



# Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

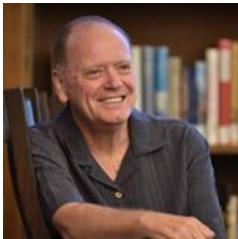
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## Upcoming November Events



**ENGAGE Sunday, November 3, 10:00AM** [Justice Equity and Compassion in Human Relations](#) by Jack Christ. Jack is emeritus professor and director of Leadership Studies at Ripon College. Justice, equity, and compassion are all wide-ranging abstract concepts that offer something profoundly useful to contemplate about human behavior, human history, and human aspirations.



**Worship Service Sunday, November 10, 10:00 AM Plus Potluck & Children's RE** ["Veterans Day: They Will Find the Streets of Heaven are Guarded by United States Marines"](#) Shane Beegle (United States Marine Veteran, current Army National Guard Soldier) will speak about the history and purpose of Veterans day, the correct spelling of this National holiday, religious/spiritual freedom within the military and how Unitarian Universalists can support warriors while fighting for universal peace.



**ENGAGE Sunday, November 17, 10:00 AM** [How a Natural Disaster Brought Out the Best in People](#) Understanding our shared vulnerability — life makes no promises — may be frightening, but it can inspire kindness, connection, and desire to stand together and support each other. Pat Dobrinska will share a presentation created by her daughter Jackie. Jackie lives in Asheville and will share a first hand account of the aftermath Hurricane Helene left behind and the incredible spirit of human cooperation that followed.



**Worship Service Sunday, November 24, 10:00 AM:** [Irish Immigration Through Music & Stories](#) with Jill Stiemsma and the Prairie Lakes Singers. Years back, PLUUF Singers and others offered a service of music and stories about Ireland's long history of emigration. Since Jill Stiemsma recently visited Ireland, she thought, "Gee, we should do this again." And so we are! Learn - through music, personal stories, and (of course) Irish jokes - what forced the Irish to leave their beloved homeland for years on end.

NOTE: We are looking for more singers for this service! If you'd like to join the PLUUF singers contact Jill: [jstiemsma@icloud.com](mailto:jstiemsma@icloud.com)

## Moderator Message by Connie Ghinazzi



Hello friends,

As I write these words, a monumental election will take place in just a few days. Be sure to cast your vote. It is important to take part in our democratic process.

November is a time of thanks and sharing. Please take a few minutes to fill out the "Talents & Interest" form (see below) to let us know how you want to be involved at Prairie Lakes. We need all of us to take part to make our community vibrant and strong.

In the words of Hiwi Tauroa, a Maori writer, as she writes about Talents, Each person is known to have a certain gift and certain ability, and is therefore able to make a contribution to the whole. There will be *tohunga*, - the expert in bone carving; the expert in weaving, but there is in the *whanau* [extended family] a place for all.

### Would You Like to Share Your Talents & Interests at Prairie Lakes?

At Prairie Lakes we recognize that everyone has talents and interests to share. As a small congregation we value everyone's contributions. There are multiple ways to get involved at Prairie Lakes and we'd like to find out your interests. It can include one or several from the list below. Please check all that apply. Orientation and training provided if needed:

- Arrive at 9am on a Sunday to open the doors and make coffee and perform other pre-service duties
- Stay after the service to cleanup/lockup
- Greet visitors as they arrive and hand out the order-of-service
- Provide music: Piano, vocals, guitar, etc.
- Select and/or read the Story For All Ages (You'll receive the WS topic in advance)
- Suggest Worship Service & ENGAGE topics and reach out to potential guest speakers
- Create & lead a Worship Service Reflection and Discussion or ENGAGE Sunday
- Lead non sermon parts of the service like Welcome & Announcements, Joys & Concerns, etc.
- Serve as RE/Youth Group Teacher
  - Teach (using lesson plans provided by PLUUF)
  - Create lesson plans to be used by RE teachers
- Cleaning
  - Vacuum/sweep and/or mop
  - Wipe down surfaces
  - Disinfect bathrooms
- Gardening:
  - Planting and/or harvesting
  - Watering
  - Weeding
- I'm a handyman/woman
- I'm tech savvy
- I'd like to volunteer at a Tuesday evening RAMA Sharing Meal
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

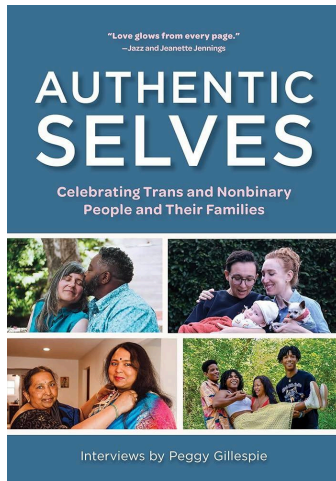
**"In shared ministry, we work together to bring out the best in one another."**

This form is available at PLUUF or by request: [pluufripon@gmail.com](mailto:pluufripon@gmail.com)

You can also print this page, fill it out, add your name & contact info and send it in or drop it off at PLUUF.

