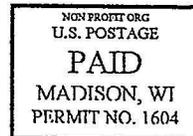


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# PRAIRIE FIRE

... 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>*

January 7, 2001

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## PRAIRIE CALENDAR

### Sunday, January 14

9:00am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00am

"WAVE: Grassroots Efforts to Reduce Gun Violence". Join our guest speakers, Michael and Kim O'Grady for a lively discussion.

11:30am-1:30pm

OWL Training

11:45am

Come one, come all to the Book Club's January discussion. Bring your lunch.

### Saturday, January 20

6:00pm

Interweave of Dane County Gathering/Chile Dinner at the Prairie Meeting House. Live music at 8 performed by "Ladies Must Swing". (For further details, see RSVP.)

### Sunday, January 21

9:00am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00am

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

11:45am

Prairie Women's Group meets downstairs. Bring a snack to pass and enjoy the company of other women.

### Tuesday, January 23

Spanish Speakers Potluck (See RSVP)

### Sunday, January 28

9:00am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00am

"The Gospel According to the Ethnic Connection"  
Come to the service that celebrates their 500<sup>th</sup> performance.

### Sunday, February 4

9:00am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00am

Robin Carre', Lay Ministry Part III – a closer look at Our Whole Lives (OWL). The place where we can talk about sex.

### Sunday, February 18

1:00pm

Matinee Theater Party, Madison Civic Center

"The Good Times Are Killing Me" by Lynda Barry.  
(See RSVP for details.)

**Next Prairie Fire deadline is  
Sunday, January 21, 2001**

## DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### 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.

### Book Club Open on Drop-In Basis

The Prairie Book Club members have decided to welcome anyone who wants to join them for discussion of a particular book. The January 14<sup>th</sup> book choice is "Ellen Foster" by Kay Gibbons. February 11<sup>th</sup> will feature "Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China", a 500 page memoir.

### Sunday, January 21

Joan Armstrong, Associate Minister of First Unitarian Society will share some thoughts with us about the nature of time and how it affects our lives.

### Sunday, January 28

#### The Gospel According to The Ethnic Connection

Everyone is invited to come and participate in the 500th performance of the celebrated musical combo - the Ethnic Connection. This lively group will not only play many of their favorite international tunes and songs but will also discuss their humble beginnings. Hear tales about unusual gigs and memorable incidents. In addition, they'll reveal the spiritual message that underlies their performances. Bring your friends. A good time will be had by one and by all.

## OUR SOCIETY

### Nifty Gifty – A Time to Share

It would be great if the parental recipients of the special gifts made by their children would bring them to Prairie for a show-and-tell session and/or a display in the foyer. The date has been changed to *January 14<sup>th</sup>* for sharing.

### Show Me The Money

Please return your "Guest At Your Table" boxes to Judy Skog by January 14th. Please put your name on your box - UUSC gives us honors for having a percentage of our members as their members. Through your donations, the UU Service Committee can continue to ensure the rights of women, children and oppressed groups. Also, we'd prefer you count the money and just give Judy a check made out to "UUSC". Thanks.

### Symbol Tree Service

One of the highlights of this Prairie tradition was George Calden's rendition of "Oy to the World". Several Prairie members asked to see it in print. So here it is.

Note: The Jewish word "nachis" ("nach" as in Bach) means the pride and joy parents take in the achievements of their children. The tune, of course, is "Joy to the World"

1. "Oy to the World" a mother cries.  
"No nachis, no nachis for me.  
My Mildred works for minimum wage.  
My Ben has become a Buddhist sage.  
And Dave and Debra are divorced.  
And Dave and Debra are divorced.  
And none of them, oy none of them has a Ph.D."

2. "Oy to the World" a father sighs.  
"No nachis, no nachis for me.  
My Paul plays bass in a punk rock band.  
Those nose rings on Nelly are getting out of hand.  
And now she's with the Jews for Jesus.  
And now she's with the Jews for Jesus.  
Oy vay-ay, oy vay is mir, oh woe is me.  
Oy vay-ay, oy vay is mir, oh woe is me.

### New Year's Celebration

Rick Ruecking led Prairie's Jubilee Celebration on Sunday, December 31. We were treated to "How the Grinch Stole the Election", a timely variation on the syntax of Dr. Seuss.

Participants all joined hands as Mike and Norma led dancing and singing. We concluded with a rousing chorus of "Auld Lang Syne". Since this song has aptly been described as 'the song that nobody knows, we were grateful that Norma and Mike posted the correct words. Nary a spurious line was sung.

## Sunday, January 7

The prelude to the series on skepticism was introduced by Doleta Chapru with a rousing rendition of "It Ain't Necessarily So."

Susan Hagstrom, our lay leader, discussed the history and varieties of skepticism---philosophical, ethical, and ordinary. She had witty examples and the congregation provided more. One example that made us laugh: - a patient of a psychologist believed he was dead. The psychologist found it hard to persuade him otherwise and advanced the argument, "Do corpses bleed?" The man said, "No." The psychologist punctured his finger with a lance, producing blood. Whereupon the psychologist claimed, "So you're wrong!" The patient replied, "No, I've learned that corpses bleed."

If you're interested in skeptic web sites, Susan's favorites are: [www.csicop.org](http://www.csicop.org); [www.skeptdic.com](http://www.skeptdic.com) and [www.skeptic.com](http://www.skeptic.com).

### Committee on Committees Convenes

The committee will meet this month to find next year's lay ministry and replacement board members. We definitely need a treasurer this May (Judy is stepping down) and three lay ministers this fall. Consider yourself for service to Prairie this coming year.

