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.

May 10, 2001

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**PRAIRIE CALENDAR**

**Sunday, May 13**
9:00am
Choir Rehearsal
10:00am
Larry Nahlik and Lisa Glueck will wrap up their lay ministry on Eastern Religions discussing "Contemporary American Buddhism".

**Tuesday, May 15**
7:00pm
Board Meeting

**Wednesday, May 16**
7:30pm
"Olive Trees for Peace" sponsored by Shaarei Shamayim (See 'The Community' for details.)

**Friday, May 18**
5:30pm
Playreaders Annual Fish Dinner. (See RSVP for details.)

**Saturday, May 19**
4:00pm
Shirley Grindrod Durkin's 80th Birthday Celebration. All are invited. (See RSVP for details.)

**Sunday, May 20**
9:00am
Choir Rehearsal (last and final for this season)
10:00am
Transition Sunday led by Erin Bosch.

**Sunday, May 27**
There will be no service at the Prairie Meeting House.
11:30am-2:30pm
Memorial Day Picnic at the Lawrence/Haq home.

**Sunday, June 10**
10:00am
Outdoor service at Margaret's Council Ring at the UW Arboretum
After Service
Book club discussion of R.L.'s DREAM by Walter Mosley.

**Tuesday, June 12**
6:30pm
Spanish Speakers Potluck at the Dorney/Fast Residence, 4205 Odana Rd, 238-4382.

**Saturday, June 16**
Lunch at "Pieces of Eight" and the Georgia O'Keeffe exhibit at the Milwaukee Art Museum.
See flyer on bulletin board or phone Pat Watkins at 233-5795. $50 due by May 28th.
Next Prairie Fire deadline is Sunday, May 20, 2001

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, May 13
Contemporary American Buddhism
Larry Nahlik and Lisa Glick will conclude their series with the program "Contemporary American Buddhism". Larry Mandt will offer his thoughts on Buddhism and psychotherapy.

Sunday, May 20: Transition Sunday
Last year Erin Bosch told us a traditional story and emphasized the importance of ritual in our lives. This year should prove no exception. Be prepared: for poems, prose, skits and songs.

Sunday, May 27: 11:30-2:30
Memorial Day Picnic at the Lawrence-Haq home
There will be NO PROGRAM at Prairie. Instead, all are invited to Prairie’s annual Memorial Day Sunday Picnic Potluck at the Cindy Haq and Bob Lawrence home, just west of Verona from 11:30-2:30. There will be opportunity for picnicking, games, socializing, or enjoying the scenic view.
What to bring:
-Drinks to share.
-A dish to pass.
-Your picnic plates & flatware & napkins.
-Something upon which to sit – a lawn chair or blanket (Also, folding tables if you have them).
-Frisbees or other lawn games.
How to get there:
Take Highway 18/151 west towards Mount Horeb. You will bypass Verona. Watch carefully for green highway signs indicating distance to Mt Horeb. When you see a sign indicating “Mt. Horeb, 7 miles”, look at your odometer and when you have traveled 0.85 miles beyond this sign, take the second left turn on Spring Rose Circle. Our house is the second on the right (2444). (Note: if you reach Highway J, you’ve passed up the turn.) Park in the circle and walk down to 2444. Call 845-8065 if you have any questions. See you on Sunday.

Inspired By Nature?
Would you like to share your inspiration with Prairie at the UW Arboretum? Prairie’s outdoor service this summer will be held at Margaret’s Council Ring at the Arboretum, a lovely prairie setting. If you have ideas for how we can come together in spirit, please contact Paula Pachciarz of the Program Committee at 273-4806 or pachwack@chorus.net

Spring Election Results
The slate of officers for the coming year are:
President: Erin Bosch
Vice President: Paula Pachciarz
Treasurer: Susan Hagstrom
Program: Dean Schroeder
Finance: Bob Reuschlein
Secretary: KK Anderson
Social Action: Vacant
Religious Education: Robin Carre
Housing and Property: Al Nettleton
Denominational Affairs: Nancy Schraufnagel
Long Range Planning: Ken Skog
Membership: Mary Mullen
Non-board Committee Chairs
Ceremonies: Rick Ruecking
Sharon Scrattish
Caring: Marilyn Ruecking
Committee on Committees: Rachel Long, Barb Park, Mary Mullen, Ann Urbanski

Congratulations to all! The year ahead will be exciting. Also, many thanks to the current members of the board (many of whom are continuing in their roles) and to all the volunteers who have contributed to Prairie this past year. Your participation is vital and appreciated.

