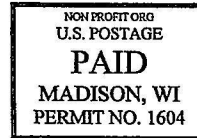


Prairie UU Society v 2010 Whenona Drive v Madison WI 53711
(608) 271-8218 prairieu@execpc.com
Located off the south frontage rd. of the West Beltline Hwy near the Seminole Hwy exit.



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>

April 4, 2000

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

Editor: Marilyn Ruecking (608) 838-8540; mruecking@hotmail.com

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Sunday, April 9

9am: Choir rehearsal.

10am: "Our Spiritual Journeys" - panel of distinguished Prairie members led by Barbara Park.

Sunday, April 9

11:30am: *Spring Parish Meeting!!* (see OUR SOCIETY).

Sunday, April 16

10am: "Hunting for Hope - A Word Or Two From Literature". Kay Frazier will continue her lay ministry with support from Rosemarie Lester, Rachel Long and Karen Gross.

Wednesday, April 19

7 pm: Spanish Speakers Potluck, (see RSVP).

Sunday April 23

10 am: "All About Bunnies: Easter Intergenerational Program," with contributions from Warren Hagstrom, KK Anderson, and others.

Tuesday April 25

7 pm: Board Meeting

Sunday April 30

10am: "Assertive Communication: Playing with the Techniques". Jennifer Parker, with help from others, will facilitate a program building on the March 5th communication service.

Sunday May 7:

10am: "The Dominican Republic", Karen Gross.

UPCOMING

Sunday, April 9: A panel moderated by (and including) Barb Park, Larry Nahlik and Lisa Glueck will discuss spiritual growth and discovery. Contributions from the high school group will be read.

Sunday, April 16: A word or two from literature. Does literature really have a purpose? Can literature have an impact on our lives? Does it make sense to hope? Is there a practical side to hope? Come join Kay and others as she continues her lay ministry on "Hunting for Hope".

Sunday, April 23 On Easter Sunday, our inter-generational program will be about BUNNIES. We need bunny stories, songs, and activities. If you would like to contribute in person or with an idea, please contact Warren Hagstrom, 238-4970 or warrenolaf@aol.com

Sunday April 30 Jennifer Parker, with help from others, will present a program on assertive communication. Come for small group practice and small group discussion, as well as large group discussion. We'll have fun as well as build on healthy communication strategies and group cohesiveness. The usual service format may be modified in order to allow more time for trying out and participating.

Editors note: We regret we weren't able to print all the PF articles submitted.

**Next Prairie Fire deadline is
Sunday, April 16, 2000**

Sunday May 7 Karen Gross will soon be a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Dominican Republic. This presentation will tell us about the country, with a focus on small business.

ADMINISTRATION – Marilyn Ruecking

Articles for Prairie Fire

If you have a message you want to communicate to other Prairie members, please send your e-mail to mruecking@hotmail.com (please label it Prairie Fire Article) or put your communication in the green folder located in the first floor office. Next PF deadline is April 16.

Information

How may I help you? I can be reached at Prairie every Monday and Wednesday from 9a.m to 11am (271-8218). Administrative e-mail can be sent to prairieu@execpc.com or mruecking@hotmail.com. This will be checked often. A message left on the answering machine will be addressed Monday and Wednesday.

OUR SOCIETY

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

April 9

Greeting	Paula Pachciarz
Coffee set-up	Phoenix Wordell
Program taping	Paula Pachciarz
Kitchen and cleanup	Kay Frazier, Phoenix

Lawn Mowing

April 16

Greeting	Ann Urbanski
Coffee set-up	Karen Gross
Program taping	Karen Gross
Kitchen and cleanup	

Many hands make light work – thanks to all.

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! SPRING PARISH MEETING

The Spring Parish Meeting will be held Sunday, April 9, accompanied by a community potluck. Committee reports will be presented and elections will be held. In addition, the Mission Statement will again be reviewed.

