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

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PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Sunday, September 24
9:00am
Choir Rehearsal
10:00am
Guest speaker is Dori Davenport from the Central Midwest District (CMD). Her topic will be "Owning Religious Education". There will be a potluck following the service. Get to know your fellow Prairie members.

Wednesday, September 27
6:30
Spanish Speakers Potluck. For additional information call Rosemary Dorney, 238-4382.

Sunday, October 1
9:00am
Choir Rehearsal
10:00am
"Welcoming Congregation". Presented by: Mary Mullen

Monday, October 2
7:00 pm
Housing and Property Committee meeting at Prairie. Please join this important committee.

Membership Orientation #1: "Our Religious Back-

Grounds". New and current members are invited to attend the three presentations.

Sunday, October 8
9:00am
Choir Rehearsal
10:00am
"UUA and Sex, A History". Presented by: Robin Carre'.

Friday-Sunday, October 13-15
Starting 7 p.m: Check-in/room assignment "Prairie Fall Retreat" at Bethel Horizons.

Tuesday, October 17
7:00 pm
Membership Orientation #2: "Unitarian Universalists, History and Principles"

Sunday, October 22
9:00am
Choir Rehearsal
10:00am
"U.N. Sunday". Presented by: Pat Watkins
11:45am
Prairie Book Club discusses TARA ROAD by Maeve Binchy at Prairie. Bring your own bag lunch. (Registered Club members only, please.) See article in OUR SOCIETY.
Tuesday, October 24
7:00pm
Membership Orientation #3: “Prairie Nuts and Bolts”. What makes our Society unique?

Sunday, October 29
9:00am
Choir Rehearsal
10:00am
“All Souls’ Day”. Presented by: Ruth Calden
11:45 – 1:30
Pledge Drive Kick-Off

Next Prairie Fire deadline is Sunday, October 1, 2000

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 24
Dori Davenport, Religious Education director for the Central Midwest District, will speak about the relationship between a healthy RE program and a healthy congregation and suggest ways that the congregation as a whole can take responsibility for its Religious Education Program. An experienced religious educator, Dori now travels throughout the district as an RE consultant. Following the all-Prairie potluck after the service, she will offer a workshop for this year's teachers and anyone else interested in the RE program.

Sunday, September 24: Choir Rehearsal
The first regular rehearsal of the choir will be September 24th at 9:00am. We will be working on a Bach piece for an upcoming program. This is a great time to come. Everyone is welcome. No previous coral experience is necessary.

Orientations Scheduled in October
Have you been visiting Prairie recently or have you just become a member? Or are you an "old" member who wants to meet new people and share stories. If your answer is YES” to any of these questions, we especially invite you to attend three Prairie orientation sessions in October. They are scheduled for Monday, Oct. 2, and Tuesdays, October 17 and 24, at 7 pm at Prairie. Each session will focus on a different topic related to being a Unitarian Universalist.

The October 2 session will focus on the religious history of each individual. Come prepared to tell the story of your religious past and what brings you to Prairie. This is always a fascinating session.

On October 17 the topic will be Unitarian Universalism including its history and principles. I know we could all use a brush-up on the roots of our tradition.

How Prairies Works" is the subject of the October 24 meeting. Learn the nuts and bolts of Prairie and figure out where you want to fit.

Please call Rick Ruecking (838-8540) or Membership Chair Mary Mullen (238-7904) and let us know you plan to come. Refreshments will be served!

OUR SOCIETY

Women and Globalization
On August 27, Margie Thompson, Marian's daughter, presented a thought-provoking program on women and the effects of globalization. She covered many facets of the issue, focusing on Central and South America. She explained how women suffer especially, because they lose opportunities to break away from the cycle of poverty.

Margie had hoped for lots of interaction, and Prairie members did not disappoint her. Our comments and our familiarity with the WTO, ITO and WB protests (subjects of our recent programs) enhanced the discussion. She is working with FIRE (Feminist International Radio Endeavor- the associated web site is: www.fire.or.cr) to make people aware of the problems, and suggested that we can have an effect on these mostly American corporate interests by speaking out here at home.