The Parish Meeting ended with a discussion about the future growth of Prairie. Each member expressed his/her views. Ken Skog recorded the points made. No conclusions were drawn at this meeting but Ken, as chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee, can now determine what processes will be used to carry out any changes. If you weren’t at the meeting and have something to say, let Ken or Erin know your thoughts.
Top Ten Reasons to Teach Religious Education at Prairie
10. Entitles you to use Prairie's secret subterranean entrance.
9. Enables you to say, "Gee, I'd love to serve on that committee, but I'm teaching this year"
8. Discover what UUs are actually purported to believe.
7. Counts as a good work if you believe in heaven.
6. It's still Seriously Good Karma if you don't.
5. Allows you to indulge your Messiah complex
4. Enjoy the expressions of slack-jawed disbelief when you tell your friends, family and colleagues that you are a Sunday School teacher.
3. Find out if there are any new commandments you weren't informed about.
2. Customary mid-morning snack prevents onset of crankiness.
1. Basement is the safest place in case of a Tornado.

Call Randy Converse at 238-1856 or Robin Carre at 238-8725 if you want to teach next year.

Get Well Wishes to Rachel
Rachel Siegfried is in the hospital in Oak Park (near her daughter Jean.) She has an infection and is on antibiotics. She will probably be in the hospital several more days (she may be out by the time you read this). She is at West Suburban Hospital in Oak Park - Room 473: Her phone number is (708) 383-6200, ext: 81473. We all wish her a speedy recovery and good health.

An Update on Pat Cautley
Pat has now moved into her new apartment at Oakwood Village. Her address is 6209 Mineral Point Rd., Apt.706, Madison, WI 53705, telephone 238-5373.

For anyone planning to visit, she is in #706 in the 15-story highrise tower. Signage and directions are not very good, so keep an eye on the apartment tower and ask staff for directions. The building doors are locked from 8 PM to 8 AM. Pat has decided to stop driving so she'll appreciate visits and outings with friends. Thanks to all who have called, visited, and helped.

May 6: OWL and Sexuality in Public Schools
Robin’s guest speaker was Paige Shipman, advocacy coordinator for Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin. She talked about the state of sexuality education in schools. Her analogy with learning to swim demonstrated how little guidance children are given in our society in their sexual awareness, development and choices. Europe, with its more enlightened and realistic approach, is a better model than our own country. She pointed out the challenge to our society posed by those who believe that abstinence until marriage should be the only option. Their limited outlook would deny access to birth control information for all. This inspired a lively discussion after the talk. Don't miss Robin's final program on June 17, UU’s Advocating for Sexuality Education and Bev Cann's related program on July 8, Support for GLBT’s in Madison’s schools.

Easter Sunday Intergenerational
On Easter Sunday, April 15, the team of Mary Mullen, Bev Cann and Karen Lucas led an overflow intergenerational crowd in a delightful program celebrating many elements of the seasonal holiday. We invoked the goddesses of the North, South, East, West, and Center. We learned the meanings of runic symbols and decorated eggs with them. We decorated peat pots and planted a variety of seeds in them. We hid, hunted and shared the decorated eggs and we rejoiced together that Spring is here! Many thanks to our three leaders for such a thoughtfully planned and delightfully done program.

Vacancies for July and August
We are looking for program leaders for July and August. Do you have a special interest that you’d like to share. Topics vary widely so feel free to be creative. Let Dean or any program committee member know if you’re available.

