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May 2020
Prairie
Lakes
Unitarian
Universalist
Fellowship



Hello Spring!

The first sign of spring at PLUUF always seems to appear in the children's garden. We welcome the bright, beautiful colors!

Fiscal Year 2019/20 Board Members



Moderator
Becky Feyen



Secretary
Linda DeCramer



Treasurer
Jim Goyette



At-Large Rep 1
Jessica French



At-Large Rep 2
Pat Dobrinska

Some of these faces will be changing and rearranging at our upcoming Annual Meeting
And the nominees are... details on page 2

Calendar At-A-Glance

Stay-at-Home ENGAGE Sunday, May 3, at 10 AM with Judy Harris via Zoom: "Observing May Celebrations."

Stay-at-Home Worship Services, May 10 & 24: Topic to be announced by Jill Stiemsma

Stay-at-Home ENGAGE Sunday, May 17, at 10 AM with Joe Hatcher via Zoom: "Privilege."

Sunday, June 7, 10 AM: Prairie Lakes Annual Meeting

More detailed information can be found in the newsletter regarding the above stay-at-home presentations.
You will also receive attachments and more information via e-mail prior to each Sunday presentation.

Prairie Lakes UU Fellowship Annual Meeting June 7

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our annual meeting will take place a few weeks later than usual. Please mark your calendar for Sunday, June 7, at 10 a.m. We are offering three different ways you can participate this year and two of the options avoid human contact: 1. Attend the meeting in person. 2. Vote by proxy 3. Complete the paper ballot and send it in. You will receive the Annual Meeting packet either via snail mail and/or e-mail by May 15 with everything you need to prepare for the meeting.

Meet the Board Nominees

Moderator Nominee: Linda DeCramer



Linda, alongside husband Laird and children Callista and Sully, began attending PLUUF in 2000 and made membership official in 2004. She has served PLUUF in many roles through the years. She has been an officer of the board in her role as Secretary the past four years. She lives near Princeton with an abundance of pets, chickens, and wildlife and enjoys a career as Children's Librarian at Ripon Public Library. Free time is spent singing, reading, knitting, gardening, binge watching period dramas with husband Laird, and treasuring opportunities to spend time with Callista and Sully. She describes her spirituality as a constant quest to listen to and learn from all human experience, with a strong penchant for social and environmental justice. She is a work in progress with dreams of becoming a better person nearly everyday of the week! In other words, digging deep for compassion is high on the to-do-list, but is in no danger of getting checked off as complete any time soon.

Secretary Nominee: Robyn Davis-Bartow



Robyn officially joined Prairie Lakes in May of 2019 after attending for about a year or two. She lives outside of Fairwater on the family farm with her husband Byran, her kids, Aya and Cy, college attending step-sons Reilly and Payton, and too many pets. When not juggling life's responsibilities, Robyn enjoys yoga, reading, meditation, being in nature, and slowly taking classes through Starr King School for the Ministry. Growing up in the Christian church, possessing a life-long fascination the world's religions, and practicing Zen Buddhism for the past 13 years makes Unitarian Universalism a natural fit. On a perpetual quest to cultivate wisdom, compassion, serenity and gratitude, Robyn certainly has her work cut out for her!

At-Large Representative Nominee: Joe Hatcher



Joe has been a member of Prairie Lakes for 23 years. He is professor of Psychology at Ripon College and a Licensed Psychologist, as well as a flight instructor for light sport aircraft. He lives in Ripon with his wife Karin Suesser and occasionally in a little cabin on Spaulding Hill Road. He enjoys his four sons, and is grateful for his family, his health, and his friendships. He says that he particularly enjoys the sense of community that PLUUF has, and the way he always feels welcome and appreciated. He would like for everyone to feel that way, and will strive to help that happen.

About PLUUF's Outgoing Moderator Becky Feyen by Tanya Schwartz-Roeper



Becky began attending Prairie Lakes in 2011. She became a member in January 2012 and was first elected to the board to serve as Moderator for a 2-year term beginning the 2014/15 church year. She was elected to her second 2-year term in 2016. Although the PLUUF bylaws call for a maximum of 2 terms, Becky committed to a 3rd term after the congregation gave her encouragement and overwhelming support to remain in the position. Becky has navigated PLUUF through a tremendous amount of change the past 6-years. Thank you, Becky, for being a strong leader all these years, sharing your light, love, excitement, energy and optimism, and somehow always managing to maintain your sense of humor. Page 3 of this newsletter is dedicated to you, Becky, from board members past and present.

