



# Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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## August 2025 NEWSLETTER

### Happy 200th Birthday (+3 months), Unitarians!

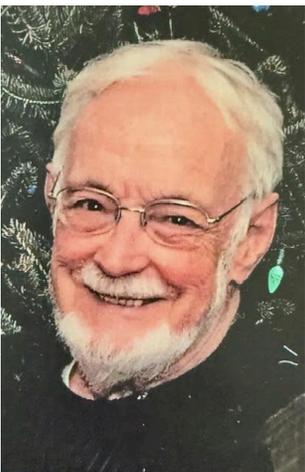
Reprinted in part from the UUA Website

On May 25, 1825, a group of Unitarian ministers in Boston met and voted to charter an association that would help to organize the growing Unitarian religious movement in the United States - and of course, in its own very Unitarian way, "evangelize" the newly-established liberal religious denomination. The American Unitarian Association (AUA), which was chartered the very next day, is one of the two precursor organizations to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). And this year, we are celebrating that milestone bicentennial birthday!

It's important to highlight that history because it was those early Unitarians whose beliefs, sermons, civic leadership and writings formed the intellectual underpinnings for core American values that are now under threat. We can thank prominent American Unitarians like Rev. William Ellery Channing, the leading Unitarian preacher whose ideas influenced both transcendentalism and the formalization of Unitarianism as a religious practice, and writer Margaret Fuller, who was an advocate for women and editor of *The Dial*, for providing theological and ethical grounding for the concepts of individual rights and liberties, ideas that are so necessary for how we think about "civil liberties" today.

*(The remainder of this article can be accessed by logging onto the Unitarian Universalist website [UUA.org](http://UUA.org))*

### Farewell to longtime, beloved PLUUFer, Don Martin



Don Martin attended Prairie Lakes for many years. As his health declined, his visits to PLUUF became less frequent, but we continued to hold him in our thoughts and send him notes in the mail. He passed away on July 9 at the age of 91. Becky Feyen and Tanya Schwartz-Roeper will be coordinating an event to honor Don's memory at PLUUF sometime this fall.

Here are a few sentiments shared by fellow PLUUFers:

"He was so kind and so supportive. I will miss him." - Joe

"I always enjoyed talking to Don and Pat" - Jim

"I am so sorry to learn of Don's passing, I sure enjoyed his presence at Prairie Lakes." - Becky

"Don was always very friendly and made a point to stop and talk to me." - Eric

"He was a kind & gentle fellow." - Judy

"Talking to Don after a Sunday service always brightened my day." -Tanya

"One of the most interesting people I have ever met. We will miss him." Liz

"He will be missed. Sad for our loss." -Jeromy

Here's the link to his obituary: <https://memorials.omrofuneralhome.com/donald-martin/5615243/>

# Off-Site August Events

## Linda DeCramer in Cinderella

July 31-August 3 & August 7-August 10



Linda DeCramer is starring in the Beaver Dam Area Community Theater production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella. Performances take place Thursday, July 31-Saturday August 2 at 7:30 and Sunday, August 3 at 2:00 (note: A group of PLUUFers are going to the 8/3 matinee) & Thursday, August 7 - Saturday August 9 at 7:30 and Sunday August 10 at 2:00..

Please see the link for more details:: <https://bdact.org/shows/cinderella>

*Perfect for audiences of all ages, this is the Cinderella you know and love — with surprising new twists and heartwarming moments that will leave you believing in magic again.*

## Green Lake Fine Art Show

August 9 & 10

Stop by the booth of PLUUF member Pat Dobrinska to say “hi” and view her beautiful work!

Join us in downtown Green Lake for the 52nd Annual Fine Art Show, happening Saturday, August 9 from 10-5 and Sunday, August 10 from 10-3.. This event showcases an impressive array of talented artists from across the Midwest and beyond. **PLUUF member Pat Dobrinska has been exhibiting her work at this event since its inception 52 years ago!**

Hosted by **Town Square in downtown Green Lake**, the Fine Art Show has been a staple in the community since 1973. As a *juried* show, it features over 70 accomplished artists presenting works in a variety of media, including clay and pottery, fiber, glass, printmaking, jewelry, metal, mixed media, oil and acrylic painting, pastel, photography, sculpture, watercolor, and wood.