Lay Ministries Chosen
We have an exciting line-up for the coming year. The topics are:
-Creativity and the Arts presented by Jean Matos
-UU Connections presented by Sandy Ingham
-Deep Ecology Study Group – a discussion of the Simplicity movement and responsible consumption.
Hospitality
The Society has a few regular activities for which we need help at each Sunday service.

May 13
Coffee set-up  Barbara Park
Greeting  Orange Schroeder
Program taping  ?
Kitchen and cleanup  Larry Mandl, Lisa Glueck

May 20
Coffee set-up  Stephanie Adams
Greeting  Mary Somers
Program taping  ?
Kitchen and cleanup  Stephanie Adams, Ruth Calden

Note: Shaarei Shamayim has volunteered to mow during the month of May. We appreciate their willingness to help care for the building and grounds.
Many hands make light work — thanks to all who volunteer.

THE COMMUNITY

May 16, 7:30: Olive Trees for Peace
On Wednesday, at the Prairie Meeting House, Shaarei Shamayim will host guest speaker, Rabbi Arik Ascherman, executive director for Rabbis for Human Rights. RHR is based in Israel and the organization is working to take small steps to renew trust between Israelis and Palestinians. Their current activities include purchasing and replanting olive groves bulldozed by the Israeli army, and supporting the Palestinian families whose livelihoods depend on the fruits of these trees. The event is free to the public. Rabbi Ascherman will be asking the attendees for donations, which are totally voluntary.

Plant A Row for the Hungry
Do you like gardening? If so, just dedicate one row in your garden for those in need, states Janis Vandermeer, State Bank of Cross Plains Coordinator for this project. When you’re ready to harvest, just call one of the following phone numbers to find a drop off site near you:
Community Action Coalition  246-4730 ex203
Second Harvest Food Bank  223-9121

RSVP/You’re Invited – The Social Events Calendar

May 18, 5:30: Annual Fish Dinner
The Playreader’s Annual Fish Dinner is open to anyone who would like to join us at the Ivy Inn, 2355 University Ave on Friday evening, May 18th at 5:30pm. The only requirement is that you phone Pat Watkins at 233-5795 before Wed. May 16 to place your name(s) on the reservation list. At the end of each church year, the playreaders have this special night. All of Prairie is invited to attend the fish dinner. Then, at 7:15 those who wish to do so will adjourn to the home of Pat Watkins, 230 N. Meadow Lane, to read a one-act play and have dessert. You may attend the entire evening’s events, or the dinner only, or the play only.

May 19, 4:00pm: Celebrate Shirley’s 80th
Please come to a potluck party to celebrate Shirley Grindrod Durkin’s 80th birthday on Saturday May 19th at the Prairie Meeting House. Festivities will begin at 4pm. No gifts please but your contribution of a salad or side dish would be welcome. After dinner, a rousing game of bingo is on the agenda. Bring your “white elephants” along as bingo prizes. You can wrap them to add surprise. RSVP to Suzy, 244-0785; or Lisa, 249-7659.

June 12, 6:30: Spanish Speakers Potluck
You’re invited to join the Spanish Speakers on Tuesday, June 12 at the home of Rosemary Dorney and Tim Fast, 4205 Odana Rd, 238-4382. Bring a dish to share if you can. All are welcome.

June 16: Milwaukee Art Museum
On Saturday, June 16th, Prairie will be sponsoring a trip to the newly remodeled Milwaukee Art Museum. Cost is $50 and is due by May 28th. Checks to Prairie should be mailed to Pat Watkins, 230 N. Meadow Lane, Madison 53705.

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar
Tuesdays  4pm–6pm  Childrens’ Classes
2nd, 3rd & 4th Sat  9am–2pm  Religious Sv
This month’s service will be on May 12, 19, 26
May 16  4-10pm  Rabbi Arik Ascherman
May 26  2-4pm  Bat Mitzvah