

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 UU Society  
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MADISON WI 53711-4843

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# 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>*

**December 17, 2000**

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## PRAIRIE CALENDAR

### Sunday, December 24

9:00am

Choir Rehersal

10:00am

Symbol Tree Celebration.

Intergenerational, led by Erin Bosch, with snacks and sweets after the service. You're invited to bring a symbol and a snack.

### Sunday, December 31

9:00am

Choir Rehersal

10:00am

"Jubilee Day". We'll celebrate the millennium.

Presented by Rick Ruecking.

8:30pm

The Real Millennium Party (See RSVP for details)

### Saturday, January 6

4:00pm

Theater Party (see RSVP for details)

### Sunday, January 7

9:00am

Choir Rehersal

10:00am

"Skepticism: An Introduction". First in the series of the lay ministry of Susan Hagstrom.

11:30am-1:30pm

OWL Training

### Tuesday, January 9

7:00pm

Board Meeting. Open to all interested members.

### Sunday, January 14

9:00am

Choir Rehersal

10:00am

"WAVE: Grassroots Efforts to Reduce Gun Violence". Guest speakers are Michael and Kim O'Grady.

11:30am-1:30pm

OWL Training

### Saturday, January 20

Time to be announced

Interweave of Dane County Gathering/Chile Dinner

Prairie Meeting House

For details, call Nancy Schraufnagel, 273-3195

### Sunday, January 21

9:00am

Choir Rehersal

10:00am

Joan Armstrong, Associate Minister of First Unitarian Society will share some thoughts with us.

11:45am

Prairie Women's Group meets downstairs. Bring a snack to pass.

## **Next Prairie Fire deadline is Sunday, January 7, 2001**

### **DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **Symbol Tree Service - December 24.**

This is Prairie's traditional holiday service. In addition to the Symbol Tree ceremony, there will be a candlelight "Santa Lucia" children's procession. (Young people should assemble downstairs that morning.) We would like to keep the lights dim for the entire service, so those who have difficulty hearing and who benefit from reading lips, should plan to sit in the front row. We will be using candles to read the hymns also, but if you need more light and would like to bring a small flashlight, that would be fine. For the Symbol Tree ceremony, you are invited to bring an item to hang on the evergreen tree that is a symbol of something that has happened in your life the past year. You can either tell us about that event, or you can choose to read a short poem or other chosen words.

#### **Jubilee Day, then Out to Lunch - December 31**

Note: There will be no RE.

Do you recall that on January 1st humankind began the Jubilee Year with a worldwide celebration ringing in the new century? Well, we're going to ring out the old with a Jubilee Day party. Rick Ruecking is organizing activities of mirth; Sherrie Hendrix will ask about New Year's resolutions for the new century; Norma and Mike Briggs will lead us in dance and song. It's New Year's Eve so bring your party hats and horns -- we're going to ring in the new. Then out to lunch after church. Bring the kids -- it's a family affair.

#### **Skepticism – Introduction and Discussion – January 7**

How do we know what we know? How do we evaluate claims to knowledge, and assign to them some level of credibility? What is belief? These are questions of central concern to skeptics and yet they are questions for which skeptics often provide inadequate answers. Join Susan Hagstrom as she introduces us to "Skepticism" in the first of her four part series.

#### **WAVE – January 14**

Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort is a grass-roots organization solely devoted to reducing the injuries and deaths of gun violence through education and advocacy. Forming a statewide coalition of people representing diverse professions, WAVE addresses gun violence with a holistic approach and comprehensive solutions. Mike and Kim O'Grady will discuss legislation and issues related to WAVE's efforts as well as information and ideas for getting involved.

### **TOOL BOX**

#### **Win/Win Rules Provided by RE, Appropriate for All**

1. Define and Identify the Problem
  - Who is involved?
  - What does each person or group want?
  - What is the problem?
2. Share Feelings
  - Use only "I" messages.
  - Don't place blame or refer to past events.
3. Brainstorm Solutions
  - Raise many ideas.
  - Encourage creative unusual ideas.
  - Don't evaluate the ideas yet.
4. Choose A Solution
  - Agree on a solution together
    - Both people or groups need to feel they have won something.
5. Affirm Partner
  - Agree to the solution with a smile, handshake or hug.

### **OUR SOCIETY**

#### **Nifty Gifty**

There were some really terrific gifts made at Nifty Gifty last week. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Kathy Converse for her organization of that event. It requires a lot of time, effort, and creativity to think up these projects, gather the materials, write instructions, and manage the assistants. Thanks also to the teens and adults who assisted the young ones.

It would be great if the parental recipients of these special gifts would bring them to Prairie for a show-and-tell session and/or a display in the foyer. Let's set *January 7th* for that sharing.

## Kudos

### Toy Drive Successful

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the high school participant's service project. Our youth were able to sponsor 10 children for the Allied Drive Community Center holiday wishes gifts! The Center gave them names and specific "wishes" from which to choose, for appropriate gifts for these children. Most of the children were preschoolers. Katrina and Ian did the shopping, and others did the wrapping. Paula delivered the gifts for the community center holiday party. Some funds remained and will be donated to the Center to help fund the holiday party expenses or support other youth programming. Thank you to the youth and to all of you who contributed to share the holidays with our neighborhood children.