Thank you Becky Feyen for Serving as PLUUF's Moderator for 6 Years!



Becky was the total package as a moderator and, beyond that, was always able to enjoy a good laugh no matter how much stress and pressure she was under. I looked forward to meetings merely because it was great to see Becky!

*-Laird DeCramer,
Past Treasurer and At-Large Rep*

I think that Becky's dedication to PLUUF is amazing. She is always there and ready for whatever comes her way, whether it is doing a program at the last minute because someone who couldn't come or her dedicating her time to the kids, or otherwise making everything run smoothly. She is a phenomenal asset to PLUUF. My respect for her is enormous.

-Pat Dobrinska, At-Large Rep



Thank you Becky for spending so much of your time and energy keeping PLUUF together in the midst of a world at odds. Your patience, sense of humor, desire to keep us financially viable, spiritually growing, and intellectually learning have helped us focus on what is important.

You have honored our children by leading their education over several years. You have shown us the importance of good leadership and wonderful Sunday morning quiches!

*-Judy Harris,
Past At-Large Rep and Treasurer*

I don't remember when Becky first appeared at PLUUF, but now can't imagine a time without her! As Moderator, and as a role model for a life motivated by good intention and purpose, Becky has been our touchstone and engine for all things good. She has taught us by example to remain calm (despite the storm raging inside), to create and innovate, to work hard, to support one another, to stretch ourselves and our fellowship, and to keep a sense of humor. I love you, Becky, and value you and the gifts you have given to PLUUF beyond measure.

-Linda DeCramer, Secretary



Becky has been an outstanding Moderator! I came to Prairie Lakes in the middle of her tenure. Based on my observations, her tireless leadership has made PLUUF stronger and ready for the future. She is always ready to jump in and make it happen. Thank you for your dedication, Becky!

- Jessica French, At-Large Rep



I am grateful PLUUF has Becky as a leader, and I have her as a friend. She is a wealth of compassion, energy, honesty, and humor!

-Jim Goyette, Treasurer

At-Home ENGAGE Sundays by Judy Harris and Joe Hatcher

Sunday, May 3, 10-11:30 AM We will share celebrations of early May online via Zoom. Jim Goyette (920-597-0456 or jim@wellspringfarm.us) will help anyone who has difficulty signing in: All that's necessary is to download the free Zoom app, click on "join a group" and then type in the group number—best to wait until 9:55 or so on Sunday morning. Tanya will send the group ID number out on Sat. so it won't disappear in your emails. Though we will not be dancing around the Maypole this Sunday, I'd suggest that we all participate in some activities for all ages though especially for children and teen-agers.

ENGAGE Sunday, May 17, 10AM Professor Joe Hatcher will give a presentation on the topic of "privilege." "The topic of 'privilege' is one that evokes a great deal of emotion. It can also, of course, evoke a great deal of useful thought. I would like to do a short presentation about the ways that one can conceive of privilege, talk some about the different forms it can take, and even how important it is in the grand scheme of things. With discussion to follow, of course."

Please note that both ENGAGE Sundays will be presented via ZOOM

A Message from Worship Service Coordinator, Jill Stiemsma



Again, Tanya has challenged me to write a newsletter article around life in the time of coronavirus. Challenged, indeed.

So, I'm thinking, what sparks my joy at this time? I'm typing this in my living room, surrounded by artifacts from my many journeys: a skull figure from Mexico; a ceramic art tile from El Salvador; from Bolivia, a frame surrounding a picture of my granddaughter; from Guatemala, a large painting of four Mayan women; Maori masks from New Zealand; a small souvenir cup from Fulda, Germany, where I lived for two years; a metal and beaded figure of an African woman from the Swazi Candle Shop (Swaziland); a tiny indigenous woman from Venezuela; small clay figures from China; an ostrich egg painted with the "big five" African animals; a small painting of a Norwegian fjord; a large weaving of a village in Botswana; a huge woven wall hanging of a Peruvian village; painted eggs from Poland; and coffee mugs from many more countries. Daily I recognize how blessed I am, surrounded by my many privileges. Last night, actually, I went through several photo albums from my time in Bolivia, Africa, New Zealand, and Germany.