Creating Comics and Cartoons
On Sunday, September 3, Jean Matos of Prairie led an appreciative group through the process of creating a cartoon. We learned how to build a cartoon character with attitude by selecting, emphasizing, and even distorting facial features and positions of the body. We practiced developing the story arch of a three-panel cartoon. You may see the
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Register For Fall Retreat!
Registration deadline for the Prairie Fall Retreat at Bethel Horizons is October 1. We encourage all friends and members to join for this weekend together. Friday evening registration and check-in will begin at 7:00 with "finger-food" and mixers at 8:00. Saturday's schedule will include workshops/discussions on Racial Justice, Life Transitions, Learning from Teen Travels, plus the Nature Center, Arts Activities, and games for all ages. Saturday evening will include Mike and Norma leading Folk Dancing, and of course the famous Talent Show. Sunday morning we have our "Key Log Ceremony" service at the campfire before clean-up and heading home. More details with a map and what to bring will be in the next issue of Prairie Fire. Additional registration forms can be found at the back table in the meeting room.

Religious Education News In A Nutshell
What are the kids up to?
RE started off its year with "both feet running" at the "Welcome Back Party" on September 10th. To start off, Erin Bosch helped us introduce ourselves to the congregation. Then we ventured downstairs where we grouped by class and got to say "Hi!" to our teachers:

Pre-school
Heather Lawrence and Jolien Connor
K-2
Amy Owens and Kerry Beheler
3-5
John Peterson and Rachel Long
6-8
Paula Pachciarz and Pat Watkins
9-12
K.K. Anderson

After introductions, we discussed the year ahead. We'll be studying peace and justice issues and OWL (Our Whole Lives). After connecting again with each other in this way, we had cake and ice cream and played a ball toss game. Mitch, Judy, Vincent, Eleanor and Mei-lien really were involved in the toss game – WOW! What concentration!

All “reaction to” is very easily converted into “reaction against”.
~Ortega Gasset

KUDOS
Recognition of Homeless Shelter Volunteers
A group of people has kept Prairie's commitment to the Men's Homeless Shelter strong over the past several months: Nancy Graham, coordinated shelter volunteers and shopped and helped with breakfast; Pat Cautley, bought groceries regularly; Robin Carre, Karen Gross, Paula Pachciarz, Anne Pryor, and Barbara Rames prepared and served breakfast in the early morning hours.

Many Hands Make Light Work
Thanks to Rachel, Martin, Madeline, Reuben, Paula, Carl, Judy, Barb, Bob, Jean, Barbara, Rachel, Larry, Marie, and John. Also thanks to Bill and Lisa from Shaarei Shamayim. We had a successful workday and cleaned all of the corners, nooks and crannies of the Prairie Meeting House on September 16th. Squeeky clean!

Valiant Donors
Hooray for three more valiant donors of blood! They are Al Nettleton, Bob Purvis, and Larry Nahlik.

THE COMMUNITY

Mentoring and Tutoring Opportunities at Allied Drive
Two exciting programs have recently begun at the Allied Drive-Dunn’s Marsh Neighborhood Center. WIINGS (We Invest In Next Generations) is looking for adults who are willing to commit a few hours a week as mentors to making a great difference. Each mentor would be matched with a teen. For more program information, call Bryant Campbell, WIINGS Program Coordinator at (608) 298 2149, go to www.admncc.org, or check out the information on the Social Action bulletin board.

Kijiji School also welcomes volunteers during its hours of 11-3 daily. This school is a non-profit group set up for independent study and home schooling and is located in the lower level of the center. According to its lead teacher, Judy Washbush, Kijiji School is an umbrella school for anyone not having success in public school and who can’t afford to go to private school. You may contact Judy at 271-3689 for more information.