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

October 18, 2000

President: Erin Bosch  (608) 238-6285
Guest Editor this issue: Anne Urbanski, 608-221-4053, rbana4@home.com

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.

Sunday, November 12
10:00am:
Larry Nahlik and Lisa Glueck present the first in their four-part lay ministry exploring Eastern religions.

Sunday, November 19
10:00am
“Ruminations on Religions as Rackets”: Presented by Warren Hagstrom

Next Prairie Fire deadline is Sunday, November 5, 2000

All Souls’ Day Celebration
On October 28 Ruth Calden will lead Prairie’s third annual All Souls’ Day Service. It’s a time for all of us to share and celebrate memories of loved ones.
we have lost. Everyone is invited to bring a photo and/or object of someone dear to them and to light a candle and speak briefly about them. Or you may prefer to light a candle in silence in someone's memory.

So often in our culture, grief is a lonely and private matter, unspoken and unrecognized. We can learn much from older cultures about supporting one another through bereavement. At previous All Souls’ Day services we have taken inspiration from the Mexican Day of the Dead and from the Buddhist perspective. This service will consider Jewish customs and traditions of mourning that could be helpful to us.

At this service the names of Prairie members who have died will be read and candles lit for them. Anyone with comments or questions, please call Ruth Calden at 233-5717.

Pledge Drive Kick-off Lunch
Immediately after the service on Sunday, October 29, stay for a super sub-sandwich lunch and a brief spiel about our 2001 Annual Prairie Drive! It's time to think about our Prairie financial goals to support our adult and children's programs. Time to think about what each person can contribute to the financial health of Prairie. Pledge information and pledge forms will be given to you at this time. A speedy return of your pledge form will save you receiving a phone call from your friendly Finance Committee. (Lunch contributions: $3.00 per child, $6.00 per adult)

The congregation will vote on the budget at the November 19 fall parish meeting. Your Finance Committee: Bob Reuschlein, Chair, Jean Matos, Aileen Nettleton, and Orange Schroeder.

U.U.s and Sexuality series
On October 8 we heard from Robin Carre', our R.E. Committee Chair, about the history of sex in the Unitarian and Universalist religions, (including many humorous reflections! Robin showed that we have a proud and enlightened tradition in both branches. They were well ahead of the mainstream in the honest teaching (free from the "sin" factor) and open dialog with youth on sexual matters. This tradition has benefited us through the years, and our generations continue by ensuring a welcome to all people of all sexual identities to U-U and to Prairie.

On November 5th we will hear more about the new Our Whole Lives curriculum.

OUR SOCIETY

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; Dessert and One-Act Play at Pat Watkins

Religious Education News In A Nutshell
What are the kids up to?
Peace and Social Justice Work from "Down Under" High School:
We set forth idealistic notions of peace and justice. Then we undertook the challenge of applying them to such real life situations as the one in Yugoslavia. Now that's a challenge!
6-8:
We continued our work in the Race to Justice curriculum. We had a great time doing role-plays involving stereotypes.
We finished our clever mural depicting peace and justice thoughts. We also did some visualizing on what a world full of peace and justice would look like.

**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, and doing the coffee set-up, program taping, and kitchen clean-up. Please come prepared to pitch-in and get these jobs done.

**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.

**KUDOS**

**Addendum to Many Hands Make Light Work**
Whoops! This article in a recent issue missed a few important and hard-working people who chipped in and scrubbed and painted and moved carpets and furniture during the Prairie Workday on September 16th: Toby Wacker, Marie Nahlik, Jonah Carre' and Bill and Lisa Littman’s two children. Thank you for a job well done.

