

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



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# 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 18, 2000**

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## PRAIRIE CALENDAR

### Sunday April 23

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

### Tuesday April 25

**7pm:** 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 5<sup>th</sup> communication service.

### Sunday May 7:

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

**12:15pm** Prairie Women's Group meets downstairs.

Bring a snack to pass and enjoy the company of other women.

### Sunday May 14

**10am:** The Ethnic Connection celebrates its 500th performance. My, how time flies.

### Friday, May 19

**6:00 pm:** The Playreaders' Annual Fish Dinner at the newly remodeled Avenue Bar, 1128 East Washington Avenue. For reservation, call Pat Watkins, 233-5795 before 4:30 Wed. May 17.

### Sunday May 21

**10am:** Transition Sunday with Erin Bosch

### Sunday May 28

Memorial Day Picnic

**Next Prairie Fire deadline is  
Sunday, May 7, 2000**

### UPCOMING

**Sunday, April 23** On Easter Sunday, our inter-generational program will be about BUNNIES. The congregation, led by Warren Hagstrom will present bunny stories, songs, and activities.

**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.

**Sunday May 7** Karen Gross will soon be a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Dominican Republic. Her job will be in small business development. She'll be leaving the States in July. At this service she'll present anecdotal information from returned P C volunteers in addition to giving you an overview of the history and culture of this beautiful country. She states, "I hope to have everyone jiving to a popular cultural dance called the merengue by the end of my service."

### **Playreaders' Annual Fish Dinner**

For their final meeting of the year, the Playreaders' go out for a Friday Fish Dinner, and then to the

home of Pat Watkins for desert and the reading of a short play. All members of Prairie are invited to attend the 6 pm Fish Dinner, with no obligation to attend the play reading which follows. The reverse is also true: anyone interested in attending the play reading, which will take place at 8 pm, at Pat's 230 N. Meadow Lane, without being committed to the dinner, is invited to do so. The Playreaders is one of several social groups within Prairie, and has been meeting in members' homes once a month (except summer) for more than thirty years. If you are looking for an activity for the next church year, enjoy theater and reading aloud (no pre-reading or rehearsals required), the evening of May 19th may be a good time to preview the activity. Please call Pat at 233-5795 by 4:30 on Wed. May 17 for dinner reservations. No reservation is needed to attend the playreading afterward.

**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](mailto:mruecking@hotmail.com) (please label it Prairie Fire Article) or put your communication in the green folder located in the first floor office. Next *Prairie Fire* deadline is May 7<sup>th</sup>.

**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](mailto:prairieu@execpc.com) or [mruecking@hotmail.com](mailto:mruecking@hotmail.com). This will be checked often. A message left on the answering machine will be addressed Monday and Wednesday.

**OUR SOCIETY**

**Hospitality**

The Society has a few regular activities for which we need help at each Sunday service. These include staffing the visitor's greeting table, doing the coffee set-up, program taping, and kitchen clean-up. Please come prepared to pitch-in and get these jobs done.

**Volunteer Schedule**

*April 23*

Coffee set-up            Judy Skog

Greeting	Robin Carre
Program taping	?
Kitchen and cleanup	KK Anderson
Lawn Mowing	?
<i>April 30</i>	
Coffee set-up	Kathy Helm
Greeting	Kathy Helm
Program taping	Gary Giorgi
Kitchen and cleanup	Aileen Nettleton
Lawn Mowing	Rick Ruecking

*Many hands make light work –thanks to all.*

**Spring Election Results**

The new officers for the coming year are:

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-	___Vacant___
Housing and Property	Al Nettleton
Membership-	Mary Mullen
Long-Range Planning	Ken Skog

Committee on Committee's - Anne Urbanski, Phoenix Wordell, Aileen Nettleton and Paula Pachciarz

Congratulations to all! The year ahead will be a good one.

**Kudos**

**Many thanks to the current members of the board and all the volunteers who have contributed to Prairie this past year. They have nurtured the growth of our society.**

**First Call for Help**

The Caring Committee has been established to help Prairie members in need. The support offered may include writing notes, rides, telephoning, preparing food, home visits, child care, support for people dealing with life crises (e.g., grieving), tape delivery, and providing a community resource list. Our primary contact person has a master list of volunteers with specific support roles. Currently call

Linda Sheehy 273 – 3895 .

### **Religious Education News In A Nutshell**

*What are the kids up to?*

#### **Pre- School**

We made butterflies to celebrate our individuality (Principle #1). We experimented with paints to find the “truth” of paints.

#### **K-1-2**

We explored the idea of freedom of choice as Unitarian Universalists. We are free to search for what is right for us as individuals (Principle #4). These ideas were emphasized as we read the story “**Being Unitarian**” by Ruth Gibson. We also had fun talking about humor as a UU treasure.

#### **3-4-5**

On April 2, we read “Elephant Child” by Rudyard Kipling. We then talked about some very un-settling activities in this story that violated UU principles: prejudice and stereotyping in particular.

On April 9, we talked a bit about UU principle #2 – all people should be treated fairly. We also began cutting out letters for our ROY G BIV banner.

#### **6-8**

Attendance was up this half of the month which made for some lively discussion.

#### **9-12**

We delved into matters of conscience and use of the democratic process – UU principles #4 and #5). We also did some merengue dancing in preparation for an upcoming service on the Dominican Republic. Ian Park has made a speedy recovery from his unexpected abdominal surgery and we wish him continued good health.

