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.

June 6, 2000

President: Erin Bosch (608) 238-6285

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Beginning of Summer Schedule

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

Sunday, June 18
10am: “Columbia”. Guest speaker will be Mary Sanderson.

Sunday June 25
12:15pm Prairie Women’s Group meets downstairs. Bring a snack to pass and enjoy the company of other women. Specific topics are always welcome. For example, “Is fidelity important to you?”

Sunday, July 2
Picnic – details to be announced later.

Next Prairie Fire deadline is Sunday, June 25, 2000

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, June 11
Nancy Graham, our well-spent traveler, has returned and is ready to continue her lay ministry dealing with the war on drugs. Our prisons are filled to overflowing with people convicted of drug charges based on mandatory sentencing. Nancy will present her views and the discussion should prove lively.

Sunday, June 18
Columbia survives on coffee and cocaine, two enticing stimulants. Join us for a slide presentation and informed comment by Mary Sanderson.

Sunday June 25
Join guest speaker Jack Barisonzi as he gives us his first-hand account of the events and issues that occurred in Seattle, December ‘99.

OUR SOCIETY

Memorial Day Picnic a Treat
On Sunday, May 28, despite a gray and cool day, many Prairie members gathered to enjoy good food, good company, and the hospitality of Rick Owens and Amy Wilcox (and daughters). The potluck was a veritable self-refilling cornucopia, a very special occasion. And, we got a chance to see and socialize with lots of Prairie folk in a beautiful country setting. Many thanks to Rick and Amy for so graciously hosting.
All-Society Work Day – Saturday, June 24
The Housing and Property Committee hosts a potluck and workday from 10 am – 1:30 pm. We will meet rain or shine to tackle annual maintenance chores such as floor and window washing, gutter clearing, and painting projects. Bring cleaning supplies, household equipment and lunch food to share. Work gloves, old clothes, and good food are the order of the day. Call Al for more details 238-6053.

Helen Bishop at June 4 Program
On Sunday, June 4, we welcomed Helen Bishop, of the Central Midwest District, in the first program in our series on Healthy UU Congregations. Her words were compelling when she spoke about how UU congregations can deal with the inevitable conflicts that arise.

In the process, she defined three types of conflict: Procedural issues, which have to do with “how we do things around here” or “how to change things”; Resource issues, (time, money, volunteers) which can be negotiated; and the most difficult: Identity Conflicts. These are non-negotiable and may require outside help to keep people agreeing to disagree together, guided by their mutual vision. Thank you, Helen, for a very stimulating presentation.

Thanks to Larry Nahlik for communicating with Helen and lining up her visit. The comments made at the end of the program will provide fodder for this continuing lay ministry and we look forward to the next in this series.

Religious Education – What is the meaning of it all?
Have you been wondering: what that fancy banner created by the 3-5th grade RE class is telling us—Roy G. Biv:

- R- respect for the worth of every individual (UU principle #1)
- O- offer fair treatment to all (UU principle #2)
- Y- yearn to learn throughout one’s life (UU principle #3)
- G.- grow by exploring ideas and values together (UU principle #4)
- B- believe in our ideas and values (UU principle #5)
- I- insist on peace and justice (UU principle #6)
- V- value our interdependence with the natural world (UU principle #7)

Falling Up
The Yewyews and Ahrees
There once was a land, west of Kalamazoo Where a group of odd birds appeared out of the blue. They called themselves Yewyews, though no one knows why, And these Yewyews were found over land, sea and sky. Each week, they all came to a Yewyewish caucus Where, once in a while, things became rather raucous. They came in a wide range of sizes and shapes. (Although most of them claimed they descended from apes!) Yes, they all were quite different. So different, in fact, That each Yewyew had some skill the other ones lacked. There were plumbers and doctors and students and teachers, And writers, musicians, a few would-be preachers. There were mothers and fathers and whole Yewyew clans With the range of relationships every group spans. Besides this, each Yewyew displayed in succession, Unique ways of thinking and modes of expression. In matters of taste, each was one-of-a-kind. (I've been told that some Yewyews wrote poems that rhymed!) Now these Yewyews had youngsters, just like birds and bees, Whom they called by the nickname, The Little Ahrees."
By and by, to the Yewyews this question was brought: Should the Little Ahrees come to caucus, or not? Oh, these Ahrees were cute. They were smart. They were quick. But the caucus itself didn’t quite do the trick. For the Little Ahrees needed more room to grow And to move, and do artwork, and sing songs they know.
So the Yewyews decided they'd better get busy
And choose who should teach. Now, each Yewyew
got dizzy
With thinking up reasons why somebody else
Would be better at teaching than him or herself.
But the best way, they found, for the Ahrees to learn
Was if each of the Yewyews took his or her turn.
Now not every Yewyew could teach class, that's
ture.
But each one could contribute a talent or two.
There was work to be done on the buildings and
grounds
Supplies to be gathered, and books to be found.
They could work on curricula. Some could type
names,
Bring teachers coffee, or supervise games.
Oh yes, there were many small jobs to be done
And most of them turned out to be rather fun.
But the Yewyews who taught classes learned this,
I'm told:
That whatever they gave, they got back -- many
fold!
There's a moral to this story as I'm sure you can
guess:
When Randy asks for volunteers -- Just Say Yes!
Composed by Patty French, UU of Elkhart, Indiana
Submitted by Ann Urbanski

RE Committee Seeking Teachers for Next Year!!
We will be learning about social justice and
O.W.L. (sexuality curriculum). Please contact
Robin Carre' as soon as possible if interested,
238-8725

Child Care Needed for Preschool This Summer
The salary is $10/week. Adults and high school or
middle school persons are urged to apply. Contact
Robin Carre', 238-8725 or Randy Converse, 238-
1856, ASAP if interested.