On top of those artifacts are pictures...of my granddaughter Hannah (whom some of you may remember); my grandsons (Bryce once played a sax solo with my accompaniment at PLUUF, if you recall); my four stepsons; my wonderful Luna great grandchildren; my grandparents, aunts and uncles, and cousins on both sides. On the refrigerator are pictures of my siblings and all their children and grandchildren, of friends, and of memories from travels abroad.

Downstairs in my family room, I've created a wonderful area for meditation in front of my fireplace: on the hearth, a Buddha, a Christ-like figure, the pachamama, and Hindu gods. Meditative music flows from my CD player as I light candles and incense; I read from probably 20 books piled upon my footstool. What "grabs me" today is what I read.

In that same room are many exercise CD's, from yoga to aerobic dance, to fast walking, to strength training, to interval training. And, of course, as the weather improves, I can walk, hike, or bike outside.

What sparks my joy? Gratitude for all of it. Comfort. Appreciation. Prayerfulness. Despite my isolation, I watch the birds and squirrels at my bird feeders and catch the sunsets. Soon, I'll be able to eat my meals out on the deck. I can't begin to describe my contentedness.

A prayer from Rev. Amanda Poppei

Spirit of life and love; spirit of holding on; spirit of letting go: help us to attune to what our lives whisper to us—both the sweet words of commitment and the sweet words of release. Help us to know whether it's a time to hold tightly, or a time to let go. Help us to learn that in each moment, there is beauty. May it be so.

News From the Outside by Tanya Schwartz-Roeper



This amazing team of PLUUFers arrived at Prairie Lakes at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 25, for a morning of hard work and camaraderie. The team raked, hauled, dug, planted, transplanted, and more! Laird single handedly planted 45 hosta plants in what seemed like 10 minutes!

Great work, team!

We'll be scheduling more outdoor workdays. If you would like to join in please e-mail me at tanyapapermaker@gmail.com to be put on the call list.

Social distancing was observed all morning... except for this photo!



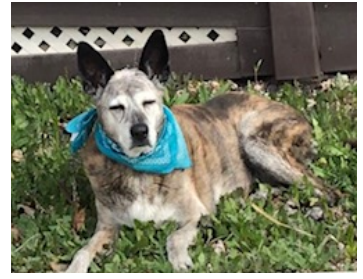
Before



After



Laird & Jeff raking, hauling, and more !



Sophie meditated while we worked ☺

...and More News From the Outside



Bye-bye fading and peeling paint



We've decided to go back to Plan A and hire a professional to paint the building. Although we had a couple of willing volunteers, we determined it best to leave it to a professional. Linda DeCramer has been in touch with John Roesch of Classic Painting Contractors in Ripon. Work will commence in late spring.

This year, because of Covid-19, the **Art & Service Auction** is called **No Service/No Talent Do-It-Yourself Auction** (Thanks for the idea Ellen Mueller!)

Details will be sent snail mail soon. Rumor has it that you will be able to win Judy's Famous Rhubarb Pie with your mail-in bid ☺ ☺ ☺

Please join us live next year, though, for the return of our beloved event with auctioneer Brad Roost, and the comedy troupe featuring Nicole Roost, Linda DeCramer, Becky Bruce-Allington and Betsy Bruce-Demuri!



Treasurer's Report as of April 30, 2020

by Tanya Schwartz Roeper & Jim Goyette



Board of Directors*

Moderator
Becky Feyen

Secretary
Linda DeCramer

Treasurer
Judy Harris

At Large Representative
Pat Dobrinska

At Large Representative
Jessica French

Administrative Manager
Tanya Schwartz-Roeper

In April, nine households sent in
pledge checks totaling \$2,875
Thank you for supporting PLUUF ☺

	Current Month	Year to Date	Annual Budget
Income	\$2,875 ☺	\$20,614	\$26,004
Expenses	\$1,102	\$32,779	\$41,375

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

BMO Checking	\$14,705 Operating Fund (as of March 31)
Golden Rule Savings	\$18,862 Short term Vision Fund
UUCEF*	<u>\$35,803 Long term Vision Fund</u>
	\$69,370

*Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund