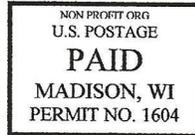


Prairie UU Society 2010 Whenona Drive Madison WI 53711-4843
(608) 271-8218 prairieu@execpc.com
Located off the south Frontage Rd. of the West Beltline Hwy near the Seminole Hwy exit.



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>

June 7, 2001

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

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Summer Schedule

During the months of June, July and August, the Prairie Fire will only be published once a month. Please submit your articles for the entire month on *July 1* and *August 5*.

Sunday, June 10

10:00am

"Finding Peace in Nature"--Outdoor Service at Margaret's Council Ring at the *UW Arboretum*. Child care provided. In case of inclement weather, service will be held at the meeting house.

11:45am

Prairie Book Club discussion, at *Prairie*, of R.L.'s *DREAM* by Walter Mosley. Bring your lunch. The book club is open to all on a drop-in basis.

Tuesday, June 12

6:30pm

Spanish Speakers Potluck at the Dorney/Fast Residence, 4205 Odana Rd, 238-4382.

7:00pm

Board Meeting at Prairie. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

Saturday, June 16

Lunch and a tour of the Georgia O'Keeffe exhibit at the Milwaukee Art Museum. Thank you Pat for a full busload.

Sunday, June 17

10:00am

"Advocating for Sexuality Education" presented by Robin Carre, a continuation of his lay ministry dealing with the OWL program.

11:45am

Prairie Women's Group meets downstairs. Bring a snack to pass and enjoy the company of other women.

Sunday, June 24

10:00am

Summer Solstice Program, facilitated by Bev Cann, Karen Lucas, Denise Jess, and Jani Keoster.

Saturday, June 30

4:00pm

Briggs Anniversary Party (see RSVP for details)

Sunday, July 1

There won't be a service at the Prairie Meeting House. Instead come celebrate the 4th of July at our annual picnic.

2:00pm

Independence Day picnic at the Grindrod/Durkin residence. See UPCOMING EVENTS for details.

Sunday, July 8

10:00am

Support for GLBTs in Madison Schools presented by Bev Cann.

Sunday, July 8 (cont.)

11:45am

Prairie Book Club discusses GALILEO'S DAUGHTER by Dara Sobel. The book club is open to all on a drop-in basis.

**Next Prairie Fire deadline is
Sunday, July 1, 2001**

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, June 10

Outdoor service at Margaret's Council Ring

"Finding Peace in Nature", will be held outdoors at Margaret's Council Ring at the main UW Arboretum and will be led by Jody Bearman and David Folks. We will experience a guided meditation, consider some lessons from nature, and share stories of our experiences.

The Council Ring is a few steps off of the main parking lot in the Curtis Prairie, accessible from either arboretum entrance. Look for the sign. Two stone semicircles provide ample seating but you may wish to bring cushions. It is wheelchair accessible. Be aware that there is no shade provided so if it turns out to be a sunny day, come prepared. In case of nasty weather, the service will be held at the Meeting House.

Several adults will accompany older children on a hike through the arboretum after the children's story. Child care (including nursery care) will be available at the Prairie Meeting House, rain or shine. If you choose, you can leave your children at Prairie and pick them up afterward.

Sunday, June 17

"Advocating for Sexuality Education."

In the last installment of his lay ministry on UUs and Sexuality, Robin Carre will discuss how we can advocate for sexuality education in our communities. He will introduce the UU resource for communities of faith, The Advocacy Manual for Sexuality Education, Health and Justice.

Sunday, June 24

Celebrating the Summer Solstice

We'll gather together to honor the generosity of the Earth at this turning of the year. We'll celebrate the height of the growing season and the power of the sun. The ritual will take place outside (weather permitting) in the side yard of the building. If it's rainy, we'll hold it indoors. Please bring a blanket or lawn chair to sit on. If you like, bring a rose of any variety to decorate the altar. We'll be providing some dried herbs (basil, rosemary, chamomile, clover) to create a dream pillow/sachet. If you would like to bring some dried herbs to add to your sachet, feel free to do so. This is an intergenerational meeting, so all are welcome.

