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.

October 4, 2000

Editor: Marilyn Ruecking (608) 838-8540; mruecking@hotmail.com

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

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

Monday, October 9 (date change)
7:30pm
Membership Orientation #2: “Unitarian Universalists, History and Principles”.
Meet at home of Ruth and George Calden, 4606 Waukesha St., 233-5717.

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

October 15 – 22
Interfaith Hospitality Network
At Midvale Community Lutheran

Tuesday, October 17
6:00pm
Madison Urban Ministry Dialogue Series
James C. Wright Middle School Gym (see “The Community” for further details.)

Wednesday, October 18
6:30pm
Spanish Speakers Get-Together at La Hacienda Restaurant. See RSVP for details.

Saturday, October 21
Prairie Playreaders at the home of Paula Pachciarz and Carl Wacker. (See RSVP)

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.) For additional information, call Mary Mullen 238-7904 or Barb Park 273-8775.

Saturday, October 28
Fall Frolic
RE overnight celebration.

Sunday, October 29
9:00am
Choir Rehearsal
10:00am
“All Souls’ Day”. Presented by: Ruth Calden
11:45 – 12:30
Pledge Drive Kick-Off Lunch
Monday, October 30 (date change)
7:30pm
Membership Orientation #3: “Prairie Nuts and Bolts”. What makes our Society unique?
Meet at Prairie Meeting House.

Sunday, November 5
9:00am
Choir Rehearsal
10:00am
U.U.’s and Youth Sexuality Education.
Join Robin Carre’ and a guest panel including Arthur Sexton and Carin Bringelson as they present an overview of the “Our Whole Lives” (OWL) program.

Note: Marilyn Ruecking (Prairie Fire editor) will be on vacation from October 16th to October 30th. Ann Urbanski has consented to be the guest editor for the P.F. deadline of October 15th. Please give Ann, or preferably, send your P.F. articles to her via e-mail to urbana4@home.com by Sunday evening October 15th. We will not be publishing again till November 5th, so please plan ahead.

Next Prairie Fire deadline is Sunday, October 15, 2000

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS
Sunday, October 8
Robin Carre’ kicks off the Religious Education committee's six-part lay ministry on sexuality. He’ll present a historical overview of the relationship between UUs and sex. The RE committee is offering the lay ministry to complement the new "Our Whole Lives" sexuality curriculum. This comprehensive curriculum will be taught in the RE program starting January.

Get Ready For The Fall Retreat!
Only when one comes to listen,
Only when one is aware and still,
Can things be seen and heard.
~Sigurd Olson
We’re all looking forward to our yearly retreat where we can relax among prairie grasses, enjoy hiking trails, good food, each other’s company and beautiful cliffs.

To get to Bethel Horizons, take highway 18 (Verona Road) west to Dodgeville. Turn right on Hwy 23 and go north, past Governor Dodge State Park until you reach county road “ZZ”. Turn right (east) on ZZ and in a mile follow signs leading to Bethel Horizons.
On arrival, check-in with Rick Ruecking at the Prairie Center. (It’s the large hilltop building.) He’ll direct you to your accommodations, provide a map of the grounds, Bethel guidelines, and a program schedule. People arriving on Saturday will find extra copies of these materials at both the Prairie and Retreat Centers.
After unloading, your vehicle must be parked in the parking lot at the top of the hill.
Remember to bring linens, towels, pillow, soap for the Prairie Center, and sleeping bag or bed roll, plus pillow, towel, washcloth, soap and personal items for the Barn Retreat and Farmhouse. Also, bring finger food to share Friday night. (There is no potluck this year.)
In addition, the following items will add to your enjoyment: - flashlights, camera, warm clothes, rain clothes, outdoor shoes, a board game, music and instruments; skits and costumes for the Saturday Evening Talent Show.

Friday evening events: 7:00-8:00 Registration and room check-in at the Prairie Center; 8:00-10:00 Share Finger Foods--- Group Activities for All Ages at the Retreat Center.
Saturday schedule: 8:00 Breakfast; 9-12:00; Variety of activities for adults and children including nature activities, arts and crafts, and workshop discussions; 12:00 Lunch; 1-6:00 More nature activities, drama, scavenger hunt, workshop/discussions, crafts, and sports; 6:00 Dinner; 7:00- Evening Events: Talent Show and Folk Dancing, Singing at Campfire (Weather permitting).

Sunday schedule: 8:00 Breakfast
9:00 Clean-up
10:00 Key Log Service at Campfire
Rick Ruecking is our on-site coordinator for the retreat. If you have questions about registration or the facilities, please check with him. He will be our liaison with the Bethel staff. Aileen Nettleton is
coordinating the program. We look forward to an enjoyable weekend together as a community.

Seed and Plant Exchange at Bethel
If you have flower and vegetable seeds from your garden that you would like to share with others, we’re having an exchange program at the Bethel Horizon Prairie Retreat? If you don’t have seeds, bring live plants!
~Mary Lou Diehl and Norma Briggs

Orientations Scheduled in October
Have you been visiting Prairie recently or have you just become a member? We invite you to attend the Prairie orientation sessions in October. The new schedule is Oct. 9 at the Calden’s, 4606 Waukesha St, Madison, 233-5717 and October 30 at Prairie. Both start at 7:30.
On October 2 we had a very enjoyable time focusing on the religious history of the people attending.
Please call Mary Mullen (238-7904) if you plan to attend.

