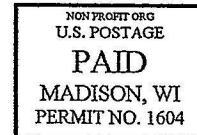


Prairie UU Society 2010 Whenona Drive Madison WI 53711-4843
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Located off the south Frontage Rd. of the West Beltline Hwy near the Seminole Hwy exit.



Prairie UU Society
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>

February 18, 2001

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PRAIRIE CALENDAR

❧COMING ...ANNUAL PRAIRIE SERVICE

AUCTION ...Sunday, March 11, 12:00❧

Saturday, February 24

Playreaders at Rachel Siegfried's home, 271-2173.

Sunday, February 25

9:00am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00am

"Socially Acceptable Bragging". Erin Bosch will lead Prairie in discovering something to shout about.

Sunday, March 4

9:00am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00am

Susan Hagstrom continues her lay ministry, discussing "Skepticism, Character, and Joie de Vie".

11:45am

Open Book Club discussion downstairs. Bring a bag lunch. (See RSVP for details.)

Sunday, March 11

9:00am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00am

"Science and Spirituality". Our guest speaker is radio host, Judith Strasser.

11:45am

Pizza lunch, followed by Service Auction

Tuesday, March 13

7:00pm

Board Meeting. All members may attend.

Sunday, March 18

10:00am

"Science and Spirituality" (continued). Presented by Judith Strasser.

11:30am

Secret Friends Party. Meet your secret friend and/or enjoy a potluck lunch. All are invited.

Sunday, March 25

10:00am

"Prison Reform". Guest speaker is Judy Washbush.

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

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, February 25

Socially Acceptable Bragging

After a brief introduction, we'll get into small groups and share one or two things that we are proud of. This will be a great opportunity for others to hear something about you. These can be large (Nobel Prize?) or small (comforted a friend?).

Sunday, March 4

Skepticism, Character and Joie de Vie

Many people ask - what are skeptics like? What do they do? Come and here Susan Hagstrom tell about her four favorite founding fathers of the first modern skeptical organization.

Sunday, March 11

Prairie Service Auction

After the Sunday program, we'll hold our service auction with a pizza lunch at 11:45am and auction at 12:00pm. See 'Our Society' for details.

OUR SOCIETY

Valentine Intergenerational

On February 11th, the Converse family treated us to a Valentine Intergenerational that included the familiar European-based tradition, as well as a lesser-known Japanese variation. To start off, Kate Skog sang beautifully, a haunting love song, accompanied by Doleta. We heard about the Japanese annual tradition of honoring loved ones by decorating and displaying large banners, and we created some ourselves. Then we heard the legend of St. Valentine and his original love letters, which evolved into our February tradition. Finally, we made and exchanged Valentines, enjoyed traditional chocolate kisses, and were led by Tara in a fun Japanese dance. Thanks to Randy, Kathy, Mei-Lien and Tara for a wonderful program to brighten our February day!

Robin Carre, Introduction to Our Whole Lives for Adults (part 2)

On Sunday, February 18, Robin Carre continued his lay ministry on the OWL curriculum, inviting us to participate in some very interactive exercises. He revealed the results of our sexual attitudes survey: we seem to be rather middle of the road, but with a

high acceptance for diverse sexual identities. Next Robin introduced the Robert Sternberg model of the triangular nature of human love, comprising Passion, Intimacy and Commitment (varying degrees of each are possible). In a skit, Erin Bosch and Rick Owens illuminated the different male and female points of view on commitment. After defining intimacy, we imagined the intimate conversations that must now preface each sexual relationship in order to ensure protection against STDs and AIDS. Finally, we each "voted" a personal percentage value on the sexual component of love; these ranged widely from 30% to 90%.

Other topics covered in the curriculum include Adultery; Lulls in attraction; Gay and Lesbian issues; Alternatives; Family, Aging and Health; and others. The curriculum is available downstairs at Prairie, just ask Randy or Robin. Thanks again to Robin for a stimulating program on a stimulating subject!

Prairie Service Auction

March 11 we'll hold our annual fun and exciting service auction with a pizza lunch at 11:45am and auction at noon.

We are still looking for offerings. So far we are offering the following items and more: personal retreat at St. Benedict's, Ethnic Connection performance, a weekend of child care, home repair, "A Day in the Country", small sewing repairs, strawberry-rhubarb pie, photo session (professional level), pumpkin pie, home-made oatmeal bread, farm weekend, chart of your family tree, horseback ride, stamp art workshop, personal web site, phobia care, garden tilling, extended Saturday night childcare, personal finance workshop, politics or economics workshop. Let your imagination be your guide, you could give hula-hoop or yo-yo lessons, help with the internet, etc. Guaranteed to be fun, interesting, a lot of laughs, and a few oooo's. If you have a need, I'll see if I can find someone to fill it!!!! Call Bob Reuschlein 848-5248 or e-mail earlwal@itis.com

Prairie Board and Lay Ministry Nominations

If you're interested in serving on the Prairie Board as an officer or committee chairperson, or if you have a recommendation to make, please contact a member of the Committee on Committees. Our

election of officers is held in April. In addition, the Committee on Committees recommends lay ministers for next year. This is the time to think about how you can serve Prairie during the next year. If you have topics you would like addressed by lay ministers, we are interested in your suggestions, as well. If you can help by being a member of a committee, we also help connect people with committees, so please let us know of your interests. As a lay led congregation, your participation in the ongoing organization is vital and appreciated! Contact one of the committee on committee members: Rick Ruecking, Paula Pachciarz, Anne Urbanski, Phoenix Wordell, or Aileen Nettleton.

