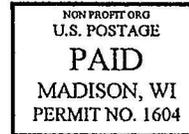


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Located off the south Frontage Rd. of the West Beltline Hwy near the Seminole Hwy exit.



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>

June 6, 2000

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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.

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, June 25

10am: "Protest in Seattle, The World Trade Organization". Guest speaker is Jack Barisonzi.

Sunday, July 2

Picnic – details to be announced later.

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

Next Prairie Fire deadline is Sunday, June 25, 2000

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
 true.

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 Pre-School 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 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.

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