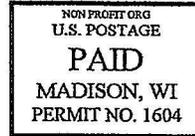


Prairie UU Society v 2010 Whenona Drive v Madison WI 53711

(608) 271-8218

Located off the south frontage rd. of the West Beltline Hwy near the Seminole Hwy exit.



Prairie UU Society  
2010 WHENONA DR  
MADISON WI 53711-4843

# PRAIRIE FIRE

... As the prairie stretches out until it becomes one with the sky, let us reach out to touch and be one with the natural world and with one another.

*From our Bond of Union.*

*The Prairie Fire is the newsletter of Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society and is published semi-monthly.*

*An e-mail version is available at <http://www.execpc.com/~prairieu>*

January 3, 2000

President: Nancy E. Schraufnagel (608) 273-3195

Guest Editor : Rick Ruecking (608) 838-8540; [ruecking@hotmail.com](mailto:ruecking@hotmail.com)

## PRAIRIE CALENDAR

### Friday, January 7

7 pm, "Affluenza", a movie and discussion evening with treats at Prairie (see opposite)

### Saturday, January 8

7:30 pm Prairie Playreaders - (see RSVP)

### Sunday, January 9

9 am Choir Rehearsal

10 am, "Do We Consume Things, or Do They Consume Us?" led by Pat Watkins (see Upcoming Programs)

Women's Group meets after service. Bring a snack.

### Wednesday, January 12

7 pm - Spanish Speaker's Potluck

### Sunday, January 16

9 am: Choir rehearsal

10 am: "Our Korean Friends", Warren Hagstrom and Doleta Chapru will report on their visit to this interesting and important country

### Tuesday, January 18

7:30 pm Prairie Board meeting

### Sunday, January 23

9 am: Choir rehearsal

10 am: "Duke Ellington: the Man and His Music," coordinated by Doleta Chapru and Prairie musicians.

11:45-12:15 Dancing to the music of Duke Ellington

### Saturday, January 29 -

Save this date for RE's Wild Wintering at Prairie

### Sunday, January 30

10 am: "Planned Parenthood" with Hilde Surbough

4-8 pm Interweave Social Gathering (see RSVP)

### Saturday, March 18,

Save this date for a fundraiser to the Art Institute for the Norman Rockwell exhibit.

**Prairie Fire deadline is Sunday,  
January 16, 2000**

## UPCOMING

Friday, January 7, 7pm: "Affluenza," the prize winning television show, first shown on PBS on September 15, 1997, and rebroadcast several times since then, cuts to the heart of the UU values which manifest themselves in the 1999 GA adopted Study/Action issue "Responsible Consumption as a Moral Imperative." Lay Minister Pat Watkins will rent the sixty minute video for showing at Prairie and will supply nibbles and coffee/tea. Additional treats are welcomed. The video should elicit good discussion, and form a lead-in for the January 9th Sunday service.

### Sunday, January 9

"Do We Consume Things, or Do They Consume Us?" is the sixth program in Pat Watkins' lay ministry *Going About Denominational Business* and is based on the Study/Action Issue which was adopted at the 1999 General Assembly for congregational study and action, and which will be revised and restudied at Nashville in 2000, and returned to the congregations for another year of study and action before its adoption (or, non-adoption) in 2001 as our next Statement of Conscience. The UUA has suggested six areas of discussion for this topic: two of these deal with the business usage of raw materials and environmental stewardship, and our government policies affecting land use and zoning. The

(January 9 continued) other four areas deal with ways in which we UU's can move toward voluntary simplicity and challenge the level of our own consumption. This Sunday's program will focus on the latter, and will consist of small group discussions of what we do, have done, and can do to minimize our own individual consumption in some prime areas, after which we will share our conclusions with the congregation as a whole.

**Sunday, January 16:** Warren Hagstrom and Doleta Chapru visited Korea in October and will report on their visit to the country. They will have something to say about prosperity, the changing mother-in-law problem, middle-aged men under stress, brassy older women, food, Confucianism, temples, and things like that. A few slides will be shown.