The meeting's agenda will be:

- Fall Meeting Minutes reviewed
- Treasurer's Report
- Committee on Committees Board Elections

and Lay Ministry

- Committee Reports
- Budget Reallocation Proposal & Development of Contingency Fund
- Mission Statement Review
- President's Report

PRAIRIE BOARD NOMINATIONS Spring 2000

President-Erin Bosch

Vice-President-Rick Ruecking

Secretary-KK Anderson

Treasurer-Judy Skog

Denominational Affairs – Nancy Schraufnagel

Finance-Bob Reuschlein

Religious Education-Robin Carre

Program Co-Chair-Nikki Bromberg

Program Co-Chair-Dean Schroeder

Social Action-?

Housing and Property-Al Nettleton

Membership-Mary Mullen

Long-Range Planning-Ken Skog

Prairie Budget Change Proposal

Substantial cuts were made in the 1999 budget in the Fall 1998 church meeting, resulting in a budget surplus of \$5371.

The Executive Committee has recommended the following three restorations:

\$2150 in itemized and necessary Housing and Property repairs and upgrades.

\$382 to increase CMD dues back to full payment.

\$539 to add back to the UUA dues.

In a separate resolution, the Executive Committee proposes \$500 in a Contingency Fund under control of the Executive Committee. This leaves \$1800 to cover \$1000 for the Capital Reserve carryover account as in past years, and \$ 800 in pledges previously budgeted that will not be paid, for a \$5371 total. The two resolutions will be voted on in the Spring meeting. Bob Reuschlein, Finance Chair.

GA Delegates

The Denominational Affairs Committee proposes the following slate of persons for Prairie's delegates to GA: Rosemarie Lester, Nancy Schraufnagel, and Pat Watkins.

Call (608) 259-0556, registration due by May 13.

Scholarship application due by April 27. Contact Karen Gross to express interest and to receive materials karengross@gdinet.com

Presidential Pondering

Courtesies for our Sunday Morning Services

The Program Committee requested that I use the Prairie Fire to address concerns regarding behaviors, communication, and the length of our Sunday services.

One of the gifts of being a lay-led society, is the opportunity to hear a greater diversity of speakers and participants and to support the growth and development of individuals. Our Lay Ministers and other presenters put thought and time into their Sunday services. We want to hear what they wish to share with us. I believe our basic documents, the Bond of Union and our Mission Statement, speak to us: "Together we would expand our intellectual horizons, enrich our sensory experiences and deepen our emotional sensitivities" while we "seek to learn with and from each other in an atmosphere that respects diverse ideas, lifestyles, cultures, and wisdom traditions."

The search for truth and meaning is core to Unitarian Universalist tradition and the questions and discussions are a critical part of our Prairie services. I offer the following perspectives on improving opportunities to achieve our search:

- Service begins **10:00am**. In courtesy to the speaker and others in attendance and to allow equitable opportunities for speaking, it is imperative that we start and end on time. We can't begin our service on time if people come late or end on time if we are long-winded or irrelevant.
- While we remember that our performers practice to bring us their best, it is most courteous to remain quiet and respectful during the Prelude.
- With Joys and Sorrows so important for sharing within our community, it is essential they be kept special and to the point.
- Program **10:20 – 10:45am**. During the service, please hold comments until after the presentation unless the presenter invites interruptions. Please wait until being recognized before speaking. When you consider speaking during the service, ask yourself: how important are my comments, especially at this time? Can I

wait until the discussion period or after the service? Our regularly scheduled time for

- questions and discussion begins about **10:45** and ends at **11:00**.

-We've already tried to streamline the end of the service by soliciting written announcements in place of impromptu statements. You can provide the written what, when and where in the announcement box at the welcoming table in the foyer. The President or program presenter will read the announcements. The service will end **11:15am**.

- Remember we do not travel alone. Reach out to others and encourage our guests and friends to stay and enjoy our hospitality with beverages after the service.

Thank you, Nancy Schraufnagel.