Board Meeting Highlights
1. We need guidelines for displaying art.
2. Fox River Valley has Caring Guidelines --
   Nancy Schraufnagel will check them over for
   ideas that can be applied to us.
3. Hats off to our GA delegates who will represent
   us on June 22 - 26. Prairie members attending
   are Nancy Graham, Rosemarie Lester, Nancy
   Schraufnagel (on scholarship) and Pat Watkins.
4. Lay ministers should be paid on a timely basis.
   We need to coordinate procedures.
5. The Committee on Committees shall be
   comprised of Aileen Nettleton (carry-over),
   Paula Pachciarz, Phoenix Wordell, Ann
   Urbanski, and board member Rick Ruecking.
6. A Web Committee (ad hoc) will met to discuss
   creating a web annex forming links to
   individual web sites (e.g., social cause).

Remember -- the Board meetings are open to all.
Please come and be informed. If you have a concern
or opinion, the Board is ready to listen.
These are just highlights. K.K. Anderson is our
secretary and is willing to share the minutes of any
Board meeting with you.
And, in closing, as Helen Bishop said, conflict is
inevitable. It is neither good nor evil -- it creates the
energy that makes change possible and opens the
door to shared feelings.

Flooding and Sewer Back-up for Bob West
Bob West, a former Prairie member, who is now in
Russia, owns a condominium which has had severe
water damage. If anyone knows how to get in touch
with him or has a key to his condo, please contact
Nancy L. at 233-3792 or 230-3340.

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 11
Coffee set-up Nancy Graham
Greeting Ann Urbanski
Program taping ?
Kitchen and cleanup Rachel Siegfried
Lawn Mowing Robin Carre'
June 18
Coffee set-up Barbara Rames
Greeting Barbara Rames
Program taping ?
Kitchen and cleanup ?
Lawn Mowing Dean Schroeder
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 Erin Bosch 238-6285.

ADMINISTRATION – Marilyn Ruecking

Attention: Program Coordinators
If you can, please let me know well in advance of the program date, some interesting details about your program that will encourage people to come to the service. A stand-alone title is cold indeed.

Information
How may I help you? I can be reached at Prairie every Monday and Wednesday from 9am 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.

THE COMMUNITY

Prairie Talent in the Madison Theater Guild
Come see the MTG’s production of Camelot. Performances are the last two weekends in June at West High. Eric Schroeder is in the cast and Greg Nettleton is the technical director and set designer.

“Lavender Rose” – a musical comedy
This don’t miss this delightful musical written by Prairie Friend Fran Zell. The performing cast features our own Mary Mullen and Paula Pachciarz. Performances will be July 21, 22, and 23 at Pres House, State St.

Thank You IHN Volunteers
Gayle Perlberg and Greg Lampe thank us for our participation and support in the Interfaith Hospitality Network. One family moved out of the program into their own housing, one father continues to earn and save money and will soon move into his own apartment with his daughter, another father started working and will soon be able to look for housing. They had over 60 volunteers from all three churches (ours included) which guaranteed a smoothly run week.

If you’re planning to volunteer in the future, and haven’t had the training they offer, another session is in the making, although a definite date has not been set.

Mission On The Doorstep:
Mark your calendar for the remaining year 2000 rotation schedule:
July 16-23
November 15 – 22

Music for a Summer Evening
The First Unitarian Society boasts a summer concert series, held at the church on six consecutive Friday evenings, June 2 – July 7 at 8pm. Each performance is $10 ($7 for students and seniors). The June 9th program features music by Bach and Schoenberg. June 16th presents a varied program with compositions devoted to voice and piano. The second half of the June 23rd concert will feature the Ekaterinburg classical trio (violin, clarinet and piano) from Russia. If you like Shostakovich, June 30th features two sonatas and a song cycle from Jewish folk poetry. See the bulletin board for a detailed brochure.

RSVP/You’re Invited – The Social Events Calendar

June 24: Potluck at Prairie
10 am to 1:30 pm for participants of the annual work day. Bring some munchies and food to share. See you there.

Epilogue
Swaying to and fro on his rickety stool
He played that sad raggy tune like a musical fool.
Sweet Blues! ~Langston Hughes

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar
Saturday, June 17 9:30-2pm Shabbat Services
Prairie Liaison: ~ Bill Littman 829-1979