

**June**



**2022**

Photo above: PLUUF's Sharing Garden has expanded for the 2022 growing season!



## **Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**

315 Eureka Street, Ripon, WI 54971

[pluufripon@gmail.com](mailto:pluufripon@gmail.com)



**ENGAGE Sunday, June 5, 10:00 AM with  
Travis Nygard of Ripon College**

### ***Ripon's LGBTQ History and Culture: Exploring 200 Years***

In this talk, Travis Nygard will share thoughts about the history of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and queer people in our region, spanning nearly two centuries. He will consider some of the challenges of reconstructing this history, as he explores local anecdotes, photographs, and artwork about the history of gender and sexuality. A discussion will follow, in which attendees will be able to share their own thoughts. The presentation is geared toward adults, and all are welcome to attend.\*

Travis Nygard is an Associate Professor at Ripon College, where he teaches art history and museum studies. He has also taught multidisciplinary courses on topics such as the history of love, sexuality in art, and stereotypes in American culture. He is a local history enthusiast, volunteering at the Ripon Historical Society, where he serves as a board member. In the past he also helped to organize educational programming for Pridefest, the annual LGBTQ festival held in Milwaukee. He lives in Ripon with his partner, Matt Koski, and their dog Kiffen.

**\*Attention parents and caregivers: Linda Decramer is planning a special RE event for the kids that day beginning at 10.**

*Travis's presentation is part of our Welcoming Congregation renewal process and a celebration of June Pride Month!*

# Annual Meeting Sunday, June 12, 10AM-Noon It's a big, important day. We hope you can attend!

(If you can't make it, proxy forms are available for both the Annual Meeting and Silent Auction. Contact [tanyapapermaker@gmail.com](mailto:tanyapapermaker@gmail.com) for more details)

## The Annual Meeting will include:

1. Meeting PLUUF's newest members
2. A brief slideshow presentation about PLUUF's history
3. Voting for Board Members whose terms are expiring: Moderator, Secretary, At-Large Rep
4. Discuss and vote on adding a 25-hour/month contract Program Consultant to the budget and other budget items. (See the Moderator message on next page)
5. Set goals for the new fiscal year (July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023)
6. .... And more!

**Plus, on June 12, noon-12:30 is the Grand Finale to the  
Art & Service Silent Auction**

## Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

*proudly presents*

# The Art & Service SILENT Auction

Bidding started on May 29 and will conclude on June 12

Auction Items are being added daily.

This is a list of what's in the silent auction so far:

- Aerial tour in Pilot Joe Hatcher's airplane
- Decorated Cake for a special occasion or just because 😊
- Knitting lessons once-a-month for a year
- 200-year-old stained glass window from a London church
- Matted art prints from the original work of Judy Morgan
- Basket of tea items
- Dinner for two at the home of Cheri Salzberg
- Create your Dream Day with Linda & Tanya
- Basket of Fair Trade coffee & chocolate
- Judy's Famous Rhubarb Pie
- Quilted coasters and quilted art
- Signed copy of "The Way of Most Anglers"
- UU themed painting created by the kids of Prairie Lakes

## HOW IT WORKS

Silent Auction items are on display in the Social Room at Prairie Lakes with corresponding Silent Auction bid sheets. Bid on items in person or assign a proxy to do the bidding for you. Tanya [tanyapapermaker@gmail.com](mailto:tanyapapermaker@gmail.com) and Linda [lindadecramer@yahoo.com](mailto:lindadecramer@yahoo.com) have volunteered to serve as proxies. They just need to know what items you're interested in and your highest bid amount.

Final bidding takes place at the Annual Meeting on June 12 and winners will be announced at Noon-ish.

## A Message from the Moderator by Linda DeCramer



### **LEVELING UP**

The human capacity to ceaselessly strive toward something better is astounding! This inherent drive, individual and collective, toward leveling up is fueled and driven by countless acts of HOPE. We love that.

Our beloved PLUUF is on the cusp of leveling up in exciting ways to ensure its continued vibrancy.

### **GROWTH & SUSTAINABILITY**

Growth & sustainability walk hand-in-hand and are as constant to our organization's annual goals as oxygen is to breathing. We never stop thinking, planning, and striving toward growth and sustainability. To level up in these areas, the PLUUF board is proposing the addition of a paid Program Coordinator position to the 2022/23 budget.

As a lay-led organization, we rely heavily on our amazing member and friend volunteers who bring a remarkable diversity of skills, knowledge, perspectives, and experiences to our community. This is truly one of our SUPER POWERS! Yet, reliance on volunteers presents some vulnerabilities as well: burn out, inconsistent attention to necessary functions, overreliance on a few, challenges to long-range planning.

### **FINDING OUR BALANCE**

Yes, we want to continue to tap into our volunteers' best abilities and joyful contributions. Yet, the old adage "Never put all your eggs in one basket" is very applicable wisdom. In other words, "Maybe don't rely nearly exclusively on Tanya, our Administrative/Financial consultant, to collect, season, and whisk all the eggs in our delicious quiche," out of consideration for her and the health/sustainability of PLUUF. Yes, she can, and does, do it all remarkably well, but our increasing reliance on her is 1) a vulnerability to our organization and 2) consistently pushes her hours beyond the current independent contractor arrangement. The PLUUF board is unanimous in its goal to level up our staffing so that it is representative of our actual needs while mitigating vulnerabilities.

### **GOALS FOR THE ADDITION OF A PROGRAM CONSULTANT**

- Job sharing in key functions/duties of the Administrative/Financial consultant including Church Windows.
- Coordinate and market Worship Services, Youth Religious Education, with secondary attention to special events and community outreach.

### **BUDGET 2022/23**

Yes, an additional contractor will increase our budget. Our belief is that committing time and money to our product – programs for public consumption – will garner both human and financial growth. Consistent attention to marketing and long-range program planning should result in higher attendance and therefore contributions, both of which support our never-ceasing goals toward growth and sustainability.

We hope you are as excited as we are about leveling up!

Sincerely,

Your Board: Linda DeCramer – Moderator | Robyn Davis-Bartow – Secretary | Jim Goyette – Treasurer | Liz Buchanan-Beegle – At Large Rep | Joe Hatcher – At Large Rep

**A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR MAY  
ENGAGE, WORSHIP SERVICE, RE LEADERS AND  
FLUFF 'N BUFF VOLUNTEERS!**



**ENGAGE Sunday, May 1**  
**Becky Feyen**  
*Optimism for our Future*  
RE: Shane Beegle &  
Liz Buchanan-Beegle



**Worship Service**  
**Sunday, May 8**  
**Becky Feyen**  
*Peace & Power: The  
Foundation of Mother's Day*  
RE: Linda DeCramer



**ENGAGE Sunday, May 15**  
**Judy Harris, et al.**  
*It's Your Turn*



**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**Sunday, May 22**  
**Connie Ghinazzi**  
*Letting Go*  
RE: Linda DeCramer



Childrens RE Art Project & Yoga Event



**THANK YOU!!**