Sunday, July 1: Potluck Picnic at the Lake

There will be NO PROGRAM at the Prairie Meeting House. Instead, all are invited to Prairie's annual "4th of July" Sunday celebration potluck at the Shirley Grindrod and Bob Durkin home, 5235 Harbor Court, beginning at 2pm. Spend some time at the lake, relax, feast and socialize.

What to bring:

- A dish to pass.
- Food to grill, if you'd like
- A lawn chair or blanket

To get there, proceed west on University Ave. Turn right on Spring Harbor Drive (the second street west of Whitney Way). Turn left on Mendota Drive and an immediate right on Harbor Court. If you need additional details, call Shirley at 238-4422.

OUR SOCIETY



Congratulations to the Class of 2001

This year we bid adieu to the following seniors at Prairie: - Jake Mandt, Ian Park, Tara Converse and Alison Owens. We send them our best wishes for a bright future.

Emma Giorgi, daughter of Kathy Helm and Gary Giorgi, and granddaughter of Dominick and Virginia Giorgi, was named valedictorian of the class of 2001 at McFarland High School. In addition to establishing a stellar academic record, Emma helped her team win the 400 and 800 meter relay at the WIAA Division 2 state championship. She also

recently received "Best of Show" at the Capital Conference Art Show. We congratulate Emma on her achievements.

Three Lay Ministries Coming Your Way

Look what the Program Committee and fellow Prairie members have in store for us:

1. "Deep Ecology" Study Group and Lay Ministry

This is your chance to be part of an experiment in a different form of a lay ministry!

You are invited to join a Prairie study group next fall, the Deep Ecology Discussion Course from the Voluntary Simplicity movement. This is a unique opportunity to explore our attitudes and actions toward the earth with other Prairie members, reading and discussing topics such as "The Gaia Hypothesis," "Spirituality and the Earth," "Native American Wisdom," "Simplicity," and more, in a 10-week evening discussion group. The workshops are geared to create community as participants discuss core values and lifestyle choices and plan a celebration.

The study group will lead to a "group" lay ministry around the topic of "Deep Ecology." Members of the study group will plan and share highlights of the learning experiences with the rest of the congregation. The Voluntary Simplicity workshops were recommended to help us, as a congregation, address the UUA study resolution on "Responsible Consumption" which Prairie co-sponsored.

If you are curious or interested, contact Rick Ruecking, 838-8540, or ruecking@hotmail.com; or Aileen Nettleton, 238-6053 or aanett@execpc.com. Each participant will purchase the study guide and meet weekly for the 10-week series, including helping plan the follow-up Sunday morning series. We hope to have 8-10 people in a group and can form more groups based on interest. A local member of the Voluntary Simplicity movement will help facilitate the first session. For background information check the Northwest Earth Institute website, <http://www.nwei.org/courses.htm>.

2. Creativity and the Arts:

Jean Matos will coordinate four sessions which will take place between June and November of 2001. This series will feature Prairie artists, displaying their work and telling about their creative processes. Each service will likely focus on one artistic

medium or group of related media. The art under consideration includes photography, pottery, fabric art, painting, sculpting, etc.

3. UU Connections: Sandy Ingham, an ordained UU minister and Star King graduate, will lead this series of four to six programs, with the aim of better understanding and articulating who we are as UUs. The specific program topics have not been finalized, but she hopes to use dramatic enactment (with the help of Rose Stephenson), readings and discussion to introduce us to some Universalist and Unitarian historical figures. She would also like to discuss how we relate to each other and other UUs, and how we form covenants as individuals and families, and as a church.

Cleanliness is next to . . .

