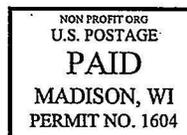


Prairie UU Society ■ 2010 Whenona Drive ■ Madison WI 53711  
(608) 271-8218  
Located off the south frontage rd. of the West Beltline Hwy near the Seminole Hwy exit.



# 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 18, 2000

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

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

## PRAIRIE CALENDAR

### 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 –

8 am –3 pm Habit for Humanity Workday contact  
Paula Pachiarz for details.

RE's Wild Wintering Overnight at Prairie call Randy  
Converse to volunteer and for details

### Sunday, January 30

9 am: Choir rehearsal

10 am: "Planned Parenthood" with Hilde Surbough

4-8 pm Interweave Social Gathering and potluck

5 pm Rijsttafel Dinner (see RSVP)

### Sunday, February 6

10 am: "Black History in Song, Poetry and Prose"  
coordinated by Pat Watkins.

No choir rehearsal.

### Sunday, February 13

10 am: "Valentine's Day – Chinese New Year's  
Intergenerational Service" led by Randy Converse

12 – 2 pm; Women's Group

### Wednesday, February 16

7 pm Spanish Speaker's Potluck see RSVP

### Sunday, February 20

10 am: "The Trickster", service led Warren Hagstrom

### Saturday, March 18,

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

***Next Prairie Fire deadline is  
Sunday, February 6, 2000***

## UPCOMING

**Sunday, January 23:** Warren Hagstrom and Doleta Chapru will lead this service devoted to the life and music of Duke Ellington. Many Prairie musicians will play, sing or dance to Ellington's compositions, or compositions made famous by him. All those attending will have an opportunity to sing and dance to his music.

**Sunday, January 30:** Guest presenter, Hilde Surbough will lead this service devoted to the choice and family policies of Planned Parenthood.

**Sunday, February 6:** Pat Watkins presents "Black History in Song, Poetry and Prose", a service to commemorate February as Black History Month. She will lead a celebration to acknowledge it with music and readings done by individual Prairie members and by the congregation as a whole. This will be a morning filled with song.

**Sunday, February 13:** An Intergenerational Valentine's Day - Chinese New Year's Day Service directed by DRE Randy Converse. We'll explore the loving connections amongst friends and relatives through a celebration of the Year of the Dragon with a Chinese New Year's Parade, Puppets, Food, and Zodiac Animals.

## Volunteer Schedule Misplaced

I lost my note on the current volunteers and so can't print those who have signed up. The Society has a few regular activities for which we need help at each Sunday service. These include staffing the visitor's greeting table, and doing the coffee set-up, program taping, and kitchen clean-up. Please come prepared to pitch-in and get these jobs done.

### Hospitality

Greeting January 23, 30 and February 6

Coffee set-up January 23, 30 and February 6

Program taping January 23, 30 and February 6

Kitchen cleanup – many hands make small work

### Snow Shoveling

January 16-22 Larry Nahlik

February 20-26 Rick Ruecking

## **OUR SOCIETY**

### Recovering the Prairie Songbooks

We are going to replace the clear cover binders of the Prairie Songbooks. If there is a song you very much want to see inserted please contact Rosemarie Lester 255-7039 for consideration by February 1.

### Choir Rehearsals

The next rehearsals are at 9:00 am on January 23 and 30.

Women's Group meets the second Sunday each month.

The next meeting is February 13<sup>th</sup>.

### 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.

The January 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.

### Other Wetherby Fund Ideas

If you have performed a service for Prairie and have decided to decline the remuneration due you, please consider donating your fee to the Wetherby Fund.

It is around this time of year that we ask all Prairie members to consider a donation to increase the Fund balance. This fund has helped people in Prairie keep their housing when they were unable to pay the rent.

### Notes from Religious Education

The K-1-2ers returned from the holidays and began "making peace" with their worries. They did this by constructing "worry dolls" and singing such hit songs as "Don't Worry, Be Happy!" and "I'm Gonna Lay Down My Worries".

The 3-4-5<sup>th</sup>sters continued their hard work on the R.O.Y.G.B.I.V rainbow mural of. Each stripe represents a U.U. Principle. (*Editor's note: Remember Roy. G. Biv and visit the 3-4-5 room and check out this mural.*)

The high school students began tackling the third U.U. Principle "acceptance of others and encouragement to spiritual growth". Other classes also did work on learning about U.U Principles but did not submit details.

John Peterson brought a video of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech. This special presentation was shown and discussed with all youth in the RE program the morning of January 16<sup>th</sup>.

### Owl Overnights

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

Children and Adults, keep your eyes open:  
**SECRET FRIENDS** will begin again soon.

### Social Action Notes

**Guest at Your Table:** Last call for contributions. Please bring them to Prairie on Sunday or otherwise get to Paula Pachciarz before the end of the month.

**Interfaith Hospitality Network:** Thank you to those who signed up to do a shift for this upcoming week, January 23-30. There are still openings for helping to prepare food, host a meal, set up cots, and shop or do laundry or other support. If interested, please call Shannon Hayes at 274-0553.

**Men's Homeless Shelter:** It's wonderful how we've been able to keep up our increased level of involvement at the shelter. We already have someone to buy groceries for this month's breakfast and we have one person to help prepare and serve breakfast on Tuesday, January 25, 5-8:30 a.m. We could use one or two more to help with the breakfast. Let Paula know. (273-4806)

**Habitat for Humanity Work Day:** A workday is set for Saturday, January 29. Volunteers may help out for a half or full day and may come without having signed up if you find yourself free. For more info, call Paula.

