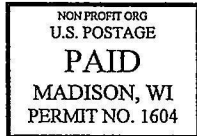


Prairie UU Society 2010 Whenona Drive Madison WI 53711-4843
(608) 271-8218 prairieu@execpc.com
Located off the south Frontage Rd. of the West Beltline Hwy near the Seminole Hwy exit.



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>

April 19, 2001

President: Erin Bosch (608) 238-6285

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

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Saturday, April 21

5:00pm
Spring Fling

Sunday, April 22

9:00am
Choir Rehearsal
10:00am
"The Buddhist Family Tree". Larry Nahlik will continue this lay ministry on eastern religions.
11:45am
Annual Business Meeting. Come and participate in our Society. The agenda will include the election of officers for the coming year. Bring snacks.

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.

Sunday, May 6

9:00am – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, May 6 (cont.)

10:00am
OWL lay ministry. Join Robin Carre as he continues to stimulate us with his fifth in-depth look at the OWL program.
11:45am
Book Club meets downstairs to discuss R.L.BLUES by Walter Mosley. Bring a snack to share

Sunday, May 13

9:00am
Choir Rehearsal
10:00am
Larry Nahlik and Lisa Glueck will wrap up their lay ministry on Eastern Religions.

Sunday, May 19

Playreaders annual fish dinner; dessert and one-act play at Pat Watkin's home.

Sunday, May 20

9:00am
Choir Rehearsal
10:00am
Transition Sunday led by Erin Bosch.

**Next Prairie Fire deadline is
Sunday, May 6, 2001**

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, April 21: Spring Fling

5pm to Overnight for Prairie Youth

The theme is camping out. Tents will be pitched in the back yard. There will be nature walks, flashlight tag, ghost stories and a cookout (if the weather permits). Let's hope it's a beautiful spring night.

Sunday, April 22

The Buddhist Family Tree

Larry will talk about the geographic and philosophic branches of Buddhism: How Buddhism differs in various countries, how it changed as it migrated, and the common thread.

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 including Growth Discussion

The slate of officers for the Prairie Board are:

President.....Erin Bosch

Vice PresidentPaula 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 AffairsNancy Schraufnagel

Long Range Planning.....Ken Skog

Membership.....Mary Mullen

Please bring some snack food to share.

Sunday, April 29

Skepticism and Literature?

Fiction can stimulate the skeptical method, creating interest in questions and answers. However, the arts can also freeze the mind preventing us from using reason. Susan Hagstrom will delve into music, plays, books - samples of skeptical arts - and their opposites.

OUR SOCIETY

Voices From Supermax

On Sunday March 25, Judy Washbush, assisted by Calvin Watson, Mr. Grass and others, led an eye-opening service about Supermax and the Wisconsin justice system. They shared their thoughts and experiences with us through rap and gospel music, poetry, and personal history. We learned more about how social and political conditions make a place like Supermax possible. We heard about dehumanizing conditions inside Supermax and other Wisconsin prisons and how vital outside support is, for those serving time. Contact Judy at 271-3689 or judywashbush@hotmail.com if you are interested in becoming a pen pal of a prisoner who has been screened by Judy.

AIN'T NO LOVE

by Caliph Stevens

A message to our black People!

Every since my days of birth, I've witness them hurt us in the worst,

Make us depend on the first, and lock us down in controverse,

and they love the fact, our brothers kill us first,

Through time, is been a crime land, we let the wrong man get the firm stand;

have we come this far and forgot the plan?

It seems like our dreams been buried in the past, because we've given them up to make our money in the fast,

Then we quick to jump and take another brother's cash,

drop out of school, to prove we smooth and cool, but in this day and age, "You a God-damn fool,"

Ain't no love in the game of life, 'cause it's cruel; Momma's buying crack when the kids need food, Daddy disowned his own kids, and it's wrong, by getting locked upstate too long, 'cause he tried to kill his own kind off, with the stones and crowns,

Witnessing body bags stack more, killing off your own bro',

but when it comes to helping one another, you wanna fold,

How could this world just be so cold; we can't grow young, we just getting old, because we don't last forever, bro',

If you want to be somebody "right"? Stay up out of gun fight, gang bang, and everything, dope slang and all those things to bring self pain, find the right way to get your change,

Because it ain't no love up in the life of Games, then we fronting on each other for the fame, but we fail to realize, that we all struggling in this thang,

To overcome the pain and strain, and to get out of the stress and rain, it seems to be a shame, we steady going against the grain;

why can't we come together and begin this struggle within the same lane?

'Cause it ain't no love it's a damn shame!

(This poem is from the website www.madpoetry.org in the News & Reviews section.)

Growth Discussions Continuing

The discussion on April 10 was very worthwhile. It was the general feeling of those attending (11 people) that a congregation of 200 to 300 wouldn't be too large, and that this size would solve our current challenges of fewer children and fewer volunteer hours available. We thought that it would be "possible" to find a minister who we liked: warm and friendly, inspirational, not authoritarian, and who might preach two Sundays a month, with lay-led services the other two Sundays. Or, another alternative would be to have a minister-led service at 10 o'clock, and a lay-led discussion service at 9 or 11. That alternative would be viable if we had a congregation of 200 or more. But we would probably "not" like a congregation any larger than 300.

Some people shared positive experiences from some ministerial UU churches: Elkhart, IN; Du Page, IL; Florida. Future discussions will focus on whether or not we would want to join forces with a group from First Society to "create" a new congregation. We are encouraging Prairie people to visit the Saturday evening service at First Society. Suggestions for what we can do "immediately" included: buying new furniture for the RE space, identifying other ways to make that space more inviting, having more "inspirational" elements in our current services, and taking care to have "singable" hymns. *The next opportunity for input*

on this issue will be at the Parish Meeting on April 22.

An Update on Pat from Dan Cautley Can You Help?

Mother has finished the proscribed therapy for her cracked pelvis at the Oakwood Village, and has decided that she will stay in the nursing home for a couple extra weeks, then move directly to a studio apartment, also at Oakwood (on or about April 25). She's doing well generally, and has redeveloped good mobility using a walker.

In preparation for the move, she plans to spend a few hours at a time sorting things out at the Regent St. house. She needs a companion for each of these trips, to provide transportation and to help lift and move things. I think she would be happy to have volunteers, and I know she's asked a few people already. Her phone number at Oakwood is still 230-3432. Thanks to all of you who have called and visited mother over the last few weeks.

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.

April 22	
Coffee set-up	Bev/Karen
Greeting	Bev/Karen
Program taping	?
Kitchen and cleanup	Catherine Mandt, ?
Mowing, yard work	?

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

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

Prairie is allowed two delegates at General Assembly 2001. We provide up to \$500 per delegate for expenses. Selection is decided according to Denominational Affairs policy. If you're interested in going, call Nancy Schraufnagel, 273-3195. The GA registration deadline for the lower fee of \$230 is May 1st. Afterwards, the fee is \$275.

THE COMMUNITY

Volunteer for the Interfaith Hospitality Network

May 6 through May 13 are the dates we're committed to helping Midvale Community Lutheran, on Tokay Blvd, 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

Food Preparation 5:00pm

You can either call Marilyn Ruecking, 838-8540 or sign up at Sunday service – Paula Pachciarz will be in the lobby to record the date you're available.

The Madison area interfaith hospitality network (IHN) is a joint effort by Madison churches to provide temporary housing and support to homeless families. Prairie is a buddy church, one of several teamed with host church Midvale Lutheran. Every three months Prairie volunteers help by providing meals, serving dinner and breakfast and staying overnight. The emphasis is on working with the families and easing their transition during this difficult time in their lives. While conversing, we avoid topics concerning their homelessness. Those who have volunteered in the past, have found the experience rewarding.

TAPIT

If you didn't get a chance to see excerpts from "Questionable Origins", it will be performed in its entirety April 20-May 5, on Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:00 pm at TAPIT/new works, 1957 Winnebago St., Madison. The play deals with gay and lesbian issues, private life and public ideology.

Another Noble Pint

Prairie Society blood donors in late March were Rick Ruecking and John Peterson.

Open your gifts and

Offer to others

As you receive, you give.

As we are blessed, so

We can bless others

As we believe, we live.

~ Dean Schroeder

RSVP/You're Invited – The Social Events Calendar

April 28, 7:30

Join the Play Readers

Tim Fast and Rosemary Dorney will host Prairie play readers at 4205 Odana Road, Saturday Apr. 28th, phone 238-4382 with any questions.

The play readers are an amateur group, open to all. The host chooses the play and casts it. You can also come and just listen. Halfway through the evening we take a break to have to a snack and get acquainted. It's a stimulating activity and a good way for newcomers to meet a smaller number of people in an informal setting. It's fun, join us.

April 28, 9:00pm: Karaoke Gathering

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

June 16: Milwaukee Art Museum

On Saturday, June 16th, Prairie will be sponsoring a trip to the newly remodeled Milwaukee Art Museum. Included is a docent led tour of the new Calatrava designed Quadracci Pavilion and the first exhibition to be held there, "O'Keeff's O'Keeffes: the Artist's Collection." This is the first exhibition to showcase the artist's works from her own collection. It includes works she had kept hidden from public view. The trip features a luncheon at "Pieces of Eight" on the lakefront.

Watch for the poster on the bulletin board. Cost is \$52, which includes entrance, tour and lunch, and is due by May 28th. Checks should be made out to Prairie UU Society, and mailed to Pat Watkins, 230 N. Meadow Lane, Madison 53705. If interested, better sign up before the newspaper notices come out in mid-May. Call Pat at 233-5795 for more information.

Read the Book. Join the Discussion!

On *Sunday, June 10*, join the Prairie Book Club as they discuss "THE POISONWOOD BIBLE" by Barbara Kingsolver - 5 female characters narrate this novel, set in the Belgian Congo during that country's fight for independence. For more information, call Mary Mullen 238-7904.