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Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Outgoing and Incoming Moderator

Becky Feyen

Outgoing
Moderator
2014-2020



Linda
DeCramer

Incoming
Moderator
2020-?

This Newsletter is a Special Edition Highlighting PLUUF's June 7 Annual Meeting

Big Changes in Leadership Have Taken Place!
Please Welcome the 2020/21 Fiscal Year Board of Directors



After 6 years we have a new
Moderator

Welcome Linda DeCramer
and thank you to our
outgoing Moderator,
Becky Feyen!



After 4 years we have a
new Secretary

Welcome Robyn Davis-
Bartow and thank you to
our outgoing Secretary,
Linda DeCramer!



Jim Goyette will
begin the second
year of his first term
as Treasurer



After 2 years we have a
new At-Large Rep 1

Welcome Joe Hatcher
and thank you to our
outgoing At-Large Rep.,
Pat Dobrinska



Jessica French will
begin the second
year of her second
term as At-Large
Rep 2.

Did you know that 25 out of 32 members of PLUUF filled out a ballot or voted by proxy at our Annual Meeting? That's 78% voter turnout. Not bad ☺

Outgoing Moderator by Becky Feyen



Hello fellow 'PLUUF-ers'

Well, it was requested that I submit a final Moderator's Message to end my time as Moderator. This is very surreal for me and I am not sure how I will function within our group. I will still be co-chairing ENGAGE Sundays & helping with Children's RE, so I will definitely be an active participant at Prairie Lakes. I am excited to devote more time to those areas, without the larger concerns & little details pulling me in various directions.

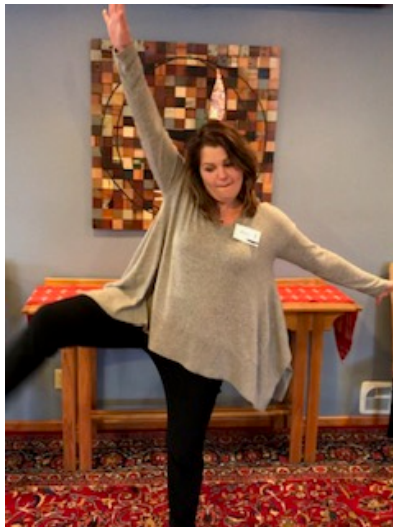
The last 6 years have been a learning & growing experience for me – most of my life I was very shy & fearful. The Moderator position truly empowered me in my life, far beyond Prairie Lakes. I appreciate all those who hung in there & helped along the way. My 'good intentions' and goals were not always fulfilled – well, rarely fulfilled. I think we have all heard the saying, "The road to hell is lined with good intentions." Thankfully, many UU's do not believe in a literal hell, but chaos is what hell must be. Hopefully, I was able to present a somewhat stable, yet evolving environment for our community. Your support & participation

mean the world to me – that is why Prairie Lakes is here, for you!

Most of my fondest & clearest memories are of the amazing people that have & continue to come through the doors at Prairie Lakes. There have been so many changes since I started attending services – losses & additions. The losses still tug at my heart (some bring tears to my eyes), & the additions continue to fill my heart (bringing a smile to my face). Thanks to Prairie Lakes, I have experienced people who have truly enriched my life & continue to help me grow in knowledge & compassion.

I cannot be more delighted with Linda DeCramer taking over as Moderator. Linda is one of the reasons I began attending Prairie Lakes – along with Tanya, Brad & Nicole. I would see these people at other events and I wanted to be where they were. I am looking forward to where Linda will take our Fellowship and will do my best to support her – possibly drive her a little crazy, but it's my turn to do that. I encourage you to reach out to committee chairpersons & liaisons to see how you can help; there is something for everyone! Honestly, the best support is showing up, because Prairie Lakes is here for you!

The extended 'Rule of Rebecca' is over!



Editor's Note: On behalf of board members past and present, we will miss Becky Feyen's sense of humor at the board meetings. As one former board member stated, "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."