### Guest At Your Table

Please return your Guest At Your Table boxes to Judy Skog by January 7<sup>th</sup>. Please put your name on your box. UUSC gives us honors for having a percentage of our members as their members. Also, Judy would REALLY appreciate it if you would count the money yourself and just give her a check made out to "UUSC". We don't want her to count all those pennies. Thanks.

Also, we'd like to thank Judy for volunteering for this project and encouraging everyone to contribute. We appreciate her efforts and dedication.

Through your donations, the UU Service Committee can continue to ensure the rights of women, children and oppressed groups.

### **Christmas Letters**

If you usually write a Christmas newsletter to send to family and friends, we would be pleased if you would like to send or bring a copy to Prairie to put in the folder on the back table. Sharing these letters can be a great way for us to get to know each other better.

### **Wheel of Life**

Rose Smith is now home, recovering from knee surgery. She appreciates the calls from members and hopes it continues as she spends the next weeks regaining the use of her knee. We hope she'll be back with us in the near future.

### **Departed Visitors Can Help Us Learn About Our Flaws**

Have you ever wondered why we have visitors who come once, twice, sign up for our newsletter but never return? We wonder if we did something wrong, if no one spoke to them, or if the coffee was bad.

If we have our act together we have someone from the membership committee call all visitors within three days of their first visit. We invite them back and answer any questions they have. Studies have shown this is the best way to get them back, even better than sending a personal note.

Author Lyle Schaller suggests we call gone-away visitors with these questions:

- What motivated you to come to our congregation?
- What reception did you receive on the first visit?
- Have you found a church home yet? Which one?
- What could we have done to be more effective in responding to your needs?
- Do you have any advice on how we could be more effective as a church?

Some congregations use e-mail to get feedback. Add a place on the 'new visitor' form for e-mail addresses, then follow up occasionally asking visitors about their experience. To some, e-mail is less invasive than a phone call, and they may be more likely to give helpful answers.

Most dropouts say they don't attend anymore due to their own lives taking a different turn (illness, family crisis, new job, adopting a child, etc.) It's good to know we didn't insult them or actively drive them off.

(Reprinted and paraphrased from *InterConnections*, a UUA Publication for Lay Leaders)

### **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 Marilyn Ruecking, 838-8540

## 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:

December 24

Coffee set-up	Barbara Rames
Greeting	Barbara Rames
Program taping	?
Kitchen and cleanup	Linda Sheehy, ?
Snow Shoveling	Cindy Haq, Bob
Lawrence	

December 31

Coffee set-up	?
Greeting	?
Program taping	?
Kitchen and cleanup	Robin Carre, ?
Snow Shoveling	Kathy Helm, Gary Giorgi

snacks and beverages. Children are welcome; they had a good time last year. Let us know if you will be coming at 238-4970 or warrenolaf@aol.com, but come even if you can't leave a message.

Place: 916 Shorewood Blvd.

(Park on Tally-Ho Lane) Time: 8:30 p.m.

## January 6: 4:00pm

### Prairie Playreader's at the Strollers Theater

You're invited to join the Playreaders at the theater. production of "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead" by Tom Stoppard. This Tony Award Winner tells the tale of Hamlet through the eyes of the bewildered Rosencrantz and Guildenstern. Very funny, brilliant and witty.

The date planned is Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. Call the Bartell (formerly the Esquire) for reservations 238-8183. If you prefer, you can call Susan Hagstrom, 267-4797 days, (by December 28) and she'll add your name to the reservation list.

After the play, those who are interested can go out to dinner. Call Pat Watkins, 233-5795, by December 31<sup>st</sup> if this appeals to you. The Chinese Buffet at Hilldale is a possible choice.

## THE COMMUNITY

### Holiday Blood Drive

Saturday, December 23

7am - 2 pm

Alliant Energy Center  
(formerly Dane County Expo Center)  
Free Parking • Child care • Santa  
For anappointment, call 227-1357  
or 1-800 GIVE LIFE

### Rebuilding the Food Pantry

The food pantry is back in action. Please remember to bring a donation. We can reach out to the community and help a family in need.

## RSVP/You're Invited – The Social Events Calendar

**December 31: 8:30pm**

### The REAL Millenium Party!

As those of you who can count know, the real Millenium will come at midnight, December 31, 2000. Warren Hagstrom and Doleta Chapru invite you to celebrate the event at their home with games (bring some if you wish), charades, singing, and conviviality. At midnight we'll go out to welcome the New Millenium by starlight, clouds, or whatever. We will provide

## Holiday Groaners

This guy goes into a restaurant for a Christmas breakfast while in his home town for the holidays. After looking over the menu he says, "I'll just have the eggs Benedict". His order comes a while later it's served on a big shiny hubcap. He asks the waiter, "What's with the hubcap?" The waiter sings, "O, there's no plate like chrome for the hollandaise!"

A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "But why?" they asked, as they moved off. "Because he said, "I can't stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer."

## Shaarei Shamayim Calendar

Tuesdays	4pm-6pm	Childrens' Classes
Saturday, Dec 23	9am-2pm	Religious Service
Saturday, Dec 30	9am-2pm	Religious Service
Prairie Liaison: Bill Littman 829-1909		