Tops In Pledges!!

The Finance Committee is pleased to report that 96% of the year 2000 pledges were paid! Some of you even exceeded your pledge! This is a very high rate and has allowed us to successfully fund our programming for adults and children as budgeted. Thank you.

Treasurer's Report

Judy Skog will remain our treasurer until the spring election and the new board is installed. You may continue to send checks to her.

New Photo Albums for Prairie

Please bring in copies of your favorite Prairie photos (3x5 or 4x6) to go in our three new photo albums. Any Prairie event, any year – just be prepared to write a few words about the occasion, date and people pictured - when you slide the photos into the photo sleeves.

March 1st Meeting

How Can We Attract New Members to Prairie?

There will be a meeting for all interested Prairie people to make plans on how to attract new members. Our fall effort brought in some new folks and we would like to attract more. The meeting will be held at Thursday March 1st, 7pm, at Ken Skog's house, 626 Orchard Dr., Madison. This is a continuation of the ad hoc committee on attracting new members that met last fall. New members are welcome! If you need further information, call Ken at 273-4813

From the RE Contingent

6-7-8

We thought about how to live by principles. We enacted skits about the lives of Susan B. Anthony and Henry David Thoreau with much enthusiasm. We also talked thoughtfully about our values/hopes.

3-4-5 and K-1-2

For our Community Service Project we went to the Humane Society to donate needed items. We learned how important it is to control the population of dogs and cats in our world.

Valentine Intergenerational

We experienced two Valentine traditions, the western called St Valentine's Day and a comparable one in Japan called Tanabata, the Star Festival. To end the festival we did a Japanese dance, led by Tara, all around the room.

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.

February 25

Coffee set-up	Kathy Helm
Greeting	?
Program taping	?
Kitchen and cleanup	Lisa Glueck, Rick Ruecking
Snow Shoveling	N/A

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

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

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, 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 Linda Sheehy, 273-3895.

THE COMMUNITY

A True Valentine

Laurie Larson didn't wait for Valentine's Day – she gave a pint of blood on January 24th – what a way to show love for all humans!

Talk to the Candidates at GA

Plan now to attend the fortieth anniversary General Assembly of the UUA. It will be held from June 21 through June 25th in Cleveland, Ohio. The UUA is celebrating four decades of Unitarian Universalism since the Unitarian and Universalist denominations consolidated in 1961. A major event at GA will be the election of a new president, moderator, and financial advisor of the Association. Delegates will also cast their votes for other officers.

Let your voice be heard, help shape the future, and deepen your commitment to our denomination. You can access further details about the candidates at www.uua.org/elections

RSVP/You're Invited – The Social Events Calendar

February 24th: 7:30 Playreaders

Join Rachel Siegfried at her home, 5209 Tolman Terrace for an evening of playreading and dessert. Any questions, call Rachel at 271-2173.

Read the Book. Join the Discussion!

Come join the Prairie Book Club on March 4th after service as they discuss "The Rise of Life on Earth" by Joyce Carol Oates. This is a change from the scheduled March 11th meeting due to conflicts. Bring a bag lunch and enjoy the get-together.

March 3: 5:30pm Reeb Rave Auction

Come one. Come all. On March 3rd, James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation will hold its annual Rave Auction. The festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. with a potluck during which you can participate in a silent auction.

The donations vary every year, but typical items have included: canoe rentals, an afternoon pontooning on Lake Kegonsa, carpentry, computer help, multiple hours of lawn work, and fresh raspberry pies delivered to you.

The War on Drugs

Anybody who's turned on a television in the past 14 years has seen the work of the Partnership for a Drug-Free America. Remember these? A girl jackknives off a diving board into any empty pool. A man fries an egg on a stove and explains – this is your brain on drugs.

The message by this Partnership is hitting its mark. A report released last week by the National Institute on Drug Abuse found that anti-marijuana advertising has helped cut teen use by 26.7 percent. Earlier studies by the University of Michigan, New York University and Johns Hopkins each concluded that anti-drug messages have significantly reduced usage among children in every age group.

The non-profit Partnership was launched in 1986 by a handful of the advertising industry's finest minds. The non-profit agency is in the midst of a five year, \$1 billion joint venture with the Office of National Drug Control Policy. The ads – created pro bono by a roster of 200 firms – reach every child in America approximately eight times a week. The key to their success is maintaining credibility. That will be critical as the Partnership tackles its next challenge: ecstasy.

~Excerpted from a February 12th Newsweek article

Bituminous?

The hard coal's called bituminous,
Or is that the anthracite?
Stalactites grow down from caves,
Or do I mean stalagmites?
Those fluffy clouds are nimbus-
No – wait – they might be cumulus.
And the kid who was raised by wolves-
Was he Remus – or Romulus?
A camel is a pachyderm –
Or do I mean dromedary?
Is this match inflammable?
I thought it was incendiary.
Octagons – no hexagons
No, heptagons have seven sides.
And don't spray fruit with pesticides –
Or do I mean insecticides?
If I can see right through a thing,
Is it transparent - or translucent?
These are just some of the things
I find confusing or confusent.
~Shel Silverstein