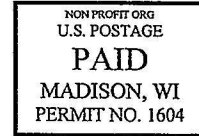


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Located off the south Frontage Rd. of the West Beltline Hwy near the Seminole Hwy exit.



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>*

**April 5, 2001**

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## PRAIRIE CALENDAR

### Sunday, April 8

9:00am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00am

"Congregational Norms of Behavior".

A continuation of the 'Healthy Congregations and Conflict' lay ministry.

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

Book Club meets downstairs. Bring finger-food.

THE CIDER HOUSE RULES by John Irving. Mary Somers will lead the discussion.

### Tuesday, April 10

7:00pm

Prairie Growth Meeting

### Sunday, April 15

9:00am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00am

"Easter Intergenerational" presented by Mary Mullen, Bev Cann and Karen Lucas. Bring colored eggs.

12noon

Prairie Women's Group meets downstairs. Bring a snack to pass and share thoughts with other women.

### Sunday, April 22

9:00am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00am

"The Buddhist Family Tree". Larry Nahlik will continue this lay ministry.

11:45am

Annual Business Meeting. Come and participate in our Society. The agenda will include the election of officers for the coming year. Bring snack food.

### Saturday, April 28

7:30pm

Prairie Playreaders meet at the Dorney/Fast residence. (See RSVP for details.)

### Sunday, April 29

9:00am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00am

"Skepticism and Literature". Susan Hagstrom presents the last program of her lay ministry.

**Next Prairie Fire deadline is  
Sunday, April 15, 2001**

## DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, April 8:**

### **Congregational Norms of Behavior**

Unitarian Universalists tolerate diversity. What behavior do you expect of yourself and others in our Prairie community? What behaviors and processes are inappropriate or make you feel uncomfortable? What will we promise and covenant to each other in our congregation? Please join in the small group discussions led by Nancy Schraufnagel.

**After Service on April 8**

### **Parish Poll: Study and Action Issues.**

The eight SAIs for the 2001 General Assembly were printed in the Mar/Apr issue of *The World*, and also in the last issue of the *Prairie Fire*. The online web-site is: [www.uua.org/csw/saiproposal.htm](http://www.uua.org/csw/saiproposal.htm).

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

**Tuesday, April 10: Prairie Growth Meeting**

Members and friends are invited to participate in continuing a conversation on Prairie's growth and future. Following last Saturday's discussion, Erin Bosch and Rick Ruecking will moderate an informal evening on Tues. April 10 from 7 - 9 pm. We seek perspectives on the current and future directions of our religious education, ministerial and program options, volunteer participation, and other topics affecting the health and well-being of our Society. Please attend with voice and ear.

**April 15**

### **Easter Intergenerational**

#### **Bring Boiled Eggs**

A team of three, who love kids, have volunteered to lead our Easter Sunday program. Mary Mullen, Bev Cann and Karen Lucas will coordinate the service.

In addition, families are asked to bring six(6) hard-boiled *solid-colored* eggs. Use your favorite colors but please leave the eggs unadorned – no designs.

**April 22: Annual Parish Meeting**

The Annual Spring Meeting of Prairie UU Society will begin at 11:45. The agenda items will include: Minutes of the Fall Business Meeting  
Treasurer's Report

Standing Committee Reports

Report from the Committee on Committees

Election of Officers

President's Report

Other Business

The slate of officers for the Prairie Board are:

President.....Erin Bosch

Vice President .....Paula Pachciarz

Treasurer.....Susan Hagstrom

Program.....Dean Schroeder

Finance.....Bob Reuschlein

Secretary.....KK Anderson

Social Action.....?

Religious Education..... Robin Carre

Housing and Property.....Al Nettleton

Denominational Affairs .....Nancy Schraufnagel

Long Range Planning.....Ken Skog

Membership.....Mary Mullen

Please bring some snack food to share. If we have some munchies, we'll be able to keep our wits and good humor throughout the afternoon,

## OUR SOCIETY

### **The Reason/Unreason Project**

On March 11 and 18, Judith Strasser, retired interviewer for the public radio program, "To the Best of our Knowledge", presented a collection of her poems that explored the relationships between physics, reason and spirituality. During the first program, her poems focused on reason. Poems during the second program explored spirituality as the controlling metaphor. Her work came out of a three-month writing residency in Taos, New Mexico, where she began this project.

### **Support for GLBTQ People**

On Monday, Prairie Society made a noticeable presence demonstrating support of the Madison area GLBTQ community. Organizing under our banner, Erin, Rick, Paula, Judy, Katrina, Kate, Ken, Bob, Al and Larry cheered and sang with a crowd espousing love and peace. With our backs turned, the hate mongers slunk away muttering "On the internet, nobody knows we're dogs."

## Growth Discussion

On Saturday, March 31, a group of 23 Prairie adults gathered to discuss the following issues:

- 1) Changing demographics and lifestyles are resulting in less volunteer time available for Prairie;
- 2) The sizes of our religious education classes are smaller than what would be ideal.

Many of the participants offered examples that demonstrated we have to face the reality that we have problems and need to deal with them. The “solution” is going to require a lot more discussion. The possible suggestions ranged from “just keep trying to attract more members, especially families, with no major changes to Prairie” (the views of 1 or 2 people) to “sell our present building, build or buy a better building (with or without participation by First Society), get a full-time minister, grow to a congregation of about 200-250” (the views of about 8 people). The others did not yet state a preference. Those suggestions represent the two extremes, but there were many other things mentioned also: intern minister, half-time minister, sprucing up the classrooms, etc.

