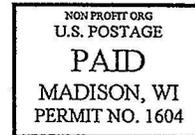


Prairie UU Society 2010 Whenona Drive Madison WI 53711-4843
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Located off the south Frontage Rd. of the West Beltline Hwy near the Seminole Hwy exit.



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>

November 19, 2000

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PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Sunday, November 26

10:00am

Thanksgiving Intergenerational Service, a dialogue between Prairie youngsters and Prairie elders, presided by Larry Nahlik.

11:45am

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

Thursday, November 30

7:30pm

"Unplug The Christmas Machine". Join Rick Ruecking in a Prairie workshop.

Saturday, December 2

7:30pm

Playreading at Nettletons (see details in RSVP))

Sunday, December 3

9:00am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00am

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

Sunday, December 10

9:00am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00am

J. S. Bach – 250th anniversary celebration (a musical biography) presented by Warren Hagstrom and entourage.

Sunday, December 17

9:30am

"Nifty Gifty" (downstairs).

**Next Prairie Fire deadline is
Sunday, December 3, 2000**

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

November 26

Thanksgiving is a wonderful time to reflect upon what makes us thankful and what better way to do this than to share our time with Prairie youth. We have so much to learn from each other and Larry Nahlik will facilitate sharing experiences. Join us for enlightened conversation between the old timers and the wee ones.

Please bring a dish for the thanksgiving potluck to follow the service.

Unplug the Christmas Machine

Rick Ruecking will lead a workshop on this book at Prairie on Thursday, Nov. 30 at 7:30. This is a guide book to putting love and joy back into the holiday season. In years past, Prairie members have

discussed this process of preparing for joy during the holiday season.

There are steps of forethought and planning to regain spiritual and family values. Visualize the holiday you want. Create budgets of time and money available for the holidays. List all the specific activities which you expect or are expected to do (shopping, wrapping, decorating, addressing cards, cooking, visiting, hosting, cleaning, decorating, school plays, church services). Calculate how much you will spend in time and money for each activity to fit your budget. Prioritize those activities of most joy and decide which you may forgo. Implement your plan and consider the results after the holidays.

Buddhism and the Wings of Enlightenment: Will They Work in the Post-Modern Era?

On December 3, in this second of Larry Nahlik and Lisa Glueck's four-part series on Eastern religions, Lisa will introduce some basic Buddhist teachings. The Buddha taught about suffering and how we can overcome suffering. Are you suffering? Is there any chance you might apply some of the Buddha's ancient discoveries to lighten your load?

The Life and Music of J.S. Bach

On December 10, we will mark the 250th anniversary of Johann Sebastian Bach's death by celebrating his life and music. Prairie members of all ages will perform on various instruments. The choir and congregation will sing. We don't have an organ, but you can bet the meeting house will resound with joy!

Nifty Gifty Is Around The Corner

Nifty Gifty, Prairie's annual alternative gift-making holiday celebration is Sunday, Dec. 17 at 9:30 (note the early start time).

If you have reusable or recyclable materials around the house that you think might be fashioned into a holiday treasure, contact Randy or Kathy Converse. We also need adults to volunteer to lead individual projects, wrap gifts and bake treats. A sign-up sheet will circulate the first two Sundays in December.

OUR SOCIETY

November 12 – Adventures in Transformational Mythology

Lisa Glueck explored with us some of the fundamental beliefs we U.U.'s share with Buddhists. These include respect for every person, and his/her right to explore a spiritual path free from the judgement of others. In contrast to U.U. practice, the Buddhist way includes regular meditation. As Lisa demonstrated, meditation can free us from burdens we carry of the past and future, allowing us to live in the moment.

Lisa's program was further enhanced with parables from the Buddhist

Tradition that are used to teach and illustrate their philosophy. Thank you, Lisa for a stimulating program, and we look forward to more on December 3.

Warren Hagstrom reports:

I enjoyed preparing for and delivering the November 19 program about "Religions as Rackets." Members were interested in the Church of Scientology, although I don't think others were as interested as me in the possibility of being audited (if it didn't cost so much and involve one in an authoritarian system). In the discussion, members showed how vicious the Church of Scientology can be in its attacks on others and controlling its members. Discussants, and conversations after the service, also made interesting points about the idea of recovering memories of childhood sexual abuse. It will be worth another program. I hope people noted the dogs in the program, beginning and end and on the order of service.

Woof.

Youth Group "Holiday Gift Drive"

In keeping with this year's religious education theme of social action, the High School class is collecting money between now and Dec. 10 for the Allied Drive holiday wish list. Bring money any Sunday between now and December 10 to put in the "Holiday Gifts" box in the lobby or give a donation to any member of the high school class.

Prairie has a proud tradition of generous support of this effort, so give early and often.

The high school group will sponsor several needy children with the "Wish List". They will do the shopping and wrapping for the gifts the children request and have the gifts delivered to the Allied Drive Community Center.

Computer Use Planning

Our Society needs to develop consensus about use of computers for Society business. To this end, we will convene a special meeting or meetings in coming months. Long Range Planning has an ad hoc committee discussing what policies we need for internet activities. We want to implement new technologies safely and effectively without leaving others behind. Most of us are not experts but are affected by the directions the Society may follow. What questions about electronic communication should the Society answer as a whole? Think about these issues and prepare to be involved.

~ Rick Ruecking, VP.

