... 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.

February 22, 2000

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

Next Prairie Fire deadline is Sunday, March 5, 2000
**Volunteer Schedule**
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
- Coffee set-up
- Program taping
- Kitchen clean-up

**Snow Shoveling**
- February 20-26 Robin Carre
- February 27-March 4 -

Thanks, many hands make small work.

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**OUR SOCIETY**

**Annual Spring Business Meeting: April 9**

1. **Election of Officers**
   The Committee on Committees by March 5th. Here's your chance to become more involved in the workings of this lay-led Society!! Available positions still include:
   - Program Chair
   - Social Action Chair
   - Membership Co-Chair
   - Housing and Property Chair
   - Denominational Affairs Chair
   A description of the duties of these positions is in the By-Laws (a copy of which is in the Meeting Room).

If you are not quite ready for a position as Chair this year, please volunteer your services as a member of the committee of your choice. Previous Chairpersons and members will be happy to answer your questions. Please contact KK Anderson 255-3596, or Aileen Nettleton, Linda Sheehy, Erin Bosch, or Rachel Siegfried if you have questions or want to become involved.

2. **Approval of Lay Ministers Needed for 2000-2001**
   Please share your unique perspectives as a Lay Minister. The Committee on Committees urges Prairie members with ideas for future programs to submit a proposal for 4-6 services with an interwoven theme. As you know, our services include a wide range of topics which may include intellectual exploration as well as creative and artistic components. We would like your proposal to be approved by the membership at the Spring Meeting.

**Women's Group** meets the second Sunday each month. The next meeting is March 12th.

**Prairie Service Auction - March 19 at Noon**
Please let Jose Rodriguez, 839-5607 know what services, for sale or auction items you have to offer by Saturday, March 4. They will then be listed in the newsletter. We will hold a bake sale and conduct auction bidding during a catered lunch.

March 19th will be the Sunday for the Annual Prairie Service Auction. What you can offer for auction? Last year we offered barbecues, bread, beans, brunch, and bakery; cleaning, cheesecake, chocolate, child care, car wash, and car lifts; errands, egg rolls, Easter egg lessons; food, firewood, flats fixed, and farm weekends; garden tilling, greens, and Glen picnic; music, meals, and massage; poems, pendants, pins, photos, playing, and plants; repair and (bas) relief, songs, sitting, surgery, shelves, and so on (yard) work and a will.

**Membership Questions for You**
The membership Committee tries to keep our records current for directory updates, our newsletter, UUA, etc. A new directory is in the offing. If you have a new street address, telephone number or e-mail address please contact Rita Reffner at rita.reffner@yahoo.com or provide the information through the Prairie Office.

**Choir Rehearsals**
Rehearsals are scheduled at 9:00 am through March.

**Chalice Lighters**
If you wonder who the Chalice Lighters are and what they support, you can gain some insight from their Mission and Vision statements printed below.

**Mission Statement**
To provide within the Central Midwest District significant, ongoing funding for well-thought-out extension efforts connected to growth of the larger vision of Unitarian Universalism through individual donors called Chalice Lighters.

**Vision Statements**
To be the means by which individual donors can feel connected to growth and a larger vision of Unitarian Universalism.
To provide a better understanding of Unitarian Universalism, its message, its community, its evangelism in the Central Midwest District.
To extend Unitarian Universalist principles and faith by promoting growth of congregations.

To support and aid the Chalice Lighter efforts, please contact Rachel Siegfried, 271-2173.
Revising the Prairie Mission Statement
At the November Parish meeting it was proposed that we review the Prairie UU Mission Statement and consider some possible revisions. The statement adopted on November 21, 1999 is shown immediately below.

Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society Mission Statement
"Prairie is a diverse, lay-led congregation. We aspire to be both open-hearted and open-minded. We welcome all who enter our doors with any combination of strengths and weaknesses, beliefs and doubts.

Our small size allows us to be like an extended family: we aspire to support one another and nurture the growth of each of our members. By sharing joys and sorrows, we keep each other company on the journey through life.

We seek to learn with and from each other in an atmosphere that respects diverse ideas, lifestyles, cultures, and wisdom traditions. Our shared values include respect for all forms of life and stewardship of the environment. Helping our youth to understand and appreciate these values is part of our mission.

We seek to promote dignity, worth, and justice for people worldwide by supporting individual and collective social action."

An ad hoc advisory group made up of Ken Skog, Kerry Beheler, Metje Butler, Mary Mullen, and Lisa Glueck met on February 20th and made the changes which are incorporated in the draft below.

Draft revision of February 20, 2000
"Prairie is a diverse, lay-led congregation. We aspire to be both open-hearted and open-minded. We reach out to all who enter our doors with their combination of strengths and weaknesses, beliefs and doubts who desire to learn and follow the Unitarian Universalist Principles.

Our small size allows us to be like an extended family: we aspire to support one another and nurture the growth of each of our members. By sharing our joys and sorrows, we accompany one another on the journey through life.

We seek to learn with and from each other in an atmosphere that respects diverse ideas, lifestyles, cultures, and wisdom traditions. Our shared values include respect for all forms of life and stewardship of the environment. Helping our youth to understand and appreciate these values is part of our mission.

We seek to promote dignity, worth, and justice for people worldwide by supporting individual and collective social action."