#### **Wanted: Ceremonial Readings**

The Prairie Ceremonies Committee seeks poems or short readings appropriate for weddings, gay/lesbian unions, child dedications or memorial services. We 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. The theme is "Music: Our Unifying Spirit." The Keynote speaker will be Carolyn McDade. She has composed "Spirit of Life" and many other works). The many workshops are built around the musical theme and workshops designed for youth of the district will also be offered. Registration deadline is March 31, 2000. The cost is \$55 per adult (\$75 for late registrations). For more information, contact Fox Valley UU Fellowship, attention Margit Kindl.

#### **Holiday letters of 1999 are available for reading**

A folder on the back table of the meeting room holds a bevy of holiday letters. Enjoy them when at Prairie. Thanks Erin, What a great way to share our lives.

#### **Correction of Barb Bailly's telephone number:**

Barb Bailly would love to hear from her friends at 847-541-0031 or Fax 541-3337.

## **IN THE COMMUNITY**

### **Homecomings**

Homecomings is the Bed and Breakfast Travel Directory for UUs and all religious liberals. Homecomings has helped UUs form a web of travelers and hosts across the US. Homecomings is accepting applications until 1/31 for Host Listings in the 20<sup>th</sup>. Call (954) 346-4727 for details. Homecomings will be offering the revised travel directory later in the year.

### **Walking a Sacred Path**

Stillpoint Ecumenical Spirituality Center is pleased to invite you to walk the Labyrinth in Madison. This winter and spring a labyrinth will be available each second Sunday (3-5 pm) and each second Wednesday (8 to 8) at Madison Christian Community Church, 7118 Old Sauk Road. A \$5 donation is suggested. Additionally, there are three Labyrinth Workshops 3-5pm on Jan 30, Feb 27, and March 26. Cost \$15; call 238-2503 for details.

## **RSVP – The Social Events Calendar**

### **Rijsttafel Dinner, January 30, 5 pm**

This Indonesian rice table dinner is an exciting and tasty buffet supper. Two kinds of rice are prepared – plain and coconut flavored - and **guests bring** a salad, vegetable or meat stir-fry or a dessert. Side dishes and condiments include chopped peanuts, sliced limes, fried coconut and more. Recipes for dishes are available for participants. Interweave is hosting the social evening from 4 to 8 pm and this 5 pm dinner at Prairie on Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. **RSVP to Nikki Bromberg at 251-0976 for a recipe.**

### **Prairie Playreaders**

Prairie Playreaders, a Prairie group dedicated to reading plays together, now has a schedule of times and hosts:

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>HOST</u></b>
Feb 12	7:30 pm	Al & Aileen Nettleton
April 1*	7:30 pm	Pat Watkins
April 15	7:30 pm	Rosemary Dorney & Tim Fast

**Spanish Speakers Potluck** Wednesday, February 16, at the home of Bill Shaffer, 3718 Gregory St., 233-8266, at 7 pm. For info call Rosemary Dorney at 238-4382.

### **Shaarei Shamayim Calendar**

**Saturday, January 22, 10:30 am** Morning Service  
**Sunday, January 23, 2-5 pm** Housecleaning  
**Sunday, February 6, 1:30 pm,** Business Meeting

## Report from the Executive Board Meeting of January 18, 2000

This addition to the Prairie Fire is included because of available space. It was drafted by the Guest Newsletter Editor and is NOT an official document nor minutes of the Board.

Judy Skog was officially elected Treasurer by the Board to replace Daisy Peterson who resigned at a point after the Fall Business Meeting.

Annual Spring Meeting date was set as April 9, 2000.

The Board agreed to meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 PM.

To better facilitate fund raising and for a more professional presentation, the Society will have new stationery printed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Prairie showed a surplus balance from CY 1999's budget. This was largely due to lower than expected expenditures rather than increases in income; ie, some expenses were postponed and the administrator position was vacant. It is good to be in the black, so keep those pledges coming.

The Finance Committee set a date of March 19 for a Service Auction.

The Housing and Property reported a continuing need for snow shovelers.

The Membership Committee has completed a new Prairie brochure. Be sure to check it out on the display table in the meeting room.

The Religious Education Committee will hold a Wild Wintering on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January. They are also considering sponsoring some adult sexuality workshops as a part of the overall OWL programming.

The Program Committee has booked services through March and well toward completion of the month of June. They will incorporate a greater sense of spirituality into some upcoming Sunday services.

The Committee on Committees is beginning its search for a new slate of officers for the spring election. How can you serve our Society?

The Committee is also seeking persons interested in providing **lay ministry** services to our programs next year. Please give yourself some time to consider whether you have an interest, talent, or knowledge base that would interest the wider congregation. There are any manner of programming alternatives to lay ministry: you may conduct all the programs yourself, coordinate programs with others, seek all outside presenters.

Being a lay minister is a great way to gain confidence speaking before a group (of your friends and supporters), a terrific means to learn a great deal about a subject of your interest, and about oneself. Lay Ministry is not easy, but you get the help of the Program Committee and wonderful Prairie musical talents. I guarantee it will be rewarding.