobrinska**, *Creation Spirituality*
- 9/2 Video of the Ware Lecture given by Krista Tippett, General Assembly 2016, titled *Mystery and the Art of Living*.
- 9/16 Celebration of the birth of Prairie Lakes by celebrating the life of Dave & Jean Conover
- 10/7 *The Life & Hard Times of Bonnie Wagner* by **Bonnie Wagner**
- 10/21, 11/4 **Becky Feyen** led a UU common read book discussion, *Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and Environment*
- 11/18 **Dave Harris** reading from his novel *Paradise Tost*
- 12/2 Wade Fernandez brunch at PLUUF and performance at Ripon College
- 12/16 **Becky Feyen**, *Taking It Further*, a continuation of the book discussion



Pat Dobrinska, generous donors, and a collaboration with Ripon College helped bring a Wade Fernandez performance to Ripon on December 2, 2018

Pat met Wade Fernandez years ago at an art/music event in northern Wisconsin. When she contacted him last spring he accepted her invitation to perform at PLUUF. When we discovered his fee was going to put a strain on the PLUUF budget we decided to find a new venue and ask sponsors to help offset the cost. Linda DeCramer made contact with Kyonna of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion at Ripon College and was generously given a venue to host the event in Demmer Recital Hall on campus. Then, what we thought was going to be the hard part, we began searching for sponsors. Fortunately many generous PLUUFer's and a few local businesses covered 100% of the cost to bring Wade to Ripon.

Thank you to our generous sponsors:

- Video Age Productions
- Don Martin & Pat Reiman
- Portraits in Oils by Pat Dobrinska
- DeCramer Landscaping
- Knuth's Brewery
- Saving Grace Salvage
- The Gathering Space Event Venue
- Judy Morgan





**Annual Festival of
Lights in Photos**
12/20/18





Administrative Manager Report by Tanya Schwartz-Roeper

Happy New Year! One of my favorite events to end the "old" year is our Festival of Lights celebration at PLUUF. Thank you to everyone who participated in and/or attended the event. We don't make it look easy but it sure is fun and meaningful!

We had a fabulous 2018 at PLUUF. Just take a look at pages 2, 4 and 5 of this newsletter to see what our small but mighty congregation can do.

Looking forward to 2019! Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year.



Thank you to everyone who donated food to the Ripon Food Pantry. We were accepting food contributions for the month of December with a donation box in the entry at PLUUF.

Treasurer's Report as of December 30, 2018

Thank you for making December a great month. This is the 2nd month in our 2018/19 fiscal year that income exceeded expenses. Hopefully we can continue this trend!

Donation statements will be sent out by the end of January showing what you contributed to PLUUF during the 2018 calendar year. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this document please let Tanya know tanyapapermaker@gmail.com.

Below is a snapshot of our income and expenses so far for the 2018/19 fiscal year beginning 7/1/18-6/30/19. Detailed treasurer reports are always available at PLUUF or by request.

	December 2018	Year to Date	Annual Budget
Income	\$5,843	\$13,688	\$34,321
Expenses	\$2,363	\$13,222	\$34,321

Detailed monthly financial reports are always available at PLUUF or by request:
tanyapapermaker@gmail.com

Board of Directors*

Moderator: Becky Feyen **Secretary:** Linda DeCramer **Treasurer:** Judy Harris
At Large Representative: Pat Dobrinska **At Large Representative:** Jessica French

Staff Position

Administrative Manager and Newsletter Editor: Tanya Schwartz-Roeper

Board meetings usually 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.