### **Attention Prairie Musicians – Celebrate Ellington!**

**Sunday, January 23, 2000:** Service will be devoted to the life and music of Duke Ellington. Everyone is invited to play or sing Ellington's compositions, or compositions made famous by him.

Call Doleta Chapru or Warren Hagstrom at 238-4970 with your preferred pieces, or ask either of them for suggestions. (In any case, those attending will have an opportunity to sing and dance to his music.)

\*\*See Dorothy Wetherby Fund article opposite

### **VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES**

#### **Hospitality**

Greeting- 1/9 Rita Reffner  
1/16 Anne Urbanski  
Coffee set-up - 1/9 Phoenix Wardell  
1/16 \_\_\_\_\_  
Taping - 1/9 Bob Park  
1/16 \_\_\_\_\_  
1/23 Al Nettleton

*Kitchen cleanup – many hands make small work*

#### **Snow Shoveling**

January 2–8 Kathy Helm/Gary Giorgi  
January 9–15 Al Nettleton  
January 16–22 Larry Nahlik

### **OUR SOCIETY**

#### **Choir Rehearsals**

The next rehearsals are at 9:00 am on January 9 and 16.

**Women's Group** meets the second Sunday each month.

#### **Whose on First?**

A reminder: **Judy Skog** is acting **Treasurer** for Prairie Society. All financial business should be directed to her at 626 Orchard Dr Madison 53711-1323 or 273-4813.

### **Building Security is breached**

Doors have recently been found unlocked and left ajar. It is imperative for us all to protect the security of our property. If you are among the last people in the building – it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to assure that windows are shut and all three exterior doors are locked. Please be sure everyone is out of the building when you depart.

### **First Call for Help**

The Caring Committee has been established to help Prairie members in need. The types of support offered are writing notes, rides, telephoning, preparing food, home visits, child care, support for people dealing with life crises (e.g., grieving), tape delivery, and as a community resource list. The primary contact has a list of volunteers with specific support roles. January's primary contact is **Al Nettleton 238-6053**.

### **Dorothy Wetherby and Duke Ellington**

Dorothy Wetherby, who died in 1990, was a caring and complex person loved by many of us. A couple of years before her death she suggested to Doleta Chapru and Warren Hagstrom that Prairie devote a Sunday service to the music and life of Duke Ellington. Now, after a decade, we will act on her suggestion on January 23.

Shortly after her death Prairie established the Wetherby Fund to assist members of our Prairie community with emergency needs. Over the years the Fund has been able to help several people with their problems.

Now, however, the Fund has a balance of less than \$150. We cannot help anyone pay the typical monthly rent in Madison, utility bills, or emergency travel to a distant city. At our program on January 23, those attending can help rebuild the Fund balance. Contribute if you can; bring a checkbook.

### **Are the tablecloths clean yet?**

If you have finished laundering the round tablecloths, please return them to the meetinghouse. Thanks.

### **Listen to Our Ad on WORT 89.9 FM**

Thanks to all who contributed, Prairie will have 13 airings of its ad on WORT radio during the early part of the new year. Our ad can be heard during the period January 2-16.

Since repetition is important, the ad is scheduled to run on *Pacifica News*, January 3,4,5,6,7 from 5-6 pm; and on *Public Affair*, January 10,12,14 at noon.

In addition, it will be run 5 more times on other WORT programs. For specifics on other times the ad airs, call Karen at 259-0556.

### Notes from Religious Education

The last service project Sunday resulted in our youths creating 40 school kits for the American Friends Service Committee's Literacy Project in Haiti. We sent pens, pencils, and paper to a region of Haiti where 90% of the adults cannot read. Thanks to our youths for their help; let them know how much we value literacy.

