

**July****2022**

A Big Welcome to PLUUF's newest Board Members. Details on page 3

Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

315 Eureka Street, Ripon, WI 54971 pluufripon@gmail.com

July ENGAGE & WORSHIP SERVICE EVENTS



ENGAGE Sunday, July 3, 10:00 AM with Becky Feyen: Prairie Lakes will commemorate Independence Day with a presentation ***Democracy Needs Us***. Becky Feyen will share TED Talks, *A Different Understanding of American Patriotism* by Deval Patrick (https://www.ted.com/talks/deval_patrick_a_different_understanding_of_american_patriotism) and *The New Political Story that Could Change Everything*, by George Monbiot ([George Monbiot: The new political story that could change everything](#)). Our discussion will focus on the impact we have by creating a positive narrative and being patriots that work toward citizen involvement. Hope you can join us to celebrate our country.



Worship Service Sunday, July 10, 10:00 AM with Joe Hatcher & 2nd Sunday Potluck. Religion, and Critical Thinking: Should you bring your brain along when you come to church? Joe will discuss the problems of "learning to think" and how this relates to religious belief, with specific applications to tribalism and to how to deal with "origin stories".



ENGAGE Sunday, July 17, 10:00 AM Exploring Some UU Roots, with Robert "Spud" Hannaford, professor of philosophy emeritus. Spud will lead a discussion concerning the nature of our values, based on the concepts of religious writings & philosophers. Consider, "God is a verb, not a noun" by Buckminster Fuller & "God is Love" Saint John, 4:8. A list of questions & supporting documentation will be provided prior to the discussion if you would like to prepare.



Worship Service Sunday, July 24, 10:00 AM with Liz Buchanan-Beegle "Meet the New Program Consultant" Liz, PLUUF's new Program Consultant would like to give a brief presentation and find out what topics are of most interest as she plans programming for the 2022/23 fellowship year. This service will follow our Worship Service format.



Sunday, July 31, 10AM Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup Day

We'll meet in the parking lot of Christiano's restaurant on highway 23. PLUUF will supply vests and bags and you bring gloves and a water bottle.

A Message from PLUUF's New Moderator by Robyn Davis-Bartow



Greetings to all! As I sit to write my very first Moderator's letter to the fellowship, I find myself unnerved by the enormity of this role. How daunting to be the Moderator of the Board of a lay-led religious organization! A UU one at that! Herding cats may come to mind...

But seriously, when Tanya presented PLUUF History in a Nutshell at the annual meeting a couple of weeks ago, I was struck by the amazingly intelligent, devoted, and capable women that led this fellowship over the years. Marjorie Kenyon-Cler, Lyn Corder, Jean Johnson, Becky Feyen, Linda DeCramer. Need I say more? With the tireless assistance of countless others, these leaders transformed this rag-tag group of free thinkers into a small but vital community driven by justice, truth, and freedom of spiritual expression. This was and continues to be no easy feat. Though intimidated by the task set before me, as I find myself at the cusp of following in the footsteps of these courageous past board moderators, I am excited for the opportunity.

Fourteen years ago, a certain Zen priest told me to "Run towards the roar". In other words, lean into and embrace the things that frighten us, *because* they frighten us. I thought he was nuts! However, over years of mediation practice I have experienced first-hand the truth in angst being where one's greatest opportunity lies. Anxiety, when viewed from another perspective, is your mind and body letting you know where excitement exists. Therefore, I am tasked with remembering that by accepting the terrifying role of PLUUF's moderator, I am receiving the gift of an exciting opportunity. I ask for each and every one of you to help me remember this attitudinal commitment when you see me inevitably falter!

In order to help with continuing this group's forward momentum as a balanced, spiritually fulfilling, and sustainable future, these qualities must be reflected in my own life. My beautiful family, our home, gardens, and menagerie, my work, our Buddhist Sangha, and PLUUF all need me at my best. Somehow, my wanderings through growing up an ELCA Lutheran immersed in nature who rejected Christianity, took a bit of a walk on the wild side, discovered a fascination with religion and spiritual practice in college, served on committees in a progressive Christian church, and fell in love with Zen practice created life experience that gives rise to Prairie Lakes fulfilling the need for a very unique similarly-minded community. This incongruously varied group helps me thrive. Through listening, learning, and growing together, I look forward to the exciting opportunity of assisting Prairie Lakes Unitarian Fellowship thrive for others long into the future.

