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.

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PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Sunday, March 25
10:00am
“Prayers from Prison”. Guest speaker is Judy Washbush accompanied by friends.
11:30am
Bake sale to benefit Habitat for Humanity
11:45am
Prairie women’s group meets downstairs. Bring a snack and enjoy the company of other women.

Saturday, March 31
7:00pm
Excerpts from the play “Questionable Origins” including discussion of gay and lesbian issues. (See RSVP for details.)

Sunday, April 1
9:00am
>Choir Rehearsal
>Discussion & Action Supporting GLBT Issues
10:00am
Susan Hagstrom presents the third in her four-part lay ministry dealing with ‘Skepticism’ and “Tricks of the Mind”.

Monday, April 2
5:30pm.
Rally in Support of GLBTG, State Capitol

6:30pm
Spanish Speakers Potluck at the Meeting House.
(See RSVP for details)

Sunday, April 8
9:00am
Choir Rehearsal
10:00am
“Congregational Norms of Behavior”.
A continuation of the “Healthy Congregations and Conflict” lay ministry presented by Nancy Schraufnagel
11:45am
Parish Poll/Congregational Directives: Study and Action Issues. Find your favorite cause and cast your ballot. We’re voting on the issues to be included in the UUA 2001 agenda.

Following Parish Poll or Time to be Decided
Book Club meets downstairs. Bring finger-food.
(See RSVP for details).

Sunday, April 15
9:00am
Choir Rehearsal.
10:00am
“Easter Intergenerational”. Bring colored eggs.

Next Prairie Fire deadline is
Sunday, April 1, 2001
DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, March 25:
Prayers from Prison - "Voices From Supermax"
Judy Washbush, the "prison poet", accompanied by friends, will offer the poetry and voices of former prisoners of the Wisconsin Corrections system. They will discuss injustice and racism in the system, the humanity of prisoners, and the possibility of forgiveness.

Bake Sale
The 6-7-8 grade class will have a bake sale after the service on March 25th. Proceeds from the sale will go to Habitat for Humanity, one of the organizations this RE group is including in their spring service projects. Bring your appetite (and your money) because this is one project you won’t want to miss.

Join Us in Activities in Support of the GLBT Community and the Madison School Board
We want to be organized to respond to the bigotry anticipated by deviate religious fundamentalists who promise to protest the recent establishment of a gay/lesbian counselor in the public schools. We understand our Society and other liberal churches may be subject to picketing on Sunday, April 1st.

Sunday, April 1, 9:00am Prairie UU Society
Participate in a discussion of issues and action.

Monday, April 2, 5:30 pm State Capitol Rally
We will meet in front of the Children’s Museum at 5:15 and march united.

Sunday, April 8, 7:00 pm Interfaith Worship
First Baptist Church, 518 N Franklin Avenue, Palm Sunday Celebration for the GLBT Community & Allies. We hope Prairie members will attend this service in solidarity with liberal Christians who risk more within their denominations than we do. We’ll organize at Prairie that morning. For more information about any of these activities, contact Rick Ruecking 838-8540.

Sunday, April 8:
Congregational Norms of Behavior
Unitarian Universalists tolerate diversity. Nancy Schraufnagel will lead us in a discussion of what behaviors & actions do we not tolerate? What are your/our expectations for behavior and process at Prairie? What will we promise & covenant to each other in our congregation? Please join in the small group discussions.

Tentative Agenda for the 2001 General Assembly lists 8 potential Study/Action Issues (SAIs) as follows:

S-1 The Changing Family
How can Unitarian Universalists best encourage loving, responsible, and nurturing domestic relationships while responding to the challenges of contemporary family life?

S-2 Economic Globalization
How can Unitarian Universalists respond to the unprecedented opportunities and potentially dangerous environmental, political, and quality-of-life challenges accompanying economic globalization?

S-3 Factory Farming
What can Unitarian Universalists do to reform an industry that abuses animals, undermines human health, hurts small farms, endangers farm workers, and damages the environment?

S-4 Native American Concerns
How can a better understanding of the culture, history, and traditions of Native American peoples, as well as the American governmental policies designed to marginalize them, help Unitarian Universalists work collaboratively with indigenous peoples around their identified cultural, financial, political, and environmental concerns?

S-5 Prison Reform
Should Unitarian Universalists work to end the economic sanctions against Iraq and find alternate ways to prevent Saddam Hussein from obtaining means to develop weapons of mass destruction?

S-6 Sanctions Against Iraq
Should Unitarian Universalists work to end the economic sanctions against Iraq and find alternate ways to prevent Saddam Hussein from obtaining means to develop weapons of mass destruction?

S-7 Separation of Church and State
What can Unitarian Universalists do to help achieve appropriate balance between preserving individual religious freedoms and promoting religious and moral values in public life?

S-8 United States Election Reform
How can Unitarian Universalists work to transform the election process in the United States to ensure everyone's right to vote is honored, all votes are counted, and so-called "third parties" can compete effectively?
These were printed in the Mar/Apr issue of The World, and are currently available online at: www.uua.org/csw/saiproposal.htm.

Through SAIs we can explore what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. Come prepared to review, discuss and vote on which of these SAIs are most important to you.

April 15
Bring Boiled Eggs for Easter
For our Easter Sunday Intergenerational Service, we are asking each family to bring six (6) hard-boiled solid-colored eggs. Use your favorite colors but please leave the eggs plain – no designs.