Pledge Drive Kick-off Lunch
Right after the service on Sunday, October 29, is the super-sub sandwich lunch and brief spiel about our 2001 Annual Prairie Pledge Drive. Plan now to stay for lunch! It’s time to think about our Prairie financial goals to support our adult and children’s programs. Time to think about what each of us can contribute to the financial health of Prairie. Pledge information and forms will be given out at this time. Suggested lunch contribution: $3.00 per child, $6.00 per adult. Child care will be available.

The Play’s The Thing …..
The Prairie Playreaders is one of the several social groups available to Prairie members and friends. Participation requires no commitment and neither expertise nor experience in theater. We meet once a month at the home of a rotating host/hostess, who chooses the play, assigns the parts, and provides refreshments during our intermission. We read and discuss the play (and also have a lovely social evening). Sometimes we also will have theater parties. Below is our meeting schedule for the 2000/2001 church year. Please put these dates and locations on your calendars and use it when planning other Prairie events, such as Circle Dinners. Titles of plays to be read will be announced as the playreading dates approach. Please join us some evening.

October 21: Hosts are Paula Pachciarz and Carl Wacker
November 11: Hosts are Andy and Mary Somers
December 2: Hosts are Al and Aileen Nettleton
January 6: Theater Party: Strollers Company production of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead
February 24: Host is Rachel Siegfried
March 24: Host is Susan Hagstrom
April 14 or 28: Hosts are Rosemary Dorney and Tim Fast
May 19: Annual Fish Dinner; Desert and One-Act Play at Pat Watkins

Attention Prairie Musicians!
On December 10 we will be celebrating the life and music of Johann Sebastian Bach, who died 250 years ago. We want as many members as possible to perform, of all ages, instruments, and skill levels. The choir and congregation will sing. If you wish to participate, speak to or call Warren Hagstrom (238-4970; e-mail at warrenolaf@aol.com). Please suggest a work you wish to perform, but if you need help Warren can ask his wife for suggestions. Works by the sons of J.S. Bach are appropriate.

Wheel of Life
We extend our sympathies to Donna Murdoch. Her Mother recently died. She lived with Donna, was 93 years old and will be dearly missed.
Religious Education News In A Nutshell
What are the kids up to?
Pre-school
We’ve had more than the usual number of visitors these past few weeks! We’re hoping some will have fun with us on a regular basis.
K-2
Our peace and justice focus has been directed toward sharing. One week we talked about how to create our “own space” in the classroom. We talked about how this idea could be used in thinking about “sharing space” on Mother Earth. The second week we learned more about sharing our joys and concerns by passing a feather among us. Whoever had the feather shared their joys and concerns with the rest of the group.
3-5
We were busy redesigning our classroom making it a cozy place to be.
6-8
We worked very hard for two weeks trying to figure out how to create a Utopian Society. It was tricky trying to create laws that were fair to all citizens. The last week of the session was devoted to discussing prejudice. We tried to list prejudices we personally had encountered.
High School
We talked mostly about values that centered on peace and justice. The discussion got really interesting when we applied these values to our daily lives in school.

THE COMMUNITY

Allied Drive Food Pantry
The food pantry in the Allied Drive neighborhood closed in September. The latest donations from Prairie were used but there will be no more deliveries. Thanks to all of you who have supported the pantry through the years. Donations of breakfast items for the Men’s Homeless Shelter at Grace Episcopal are still being accepted. You may put your donations in the labeled box in the foyer.

Madison Urban Ministry Dialogue Series
“The Peace-filled Community: What Does Juvenile Justice Require of Us?” The six meetings of this year’s dialogue series will be held on the third Tuesday of each month beginning at 6pm with a light meal. The goal of this year’s series is to explore the juvenile justice system and to look at effective prevention and early intervention resources in Dane County. Each month, we will travel backwards through the lives of Calvin and Sophie, two hypothetical teenagers, examining their interactions with Dane County’s social services, and exploring the steps that could have been taken to support them. A $10 donation covers supper and materials. Brochures are available at Prairie, or phone MUM at 256-0906

Forever Plaid at Verona High School
The Verona Area Community Theater will be presenting the musical “Forever Plaid”. All proceeds over and above expenses will be donated to the Verona Food Pantry. Performances will take place October 13, 14, 18, 20 and 21 at 7:30 and October 15 at 2pm. Tickets are $8 for adults and $5 for seniors and students. Call 845-2383 or order online at www.vact.org

RSVP/You’re Invited – The Social Events Calendar

October 18: 6:30pm ~ Spanish Speakers Get-Together at La Hacienda
For a change from the usual potluck, you’re invited to join the Spanish Speakers at a restaurant. All are invited to meet at the “La Hacienda” restaurant, 515 South Park. If you need a ride or have questions, call Rosemary Dorney, 238-4382.

October 21: Prairie Playreaders
All are welcome to playread at the home of Paula Pachciarz and Carl Wacker, 4709 Sherwood Rd, Madison, 273-4806. No prior experience is required. Read a play, share thoughts and enjoy refreshments provided by the hosts.

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar
Sunday, Oct 8 5pm – 10pm Yom Kippur Service
Monday, Oct 9 9am – 10pm Yom Kippur Service
Saturday, Oct 14 9am- 2pm Religious Service
Saturday, Oct 21 6pm –10pm Religious Service
Saturday, Oct 28 9am –2pm Religious Service
Prairie Liaison: Bill Littman 829-1909