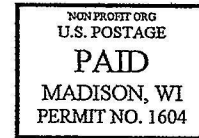


Prairie UU Society 2010 Whenona Drive Madison WI 53711-4843
(608) 271-8218 prairieu@execpc.com
Located off the south Frontage Rd. of the West Beltline Hwy near the Seminole Hwy exit.



Prairie UU Society
2010 WHENONA DR
MADISON WI 53711-4843



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>

November 5, 2000

President: Erin Bosch (608) 238-6285

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

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Saturday, November 11

Prairie Playreaders. Hosts are Andy and Mary Somers.

Sunday, November 12

9:00am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00am

Larry Nahlik and Lisa Glueck present the first in their four-part lay ministry exploring Eastern religions.

Tuesday, November 14

7:00pm

Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 15

6:30pm

Spanish Speakers Potluck Reunion. (See RSVP for details.)

Saturday, November 18

8:00pm – 10:00pm

Farewell Gathering for Nikki Bromberg at the Nettleton's.

Sunday, November 19

9:00am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00am

“Ruminations on Religions as Rackets”. Presented by Warren Hagstrom.

11:30am

Fall Parish Meeting

Wednesday, November 22

7:00pm

Joint Thanksgiving Eve worship service, First Society Meeting House, 900 University Bay Dr., Madison

Sunday, November 26

10:00am

Thanksgiving Intergenerational Service, presented by Larry Nahlik.

11:45am

Prairie potluck. Bring a dish to pass and share food and conversation with fellow members.

Sunday, December 3

9:00am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00am

Larry Nahlik and Lisa Glueck continue their lay ministry on Eastern Religions.

**Next Prairie Fire deadline is
Sunday, November 19, 2000**

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Buddhism: Adventures in Transformational Mythology

On Sunday, November 12, in this first part of Larry Nahlik and Lisa Glueck's four-part lay-ministry exploring eastern religion, Lisa will present an introduction to Buddhist thought and practice. What do Buddhists and Unitarian-Universalists have in common and how do they differ?

Can we walk a middle path between the extremes of fundamentalism and absolute disbelief? Is it possible to be nourished and inspired by spiritual teachings even as we recognize them as mythological? Come prepared to challenge all propositions.

Farewell for Nikki Bromberg

You are invited to an open house to say farewell to Nikki at the Nettleton's, 645 Sheldon St., on Saturday, November 18 from 8-10pm. Bring an appetizer or beverage to share. Nikki will be moving very soon to Seattle where she has accepted a position as photography archivist with the University of Washington. Nikki has shared her zest for life with us, served on a variety of committees and the Board, and presented several Sunday services for us. We will miss you, Nikki!

Fall Parish Meeting

The Fall Parish Meeting will be on November 19 at 11:30. There will be a potluck of finger foods that we will consume during the meeting. Please bring things like cheese, crackers, quick breads etc. This format should keep us nourished during the meeting, and also allow us to lessen the time commitment involved. It is important that YOU attend this meeting so we can get your input on the proposed budget and you can get an overview of other Prairie happenings. The agenda will include a budget proposal, discussion, and adoption of a final budget, plus short committee reports.

Joint Thanksgiving Eve Worship service, Wednesday November 22

U.U. Congregations of South Central Wisconsin (Prairie UU, First Unitarian, James Reeb, the Free Congregation Sauk City) and the Campus and Young Adult & Ministry group are invited to attend

the third annual joint Thanksgiving Eve Worship service on at the First Unitarian Society Meeting house, starting at 7 p.m.

Reverend May Ann Macklin will lead the service and members from each congregation will participate in a joint choir, liturgy and refreshments. If you can, please bring donations for the food pantry.

Two choir rehearsals led by Eva Wright will be scheduled. If interested in participating in the service, call Nancy Schraufnagel, 273-3195, or Rev. Mary Ann Macklin, 602 233-9774 Ext. 24 or maryannm@fusmadison.org. Come and recognize this day of thanks and meet other Unitarian Universalists in our community.

The Annual Pledge Drive For Our 2001 Budget

Our thanks to all who have already returned your pledge forms. This year our ambitious goal is to raise \$40,645. The budget will continue to allow us to serve as a vital religious community to members, friends and visitors. Our budget provides for our Sunday morning services, our children's Religious Education Program and other opportunities for our growth together. A special building improvement this year is for new basement windows. If you are not a member, we encourage you to make a contribution or pledge to support the Prairie Fire, The Annual Budget, and/or the Special Building Fund. Your contributions are important! Thank you.

Newsletter Subscription, Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society: - Year 2001 Pledge

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

My/Our pledge for 2001 will be \$ _____

_____ Payment enclosed

_____ To be paid \$ _____ per (mo/yr)

Prairie Fire Subscription Contribution \$ _____
(\$30 recommended)

Bldg Improvement Fund Contribution \$ _____

Cut out and return your newsletter pledge to:
Bob Reuschlein
Finance Committee Chair
3264 Stonecreek Drive
Madison, WI 53719

OUR SOCIETY

October 29 - All Souls' Day

Ruth Calden presented a very moving program, which invited people to come to the front and light a candle to honor a loved one they have lost. Many of us shared our memories of friends, family members, and Prairies members who were close to us and remain treasured parts of our lives. Ruth told about the Jewish tradition of celebrating the life of a loved one lost. This is followed by a weeklong "open house" which allows friends to visit the family and provide support and comfort. Then, for an entire year, the family is officially honored by the community as they pass through the stages of grief and acceptance. Many thanks to Ruth for presenting this remarkable program.

