



## September 2022 Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

315 Eureka Street, Ripon, WI 54971 [pluufripon@gmail.com](mailto:pluufripon@gmail.com)



Veggies from PLUUF's Sharing Garden!



## SEPTEMBER ENGAGE & WORSHIP SERVICE EVENTS

**Saturday, September 3** (rescheduled from August): **Jean Johnson**  
**Memorial Kayak/Canoe Event** launching at Spring Lake in Green Lake  
with brunch on the Tichora Conservancy property. Details on page 3.



### **ENGAGE Sunday Sunday, September 4, 10:00 AM with Becky Feyen:** **The World Needs Our Joy - How to Find It**

Last month we watched the UUA President, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray's report at the 2022 General Assembly. This Sunday we will revisit a small part of her inspiring speech: "For in this world of tumult and pain. The world needs our joy. Joy is life saving and alongside our faith, our courage, our truth telling, our moral witness and our good old UU earnestness... We must remember that there is something liberating and powerful in joy.

Joy feels like love, and it moves like freedom. We need joy like we need oxygen."



**Worship Service Sunday, September 11, 10:00 AM Plus Potluck**  
**Annual Water Sharing/In Gathering (Intergenerational)** This time of year begins another season of Ingathering, when Unitarian Universalists come together to renew our commitments to each other and to our communities. If you've not participated in this service previously, the service provides an opportunity to share your summer expeditions and water from those places you visited. We'll co-mingle the waters as a symbol of our solidarity. Don't have water? No problem. We'll provide some for you. Tanya Schwartz Roeper looks forward to leading this service.



**ENGAGE Sunday, September 18, 10:00 AM with Shane Beegle.** Shane has offered a variety of suggestions for an ENGAGE Sunday: Astrology, Tarot, Deepak Chopra, Joseph Campbell, Carl Jung, and biases. Any of these would be an interesting subject matter to pursue, so join us to find out what Shane selects. An announcement revealing the topic will be sent the week of the event.



### **Worship Service Sunday, September 25 , 10:00 AM** **Celebrate the Harvest! (Intergenerational)**

Bring fresh produce from your garden or from the Farmer's Market to share with local food programs. Let's show our gratitude for the fall harvest and our ability to share with others. There will be a special guest farmer in attendance!

## A Message from the Moderator by Robyn Davis-Bartow



How is it that it is time for the September PLUUF newsletter?!? As usual, summer has flown by way too quickly. Gardens are already bursting at the seams, school sports teams are in training, and kids are facing the dreaded start of the school year. Even though autumn is my favorite season, there is something about the end of summer; the lessening of sunlight, the return to a more hectic schedule, the knowledge that winter looms near that brings about a bit of sadness. There is a sense of loss. The ripe potentiality of summer has been mostly spent. In an attempt to eke the last drops of season into my schedule, I am cheating with this month's newsletter. For those of you who attended the August service on telling a story, I apologize. You are going to get it again. For the rest of you, here's an opportunity to get a taste of what you missed:

According to Professor and Zen teacher, David Loy, "Stories are more than just stories. It is with our stories that we make sense of the world. Stories teach us what is real, what is true, and what is possible. They are necessary for our engagement with life." Our stories, our life experiences create and shape who we become and how we relate to the world around us. Our stories can be powerful tools of connection with each other. Sharing our stories gives us an opportunity to glimpse into each other's lives and provide insight for greater understanding. Those of us in the recovery community know that it is not advice given at step groups that provide hope and healing, but the shared personal stories that so closely resonate with our own. Similarly, our shared stories create a palpable sense of community and belonging. Not many Davis family gatherings go by where my siblings and I don't engage in "Remember when Dad..." and then some tale of how this man we mutually love either injured himself. These recollections solidify my family's connection as a clan even when infuriatingly different social and political views leave us on opposing sides.

One of the issues taken with stories is that we can get stuck in them. How often do we retell a traumatic story to ourselves and others in the exact same way? Professor Loy says "Unaware that our stories are stories, we usually experience them as the world. Like fish that do not see the water they swim in, we normally do not notice the medium we dwell within. We take for granted that the world we experience is just the way things are. But our concepts and ideas about the world, like the stories they are part of, strongly affect our perception of reality. " In other words, Don't believe everything you think.

But it is because our stories can only ever reflect a partial rendering of reality, we possess the amazing ability to co-create the world we live in. One can tell two completely different versions of any given event and both can be true. This means we have the power to choose. We get to choose how the story goes. Similarly, we can change our stories as we ourselves evolve and grow. Loy says, "It is not by transcending the world that we are transformed, but by storying it in a new way. To say it in another way: we transcend our world by being able to story it differently". How exciting is that?!

The historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gutama, was a spoiled prince whose father plotted to keep him from the realities of sickness, old age, and death by keeping him distracted with every form of earthly pleasure. According to the Buddhist myth, one day, the fully grown Siddhartha got curious about the outside world and finally ventured outside the walls of the royal compound. There for the first time in his life, he encountered an old man, an ill man, a corpse, and a renunciate. These startling sights were the impetus for his abandoning his life and searching for the cessation of such suffering. According to Loy, "This story can be taken as historically factual, as a literary device that may have nothing to do with the actual life of the Buddha. Yet the myth is an effective way to story his

teaching. Understood symbolically, this polyvalence is not a problem, because that is how myths work. As Rabbi Akia Tatz says, “All my stories are true. Some happened and some did not, but they are all true.”

At our July meeting, I asked our board members to tell the story of what brought them to PLUUF. During the August service PLUUFees shared their joining tales. The following is mine. I look forward to hearing all of yours.

Once upon a time, I was a free spirited college student who wanted nothing to do with the organized religion of my youth. One weekend some friends and I decided we wanted to go camping. In a teepee. On an exotic animal farm in Iowa. While camping in said teepee on an exotic animal farm in Iowa, I stood on a ridge overlooking this gorgeous fog filled valley. Now, it was a cold misty mid-October afternoon with no sunshine to speak of but the stark intensity of that moment caused me to momentarily lose myself. Literally lost all sense of individuality that it scared me. I didn’t know who I was or if “I” were to ever come back. Of course, a heartbeat later life resumed to as normal as it could be in a teepee on an exotic animal farm in Iowa. That winter I enrolled in a Religious Studies course titled Myth and Mystery. On an essay exam when asked to define Myth, I retold this story and described only being able to verbalize this experience as talking with the spiders. I did not literally speak with spiders, but it was true. With an A on this exam, I fell in love with studying religion. Fast forward a decade and I’m a mother of young children trying to adjust to living in a community dominated by conservative Christianity when I started attending a ragtag Zen meditation group hosted by a local church. I fell in love. One evening this group and I took a field trip to Oshkosh to sit with a “real” Zen Buddhist group. I fell in love again. While meditating regularly with this group I experienced in Mondo Koan practice the same losing of self that I experienced so many years before. I fell in love. This time with a member of this Buddhist community who also happened to be a Unitarian Universalist. This guy took me to the Midwest Universalist Unitarian Summer Assembly. I fell in love. Then I remembered that the community I live in has a little UU fellowship of its own. One day I walked into PLUUF’s doors, and fell in love again.

## **PLUUF’S Sharing Garden**



**Tomatoes**



**Carrots**



**A delivery to the Ripon Food Pantry**

## **Next Board Meeting:**

September 19, 5:30 p.m. If you’d like anything put on the agenda, please contact [tanyapapermaker@gmail.com](mailto:tanyapapermaker@gmail.com)



## Jean Johnson Memorial Kayak/Canoe Adventure Rescheduled to Saturday, September 3, 10AM



Photo: Jean Johnson & Pat Dobrinska (circa 2014)

The 1st Annual Jean Johnson Memorial Kayak/Canoe Adventure will take place Saturday, September 3, at 10AM at the Spring Lake landing at Spring Valley Park in Green Lake. Participants will paddle across Spring Lake and through a cattail marsh to get to the Tichora Conservancy property. Kayaks/canoes will be pulled onto shore and participants will hike to the Green Lake side of the Tichora Conservancy for a potluck picnic brunch.

### **What if I don't want to paddle to the Tichora Conservancy?**

No worries! You can drive to the Tichora Conservancy and join the paddlers for the potluck picnic brunch.

If you are interested in participating or have questions, contact [tanyapapermaker@gmail.com](mailto:tanyapapermaker@gmail.com)

## Book Discussion with Ripon Area Racial Justice Association (RARJA)



*The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*  
by Heather McGhee | <https://heathermcghee.com/>

The Ripon Area Racial Justice Assoc. (RARJA) & The League of Women Voters will be discussing *The Sum of Us* by Heather McGhee. If anyone at Prairie Lakes is interested in joining the discussion in October, the link to Heather McGhee's website has information on the book & audio available. Becky Feyen will provide details about the discussion as they become available.