#### *And now a word about Nifty-Gifty:*

Many, many thanks to all the people that contributed to this annual event. We used our resources wisely. Thanks to **Kathy** and **Robin** who masterminded it. Thanks to all the adults and high school students who gave words of wisdom and support to the gift creators. Our hats are off to **Paula!** for her cookie project and to **Kerry!** for her picture frame project. We created garlands, ornaments from cookies, pinecones, and egg cartons, key chains, treasure boxes, gift tags, wire decorations, pomander balls, and pen "pals". This is always a fun and treasured event.

#### Owl Overnights

The OWL Programs will have overnights February 4-5 and March 17-18 from 6pm to 4 pm.

#### Jewelry Found!

A piece of jewelry was found in a jewelry box donated for Nifty-Gifty. See Randy Converse for a prompt return.

#### Winter CON for High Schoolers

WHEN: Jan 28-30, 2000

WHY: Have fun

WHERE: St. Louis!

Contact Randy Converse, Rick or Lisa for application.

### Wanted: Ceremonial Readings

The Prairie Ceremonies Committee seeks poems or short readings appropriate for weddings, gay/lesbian unions, child dedications or memorial services. We have some good material but need a greater selection. If you have a special piece, please photocopy or print it on an 8½" x 11" sheet of paper and give it to Doleta Chapru at a Sunday service or e-mail it to [Dchapru@aol.com](mailto:Dchapru@aol.com). We can also use suggestions for music, either the actual music or the name of the composition and, ideally, the composer and publisher.

### Central Midwest District Assembly in April 2000

Mark your calendar for the Central Midwest Annual Assembly 2000 which will take place in Appleton, WI, April 28-30. Our theme is "Music: Our Unifying Spirit." Keynote speaker will be Carolyn McDade (composer of "Spirit of Life"). Many workshops built around the musical theme and workshops designed for youth of the district will also be offered. Registration deadline is March 31, 2000. Cost is \$55 per adult (\$75 for late registrations). For more information, contact Fox Valley UU Fellowship, attention Margit Kindl.

### Board Meeting on January 18

The Prairie Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, January 18 at 7:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

### Holiday letters of 1999 are still wanted

If you usually write a holiday letter to send to friends and family, consider sending that extra copy to Prairie. There is a folder on the back table to store the letters. If you are a long-departed friend of Prairie who still gets this Prairie Fire, how about sending a copy of your Christmas letter to Prairie? This is a great way to share our lives.

## IN THE COMMUNITY

### Breast Cancer Recovery Foundation

BCRF has been providing "Infinite Boundaries" retreats for women living with breast cancer. Healing is focussed through *writing, physical wellness, sexuality and art*. This year they have planned a Winter Series of four mini-retreats for breast cancer survivors. These events are held January through April at Saint Benedict Conference Center in Madison. For details call 608-821-1140.

### Martin Luther King Day Observance Celebrations

The King Coalition invites community members to participate in a variety of events marking the annual celebration of Dr. King's birth:

- Community Choir rehearsals at Mt. Zion Baptist Church on January 11 and 15<sup>th</sup> for a performance on Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> call the church for details.
- Annual Free Community Dinner at First Methodist Church on Friday, January 14<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:30 pm.
- Birthday Celebration and Youth Recognition, January 16<sup>th</sup> at Edgewood High School \$5 call 251-8550.
- State of Wisconsin Tribute, Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup> in the Capitol Rotunda at 12:00 noon.
- City and County Observance, Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at the Civic Center beginning at 6:30 pm.

### TEST YOURSELF:

PART OF THE SOLUTION OR THE PROBLEM?

1. Americans generate 4 million tons of trash each week (more during the holidays). Do you compost? Recycle? Donate?
2. The average American wraps 20 gifts during the holiday season. Do you unwrap your gifts carefully, and reuse the gift wrap next year. Do you cut the torn paper which wrapped the big gift and use it to wrap smaller ones the next time around? If everyone recycled the wrapping from only three of their gifts, the paper saved would cover 45,000 football fields.
3. If every person were to throw away a single bite, 8.1 million tons of Thanksgiving turkey would be wasted. Remember those starving children your parents used to tell you about? Don't let your appetite be bigger than

