... 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.

May 23, 2000

From our Bond of Union.
The Prairie Fire is the newsletter of Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society and is published semi-monthly.
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PRAIRIE FIRE

Next Prairie Fire deadline is Sunday, June 4, 2000

Sunday, May 28
Memorial Day Picnic – see detailed article in ‘UPCOMING EVENTS’. No program will be held at the Prairie UU meeting house.

Wednesday, May 31
7pm Spanish Speakers Group meeting. See RSVP for further details.

Sunday, June 4
10am: “If Peacemakers Are Blessed, Is The Voice of the Minority Cursed?” This is the first in a series of programs on conflict resolution in UU congregations. Guest speaker will be Helen Bishop of the Central Midwest District.

Sunday, June 11
10am: “The War on Drugs”. Nancy Graham will continue her 1999 program aided by Marty Drapkin and Warren Hagstrom.

Details of upcoming events

Sunday, May 28: There will be NO PROGRAM at Prairie. Instead, all are invited to Prairie's annual Memorial Day Sunday Picnic Potluck at Rick Owens and Amy Wilcox's house, just west of Verona, (right next door to the Haq-Lawrence residence) from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm. There will be good food, perhaps some song, lots of socializing, and the opportunity for volleyball or just a quiet stroll in the scenic environs.

What to bring: - A dish to pass.
- Food to grill, if you'd like.
- Your picnic plates & flatware & napkins.
- Something upon which to sit - a lawn chair or blanket.

Rick and Amy will have a grill, and will provide ice, beverages, condiments, etc.

To get there - proceed west from Verona on Hwy 151 toward Mt. Horeb. When you pass under county Hwy G, stay on 151 for two more miles. Just past the crest of the long rise, past the yellowish barn on the left side of 151, take the first left turn into Spring Rose Circle. Park on the circle and walk down the driveway for 2456. If you need additional details, Rick may be reached at 845-3884.

See you Sunday!

Sunday, June 4: Dr. Helen Bishop, a dynamic presence at our conflict resolution workshop, has agreed to present a program. She will enrich our understanding of conflict within our organization. We are always balancing self-differentiation and our relationship to others. Is our congregation a healthy one?
ADMINISTRATION – Marilyn Ruecking

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 and will be checked often. A message left on the answering machine will be addressed Monday and Wednesday.

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 Rachel Siegfried, 271-2173.

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

June 4
Coffee set-up Paula Pachciarz
Greeting Karen Gross
Program taping
Kitchen and cleanup KK Anderson
Lawn Mowing Paula Pachciarz

June 11
Coffee set-up
Greeting Anne Urbanski
Program taping
Kitchen and cleanup
Lawn Mowing Robin Carre

Please consider filling in the question marks. Many hands make light work – thanks to all who volunteer.

Religious Education News In A Nutshell

What are the kids up to?

Pre-school:
We made food collages and presented them to other classmates. This activity was an example of UU principal #3: Churches are places of sharing and learning from each other.

K-2:
On May 7– We talked about life’s ups and downs and how we can change a concern into a joy. Principle #7: Take good care of the earth took center stage as we made pictures of how each of us viewed the creation of the world.

3—5:
In this half of the month we talked about Principle #1: Each of us is important and how this principle reflected in respect for the property of others. We wrapped up the year by reviewing all seven principles!

6—8:
Principle #2: Treat all people fairly was the focus of our work the past two weeks. We experienced this principle through acting out a play, making musical instruments, and baking cookies.

9—12:
We continue to attend regularly and engage in lively discussions on UU principles and their relevancy to our everyday lives.

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST:

On May 14th~ we evaluated the RE program. Afterward we had a potluck picnic in the park. YUMMY food! Then we played softball, kickball, and had a water balloon toss. We had fun DESPITE the wind! (UU's have fun in spite of, or because of bad weather!) THANKS Erin Bosch for orchestrating this picnic...

On May 21~ we participated in Transition Sunday. Thanks Erin and Robin for pitching in on this one! We recognized Brian Glueck and Brian Kuzdas as graduating Seniors. We celebrated the diligent and creative efforts of our RE teachers by presenting them with copies of the book “Quotations from the Wayside”. These conscientious folks were: Heather Lawrence, John Peterson, Bob Lawrence, Jan Howe Carl Wacker, Kerry Beheler, Amy Owens, Rick Ruecking, and Lisa Glueck. Rick Ruecking and Amy Owens were given gold chalice lapel pins to recognize three years of consecutive RE teaching. Carl Wacker was presented with an enamel chalice lapel pin for two years of consecutive service to the RE community. Again, thank you for such dedicated work.

It's a strange courage you give me ancient star:
Shine alone in the sunrise toward which you lend no part!

~ William Carlos Williams~
A President's Memories & Farewell

"Together we would expand our intellectual horizons, enrich our sensory experiences and deepen our emotional sensitivities". Look at what we’ve accomplished during the past year:

- Developed Mission Statement.
- Received Welcoming Congregation status.
- Revised Bylaws and Building use & rental policy.
- Revitalized Ceremonies and Wetherby Committees; Formed Caring and Personnel Committees.
- Developed Prairie, Four area UU congregations brochures, and Membership inquiry packet.
- Expanded Prairie’s computer as the central repository of official business and committee’s work.
- Approved budget Contingency Fund.
- New public address system, Stained glass window and wall hangings
- Met and participated in activities with the four UU congregations and the campus Young Adult Ministry program.
- Involved in Interweave organization, Dane county; Participated in Gay Pride March.
- Joined Community Thrift Shop and Interfaith hospitality network.

I thank Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society for the honor and privilege of being nominated & elected President for the past two years. I loved serving as your President.

We’ve had a few crises, we’ve weathered the storm and we continue to learn how to handle similar situations.