## What Is the UUA Common Read Program?

Each year, the Unitarian Universalist Association chooses one or more books as a Common Read, asking congregations across the denomination to consider reading and discussing the same book in a given period of time.



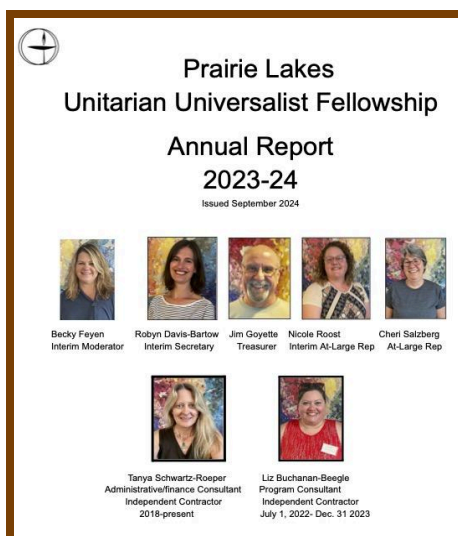
The following excerpt is from Susan Dana Lawrence and Melissa James, *Authentic Selves* UU Common Read Co-Project Managers | Kimi Floyd Reisch, *Authentic Selves* UU Common Read Developmental Editor

With this year's kit of Common Read resource materials, the UUA is pleased and excited to invite Unitarian Universalists into conversation with transgender and nonbinary people—and their partners, parents, children, siblings, and chosen family members—whose interviews and portraits fill the Skinner House book, *Authentic Selves: Celebrating the Lives of Transgender and Nonbinary People and Their Families*.

The subjects of *Authentic Selves* share their own stories, speaking from different stages of life, different regions of the country, different faith traditions, and different places on the rainbow spectrum of gender identity. Their book invites readers into their lives' revelations, challenges, joys, and networks of support.

In Unitarian Universalism, with Love at the center of our shared values and Pluralism, Interdependence, Generosity, Transformation, Justice and Equity alongside, sharing our stories with one another can be a deep and faithful experience. Let the storytellers of *Authentic Selves* teach, affirm, and inspire you. Then, join this year's UU Common Read to share your own stories in community and form a deeper understanding of how your own gender identity has shaped your life.

It can be ordered directly from the UUA In Spirit Book Shop: [Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and Their Families](#) (Skinner House, 2023).



## Prairie Lakes Annual Report is Available

The Annual Report is a comprehensive summary of almost everything that took place during the 2023/24 Fiscal Year at Prairie Lakes. It was emailed to all members, but is also available to others by request. Paper copies are available by request or located in the Prairie Lakes social room.



## October Board Meeting Minute Highlights by Board Secretary Michaela Meyers

In this month’s meeting, the Board discussed approval of the Annual Report. Tanya did a great job putting together visual representations of attendance and membership metrics. We also continued the conversation about improvements to PLUUF’s facilities, including finalizing the plans for shelves in the RE room.

The Board reviewed notes from a meeting that took place on Sunday, September 29, about the Sharing Garden. It involved much discussion about the future of the Sharing Garden and how it can be used to best serve PLUUF and the greater community moving forward. A big thank you to Judy Morgan for creating and managing the Sharing Garden over the last 4 years! Beth and Connie are working on creating a map of the grounds that will detail which plants are placed in what beds in an effort to better understand what care and maintenance will look like. We’re also going to be getting a shed for storing some larger tools and gardening items outside. Brody Roost has agreed to install it and add customization as necessary.

Connie reported back on her RAMA meeting and talked about how she and Becky participated in one of the Tuesday night Sharing Table dinners. The Board discussed if this was something PLUUF wanted to commit to doing in the future and it was added as an option to the Talent & Interest Sign Up sheet, which everyone is encouraged to fill out (see page 2).

And finally, The Board went over our Welcoming Congregation status. With Becky’s book discussion of Becoming Nicole, a book that had a lot of very persuasive science in it, and PLUUF’s donation to Ripon High School’s Social Justice Alliance (SJA), PLUUF only needs to donate to one more organization to maintain its Welcoming Congregation status. The current plan is to donate to Ripon College’s Queer Straight Alliance (QSA). The Board also discussed potentially doing a future event collaborating with Ripon High School’s SJA and Ripon College’s QSA to do something to show support for those communities and/or provide further education around queer topics.

### Treasurer Report At-A-Glance

#### Treasurer Report Balances as of September 2024 *(Sept. is the 3rd month of PLUUF’s Fiscal Year)*

*Reports will always appear to be a month behind due to the newsletter submission deadline.*

*The October treasurer report will appear in the December issue of the PLUUF newsletter.*

10100 AST-BMO checking	\$5,566
10111 Golden Rule Savings Vision	\$30,622 (Sept.. interest \$2.08)
10112 Golden Rule Checking for Debit Card	\$218
10202 AST-UUA CEF Vision	<u>\$48,710</u> ( Sept. increase \$1,062!)