Our Whole Lives

In the second program of his lay ministry on Nov. 5th, Robin Carre invited Arthur Thexton and Carin Bringelson from James Reeb to discuss their experience leading the intensive Middle School curriculum "Our Whole Lives" (OWL). The program received high ratings from the four teens who spoke about it, including our own Katy Skog. The OWL program moves beyond the basic sex-education in the public schools in a number of ways. The leaders provide a safe, private and confidential environment, develop trust, and offer the opportunity to put forward any question anonymously. Together they discuss relationships, good and bad. And they explore their feelings about sex appeal and the many ways in which it is used and abused in our society. Prairie R.E. (except grades 6-7-8) will use grade appropriate OWL curricula beginning in January, so this preview was especially interesting for Prairie parents! Thanks to Robin, Arthur and Carin for this presentation.

Retreat Thanks

To everyone who helped with programs and registration and shared talents. With the super weather, lots of cooperation and positive energy from all who attended, we had a wonderful weekend together.

UNICEF

Pat Cautley will have cards and materials on display for sale in the foyer on November 12th. There are many new items this year and a catalog too.

Wheel of Life

We extend our sympathies to Mary Mullen. Her father died last week. Mary is busy with school conferences and preparing her house for sale. We hope both endeavors go smoothly.

Karen Gross Abides

We've received two letters from Karen since her departure in July to serve in the Peace Core in the Dominican Republic. She's in training, working hard on learning Spanish and enjoying her host families. She will be assisting in the development of small non-profit businesses.

If you wish to write, her address is:

Karen Gross
Cuerpo de Paz
APDO 1412
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Blood Shortage in the United States

Modern medical practice can save more lives than ever before IF blood is available for transfusions yet only five percent of our population are blood donors. Those gifts of a pint are more precious than ever. October blood donors are Bob Purvis, Phoenix Wardell, Barbara Park and Osh Andersen. Will you join other "Prairie people" to help those who need your pint so much?

Religious Education News In A Nutshell

Fall Frolic

On October 20th, ten Prairie youths, ten Prairie adults and four friends celebrated the season with two hours of bowling at Schwoegler Lanes. We then returned to Prairie for games, art and the devouring of seven pizzas! "**Muchas gracias**" to all the adults who attended:- Robin, Ann, Rachel, John,

Carl, Paula, K.K., Martin, Rick. We hope their bowling averages went up! Following the food, the high school students, under Metje's skilled tutelage (**thanks, Metje!**) did some marvelous stained glass creations while the rest of us did the famous "eye" game, musical chairs and bobbing for apples.

Now for some curriculum "highlights":

Pre-school

We've had lots of visitors lately. Currently there are so many pre-schoolers, that **we need more pre-school teachers ASAP.** It is a paid position.

Interested? Contact Randy Converse, 238-1856.

K-2

We worked on peace doves. We explored the differences between caring and uncaring behaviors. We created caring cards.

3-5

We thought about the differences and similarities among young people. We made "me shields" to visualize our similarities and differences.

6-8

We talked about conscientious objection to war. We had a guest speaker, Randy Converse, who shared his personal experiences about being a conscientious objector.

Do you have an extra pillow sitting around at home? The high school class would love to have it! (For a seating cushion on the floor, we're assuming.)

THE COMMUNITY

Luis Eduardo Guerra to speak on "US Military Dollars and the Land Wars in Colombia"

Recently, the US Congress approved a billion dollar aid package for Colombia, called "Plan Colombia".

Eighty percent of these funds are marked for the Colombian military and moderate human rights conditions on the aid were waived by Bill Clinton.

How will Plan Colombia affect the Peace Community of San Juan in Apartado, Columbia?

This question was addressed by Mary Sanderson when she spoke to us in July. (The Peace

Community is an organization of unarmed farmers and their families who are trying to reclaim their farmland in the face of persecution from both the Colombian armed forces and paramilitary troops.)

Luis Eduardo Guerra of the Peace Community will be in Madison next week to answer that question and to increase awareness of the struggle of the Colombian people. He will speak on "US Military Dollars and the Land Wars in Colombia", Monday, November 13th at 7:30pm at the Friends Meeting House at 1704 Roberts Court. He will also speak on the same topic at MATC Truax, Wednesday November 15th at 11:30 am. Both events are open to the public. (For room number and parking information at Truax, call 246-6031.)

Mary Sanderson is appealing to all supporters of the Peace Community to write or send e-mail to Bill Clinton urging him to reinstate the human rights conditions on Plan Colombia:

President Bill Clinton

1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW

Washington, DC 20500

Or president@whitehouse.gov

RSVP/You're Invited – The Social Events Calendar

November 15: 6:30pm

~ Spanish Speakers November Reunion

In October, Spanish Speakers met for dinner at La Hacienda and were graciously invited to the home of Jean Matos and her mother, Jo Malek, afterwards for dessert.

This November, our get-together will be at the Prairie Meeting House. We're very pleased that members of Shaarei Shamayim expressed an interest in the group. Zoe Werth joined us in October. We hope to see others. As always, bring a dish to pass if you can. But come anyway. There's always plenty of food. If you have any questions or need a ride, call Rosemary Dorney at 238-4382.

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar

Saturday, Nov 11 9am- 2pm Religious Service

Saturday, Nov 18 9am- 2pm Religious Service

Saturday, Nov 25 9am -2pm Religious Service

Prairie Liaison: Bill Littman 829-1909