PLUUF's 2022/23 Board of Directors



Robyn Davis-Bartow
Moderator
1st year of 1st term

Nicole Roost
Secretary
1st year of 1st term

Jim Goyette
Treasurer
2nd year of 2nd term

Joe Hatcher
At -Large Rep
1st year 2nd term

Cheri Salzberg
At-Large Rep
Appointed to complete
Liz's 2nd year of 1st term



Financial & Administrative Consultant

I will be entering my 5th fiscal year as Financial & Administrative Consultant. Prior to that, I had served 2-years on the Executive Committee on PLUUF's Board as Treasurer. The variety of duties make my role challenging and interesting: Bill paying, deposits, creating the newsletter and order-of-service, creating Facebook posts, email communication with members, email announcements, and more. I love serving as PLUUF's Financial & Administrative Consultant and am very grateful for the opportunity!

-Tanya Schwartz-Roeper



New Program Consultant

Thank you to the congregation for voting overwhelmingly to approve the new Program Consultant role and include it in the 2022/23 budget. Jill Stiemsma served in this role as a volunteer from 2006-2021! When it was discovered it was going to be a challenge to fill the role on a volunteer basis, the proposal for a paid Program Consultant was developed. Liz Buchanan-Beegle's start date is July 1st and she will be coordinating 2nd & 4th Sunday Worship Services and the RE program. If needed, she'll provide backup assistance to the ENGAGE Sunday committee and cross train with the Financial & Administrative Consultant.

A Bit About Liz:

My first time at Prairie Lakes was the summer of 2018. I became more of a regular that winter and signed the membership book the next year. I served as At-Large Rep on the PLUUF Board of Directors the 2021/22 fellowship year and have taken charge of keeping the PLUUF website up-to-date. My husband, Shane, and two children, Lilly and McKinley live in Ripon and are a proud military family with Shane currently serving full time in the Wisconsin Army National Guard. I grew up Catholic, dabbled in Buddhism, and strolled through Wicca before giving up on religion for a while. I have happily stumbled into Unitarian Universalism where I instantly found what I had been looking for.

-Liz Buchanan-Beegle

In Case You Missed it in June



ENGAGE Sunday, June 5, with Travis Nygard: “Ripon’s LGBTQ History and Culture: Exploring 200 Years” In this talk, Travis Nygard shared thoughts about the history of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and queer people in our region, spanning nearly two centuries. He presented some of the challenges of reconstructing this history and explored local anecdotes, photographs, and artwork about the history of gender and sexuality through an amazing slideshow



Annual Meeting & Art & Service Auction Finale June 12

It was a time to thank volunteers, acknowledge outgoing Board members, review the current fiscal year budget and approve the next, vote for new Board members, approve the Program Consultant role, and more! The morning concluded with the final bidding and announcing the Art & Service Auction winners.



ENGAGE Sunday, June 19, Juneteenth with Becky Feyen & Judy Harris

Becky presented the history of Juneteenth. After the Juneteenth presentation, the participants transitioned to preparing posters for the Pride Rally in Ripon. Over 100 people attended the Pride Rally with several PLUUFers in

attendance. This rally was organized, in part, by PLUUF member and Ripon High School Biology teacher, Brad Roost. (See next page for the Pride Rally article)



Worship Service Sunday, June 26, with Robyn Davis-Bartow "Coffee & Conversation with the New Moderator at Prairie Lakes."

Robyn Davis-Bartow introduced herself to members and friends of Prairie Lakes. It was an opportunity for the congregation to share thoughts on Prairie Lakes in order to continue to nurture our welcoming and vibrant fellowship community and make it the best it can be.