Message from our Incoming Moderator by Linda DeCramer



The campaign was long and arduous with many a formidable opponent along the way, but with perseverance and your support, here I am, your new PLUUF Moderator! Seriously, I am honored to be entrusted as catalyst for leading this fellowship forward. Following in the footsteps of Becky's remarkable 6-year tenure at the helm is a bit daunting - she was really good at this moderator thing! With the goodwill of the group, plus the significant support and experience of our board members and committees, holding me up as I learn the ropes, I am confident the transition from Secretary to Moderator will be smooth.

As I consider how PLUUF functions and moves forward in the midst of a pandemic as well as the most powerful social unrest in recent history, FOCUS is the word which keeps coming to mind. There is power in the ability to focus, to hone in on priorities and funnel energy and resources

accordingly. We are a small group with an abundant diversity of ideas, skills, knowledge, passions, hopes and dreams. My intent is to explore and encourage the aligning of energies and passions in order to create forward progress in a myriad of arenas – from day-to-day functions to greater social justice issues. Expect lots of surveys and direct communication from me as we discover our priorities and the means to accomplish such.

A first goal for this PLUUF board is to explore possibilities for in-person services held outdoors, with best practices for prioritizing the safety of our friends and members. While the recent online service options are extremely valuable and much appreciated, the distancing and disconnect of the past few months have been a challenge, have diminished us. Our cohesion and strength as a community come of shared time, thoughts, ideas, meals and memories – without these our hearts are less full and this little spiritual home we call Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is less joyful. Stay tuned for news, and requests for input, as the board endeavors to determine what may be possible.

Thank you for your trust, as well as your support, input, and participation in keeping PLUUF a vibrant place!

Sincerely,

Linda DeCramer



Editor's Note: On behalf of the members and friends of Prairie Lakes, welcome to the Moderator role, Linda. We look forward to forging our way forward during this pandemic with you at the helm.

We Welcome PLUUF's New Secretary



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 with the world's religions, and practicing Zen Buddhism for the past 13 years makes Unitarian Universalism a natural fit. We are looking forward to Robyn's sharing her wisdom and compassion while serving as PLUUF's Secretary on the Executive Committee.

Editor's Note: Information above was printed, in part, from the May newsletter. Photo of Robyn was taken after the Annual Meeting.

We Welcome PLUUF's New At-Large Representative



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.

After the election Joe said, "I would like to put some energy toward connecting PLUUF to Ripon College more, especially to the potentially marginalized students there, in keeping with our Welcoming Congregation principles."

Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist 2020 Ballot Results

Nominees for Board of Directors:

1. MODERATOR

25 Votes for Linda DeCramer

2. SECRETARY

25 Votes for Robyn Davis-Bartow

3. AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVE 2

25 Votes for Joe Hatcher

Proposed budget fiscal year 2020/21

4. APPROVE BUDGET AS PROPOSED:

25 Yes

0 No

0 Abstain

5. DESIGNATION OF FUNDS FOR DIGITAL PIANO

(Approve request to remove \$3,700-\$5,000 from Golden Rule Savings and/or BMO Checking to pay for a new piano instead of new outdoor sign.)

21 Yes

2 No

2 Abstain

Although the designation of funds for a new digital piano was overwhelmingly approved, discussion took place regarding concerns about the significant cost. Heid Music in Appleton recommended the pianos in the proposed budget as the most frequently purchased models for churches. Over the next few months, however, we will search for less expensive alternatives, perhaps gently used models. Whether we buy new or used, the final decision will be based on sound quality and serviceability.

In Memory of Erika Jensen:



Thank you to Jill Stiemsma for contacting Liz Woodworth-Zanto, UU Member (Open Circle). Liz graciously provided her memories of Erika Jensen. Erika graced PLUUF with her presence at Sunday Services. Erika died on May 17th at the age of 52 after living with cancer for several years.