Annual Business Meeting

At the November 19 annual meeting, the Society heard reports from the President, Treasurer, and standing committees. In summary, we need and want new members. We are financially solvent and passed the budget for CY 2001. The Society achieved its pledge goals for the year. We passed a business motion regarding the acquisition and disposition of investments. We have a window replacement project of \$11,000 for this year. Details are posted on the bulletin board. Thanks to all.

Pat Watkins, a Creative Force For Fun and Fund-Raising

For more than fifteen years, Pat Watkins has been a major organizer of fund raising activities for Prairie UU Society, independent of the Finance Committee. Our budget line for Fund raising was been greatly helped by the results of her work.

Most importantly are the trips to the Chicago Art Institute, which are open to the community. Due to careful, caring organization and planning, including opportunities for shopping, these trips have been fun for attendees. Recent trips included the Akhenaten, Nefretiti and Tutankhamen exhibit at the Art Institute with Sue the Tyrannosaurus Rex at

the Chicago Museum of Science & Technology and a Norman Rockwell retrospective at the Chicago Historical Society. Future visits will be the Opening of the newly designed Milwaukee Art Museum in June 2001 and a traveling exhibit at the Art Institute in September.

Pat has provided seed money for membership in Unitarian Universalist Association Committees (UUA UN Office) and interfaith organizations (Madison Urban Ministry). Pat recently bought Prairie UU Society rainbow pens to sell and for the use of Board members in their networking and outreach activities.

Pat, on behalf of Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society, we thank you for your long-term commitment, work and ideas for successful and fun fund-raising efforts.

~ Nancy Schraufnagel, Denominational Affairs Chair for the Prairie Executive Board.

Religious Education News In A Nutshell UNICEF Project

During Halloween, we participated in "Trick or Treat" for UNICEF. So far we collected \$84.52. Wow! Our diligent fund-raisers included **Jordan Connor, Eleanor Owens, Mei-lien Converse, Lushana Peterson, Vincent Peterson, Madeline Arnold and Reuben Arnold!** Thanks! If we collect more, we'll let you know.

Service Sunday

On November 12th, we began a service project which will be completed in April. Our plan is to paint pictures and create jewelry that remind us of "Peace" and/or "Social Justice". We will then auction these articles off to ourselves and follow the auction with an art gallery where Prairie adults can browse and purchase. Proceeds will go to the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) in honor of Betty Jallings, long-time member of Prairie and of WILPF.

What Are The Kids Up To?

Pre-School

We continue to have a mix of visitors and our faithful regulars. Robin is placing an ad at the UW to see if we can get some help for our hardworking pre-school teachers, Jolien and Heather.

K-2

On November 5th we explored the difference between an enemy and a friend. Through discussion and drawing we discovered that each of us can sometimes demonstrate “enemy” qualities and at other times “friend” qualities!

3-5

We did lots of neat things, including a body-movement exercise, to learn about diversity. We talked about prejudice and stereotyping.

6-8

We continued our discussion about war. Is it ever justified? We listened to and talked about “Plegana a un Labrador” by Victor Jara, a Chilean poet. The poem/song really made us think about the human dimension of large-scale violence, typified in war.

9-12

We listened to the James Reeb OWL presentation. It was quite interesting!

A Note From Our Treasurer

Please submit all requests for reimbursement to me by December 15th.

If you are paying your pledge for next year now, put “2001” on the memo line (otherwise I’ll assume it’s for this year). Please submit pledge payments for this year by December 15th, if possible. Muchas gracias.

After careful consideration, I will not continue as treasurer next year. Please consider filling this vital position. It takes a couple of hours each week but you can work at your own pace at home. Call me if you’re interested. I’m very willing to train you on the computer program.

~ Judy Skog 273-4813

Hospitality

The Society has a few activities for which we need help during the Sunday service. Please come prepared to pitch-in and get these jobs done:

November 26	
Coffee set-up	Stephanie Adams
Greeting	Rick Ruecking
Program taping	?
Kitchen and cleanup	Judy and Ken Skog
Snow Shoveling	Larry Nahlik

December 3	
Coffee set-up	?
Greeting	?
Program taping	Pat Cautley
Kitchen and cleanup	??
Snow Shoveling	?

Many hands make light work –thanks to all who volunteer.

First Call For Help

The Caring Committee has been established to help Prairie members in need. The types of support offered are writing notes, rides, telephoning, preparing food, home visits, child care, support for people dealing with life crises (e.g., grieving), tape delivery, and as a community resource list. The primary contact person has a list of volunteers with specific support roles. The current primary contact is Rosemarie Lester 255-7039.

THE COMMUNITY

Guest At Your Table

Judy Skog has distributed boxes and more are available. Take one home and contribute to it daily. The donations will go to the UU Service Committee. For 25 years Guest has enabled UUSC to conduct education and citizen action projects that advance human rights at home and abroad.

RSVP/You’re Invited – The Social Events Calendar

December 2: 7:30pm

Playreading

Join us for play reading at the Nettleton’s, 645 Sheldon St., 238-6053. Everyone is invited. Come ready to entertain each other reading a play in parts with no prior practice! The play to be read has yet to be chosen.

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar	
Saturday, Nov 25	9am –2pm Religious Service
Saturday, Dec 2	9am – 2pm Religious Service
Prairie Liaison: Bill Littman 829-1909	