**Total Assets \$85,116**

	Sept. 2024	YTD 2023	YTD 2024	2024/25 Budget
Member/Friend Contributions	\$1,530	\$5,205	\$3,527	\$30,586
Total Income (includes UUA Common Endowment Fund monthly increases & decreases)	\$2,594	\$3,600	\$6,096	\$33,616
Expenses	\$2,318	\$9,259	\$6,310	\$33,616

#### Next PLUUF Board Meeting Wednesday, November 13 at 5:30PM

If you would like anything added to the Board Agenda please contact: [connieghinazzi@gmail.com](mailto:connieghinazzi@gmail.com)

If you would like a complete copy of the minutes or treasurer reports, contact  
[tanyapapermaker@gmail.com](mailto:tanyapapermaker@gmail.com) or [pluufripon@gmail.com](mailto:pluufripon@gmail.com)



## In Memory of Nick Muschal



Nick & Marie Muschal walked through the doors of Prairie Lakes in 2023. They quickly became regular attendees and part of our Prairie Lakes community. Nick died suddenly on October 21st, the day before his 86th birthday.

Nick had a keen sense of humor, was kind, generous, and very easy to talk to. Although he described himself as “not very religious” he was interested in Buddhism and donated a beautiful string of Buddhist prayer beads to Prairie Lakes. They hang in the PLUUF office and will serve as a reminder of Nick’s generous spirit, kindness & thoughtfulness.

Nick’s wife Marie lives at Prairie Place assisted living in Ripon. They were married for 47 years. If you would like to drop Marie a note her address is: Prairie Place Assisted Living 749 E. Oshkosh Street, Ripon, WI 54971.

Visitation for Nick will be held from 9-11 am on Saturday with the Celebration of Life service beginning at 11:00, November 2, 2024 at Butzin-Marchant Funeral Home, 515 Mayparty Dr., Ripon.

### **THANK YOU TO THE INDIVIDUALS WHO DONATED FROM THE OCTOBER WISH LIST. GREATLY APPRECIATED!**



November Wish List Below:

1. Stamps (a few, several, or many)
2. PUR Water Filters
3. Granola Bars

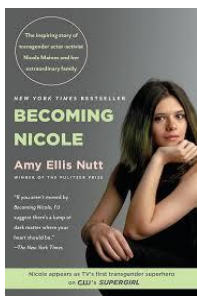


### **Are You Interested in Joining a Casual Meditation Group?**

For those who may be interested in exploring the world’s contemplative religious practices with Robyn Davis-Bartow, she will be hosting a casual meditation group Wednesdays, November 20 & 27 from 5:30-6:30pm at Prairie Lakes. Contact Robyn at [robynaudrey19@gmail.com](mailto:robynaudrey19@gmail.com) for more information.

This practice will consist of a 10 minute introduction to the month’s topic, 15 minutes of practice, 5 minute break, 15 minutes of practice, and conclude with 15 minutes of discussion/feedback. No prior experience is necessary. Dress comfortably and bring a friend and any questions you may have. If you have a meditation cushion, please bring it. Otherwise, chairs or even lying on your yoga mat is fine.

## In Case You Missed it in October



**ENGAGE Sunday, October 6:** Book Discussion: “Becoming Nicole” by Amy Ellis Nutt led by Becky Feyen Fulfilling our 5 Practices of Welcoming Congregation Renewal. The attendees discussed the inspiring true story of transgender actor and activist Nicole Maines, whose identical twin brother, Jonas, and ordinary American family join her on an extraordinary journey to understand, nurture, and celebrate the uniqueness in us all. This book discussion was one of the final steps in achieving PLUUF’s Welcoming Congregation status. Donations have been made to the Ripon High School Social Justice Alliance and Ripon College Queer/Straight Alliance.



**Worship Service Sunday, October 13:** Celebrate the Harvest with Connie Ghinazzi, plus it was the 2nd Sunday Potluck! This was an intergenerational service and everyone in attendance added to the bounty of food that was donated to the Traded Treasures & Community Food Pantry. (See photos above) Thank you to everyone who contributed!



**ENGAGE Sunday, October 20:** A Free and Responsible Search for Truth and Meaning

George Gonis of First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee is a Civil Rights activist, historian and journalist. He discussed the Civil Rights icon and Hollywood star Frederick March. March is at the center of a controversy involving actions taken by the University of Wisconsin based on a social media rumor that March was a Klan member and a white supremacist. In response to the unfounded rumor, the UW stripped March's name from the theater in the Memorial Union. Mr. Gonis followed the story and with new information and

support from some 60 Civil Rights leaders attempting to reinstate March's name to the theater, the UW remains unmoved and steadfast in the decision even in the face of the truth. Mr. Gonis focused on UU's 4th Principal, while sharing the background of this remarkable story. *(Thank you to PLUUF member Kathryn Severson for coordinating this event)*



**Worship Service Sunday, October 27:** Day of the Dead with Judy Morgan Back by popular demand, Judy led this event for the 4th year in a row! This event is celebrated throughout Latin America. It's a holiday of joyful celebration rather than mourning. The sharing of photos and stories of loved ones who have passed away highlighted this special event. The kids had a special RE/Youth Group session to learn more about the Day of the Dead. Plus, they drew pictures of loved ones who have passed and shared with the congregation.