The most often mentioned ideal size for an RE class was 8 to 10 or 15. We didn’t clarify if it was meant that was for a three-grade class or for a single grade level. We are currently far from the ideal, and our classes now encompass three grades. An important question is whether our current building could accommodate an ideal situation. No real “next steps” were decided upon, except that the discussion needs to continue.

We would like to offer another opportunity to discuss the growth issue *on April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm*. By talking and listening to each other, we can begin to figure out how we want to proceed to find solutions. We need your ideas, and your energy. We would like input from those who were not at the last meeting, and also further input from those who did attend. Your written thoughts are also welcome, but then you miss out on the “listening” part of the exchange. So please try to join us.

~ Erin Bosch (erin@forestprod.org)

*Note: The editor regrets all articles submitted could not be published.*

## Call for General Assembly Delegates June 21st-25th Cleveland, OH

Claiming Our Heritage (Fulfilling the Promise)

Prairie is allowed two delegates at General Assembly 2001. Delegates must vote at the Plenary sessions, and report information to Prairie. Prairie provides up to \$500 per delegate for expenses, e.g., registration, transportation, housing, food. Selection is decided according to Denominational Affairs policy. If you’re interested in going, please respond *by April 20th* to Nancy Schraufnagel, 273-3195.

## April 27-29

### CMWD annual assembly, Springfield, IL.

“Religious Education in the New Millennium” will be this year’s theme. Nancy Schraufnagel and Robin Carre will be our representatives. If you’re interested in becoming a Prairie delegate, contact Nancy Schraufnagel, 273-3195.

## 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. *No one has volunteered for the April 8<sup>th</sup> and April 15<sup>th</sup> service.* Please come prepared to pitch-in and get these jobs done.

April 8 & 15	
Coffee set-up	?
Greeting	?
Program taping	?
Kitchen and cleanup	?, ?

## Congratulations, Pat!

Prairie member Pat Watkins represented the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin at the conference on the American jury system in New York City this year. Pat has been instrumental in the study of the Dane County jury selection process for a number of years.

## Lay Ministers for Next Year

This is the time to think about how you can serve Prairie during the next year. Do you have an idea for a series of services for next year? Or ideas you would like to see someone present? We depend on our members and community friends for about 3 lay ministry series each year. These stimulating series have included topics ranging from philosophy and

religion to the arts, ecology, and social justice. Each person gives their special twist to inspire us to think in new ways!

You can recruit other members and community leaders to participate in your series. A small stipend is provided in recognition of your efforts. If you have a proposal, please contact the Committee on Committees, Paula Pachciarz, Chair (273-4806, pachwack@chorus.net) or Rick Ruecking, Aileen, Anne, or Phoenix. If you have topics you would like addressed by lay ministers, they are interested in your suggestions, as well.

### **From the RE Contingent**

#### Secret Friends

On March 16, the Secret Friends were unveiled. The adults did some creative thinking to figure out their younger counterparts. During the party, everyone enjoyed eating, creating cooperative machines, and doing relays.

#### Pre-School

We made paper bag puppets to demonstrate our "uniqueness"! We made structures from tongue depressors to talk of life's interconnectedness.

#### K-2

It's fun learning about ourselves through the OWL curriculum. We discussed how to keep our bodies healthy. We thought about the many different kinds of families there were in the world and how all families work for the good of all their members.

#### 3-5

Through games and discussion, we explored the OWL ideas of puberty, sexual identity, and sexual orientation.

#### 6-8

We were very busy organizing a bake-sale at Prairie. Many youth and parents brought goodies to sell. We made lots of money (over \$90) for Habitat for Humanity. Way to go, kids!

#### High School

We've been working on OWL themes. Each week our discussions are profound and long. We've had some serious discussion of what we would each like to achieve in a long-term relationship.

### **Shaarei Shamayim Calendar**

**April 8<sup>th</sup>, 3pm -9pm Passover Seder**  
**2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sat 9am-2pm Religious Sv**

## **THE COMMUNITY**

### **April 8, 7pm: Interfaith Worship Service –**

We are invited to attend a Palm Sunday Celebration for the GLBT community and Allies at the First Baptist Church, 518 N. Franklin Ave (*off University Ave at the U-Pump Gas Station*). Liberal Christians have been picketed for their stand on GLBT issues and need our support in turn. Please come. Worship service at 7 pm; Reception at 8 pm.

### **The Homeless Shelter**

Prairie's monthly support of the Men's Homeless Shelter at Grace Episcopal is still going strong. We have been continuously providing breakfast every fourth Tuesday at the shelter for at least ten years. (Does anyone know the year our commitment began?) Thank you to those who have contributed in the past few months to keep the tradition going by purchasing or preparing the breakfast meal: Robin Carre, Pat Cautley, Frank Iltis, Paula Pachciarz, Anne Pryor, and Rachel Siegfried. If you are interested in helping in the future please contact Rachel Siegfried or Paula Pachciarz.

### **OutReach Yard Signs**

In an effort to make our support for Madison's LGBT communities more visible, Prairie Society has obtained yard signs that read "Madison Supports It's Lesbian/Gay/Bi/Trans community."

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

### **April 28, 7:30: Prairie Playreaders**

This month's meeting will be on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> at Tim and Rosemary's home, 4205 Odana Road. Prairie Playreaders are amateur thespians who tackle plays cold. Newcomers are always welcome. Halfway through the evening, dessert is provided. This is an opportunity for newcomers to meet a small group in an informal setting and get acquainted. Call 238-4382 for more information.

### **April 28, 9:00pm: Karaoke Gathering**

Everyone is invited to attend an evening of karaoke on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Good voices not required. We'll meet at the Stadium Bar, 1419 Monroe St. Contact Erin for details (238-6285; or erin@forestprod.org).