### **RE Teachers Needed for 2000-2001**

The RE Committee is 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 RE committee members - Chairman Robin Carre', Rachel Long, Larry Nahlik or Anne Urbanski.

### **Central Midwest District Annual Assembly**

Some of the workshops offered at the upcoming Central Midwest Assembly to be held April 28-30 in Appleton, Wisconsin are: - “Circle of Drums”, “Sweet Harmony”, “Joyful Noises” and “Musical Chairs”. The central theme is “Music, Our Unifying Spirit”. The keynote speaker is Carolyn McDade, composer of “Spirit of Life”, a song we sing often at Prairie services.

### ***Travel Directions to CMD***

Located at **2600 Philip Lane, Appleton WI 54915**  
Coming from the south, follow Hwy. 441 easterly around Appleton. Leave highway at KK/Calumet St. exit. Turn left and go west 1 mile to Matthias St. At Matthias turn left and you can see the Fellowship on your left. Follow Philip Lane to the driveway.

### **Phoenix is Rising But Needs Your Help**

Phoenix Wordell continues his quest for “The Big Ride”, a cross-continental 3,250 mile bicycle ride to aid The American Lung Association. He is now half-way to his monetary goal. The deadline for receiving pledges is May 19. Contribution details are available at Prairie or call **Phoenix at 271-8365**.

To move things along, Phoenix is planning a Garage Sale either this coming weekend or the following weekend (the 23<sup>rd</sup> or the 30<sup>th</sup>). If you have items to contribute or can help him “set up”, he would be most appreciative. Call 271-8365.

### ***Seasonal Musings:***

#### **Equinox Greetings**

Spring spirits come out and play  
Return us to the rebirth of life  
Awake awake uncurl and breathe  
Spread out stretch up and greet the day

*Kerry Beheler*

### **Your Trusted Guide to the Dominican Republic**

This article appeared in the March 21 issue of PF. It was written by Karen Gross. In it she described the wonders of the D.R. and invited anyone interested to

be her guest. This offer was made to Prairie during the 2000 Service Auction, but now is given to you well in advance if you wish to bid in 2001. If you've never been to the D.R. this experience may be just what you're looking for. Karen will provide a grand tour of the island, introduce you to natives, and share Spanish ambiance with you. The bid for "Your Trusted Guide To The Dominican Republic" begins at \$10 and should not exceed \$25. Expenses such as airfare and food are not included. Karen can be contacted at (608) 259-0556 or [karengross@gdinet.com](mailto:karengross@gdinet.com)

**Food Pantry**

Please remember to bring a donation to our Food Pantry. We can reach out to the community and help a family in need.

**Another Noble Pint**

John Peterson, Erin Pryor-Ackerman, and Ann Pryor, and are our most recent Prairie Society blood donors. Bravo! It is estimated that everyone who reaches 72 years of age will need blood at some time in life. Unfortunately only five percent of the population give blood. Here's an opportunity to socialize with other thoughtful generous people.

**THE COMMUNITY**

**Madison Area Urban Ministry**

The meeting this month is Tuesday, April 25 from 12:00 noon to 1:30pm at Midvale Community Lutheran, 2329 Tokay Blvd. The topic will be "Implementing Study Circles on Race" presented by Steve Braunginn of the Urban League of Greater Madison and Steve Levine of "Bridges".

**AFS NOTICE:**

It's never too late to add a new member to your family! AFS Intercultural Programs is seeking host families in the Madison area for the 2000-01 school year. A host family can be a single individual or parent, a couple with or without children living at home, from twenty-something through retirement age. AFS students bring their own spending money and clothing. All host families are expected to supply is love, moral support and basic needs for their hosted student.

To learn more about AFS, visit the Web site at [www.afs.org](http://www.afs.org); call the AFS Info Center (1-800-AFS-INFO) or inquire by e-mail ([afsinfo@afs.org](mailto:afsinfo@afs.org)). Locally, contact Barbara Grabow, area hosting coordinator for southwestern Wisconsin, at (608) 884-3134 or via e-mail at [bnrgrabow@jvlnet.com](mailto:bnrgrabow@jvlnet.com).

**Earthday Week: April 17 to April 22**

Programs from 6am Sunrise and 6pm Sunset sending "A Wish for Peace" to all countries and peoples of the world will be held during the week at downtown locations: the Capitol, King Street, and State Street at night. Check newspapers for details.

**RSVP/You're Invited – The Social Events Calendar**

**April 30: Sunday Afternoon at the Movies**

Something good must surely come out by then. Meet Marilyn and Rick after church and we'll make plans as a group.

**May 19: Playreaders' Annual Fish Dinner**

Coordinated by Pat Watkins. RSVP at 233-5795. Play to follow at 230 N Meadow Lane.

***Epilogue:***

Out beyond ideas of rightdoing and wrongdoing  
There is a field  
I will meet you there  
When the soul lies down in the grass  
The world is too full to talk about.

*Rumi*

<b><u>Shaarei Shamayim Calendar</u></b>	
<b>Saturday, April 22,</b>	<b>9-2pm Shabbat Services</b>
<b>Sunday, April 23</b>	<b>4-10pm Community</b>
	<b>Passover Seder</b>
<b>Saturday, May 13</b>	<b>9-2pm Shabbat Services</b>