Easter Program Needed
Would you be Prairie's Easter Bunny?
We need a program presenter for Sunday, April 15, traditionally an Intergenerational and potentially a Potluck. Would you be willing to rise to the occasion? If so, please let us know: Prairie Program Committee: Dean, Linda, Marian, Paula, Rick R., Rosemarie, and Warren.

April 22
Notice of Annual Spring Business Meeting
The annual spring business meeting of the Society will be held at Prairie after church on Sunday, April 22. Agenda items include executive reports, presentation of the Committee on Committees and the election of officers and lay ministers for the upcoming year. If you have agenda items or other items of business to be included in the meeting, please contact Erin Bosch, President, 238-6285.

Call for Spring & Summer Program Ideas
The sun is shining, the snow is melting, the birds are singing - can Spring and Summer Prairie Programs be far behind? Prairie is even MORE informal, and there are sometimes fewer of us, but as we know great things are possible in small groups. If you have an idea, and/or would like to lead a Program in June, July or August, please let us know.
~ Prairie Program Committee

Prairie Service Auction A Success
Thanks to all of you who donated or purchased services at the auction last Sunday. This is our major fundraiser for the year.

Special thanks to auctioneer Orange, "caterer" Sharon, and to all who brought food, to the high schoolers for serving, and to Ian for child care.

If you purchased a service, be sure to call the individual providing it to arrange for "delivery." All services should be redeemed within one year. Enjoy!

A Thank You Note from Dan Cautley
Thanks to everyone for your interest and concern about mother. She is at Oakwood Nursing Home in Madison for rehab of her pelvic fracture, following a week at UW Hospital. She'll probably be there for at least several weeks. Address and phone are Pat Cautley, Hebron Oaks 338A, Oakwood Lutheran Home, 6201 Mineral Point Rd., Madison, WI 53705. Phone 608-230-3432. This is a direct line to her bed. She seems to prefer in-person visits to phone calls, when possible.

Prairie Burn
We are planning another burning of the prairie grasses in front of our building, wind and weather permitting, for March or April. This event requires much volunteer effort! Please talk to John Peterson, 273-1821 if you are able to help.

A Rare Opportunity
Have you ever wanted to teach sexuality education to the 7-9 grades? Now's your chance to attend a training class. And, the next time Prairie offers OWL to the 7-9th grades, you'll be ready! From May 18-20, in Chicago, the UU Central Midwest District is offering OWL training. The two facilitators are Madisonians Nara Cox and Jeremy Benton. They are excellent teachers and fun to be with. Contact Randy Converse ASAP, 238-1856, conversekrtm@msn.com if interested.

From the RE Contingent
High school
We continue with OWL. We pondered how to stay sexually healthy throughout life. Another issue
On March 4th we entertained all the RE classes with a reading of two scenes from “The Good Times Are Killing Me”. We did a fine job.

We started our OWL session which was devoted to the complexities of friendship. In session two, we discussed the role of families.

We too began OWL. The first two sessions dealt with the correct terms for our organs.

Attendance at our group has been amazing - we often can have up to eight children - never a dull moment, to say the least.

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 current primary contact is Rachel Siegfried 271-2173.

March 31: 9:00am Opposing the National Missile Defense
Robert Bowman, former director of Star Wars, will speak against the National Missile Defense at Wisconsin State Historical Society on Saturday, March 31st, 9am to noon.

OutReach Yard Signs
In an effort to make support for Madison's LGBT communities more visible, OutReach is distributing yard signs that read "Madison Supports It's Lesbian/Gay/BI/Trans community."
A Room of One's Own, 307 W. Johnson St., has purchased signs in response to a pending visit from anti-gay activist Fred Phelps who plans to protest at the Madison Metropolitan School District, the Madison Fire Department, UW-Madison Memorial Union, and several area churches. A Room of One's Own asks for a $5.00 donation per sign to help recover printing costs. Signs are also available at other places. For further information call A Room of One's Own at 257-7888 or OutReach at 255-8582.

The Homeless Shelter Needs Your Help
Rachel Siegfried needs two volunteers for the 5:00am shift On Tuesday, March 27th at the Homeless Shelter. If you’re available, call 271-2173

A Big Thank You from Allied Drive
Donations to the Allied Drive Food Pantry and to Joining Forces For Families have been steady. They are always so appreciative when the food and other donations are dropped off. They send a big thank you! Your thoughtfulness is appreciated.

RSVP/You’re Invited – The Social Events Calendar

Karaoke Gathering
Some of us have been talking about possibly doing another karaoke evening, soon, in March or April. Everyone is welcome. Good voices not required. Please contact Erin Bosch for details (238-6285; erin@forestprod.org).

March 31, 7:00pm: Shaarei-Shamayim/Prairie Co-sponsor Performance and Discussion of Gay and Lesbian Issues
On Saturday, March 31, at the Prairie Meeting House, TAPIT/new works will excerpt scenes from their upcoming production “Questionable Origins”. There will be a discussion after.

April 2, 6:30: Spanish Speakers Potluck
This month’s get-together will be on Monday, April 2 at 6:30 at the Meeting House. All levels of Spanish are welcome—or you can just come and listen! If you’re able, bring a dish to pass. Call Rosemary at 238-4382 for details.

Read the Book. Join the Discussion!
Come join our spirited discussions once a month, after the service at Prairie, featuring a finger-food potluck. The club is open on a drop-in basis.

Sunday, April 8 - THE CIDER HOUSE RULES by John Irving. Fiction, 587pp but fast-reading. Explores abortion, orphans, addictions, love. (Mary Somers leads the discussion.)