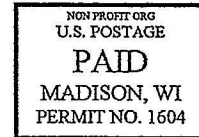


Prairie UU Society 2010 Whenona Drive Madison WI 53711-4843
(608) 271-8218 prairieu@execpc.com
Located off the south Frontage Rd. of the West Beltline Hwy near the Seminole Hwy exit.



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>

January 21, 2001

President: Erin Bosch (608) 238-6285

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

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Sunday, January 28

10:00am

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

Sunday, February 4

9:00am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00am

Robin Carre', Lay Ministry Part III – a closer look at Our Whole Lives (OWL). Discussion will focus on UU's and sexuality.

Sunday, February 11

9:00am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00am

Valentine Intergenerational, presented by Randy Converse followed by Prairie Potluck. Bring a dish to pass.

Sunday, February 18

10:00am

Robin Carre' OWL Lay Ministry, Part IV

1:00pm

Matinee theater party for 6-8th grade RE class and others at Madison Civic Center. "The Good Times Are Killing Me" by Lynda Barry.

Sunday, March 18

11:45am

Prairie Service Auction. Mark your calendar!

**Next Prairie Fire deadline is
Sunday, February 4, 2001**

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, January 28

The Gospel According to The Ethnic Connection

Everyone is invited to come and participate in the 500th performance of the Ethnic Connection. They will not only play many of their favorite songs and discuss how they began but, 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.

Sunday, February 4: U.U.'s and Sexuality

In part three of the RE Committee's lay ministry on UUs and sexuality, Robin Carre will introduce the congregation to the 'OWL' (Our Whole Lives) sexuality curriculum for adults and to 'Sexuality and our Faith', the UU companion to OWL. The entire adult OWL curriculum includes 12 two-hour workshops on topics such as sexuality and values, sexual diversity, and sexuality and spirituality. Robin will attempt to distill the essence of the curriculum into two services.

Sunday, February 11

Valentine's Intergenerational Service

In part three of the RE Committee's lay ministry on On February 11th, East and West will meet in the Valentine's Intergenerational Service!

Come celebrate the Japanese version of Valentine's Day. It is called Tanabata or the Star Festival. How does Tanabata compares to the West's holiday?

Making cookies, cards, Origami, music, and dance are all possibilities!

There will be a POTLUCK afterwards...Bring a dish to pass and spend time with fellow UU's. Hope to see you there!

OUR SOCIETY

Make Waves

On Sunday, January 14, several members of WAVE (Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort) spoke to Prairie members about their organization. WAVE is concerned with education and lobbying regarding handguns. Specifically, they want background checks to be part of every handgun transaction. They also want Wisconsin to retain laws that prohibit people from carrying concealed weapons. They pointed out that in 1998 there were 12,000 homicides due to firearms in the US, and handguns were used in 52% of these. These numbers far exceed those of other industrialized countries primarily because other countries register guns. They provided handouts, detailing how to get involved.

Prairie Directory To Be Updated: We'd Like to Include Your E-Mail Address

In the coming weeks, Membership Chair Mary Mullen will be updating the Prairie Directory, our Bible of contact information for members and friends. Since many people have e-mail now, for the first time the new directory will include e-mail addresses.

THEREFORE, WE NEED YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS NOW! If you have already received an e-mail from Mary checking your address and membership status and have responded to it, there's no need to respond again. (If you received an e-mail and didn't respond, this would be a good time to do it.)

In addition, if you have any other changes you would like in the Directory, please let Mary know. This would be address changes, telephone number changes, or family changes. Of course, if you don't want to be listed at all, this is an option, but we would hope that active participants in Prairie would choose to be listed.

If you have e-mail, please contact Mary at <mmullen@chorus.net>. You can also call her at 238-7904 or send information to her at 1021 Seminole Highway, Madison, WI 53711.

Adult Education Course Listing

We just received the Adult Education Course booklet from First Unitarian Society (FUS). Prairie people are eligible to attend these courses. You can find the listing in the back of the meeting house. Since FUS is a large congregation, it has the wherewithal to offer a variety of topics for study. This is a good way for us to extend our experiences (both spiritual and intellectual) and met other people with similar values.

"We're In The Money"

Congratulations! The "Guest At Your Table" boxes netted over \$300. Thanks to all who contributed. Through your donations, the UU Service Committee can continue to ensure the rights of women, children and oppressed groups.

K-5 Humane Society Service Project

We invite all of you to help with the R.E. service project February 4th by contributing to our donation to the Humane Society. You can donate money or an item from the following wish list:

- Purina cat and kitten chow
 - canned cat food
 - rawhides,
 - fishing pole/wand toys for cats
 - unscented clay cat litter
 - small litter boxes
 - bleach
 - cat toys that can be disinfected
 - "Kongs" (a dog toy)
 - "Nylabones" dog bones
 - glitter balls
 - hideouts for rats, guinea pigs, and hamsters
- Boxes for donations will be on display at Prairie. Thanks for your help!"

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; you may be asked.

From the RE Contingent

Preschool

No visitors this time. The 'ole "regulars" (except for Maya who was home ill, sigh!) Ezra, Jonah, Maggie, Valerie, Jordan made structures from marshmallows and toothpicks as a way to learn about being "interconnected".

K-1-2

We began working on our service project: making donations to the Human Society. We made boxes to in which to collect donations from Prairie.

We also did some thinking about the interdependent web of life of which we are a part and made collages of trees to help visualize the concept of interdependence.

