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.

March 7, 2000

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

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PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Sunday, March 12
9 am: Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, March 18
Bus trip to Chicago for the Norman Rockwell exhibit.
Saturday, March 18 7:30 pm: Playreaders meet at the home of Fran Zell, 324 S. Mills, 283-0983 (see RSVP)

Sunday, March 19
9 am: Choir Rehearsal
10 am “Richard Feynman: A Curious Character”, led by Warren Hagstrom and Al Nettleton
Noon Annual Service Auction (see article)

Sunday, March 26 10 am, "Emily Dickinson: Musical Settings of her Poems," coordinated by Doleta Chapru and Warren Hagstrom

Sunday, April 2 10 am, “Domestic Violence: Challenges We Face in the Future.” Guest speaker from Domestic Abuse Intervention Services.

Sunday, April 9 11:30 am – Spring Parish Meeting!!
(see article on page 2)

Next Prairie Fire deadline is Sunday, March 19, 2000

UPCOMING

Sunday, March 12: Choose between health or wealth?
Hunger or women’s choice? Education or environment?

Annually the UUA presents a set of resolutions for consideration at our General Assembly. These social resolutions are developed in local churches and winnowed through a process involving all UU congregations. Pat Watkins will lead our very local consideration of the important issues of our generation.

Sunday, March 19: The late Richard Feynman was one of the 20th century’s most important theoretical physicists, and an interesting character. Warren Hagstrom and Al Nettleton will present some of their reflections about this curious character. If you would like to participate, contact Warren.

Sunday, March 26 - ATTENTION PRAIRIE MUSICIANS! The music program about Emily Dickinson will be presented March 26, not March 19, as previously announced. If you would like to sing a setting of one of her poems, suggest it to Doleta Chapru or Warren Hagstrom, or ask them for a suggestion. The choir will sing a piece.

Sunday, April 2: A guest speaker from Domestic Abuse Intervention Services will present “Domestic Violence: Challenges We Face in the Future.” From challenge, the Domestic Violence (DV) movement has grown wiser. What are the current areas of difficulty facing the movement? What must the movement do to continue providing a voice and place of healing to the hundreds of thousands of domestic abuse survivors they assist each year? The speaker will discuss current challenges facing the DV movement including issues of women who use violence and joint custody of children in violent homes.
**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

*Many hands make light work, but only if your guest editor remembers to check the signup clipboard. My humblest apologies - AU*

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**Our Society**

**Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Spring Parish Meeting**
The Spring Parish Meeting will be held Sunday, April 9, with the usual scrumptious pot luck. Committee reports will be presented and elections will be held. In addition, the Mission Statement will again be reviewed.

You are cordially invited to submit any agenda items you believe should be discussed. Please alert Nancy Schraunagle, our president, to any such items. The agenda and proposed slate of Board members will be published in the next Prairie Fire. – KK Anderson

**New Administrator Chosen!**
The Prairie Parish Board is pleased to announce that our own Marilyn Ruecking has accepted the position of part-time Administrator. She plans to ease into her duties over the next few weeks. Best wishes, Marilyn!

**Lay Ministry for Next Year?**
Do you have a special area of interest or creative thoughts that you’d like to share with Prairie members? Consider doing a lay ministry next year. Our lay ministers work with the Program Committee to conduct a series of 4-8 programs around a theme or coordinate a series with others presenting. Or maybe you know a special community person from outside Prairie you’d like to recommend. Topics may relate to our Prairie Bond of Union or UU Principles. The theme may be related to ethics, environmental issues, social justice, or the arts, among other possibilities. Lay ministers receive an honorarium for the series.

If you are interested or have a recommendation, please call or speak to a member of the Committee on Committees, KK Anderson (255-3596), Erin Bosch, Rachel Siegfried, Linda Sheehy or Aileen Nettleton in the next few weeks. We need your recommendations!

**Prairie Service Auction - March 19 at Noon**
It’s almost time!! Prairie Society will hold its annual Service Auction fundraiser on Sunday, March 19 at noon. The event includes a lunch, bake sale and auction of services to the highest bidders. *We’re still looking for offerings of services.* As of March 5 the following services have been offered: Soup meal for (how many?), child care, personalized poem, guitar and harmonica performance or sing along, personalized wildflower note cards, home repair, weekend at lake cottage, running errands, clothing alterations, Health Care Power of Attorney, basic will, child care for the weekend, teach meditation for group or individual, Ethnic Connection performance dinner for 8 (choice of meal), farm weekend, picnic (pick a Saturday in May), Pakistani meal for up to 4 people (2 offers), workshop or tutorial on Peace Economics and/or cycle theories, house cleaning, Internet scrapbook (see below).