I subscribe to the theory that clutter represents stuck energy. I propose to free up energy for the larger tasks of attracting new members by clearing out the clutter & stuff in the meeting house. I hope to have 3-4 work days this summer which would be a combination of general cleaning & clutter management/organizing. Perhaps one work day a month, preferably in concert with Shaarei Shamayim (so we don't throw out anything that's theirs).

There will be something for everyone. If you don't feel you know enough to tackle the files & stuff in either office, there are certainly cobwebs to find & corners to sweep. Please be prepared to say yes when I call you later this month. (Or better yet, call me to volunteer). Thanks in advance for all your hard work & your caring.

Judy Skog 273-4813

An Opportunity to Attend General Assembly

General Assembly, the annual convention of the UUA, our denomination, is next month in Cleveland. If you're interested in going, visit www.uua.org and check out the agenda, and the registration form! Then, contact Darrell Pope, carpop@globaldialog.com, who has more information. There is a chartered bus going from Madison, so transportation will be CHEAP! Where else can you be surrounded by 4,000 people, all of whom understand what you mean when you say you are UU, and NONE of whom will ask you: "But, what do UU's believe?"

There is a substantial youth caucus at GA, and high school youth are welcome. Contact Arthur Thexton, athexton@hotmail.com, for more information. This is not a YRUU or closely supervised event, although a named adult sponsor must be at GA also, so only mature and responsible youth should attend!

UUA Elections at General Assembly:

Who do you want Prairie to vote for President & Moderator?

After eight years, both Unitarian Universalist Association President and Moderator positions are open: Reverend William Sinkford or Reverend Diane Miller for President and Patsy Sherill Madden or Diane Olson for Moderator. Tell us your choice!

Information has been in the World and on the UUA web site. Material will also be available at Prairie. Please notify your GA delegates, Nancy Schraufnagel 272-3195 or Bob Reuschlein 848-5248 by June 19th with your suggestions or questions.

Hospitality

Thanks to all who have helped in the past and to those who signed up for the following dates:

- June 10 - Arboretum
Mow Doug Hendrix

- June 17
Coffee set-up Barb Park
Greeting Bev Cann
Program taping Bob Park
Kitchen and cleanup Rosemary Dorney
 ?
Mow Mike Briggs

- June 24
Coffee set-up Paula Pachciarz
Greeting Mary Somers
Program taping Paula Pachciarz
Kitchen and cleanup Andy Somers
 Mary Somers
Mow Andy Somers

- July 1 - Potluck at Grindrod/Durkin
Mow Larry Nahlik

- July 8
Coffee set-up ?
Greeting Ruth Calden
Program taping ?
Kitchen and cleanup Doleta Chapru
 ?
Mow Robin Carre

Many hands make light work. We depend on our volunteers .

THE COMMUNITY

Precious Pints

Recent blood donors at Red Cross centers are Barbara Park, Dean Schroeder, Rick Ruecking and Phoenix Wardell. Summer accidents make the need for blood acute. Please celebrate your good health by donating.

**June 29 & 30, July 6 & 7; 7:30:
We're Off to See the Wizard.....**

You can not only see the wizard but also Madeline and Reuben Arnold and Rachel Long as performers in the show. "The Wizard of Oz" will be presented at 7:30 at the Monroe High School Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for kids 12 and under. If you plan to go and follow the yellow brick road, call Rachel at 328-4899

RSVP/You're Invited – The Social Events Calendar

June 30, 4pm: Briggs Anniversary Party

Norma and Mike Briggs invite all Prairie members and friends to their 45th anniversary party on Saturday, June 30, beginning at 4 p.m. and ending who knows when, at their house at 1519 Storytown Road, Oregon. Bring a dish to pass, lawn chairs and a musical instrument. Don't bring beverages, they'll be provided.

To get to 1519 Storytown Road, take Fish Hatchery Road to County M (first stop sign). Turn right (west). Turn left (south) on Blizzard; turn left again (east) on to Purcell, then turn right (south) on Storytown. Our driveway is on your right. If lost call 835-0914.