## Jean Johnson Memorial Kayak & Picnic

Sunday, August 31



On Sunday, August 31, Kayak or canoe from the Spring Lake landing at Spring Valley Park in Green Lake and paddle the scenic perimeter of Spring Lake with other PLUUFers. When we are finished paddling, we'll all meetup at the Spring Lake Landing for a potluck picnic lunch. **If you don't want to paddle, no worries, just join us for the picnic lunch!**

Details on the next page.



## The 4th Annual Jean Johnson Kayak/Canoe Picnic Event August 31

Kayak or canoe from the Spring Lake landing at Spring Valley Park in Green Lake and paddle the scenic perimeter of Spring Lake with other PLUUFers. When we are finished paddling, we'll all meet up at the Spring Lake Landing for a potluck picnic lunch. **If you don't want to paddle, no worries, just join us for the picnic lunch!**

### Here's the plan:

- Kayak/Canoers will meet at the Spring Lake landing at Spring Valley Park: W2290 Spring Lake Road, Markesan by 9:45. (You can Google Map it by typing in Spring Valley Park, Markesan, WI). Be sure to bring a life jacket and water bottle.
- If you choose to join us for the picnic only meet us at the Spring Lake landing around 10:45. We'll have a table & chairs set up under the shade of a tree near the parking area.
- If you want to follow Tanya: She lives just 8 minutes from the landing. If you prefer to follow her please arrive at her house by 9:30. Address: W907 Scott Hill Road Ripon (it's a Ripon address, but close to Green Lake). Pull into the driveway immediately west of the highway's A & K intersection and look for the horse sculpture. You will follow her to the Spring Lake landing.

### Who Was Jean Johnson?

Jean Johnson not only co-founded Prairie Lakes UU Fellowship, she served as PLUUF's program planner, Moderator twice(!), board member, worship service committee, the minister search committee, representative of the Ripon Area Ministerial Association (RAMA), and many other roles. We are grateful for her dedication, knowledge and inspiration to help make Prairie Lakes what it is today.



## Riggs Park Picnic for the kids led by Liz Buchanan-Beegle

*Liz makes direct contact via email and/or FB chat with parents/guardians leading up to these events. If you're not on her contact list please let us know [pluufripon@gmail.com](mailto:pluufripon@gmail.com)*

## Summer Meditation Sessions Continue Through August

Robyn Davis Bartow will continue her Wednesday evening meditation sessions from 5:30pm -6:30pm through August. The one hour session consists of practicing meditation and the ancient Chinese art of 8 brocades qigong. Approachable for any fitness level, qigong is a mind/body practice that unites body postures, breathing techniques, and focused attention to balance one's energy. Combined with sitting meditation, this practice promotes health, increased awareness, and deep relaxation. Please wear comfortable clothing so you can move without restriction.. Meditation cushions are welcome, but not required. Feel free to attend any or all sessions in August.

## Adopt-A-Highway

Mark your calendar for September 7. More details coming in the September Newsletter.

# 2024/25 Fiscal Year Summary Report HOW DID WE DO? Great, thanks to YOU!

## Treasurer Report At-A-Glance

**Treasurer Report Balance as of June 30, 2025** *(The end of our fiscal year)*

10100 AST-BMO checking \$6,623  
 10111 Golden Rule Savings Vision \$30,641  
 10112 Golden Rule Checking for Debit Card \$157  
 10202 AST-UUA CEF Vision \$50,593 (CEF fiscal year increase \$4,446!)

**Total Assets \$88,014**

Category	Fiscal year 2023/24	Fiscal year 2024/25	2024/25 Budget
Member/Friend Contributions	\$26,722	<b>\$21,684</b>	\$30,586
Total Income (includes UUA CEF, fund raisers, grant, and miscellaneous income)	\$30,843	<b>\$31,967</b>	\$33,616
Expenses	\$32,860	<b>\$29,284</b>	\$33,616

**In summary: The 2024/25 fiscal year was a strong financial year because of your generous donations, successful fundraisers, the Webster Grant, the Common Endowment Fund increase and working hard to keep our expenses lower than budgeted. THANK YOU!!**

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

### IN CASE YOU MISSED IT IN July

This is the first summer in almost 20 years we have taken a break from Sunday programming at Prairie Lakes. Thank you to Nicole & Brad Roost and Pat Dobrinska for creating off-site events in July.

#### Shamba Safari adventure on July 6



Bike Ride along the Mascoutin trail to Vines & Rushes Winery took place on July 19