Board Meeting PLUUF’s Board typically meets the 2nd week of each month. The next Board meeting is Monday, July 11, at 5:30. If you’d like anything put on the agenda, please contact tanyapapermaker@gmail.com

‘All of us came today to fight for continued LGBTQ rights’: Pride Rally draws crowd to Ripon's Rotary Square

(Copied from Riponpress.com | written by Joe Schulz | published June 29, 2022 | Many PLUUFers in attendance)



Riponites of many backgrounds packed into Rotary Square last weekend to show their support for LGBTQ rights.

The Ripon High School (RHS) Gender and Sexualities Alliance (GSA) hosted a Pride Rally last week Saturday, which brought more than 50 people together.

While the event was not officially sanctioned by the Ripon Area School District (RASD), several district officials

were in attendance, along with a few local leaders from the city, library, churches and businesses.

During the event, attendees listened to speeches from GSA President Elliott Luedke, RASD alumnus Elliot Heiling, First Congregational Church Of Ripon Rev. Jeffery Dodson and Federated Church of Green Lake Rev. Karen Gygax Rodriguez.

The rally was held to celebrate the seventh anniversary of same-sex marriage being legalized in the United States. It also gave an RASD alumnus the opportunity to share his experience being an LGBTQ youth in Ripon.

The event was a response to anti-transgender legislation in multiple states and Florida's "Parental Rights in Education" bill, which opponents have dubbed the "don't say gay bill."

"There's still work that needs to be done," Luedke said, noting Ripon is making progress toward being accepting of the LGBTQ community, but still has a long way to go.

One individual attended the event displaying a sign that was against same-sex couples, but those supportive of the LGBTQ community ignored it and remained respectful and peaceful.

GSA, faith leaders show support

Luedke said GSA planned the rally to support those who have faced discrimination due to their sexual orientation or gender identity.

"We are here today for those who have been bullied and called slurs by their very own peers," Luedke said. "We are here for those who have been ridiculed and shunned by their families due to their identity, for those who have been told there isn't a place for them in their religion that they follow or want to follow. (Read the rest of the story at riponpress.com)



Building Unity Democracy Tour Stop in Fond du Lac, WI

Friday, July 8, 2022 - 5:00 - 8:00 PM

Brothertown Indian Nation Community Center - 311 Winnebago Dr.

Event Description: (outdoor event) This Democracy Tour Stop event will feature Indian frybread tacos, walking tacos, and wild rice salad prepared by members of Brothertown Indian Nation, as well as other food and drink items for sale. The public is invited to bring their own food and drink items. This will be an opportunity to share ideas about ways we can help to turn out the vote and build a movement for peace, justice, sustainability and democracy. Community leaders will begin speaking at 6 pm, sharing the issues most important to them and the people they represent and serve.

About *Building Unity* and the Democracy Tour:

Humanity is facing challenging times. The realities of war, widespread violence, extreme polarization, social unrest, racism, severe economic disparities, pandemics, environmental degradation, resource depletion, the erosion of freedom and democracy, and the climate emergency loom before us with no clear signs of improvement. Too many people are suffering and our youth are living with the knowledge that a safe and livable future for them is uncertain.

Building Unity is a nonpartisan, multi-organizational project working to build the unity needed for a movement that will boldly address these existential threats. We are doing all that we can to help elect leaders who will act for a just and livable future. Today, the “top 1%” - own more of our nation’s wealth than the “bottom 90%!” The influence of big money in our political system is alarming and unacceptable. These facts and the realities of the climate emergency require us to make changes to counter the influence of big money that the resource extraction, fossil fuel, weapons industries and large corporations have on our political and economic systems. The [Democracy Tour](#) seeks to engage and inspire voters around Wisconsin to unite and participate in the process of forming a more perfect union and a government that is truly representative of and responsive to the priorities and the needs of the people.

Time is running out. We must act swiftly. In this extremely important election year, we must make sure that everyone who shares our hopes and dreams, votes! Towards this goal the Democracy Tour will help Wisconsin communities to mobilize and activate voters, and share information about important issues and opportunities to make a difference.

Each of the Democracy Tour Tour Stop Events will be as unique as the communities and partners that are hosting them. You can find information about each of the Tour Stop Event as it becomes available at www.facebook.com/buildingunitywi/events

Stay tuned for more information. The Unity Tour is coming to Ripon.