Prairie has offered me a wonderful opportunity for growth and development in a supportive community. I hope everyone in Prairie will also experience this sense of community and worth through participation. I’m proud to be a Unitarian Universalist and a member of this congregation. I will continue to serve Prairie as the incoming Denominational Affair’s Chair, and pursue outreach activities with UU and other faith communities and encourage involvement in the Denomination.

Let’s remember to regularly check on how well are we living our UU principles & beliefs? Let us live our lives in a caring healthy environment and nurture community and ourselves.

Your out-going Prez, Nancy Eileen Schraufnagel

RE Teachers Still In Demand

We’re looking for co-teachers for two classes. In addition, the High School posts remain unfilled. If you would like to be involved, please contact RE director Randy Converse or any RE committee member – Anne Urbanski, Larry Nahlik, Rachel Long or Robin Carrel

Henry Pratt Memorial Fund

Henry Pratt, a long time Prairie member died May 7 in Birmingham, Michigan. Since Henry and Annis were active in the civil rights movement, a memorial fund for Henry has been established to buy musical instruments for middle-school children in a largely black school in Pontiac, Michigan. Those wishing to remember Henry in this way should make out a check to Jefferson-Whittier Middle School and indicate Music Dept..Henry Pratt Memorial in the bottom corner. Send to Jefferson-Whittier Middle School, 600 Motor St, Pontiac, MI 48341 or to Annis Pratt, 1056 Larchlea, Birmingham, MI 48009—2939.

Keeping House (and Property)

The Housing and Property committee needs help from all Prairie members and friends. Please put these meetings and working dates on your calendar and volunteer to help Prairie.

- H&P meeting dates for 2000:
  
  June 5, Aug 7, Oct 2, Dec 4 (the first Monday of even months).

- All Prairie work days for 2000:
  
  June 24, Sept 9, Nov 18.

Hope you can put on your working gloves and pitch in.

Another Noble Pint

While most of us will need blood at some time in our lives, only five percent of Americans are blood donors! Latest in our Prairie Society of "Heroes" are Aileen Nettleton and Osh Andersen. Will you, won’t you join them? Or – give again.

Project Equality, 2000 Buyer’s Guide

We have a copy of this publication in the upstairs office. This organization is an interfaith program enabling organizations and people, like ourselves, to support equal opportunity employers with our purchasing.
Rebuilding the 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.

THE COMMUNITY

Interfaith Hospitality Network: Thanks to all who volunteered for IHN. The network has provided temporary shelter to homeless families in the Madison area since April 26, 1999. We’re proud to be a part of this endeavor. Shannon Hayes, has been coordinating signing-up when it’s our turn to help and now, due to her tight work schedule, must withdraw. We need a new volunteer(s) for this post. If you can help, call Shannon at 274-0553.

T-Shirts Designed by Eric Hagstrom
Eric, creator of the Prairie sign out on our lawn, has made some fine woodprints and from these has currently available two T-shirt designs. One, entitled “Preachers”, is his indictment of those who take up religion to preach hate. The other, “Nightmare of the Robber Baron”, is his picturesque take on the inequities of corporate lumber. If anyone is interested in viewing them or placing an order, ($18 each plus tax), please call Eric at 258-9825.

Shed Some Light on “Lavender Rose”
The light-up, lights down workshop production of Fran Zell’s new play, “Lavender Rose” needs someone to turn on and turn off the lights. This would involve attending three to four rehearsals (July 13, 17, 18 and 19) and the show on July 20, 21, 22, and 23. This is a backstage job for those of you who like a low profile. You would be able to watch the show during rehearsals, but not on show nights. Female preferred. There are already two talented Prairie people in the cast--Paula Pachiarz and Mary Mullen. Would you like to join us? Call Fran, 283-0983.

With a humble mind may we seek the truth
And in gentleness of heart serve our generation
~Anonymous

Interweave Picnic
Interweave is dedicated to the spiritual, political and social well-being of UU lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender persons (GBLT) and their families, friends, and supporters. On Sunday, July 2, 4pm –7pm, they’re holding a potluck picnic at the home of Donna Winter and Liz Cohen, 4313 Major (off Buckeye Rd). You can eat good food (Donna and Liz will provide hamburgers, and veggie burgers on the grill, eating utensils and condiments), enjoy the garden and help them begin planning for participation in Madison’s Gay Pride Parade (Sunday, July 16). Please bring a dish to pass or a beverage to share. For further information and RSVP, call Liz Cohen at 831-9731 or send Liz confirmation at ldc76@aol.com.

Ghost Stories Into The Night
For all who enjoy an evening of mystery under the stars, please attend: Ghost Stories Into the Night, at Blue Mound State Park Amphitheater, 4350 Mounds Park Rd, Blue Mounds, WI. The performance will take place at Sundown, Saturday Evenings: May 27, June 3, July 1 & 8, August 5 & 12, and September 2, by Reid Miller. Prize drawings. Tales, songs & music. Fun for all ages. No admission charged. Park sticker required to enter Park. Donations collected at intermission. ~ Presented by Blue Mound State Park and Schubert’s Old Fashioned Cafe & Bakery, Norsk Golf Club-Bowling Alley-Grill, and Mounds View Family Restaurant of Mount Horeb. For further details call 437-5711, 437-3388 or email Reid at Reidmiller@yahoo.com

RSVP/You’re Invited – The Social Events Calendar

Wednesday, May 31: 7pm ~ The Spanish Speakers Group will be meeting at the home of Theron Caldwell Ris, 5542 Riverview Drive, Waunakee. Call Theron at 849-7341 for travel directions. If you need a ride or more information call Rosemary Dorney, 238-4382.

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar
Saturday, May 13 9:30-2pm Shabbat Services
Saturday, June 17 9:30-2pm Shabbat Services