**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 is presenting the musical "Forever Plaid". All proceeds over and above expenses will be donated to the Verona Food Pantry. Remaining performances will take place October 20 and 21 at 7:30pm. Tickets are $8 for adults and $5 for seniors and students. Call 845-2383 or order online at www.vact.org

**UU kids magazine celebrates families**
uu&me! (CLF's magazine for UU kids) needs your help! We want to celebrate families--all kinds of families--with a very special holiday issue of uu&me! We're hoping to fill the December issue with family photos that show the diversity and uniqueness of our UU families. Along with each family photo we're asking for a brief caption-size description of one of the family's favorite holiday traditions. Please help us by getting the word out to your families in whatever way possible. One may even be featured on the cover! **Our deadline for receiving photos is Friday, October 27th.** Send directly to: Betsy Williams, Director of Religious Education, Church of the Larger Fellowship, 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108. All photos will be returned. Many thanks.

**Madison UU Campus and Young Adult Ministry**
Yes, we do have an active UU campus and young adult ministry here in Madison. This ministry addresses the needs and integrates the gifts of our UU college students and non-student young adults.
(ages 18-35). On Thursday, the Madison UU Campus and Young Adult Ministry rents space at St. Francis House on the UW Campus, 1001 University Avenue, from 2 PM through 8 PM. The minister to this program is Rev. Mary Ann Macklin from First Unitarian Society. Mary Ann meets for a touch with the fierce aliveness of this age group and the unique issues, gifts, needs and challenges of their generation. Says Maryann, "It is a ministry, I believe, we all share together— young adults, students, and area congregations including James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society and First Unitarian Society." Mary Ann can be reached at maryannm@fusmadison.org.

On Thursdays at St. Francis House, the Unitarian Universalist worship begins at 6pm. At present this is done in a circle format (sitting in a circle). Typically, the following worship format is followed: Welcome and Announcements, Opening Words, Opening Song, Sharing of Celebrations, Concerns and Confusions, Meditation, Song, Message, Dialogue, Closing. Worship is said to be that place we shape what is of worth. We invite those students and non-student young adults to come be a part of this shaping, or as is often sung in the opening song, "Come, Come Whoever You are..."

This year the co-chairs of the Madison UU Campus and Young Adult Ministry (MUU-YACM) are quite a dynamic duo, Chris Long and Roxanne Prichard. Chris can be reached at nagaii@hotmail.com and Roxanne can be reached at jrprichard@students.wisc.edu. A weekly e-mail is sent out with information and updates on the group's activities, which range from social fun to social justice. If you would like to be added to the e-mail list contact Roxanne. If you do not have access to e-mail and would like an e-mail buddy (someone to update you regarding these weekly messages), contact Rev. Mary Ann Macklin at 233-9774 X24.

Notice: Community Thrift Store Closed
The Community Thrift Store, located on south Park Street, has had to close down. The CTS manager wrote to thank Prairie for its support over the past two years and explained that the customer base was just too small to keep the store viable.

RSVP/You’re Invited – The Social Events Calendar

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.

Signing Up For Circle Dinner
Circle dinners are groups of Prairie members and friends who meet on a monthly basis to eat and visit together. It’s an excellent way to get to know others and have a pleasant night out.

Usually Circle Dinner groups meet at each other’s homes each month, though a group can choose the Prairie meeting house or a restaurant for their soiree.

A clipboard is available at Prairie for you to register. You can also call Mary Mullen, 238-7904 or send e-mail to mmullen@itis.com.

People can sign up for circle dinner at any time during the year. Even if you don’t come to services, you may enjoy the congeniality of a dinner group and Circle Dinners may be just what you had in mind.

Karaoke Gathering
Marty Drapkin and Erin Bosch are promoting another night of karaoke singing. This time we’ll try Paul and Don’s Neighborhood Bar, 2401 Parmenter, Middleton (it’s bigger than the Karaoke Kid). All Prairie people are invited to join us - older children and teens are very welcome. So bring the family and/or other friends and have a good time. No one will be coerced to sing. You are perfectly welcome to just come and laugh at those of us who are singing. Details: Friday, November 3, 9:00 pm.

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar
Saturday, Oct 21 6pm –10pm Religious Service
Saturday, Oct 28 9am –2pm Religious Service
Prairie Liaison: Bill Littman 829-1909