# A Message from Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

UUA President | Excerpt from UUA Newsletter 9/2022

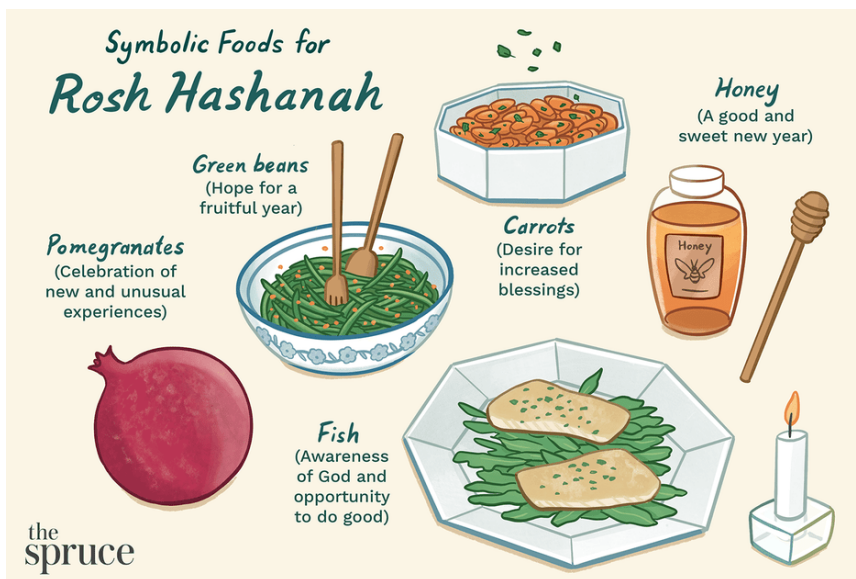
We are living in what I have come to call a liminal time – a time in between. The pandemic has upended so much. After two years of virtual and hybrid gatherings, the ways in which people connect to religious community have broadened and new patterns are developing. On so many levels, what comes next is still being imagined.

And while the way we carry out our ministries continues to unfold, it remains true that our world needs our Unitarian Universalist message of love and justice. Our world needs brave, bold and loving communities so we can support one another in the struggle for justice, equity and compassion. One way to join your Unitarian Universalist siblings in this work is by organizing to elect leaders who will take action on issues that reflect our values through UU the Vote.

## Jewish High Holidays in September/October

Although we observe Hannukah at the Festivals of Light event in December and we will have a Passover Seder in April, there is very little mentioned at Prairie Lakes about the Jewish high holidays in September and October.

**Rosh Hashanah** means “head of the year” in Hebrew. It is a time for reflection and repentance. It is referred to as the “day of judgment.” According to the Talmud, the world was created on the first day of Tishrei, the seventh month of the Jewish calendar. Rosh Hashanah begins at sunset on Sunday, September 25 on our Gregorian calendar.



**Yom Kippur**—the Day of Atonement—is considered the most important holiday in the Jewish faith. Falling in the month of Tishrei (September or October in the Gregorian calendar), it marks the culmination of the 10 Days of Awe, a period of introspection and repentance that follows Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. This year it begins at sunset on Tuesday, October 4.

Next year an ENGAGE Sunday will be dedicated to presenting the Jewish High Holidays. Stay tuned :-)

## In Case You Missed it in August



### **ENGAGE Sunday Sunday, August 7, 10:00 AM with Becky Feyen:**

She presented the UUA President's Report from the 2022 General Assembly projected onto the big screen. It was an uplifting presentation by Susan Frederick-Gray that provided the inspiration we need.



### **Worship Service Sunday, August 14, 10:00 AM Plus Potluck**

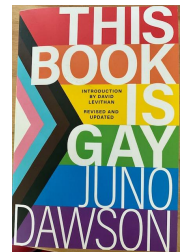
**Robyn Davis-Bartow** presented "Tell Me a Story" about the power of stories to connect with others, ourselves, and to better understand our human condition. (See Robyn's Moderator Message on page 2 for more details)

During the Story for All Ages in July, Liz Buchanan-Beegle read "Have You Filled A Bucket Today: A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids" by Carol McCloud. This charming story teaches that everybody carries an invisible bucket to hold all their good thoughts and good feelings about themselves. At this service, if the children shared how they "filled a bucket" they received a \$5 coupon to Alexandria Games in downtown Ripon.



### **ENGAGE Sunday, August 21, 10:00 AM Book Discussion: *This Book is Gay* by Juno Dawson.**

Participants were separated into three groups: Judy Harris led the Adults, Brad Roost led the Teens, and Linda DeCramer led the discussion with the Littles. *"This book is for everyone, regardless of gender or sexual preference. This book is for anyone who's ever dared to wonder. This book is for YOU."*



**Worship Service Sunday, August 28 ,10:00 AM "The Parliament of World Religions: Coming to a Town Near You,"** Jill Stiemsma explored why the Parliament truly mirrors Unitarian Universalism...and why you should consider attending the Chicago event in 2023! Many PLUUF members attended the Parliament when it was held in Salt Lake City — and LOVED it — next year Chicago August 14-18, 2023.