“Erika was of sharp mind, even temperament, and deep convictions. She was a hard-working organic farmer when I first met her, and a fellow born and raised UU. An articulate speaker and writer, she was published in several nature and organic magazines. She was also the director of the Godfrey Prairie and Arboretum at UW-Fond du Lac campus for a number of years. She was devoted to the health and well-being of our beautiful Earth and all its inhabitants. Erica's number one focus, however, was her son Peter, whom she loved fiercely and completely; she was devoted to his well-being in every way.

Though I was acquainted with Erika for many years -- more than a decade -- it was in the last three years that I truly got to know her. She started coming to me for massage therapy more frequently as part of her continuing treatment for cancer. Then Erica and I joined a mentoring group on shamanic healing with Myron Eshowsky about 2 1/2 years ago. We were the only two from the Fond du Lac area so were partnered together. Pragmatic, straightforward and level-headed, Erika endeavored to pursue shamanistic practices with the same discipline and matter-of-fact focus that she brought to her other studies. Once when we were talking about our busy and bossy minds casting doubt upon our shamanic work, she said something like (as close as I can remember): “I just tell my left brain to have a seat in the corner and give my right brain control; I tell my left brain that it’s dominated for a long time so now it’s time to take a break and give my right brain a chance.” Those words profoundly helped me.

Erica lived as authentically as any human being I’ve ever had the gift of knowing. Now she has passed and become an ancestor. I am so grateful to have known her and honor her spirit presence moving forward. She bequeathed me her drum and rattle which I play in her honor and memory.”



Editor's Note: Erika's last visit to Prairie Lakes was on August 25, 2019. She led a reflection titled “What’s Your Origin Myth?” Prior to that, she led a reflection titled “My Favorite Fears” on April 14, 2019.

For a detailed biography, you can access her obituary at:
<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/fdlreporter/obituary.aspx?n=erika-m-jensen&pid=196228599&fhid=3226>.

The 1st ever NO SERVICE/NO TALENT Do-It-Yourself AUCTION

Kudos to Ellen for this idea – the best thing to come down the pike since fantasy baseball without any real baseball games. –Jerry Davidson

Although we had to miss the raucous fun of our traditional Art & Service Auction due to COVID-19, so many of you sent in donations to support our one and only fundraising event of the year. As this newsletter goes to print, \$2,450 has been raised so far. We're just \$50 from our goal! If you would like to contribute to the auction or make a final pledge contribution before the end of the fiscal year, please send your payment to PLUUF by June 30.

Thank you to Judy & Dave Harris for sweetening the auction with raffle prizes.

Winners of Judy's famous Rhubarb Pie: Pat Dobrinska, the French family, Linda DeCramer, Jerry Davidson, Ellen & Bruce Mueller

Winners of Judy's Holiday Kringler: Randy Roeper, Robyn Davis-Bartow

Winners of Dave Harris's book chapter from "Paradise Tost:" Lyn Corder, Jean Bruce, Linda DeCramer, the French family, Bruce & Ellen Mueller



A glimpse of what PLUUF's Annual Meeting looked like on June 7 during Covid-19.

Several members attended the meeting virtually and almost a dozen attended in-person while masked and socially distanced.

Finance News 2019/20 Fiscal Year by Tanya Schwartz Roeper & Jim Goyette

	Year to Date as of 6/7/20	Annual Budget 2019/20
Income	\$23,914.	\$26, 004
Expenses	\$34,705	\$41,375

The most current copy of the Financial Report presented at the June 7 Annual Meeting is available by request. Detailed monthly financial reports for the year are also available by contacting: tanyapapermaker@gmail.com

BMO Checking	\$16,479 Operating Fund
Golden Rule Savings	\$18,864 Short term Vision Fund
UUCEF*	\$35,803 Long term Vision Fund
	\$71,146

*Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund

Note: If we do not count the drop in our CEF or subtract our restricted funds from our income YTD total, PLUUF is 92% to the budgeted total income goal for the 2019/20 fiscal year ☺

If we count the subtraction of our restricted funds and the drop in the CEF, we're 73% to our budget goal