WE WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS ABOUT THE PROPOSED REVISION FOR THE SECOND REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULED AFTER THE SUNDAY PROGRAM ON FEBRUARY 27th.

Please provide comments to Ken Skog at 273-4815 or kskog49@aol.com, and attend the review meeting on February 27th. The proposed revision will be presented at the Spring Parish meeting in April.

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 person has a list of volunteers with specific support roles.

The current primary contact is Rosemarie Lester 255-7039.

Religious Education Corner
SECRET FRIENDS: Sign up by February 13th for the fun of exchanging letters with an anonymous partner. There will be a “secret friends” party on March 12th when your friend is revealed.

Pre-School: There is quite a challenge in keeping a multi-age group happy, but Heather is doing a great job.

K-1-2: We talked about memories and our treasured persons. We did this by reading books such as When I Was Young in the Mountains, and singing the song “A Few of My Favorite Things”. We also began creating our own memory books which we will complete soon. (Editor: short memories).

3-4-5: More fun with ROY G. BIV. We also began a creative special book project with each page illuminating UU principles.

6-7-8: We had great fun using trust walks and obstacle courses as means to talk about the importance of trust as an underpinning of UU principles.

High Schoolers: More serious discussions of censorship unfolded the first half of the month. We talked about how it influences our pursuit of UU Principle #4: all of us should be free to seek our own “truths”.

Central Midwest District Annual Assembly
April 28-30 2000 in Appleton
The theme of the upcoming Central Midwest Annual Assembly is “Music: Our Unifying Spirit.” You won’t want to miss the keynote speaker, Carolyn McDade, composer of “Spirit of Life”. Also participating will be Trevor Stephenson, keyboard artist of the 18th and 19th century instruments. There will be lots of great food and fun. Registration brochures can be found at Prairie. Apply by March 31, and the cost is $55 per adult ($75 for late registrations). Margit Kindl at Fox Valley UU mkindel@pop3.famvid.com has added information.
Phoenix Rising, Phoenix Riding
Metje Butler reminds us that Phoenix (Thomas) Wordell is preparing through workouts and conditioning for “The Big Ride” a cross-continental bicycle ride this summer to aid The American Lung Association. No stranger to long hauls, Phoenix has taken the Door County Century ride for each of the past 13 years. He says it is “100 miles which bikers do with good biking friends.”

But what would compel Phoenix, one of 500 riders, to undertake the commitment of a 12 state, 3,250 mile odyssey? “I have a deep desire to give back help for all the help that has been given toward my comeback from my ‘miracle-in-disguise’ motorcycle accident of 1981.” He’s come to an “expanded horizon, where we are all strong links in the big chain.”

To take part in the ride, Phoenix must raise $7,000 in pledges… a huge undertaking in itself. So he is asking Prairie members to help him achieve his goal by making and soliciting pledges for his effort. Pledges will be made directly to the American Lung Association which will keep him informed of the status of his goal. Details for contributing and pledge materials to assist in fund raising are available in the meeting house or through contacting Phoenix Wordell at 271-8365 or Metje Butler at 244-3659.

The Sun Also Rises
The Program Committee needs a volunteer for the Easter intergenerational service on April 23. See Nikki.

Channing-Murray Rep Needed
The Channing-Murray board consists of at least 2 representatives from each Madison UU congregation and young UU adults from age 18 to 35 years. The board exists to encourage the young adult involvement in the denomination. Bob Park of Prairie has had a long-term role with C-M and needs another Prairie member to join him because KK Anderson is resigning.

If you would like to be involved with UU young adults, please call Bob Park at 273-8775 or e-mail him at rwpark@juno.com

Called Out!
The 9th Annual Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Allied Seminarians Conference is March 17-19, 2000 at Chicago Theological Seminary. With seven workshops and professional leaders, this is a bargain for exploring sexuality and ministry at $50 (plus lodging). For info call Dr. Ken Stone at (773)52-5757 ext 239, kstone@chuosem.edu or contact the website at http://members.xoom.com/semGLBTs

RSVP – The Social Events Calendar

Prairie Playreaders
The Prairie Playreaders is a group dedicated to reading plays of the host’s choosing (and follow with a treat).

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>HOST</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 18</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Fran Zell 324 S. Mills, 283-0983</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Rosemary Dorney &amp; Tim Fast 4205 Odana Rd, 238-4382</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 19</td>
<td></td>
<td>Playreaders Annual Fish Supper Coordinated by Pat Watkins. Call Pat 233-5795 to RSVP.</td>
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Sunday Afternoon at the Movies
Marilyn and Rick Ruecking invite you to join us after the service on February 27th in making plans for lunch and a movie. Perhaps we’ll carpool to the Stoughton Cinema where they serve both food and films. Coffee and discussion at our home following. No RSVP.

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Prairie Fire Guest Editor Resigns
Thanks to those who have tolerated my editorship of the Prairie Fire for these past eight weeks while the selection process of Office Administrator has continued. I’ll forward all newsletter materials to the next guest editor when she is announced.

New Guest Editor Announced
Anne Urbanski has agreed to edit the next issue of Prairie Fire. She can be reached at 221-4053, but a FAR more helpful means of getting information to her is through e-mail at urbana@mail.execpc.com

The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them.

-- Albert Einstein

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar

Sorry, this calendar is not current, see above.