### K-5 Service Project

The K-2 and 3-5 RE classes plan to make a donation to the Humane Society on February 4<sup>th</sup>. They will ask for your contributions. Please watch for a list of acceptable items, to be posted on the Social Action bulletin board and in the next Prairie Fire. Money is acceptable. Boxes for donations will be on display at Prairie.

### From the RE Contingent

#### High School

The group participated in a couple of projects to make the world a better place. Their first endeavor was getting gifts for young people on Allied Drive. Ian, Katrina, and Tara bought the gifts, several others joined in to wrap them and K.K. and Paula z. made arrangements for delivery. The second act of community kindness was serving breakfast at the men's homeless shelter. The hardy souls in this

early morning activity were Ian, Tara, Kate, Erica, Brian K., Ken Skog, K.K. and Pat Cautley.

#### 6-7-81

We pondered the problems encountered by Asians in U.S. society. We will also be observant as we watch TV in the coming weeks to look for examples of discrimination. We will attend a performance of "The Good Times Are Killing Me", a play that deals with racism.

#### 3-4-5

We worked on our "time-capsule" letters to be opened one year from now. We did a cooperation puzzle and improved our ability to cooperate each time we did it.

#### K-1-2

We had great fun exploring the connections between social justice and our interactions with the environment. We did this by working with nature cards and caring for narcissus bulbs.

#### Preschool

Our big news is we are occupying new 'digs'. We are having a great time arranging our stuff in the new location (formerly the high school room) for fun times ahead.

#### Spirit Circles

Our Spirit Circle centered on the work of Gandhi in India in the 1930's. We read an account of how Gandhi's followers engaged in civil disobedience. We reenacted this drama, showing how kindness and self-suffering can be used as a means to pursue social change.

### 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:**

January 14	
Coffee set-up	?
Greeting	?
Program taping	?
Kitchen and cleanup	Martin Arnold, ?
Snow Shoveling	Paula Pachciarz

January 21	
Coffee set-up	?
Greeting	?
Program taping	?
Kitchen and cleanup	?, ?
Snow Shoveling	?

Note: Shaarei Shamayim took care of the grounds in November. Their next stint will be in February.

## Another Noble Pint

Laurie Larson and Rick Ruecking are our most recent Prairie Society blood donors. Bravo!

## THE COMMUNITY

### Allied Drive – Joining Forces for Families

The Joining Forces For Families program at Allied Drive is in need of baby formula, diapers, (especially medium and large) and personal hygiene products. Donations can be brought to Prairie and put in the designated box in the entryway or taken to the JFF office at 2349 Allied Drive, after calling Mosel Peterson with JFF at 278-9567 to arrange dropoff.

Thanks to all of you who have been donating to the Allied Drive Food Pantry. We have already made one large delivery of food since the pantry reopened late last year.

### Volunteer for the Interfaith Hospitality Network

January 14 through January 21 are the dates we're committed to helping Midvale Community with hospitality for homeless people. Please consider volunteering for one of the following:

Dinner 5:30pm-8:30pm

Overnight 7:00pm-6:00am

Breakfast 6:00am-7:30am

Call Marilyn Ruecking, 838-8540 to sign up.

### Celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday

Come to a freedom song sing-out and dance program on January 15, at the Civic Center Crossroads at 6pm.

### A Holiday Gift from a Small Town - to Gay America

Traverse City, population 15,800, is located 253 miles northwest of Detroit. According to gay journalist Rex Wockner, Traverse City has a new policy - putting rainbow bumper stickers on every city-owned vehicle including police cars and buses. This action came after an anti-gay attack at a local gay bar. Some gay residents removed their rainbow bumper stickers for fear they would be the next target. City commissioner Margaret Dodd responded by adding a rainbow sticker to her car and setting in motion the process that led to the new policy.

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

### A Unique Opportunity on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 7pm

Come hear Ruth and George Calden read from their reminiscence and creative writing stories. The event will take place at the Barnes and Noble West Town bookstore on Sunday evening, January 14 at 7 pm. All Prairie people and friends are invited.

### January 20: 6:00pm Interweave Chili Cookoff

Interweave, the GLBT organization of Dane County, invites you to a chili cookoff potluck. Feel free to bring your favorite chili or a side dish. There will be a chili judging contest and live music will begin at 8. Donations will be accepted. RSVP to either Nancy Schraufnagel, 273-3195 or Leslie Chartier, 246-8862, LC1959@aol.com. Please indicate if you will bring chili or a side dish.

### January 23 Spanish Speakers Potluck

This month's get together will be on Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at either 6:30 or 7:00pm. Please call Rosemary at 238-4382 for location and time. All levels of Spanish are welcome- or you can just come and listen! If you're able, bring a dish to pass (any style of cooking).

### February 18: 1:00pm CTM Theater Party

The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade R.E. class is arranging to see the production of "The Good Times Are Killing Me," at the Isthmus Playhouse. Members of the other R.E. classes with their parents are invited to join us. Group rate tickets are \$15. Your check should be made out to Pat Watkins and mailed to 230 N. Meadow Lane, Madison 53705 to arrive no later than January 19th. (Group rate is only available if one check - from Pat - is presented). We are planning to make some arrangements for a meal before the show (to be announced later).

Because of this year's 6th - 8th grade co-curriculum on racial issues, we decided to read this play as part of the Sunday School lessons. We're very pleased to also have the opportunity to see it staged. On the Sunday following the performance, we will discuss the racial and social justice message of the play. One of the actresses in the production is our very own Paula Pachciarz.