The possibilities are endless! If you have a special skill or something else you can share with other Prairie folks, or if there’s a certain service you would like to purchase, please contact Bob Reuschlein at 848-5248.

**Preview of Internet Service Auction Offering**
At the Prairie Service Auction on March 19 Bob Park will be offering to create an Internet family scrapbook for the highest bidder. This will involve scanning photographs and preparing text to be displayed on a web page located on the server of a free website provider. This is ideal for Internet connected far-flung families like the Park family. For an example of what Bob is offering to create, visit the Park Family Scrapbook at [http://www.homestead.com/parkscrapbook/](http://www.homestead.com/parkscrapbook/).

**Assistance Needed with Upcoming Services**
Kay Frazier is looking for 1-2 more people (there are already 3 of us) to create a patchwork service for the April 9 service on Hope and Literature. She is looking for others who have personal literature that has helped to inspire or to create hope for them or who have an interesting point of view - whether theirs or someone else's - on this topic, and who would be willing to talk on this topic for 5-7 minutes each. If you are interested, please call Kay by March 22 at (608)849-5607 or e-mail her at bit@gdinet.com. Also, the Program Committee needs a volunteer to organize the Easter intergenerational service on April 23. Contact Nikki Bromberg.

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

**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 ritareffner@yahoo.com or provide the information through the Prairie Office.

**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.

**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 Marilyn Ruecking, 838-8540.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CORNER**

Our Service Sunday on February 27 was a huge success and we had fun too! We raised over $26 for Planned Parenthood. We did this by doing a quiz show, with 5 cent and 10 cent questions dealing with the mission of Planned Parenthood and the population issue around the world. If you got the right answer to a question you got a prize, but it cost you 5 or 10 cents to be eligible to answer a question.

*Spirit Circle on March 5 centered on wise sayings articulated by past and present UUs. Many sayings reflectedUU principles. It was hoped the RE crowd could feel proud to be associated with such wise and witty people!*
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 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.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Geography of the Heart, a workshop with Charlene Sexton, Ph.D., will be held Wednesday, March 15 from 6:30 to 9:30 pm at Edgewood College. The workshop aims to foster spiritual renewal and healing through poetry and prose depicting the movements of the spiritual life. Cost $25. Call 663-2270 or e-mail continuing@edgewood.edu

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)752-5757 ext 239, kstone@chgosem.edu or contact the website at http://members.xoom.com/semGLBTs.

Spring events at Circle Sanctuary
The Circle Sanctuary, near Mt. Horeb, WI, will hold a Welcome Spring Festival on Saturday, March 25 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., as well as an Earth Day Festival on Saturday, April 22, from 10 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. For each event, the suggested minimum contribution is $20/adult, $10/youth (ages 5-17). Pre-registration is required by phone, 608-924-2216, or by e-mail, circle@mhtc.net.

Lesbian-feminist playwright at FUS The First Unitarian Society of Madison is hosting lesbian-feminist playwright, performer and activist Carolyn Gage on March 18 and 19. Gage will perform her one-woman show, The Second Coming of Joan of Arc, on Saturday, March 18, at 8:00 p.m. She will give a lecture called When Sex is Not a Metaphor for Sexual Intimacy on Sunday, March 19 at 4:00 p.m. Both events are free to the public and will take place at First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Drive, Madison. A reception will follow after each event. For more information contact First Unitarian Society at (608)233-9774.

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).

Date Time HOST
March 18 7:30 pm Fran Zell
324 S. Mills, 283-0983
April 15 7:30 pm Rosemary Dorney & Tim Fast
4205 Odana Rd, 238-4382
May 19 Playreaders Annual Fish Supper
Coordinated by Pat Watkins.
Call Pat 233-5795 to RSVP.

KARAOKE GATHERING
Dean, Erin and Marty invite you to an evening of karaoke on Saturday, March 25 at the Karaoke Kid, 614 University Ave. We'll meet at 9:00 pm when the place is pretty empty so we can sing a lot. Later, it gets really crowded with boisterous college students—and that's fun too. Teens and non-Prairie friends are welcome to join us.

IRISH CEILI FESTIVITIES ON MARCH 12
Come to Park Hall, 307 Polk St., Sauk City on March 12 from 1-4 pm for Irish Ceili music, dancing, singing and food. Reid Miller and Terri Vlossak will call the dances. Admission is $5 for ages 13+, $2.50 for age 6-12, others free. For more information call (608)643-2559.

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar

Sorry, this calendar is not current, see above.