3-4-5

We found an exciting activity in doing cooperation puzzles. The more we cooperated the faster we completed the puzzle.

6-7-8

We continued reading the play we'll attend in February: "The Good Times Are Killing Me". It is a powerful way to learn about prejudice and racism.

High School

The group began our OWL work for the year. We spoke about and drew what we considered to be the "ideal male and female" from a physical point of view. Interesting thoughts from all....

Coming Attractions

Wild Wintering: January 27th, 5 pm to midnight.
Call Randy at 238-1856 to help with the fun!

Secret Friends sign-up begins January 28th.
Oldsters and youngsters get to know each other on a deeper level.

Kudos

A very special thanks to Randy, Kathy and Mei-Lien for shoveling the deep snow off the Calden's leaking roof.

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.

January 28

Coffee set-up	Kathy Helm
Greeting	Marilyn Ruecking
Program taping	?
Kitchen and cleanup	Rosemary Dorney, ?
Snow Shoveling	Paula Pachciarz

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

(Note: Shaarei Shamayim will take care of the grounds in February.)

Another Noble Pint

Four faithful generous "Prairie people" gave blood in the past two weeks: - Bob Purvis, Al Nettleton, Daisy Peterson and Erica! That was a first for Erica. Celebrate life – give blood.

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

From The Editor

How may I help you? I can be reached at Prairie every Monday and Wednesday from 9am to 11am (271-8218). Administrative e-mail can be sent to mruecking@hotmail.com or prairieu@execpc.com. A message left on the answering machine will be addressed Monday and Wednesday.

THE COMMUNITY

Interfaith Hospitality Network

Last week, Prairie members joined forces with two other churches to host people who are in the process of locating affordable housing in Madison. We extend thanks to Robin Carre', Anne Urbanski, Rachel Siegfried, Paula Pachciarz, Erin Bosch, Micki Wensman, Orange Schroeder, Kathy Helm, Kathy Converse, Ruth Calden, Marilyn Ruecking, and Rosemarie Lester.

We participate in this program four times a year. Our next commitment is May 6th through May 13th.

Racism and Social Justice

The U-U Alliance at First Unitarian Society is sponsoring a winter brown bag series on "Racism and Social Justice in Madison and in our Lives". This will be held in the lower meeting house at FUS. The schedule is:

January 31 – "Civic Responsibility and Social Justice in the Local Media" presented by Neil Heinen, Editorial Director for WISC-TV.

February 7 – "The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists" presented by Bill Franks, Equal Opportunities Specialist.

February 14 – "Racial Disparities In Health Care" Guest speaker is Denise Carty, Minority Health Officer in the Division of Public Health. For further information, contact Marge Miller, 238-6088, gmiller@inxpress.net.

February 4: 12:30 Human Rights Committee Forum

"Prisons: Why You Should Care", will be held at First Unitarian Society, Lower Meeting House. Lunch and childcare are included. You can register by calling 233-9774 (deadline is January 28th.) Guest speakers will be Ed Steichen, past president of MUM Money, Education and Prisons Task Force and Pete DeWind, University of Wisconsin Law School Restorative Justice Project. They will talk about what a difference Restorative Justice can make in resolving the revolving door of probation, prison and parole.

RSVP/You're Invited – The Social Events Calendar

Open Book Club: February 11

Come join the Prairie Book Club as they discuss "Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China" by Jung Chang on February 11th, after service. Bring a bag lunch and take part in the discussion.

February 18: 1:00pm CTM Theater Party

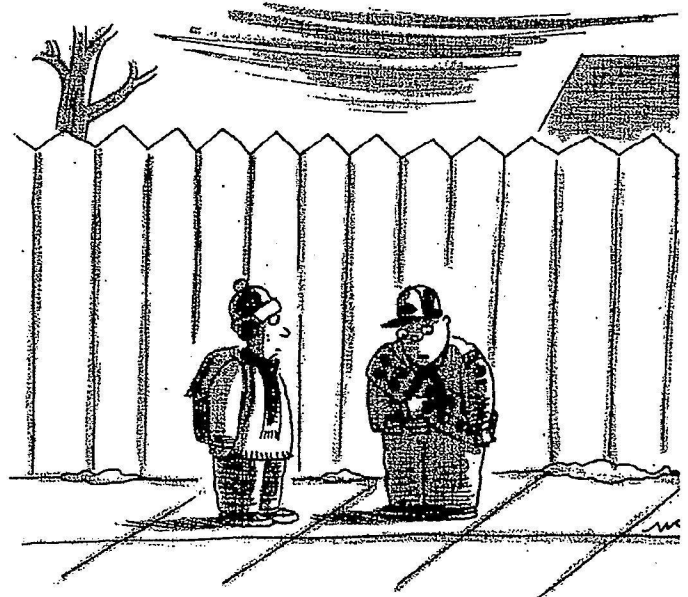
The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade R.E. class is planning to attend the production of "The Good Times Are Killing Me," at the Isthmus Playhouse. They also will be eating together before the show.

They're pleased to have the opportunity to see the play since it coordinates with their current RE curriculum. On the Sunday following the performance, they'll discuss the racial and social justice message of the play. One of the actresses in the production is our very own Paula Pachciarz. Pat Watkins is the coordinator.

"Intelligent discontent is the mainspring of civilization"
~Eugene V. Debs

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar

Tuesdays 4pm-6pm Childrens' Classes
2nd, 3rd & 4th Sat 9am-2pm Religious Sv
Prairie Liaison: Bill Littman 829-1909



"And this one's for homophobia."