Kudos

Thanks to interim Prairie Office Administrator people! I officially thank: Rick Ruecking and Anne Urbanski, guest editors for Prairie Fire; Marilyn Reucking for newsletter mailing, Al Nettleton for mailing labels, web page, etc. and I was happy to handle some Prairie communications and building tasks. Thanks to Judy Skog and Dean Schroeder for Personnel recruitment and hiring. I welcome Marilyn Ruecking as the Office Administrator and look forward to her sharing her gifts and serving Prairie in another capacity.

Nancy Schraufnagel.

RE News In A Nutshell

Pre- School

We made edifices to church going. We constructed "churches from popsicle sticks and talked about UU principle #3: - Churches are places where people come together to learn from each other and be of service to each other.

K-1-2

On March 19, we asked - Why do people like to go to church? The answer was -because we want to find the special light that shines inside us. We sang the song, "This little light of mine" and made a device from batteries to find "the light". On March 26, we trekked to the Arboretum to discover the music in nature and learn more about UU principle #7: - the interdependent web of life.

3-4-5

We spoke about principle #2 as we learned about the courage of Rosa Parks. On March 26, we talked

about the importance of voting and worked on our books.

6-8

Principle #4, "Each of us must seek what's true for us as individuals", was the focus of our work for the past few weeks. Barbara Lewis's book "What Do You Stand For" contained activities which we used.

High School

Our highlight this month was attending "Sarcasticon" at James Reeb. We enjoyed both the service and socializing. We had a chance to get to know folks from other fellowships.

RE Teachers Needed for 2000-2001

The RE Committee is now starting to recruit teachers for the next RE year (September 2000 - May 2001). We encourage both parents of current RE students and non-parents to consider joining the RE teaching team. The 6-7-8th grade class will work on the "In Our Hands" curriculum all year, while the K-1-2, 3-4-5 and high school classes will use the UUA's new "Our Whole Lives (OWL)" sexuality curriculum part of the year and "In Our Hands" the rest of the year. You do not need special training to lead the K-6 OWL classes, but special training is required for the high school facilitators.

If you'd like to help in the RE program next year, please contact RE Director Randy Converse or any of the RE committee members (chair Robin Carre', or Rachel Long, Larry Nahlik or Anne Urbanski).

Conference On Conflict Resolution

On April 24 - 26, five Prairie members attended a video conference in the Chicago area, communicating with fellow UU's from the Central Midwest and the Thomas Jefferson Districts. For three days we addressed issues relating to conflict within congregations. We plan on sharing what we learned in a future program at Prairie. Overall, it was a very satisfying workshop - we came home with new knowledge of ourselves. One of the topics I liked was - the health and strength of a congregation. We talked about "air and light", mission statements that define ourselves and our relationship with others, and shared responsibility. How would you rate Prairie?

IN THE COMMUNITY

First Society Young Adults

The UU Young Adult Group will sponsor a SOULFUL SUNDOWN at First Unitarian Society, April 15 at 7:30. This is a chance for people of ALL ages to celebrate and be exposed to the life experiences, talents and personalities of the Madison UU community.

The night will be devoted to music, worship and community building. This is also a chance to share your artistry - performing, visual or spoken. If you're interested in sharing your talent, please contact Mary Ann Macklin, 233-9774 ex24 or Katie Stefanski, 255-4598.

Affordable Housing: Pushing Families Out of the Market

Learn what's being done here and in Chicago from some top experts in the field. Sunday April 16, 12- 2:30 at First Unitarian Society, lower meeting house. Lunch and child care are included. Register no later than April 9. Call 233-9774. (For more information see Prairie bulletin board.)

RSVP/You're Invited - The Social Events Calendar

Spanish Speakers Potluck

Wednesday, April 19 at 7 pm at the home of Prudence Barber, 1050 Jennifer St, 251-0852. For more information call Rosemary Dorney, 238-4382.

Prairie Playreaders

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.

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar

Friday, April 14, 7-9:30 Shabbat Services

Saturday, April 15, 3 - 5 Bar/Bat Mitzvah Study Gp

Saturday, April 22, 9-2 Shabbat Services