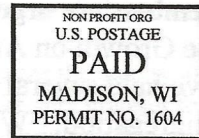


Prairie UU Society 2010 Whenona Drive Madison WI 53711-4843
(608) 271-8218 prairieu@execpc.com
Located off the south Frontage Rd. of the West Beltline Hwy near the Seminole Hwy exit.



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>

July 4, 2001

President: Erin Bosch (608) 238-6285

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

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Sunday, July 8

10:00am Sinkford, Chief Wahoo, and
Globalization

Our delegates to General Assembly, Nancy Schraufnagel and Bob Reuschlein, will report back to Prairie. They helped elect the first African-American to head a white-majority religious denomination and voted to make "globalization" the priority study/action issue. They will report on added study issues and we'll learn of the many workshops and entertainments.

Saturday, July 15 SUMMER VACATION

No meeting at Prairie this Sunday.

Sunday, July 22 Potluck

10:00am GLSEN in the Schools

What concerns do you have with regard to the inclusion of Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender issues in the schools? This question will be explored during the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (GLSEN) presentation. There will be a participatory discussion about homophobia in the schools and its effect on youth. Bev will share a model of youth empowerment and explore the roles of gay-straight alliances in creating more inclusive school environments.

But wait, there's more

11:45am Potluck and Interfaith Work-day

Part one of a two-part lay-ministry on cooperation. See August 4 and the article in Our Society. Keep our prairie flowering.

Tuesday, July 24 - Board Meeting at Prairie.

7:30pm All are welcome to attend.

Sunday, July 29 – SAUK CITY POTLUCK

10:00am "Ministry is All That We Do --Together"

Our annual joint area congregations service and picnic is held at the Free Thinker's Hall in Sauk City. This is a fun day – join us – see Details page 2.

Saturday, August 4, Interfaith Cooperation Day

10:00 - 2:00 pm Work with Shaarei Shamayim; bring a dish to pass, cleaning supplies & wear grungy clothes on the second part of this lay ministry. See article Our Society.

Sunday, August 5

10:00am UU Position on Responsible

Consumption: What Does It Mean to Us?

Environmentalist and former member, Ori Loucks, presents a service which presages next year's environmental lay ministry.

Sunday, August 26

PLEASE NOTE

8:30 – 3:30 pm Prairie Growth Workshop

Angela Merkert from the Central Midwest District of the UUA will facilitate a one-day congregational planning retreat on Sunday, August 26, 2001. Our goal is to reach decisions on critical issues facing Prairie growth. See story in Details.

September 14-16

FALL RETREAT

Put it on your calendar. It's the best that Prairie has to offer – this year at Bethel Horizons, near Governor Dodge State Park. Practice your skills and talents; begin your family skits now! Registration materials will be in the August newsletter.

**Next Prairie Fire deadline is
Sunday, August 5, 2001**

Prairie Growth Retreat Scheduled for Sunday August 26th

All Prairie members are urged to attend a retreat to discuss Prairie Growth on August 26th. As most are aware, we have held several discussions on growth within the congregation. We believe that there is consensus on certain points:

1. The RE program is barely viable because of small numbers, and we are at risk of losing the families we do have.
2. We are burning out our devoted core of volunteers, and have difficulty filling positions for teachers, committee chairs, etc.
3. We need to grow significantly in membership, for the above reasons.
4. Our current RE space is insufficient to support needed growth.

Angela Merkert from the Central Midwest District of the UUA has agreed to facilitate a one-day congregational planning retreat on Sunday, August 26, 2001 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (child care will be provided). **Our goal is to reach decisions on critical issues facing Prairie growth.**

The questions before us include:

- Can our current space be remodeled to meet our projected needs, or would moving be the better solution? If we move, where? Buy an existing space or build?
- Do we need to change our structure to attract and retain new members, or would such a change run directly counter to Prairie's mission? Specifically, should we hire a full- or part-time minister, increase duties for the administrator, or pay for some of the duties now done by volunteers?
- Should we consider jointly building a new congregation with First UU society as an alternative to trying to expand Prairie?

We expect the retreat will help prepare us for action on these issues. In order to act with confidence that the congregation is in agreement, **there must be a large turnout.** We hope that the entire Prairie community will attend. We are asking for your commitment to participate in this planning retreat.

Prairie Growth Retreat WE NEED YOU!

RSVP to Ken Skog indicating you can come, ASAP, but not later than Wednesday, August 1st

Ken Skog
626 Orchard Drive, Madison, 53711
273-4813 or kskog49@aol.com

Thank you for your participation!

*Signed: Members of the Long Range Planning Committee
Erin Bosch, Norma Briggs, Rachel Long, Mary Mullen, Barb Park, and Ken Skog, Chair*

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

"Ministry is All That We Do --Together" is on July 29, 10 am, in Sauk City. Please join us for the annual joint service with the four area UU congregations: Prairie UU Society, First Unitarian Society, James Reeb UU Congregation, and the Free Congregation of Sauk City. **THERE WILL BE A POTLUCK FOLLOWING THE SERVICES** (beverages will be provided) Location: Free Congregation of Sauk City. Directions: Take Hwy 12 to Sauk City. Cross the Bridge. At the light turn right onto Water Street. Go three blocks and turn left onto Polk Street. Two blocks down, the building is on the right at 306 Polk Street. Call Erin Bosch if you would like to carpool (238-6285).

Jean Matos' lay ministry on Creativity and the Arts will kick off with a focus on **textile arts on September 9**. Quilters, embroiderers, weavers, tailors, crosstitchers, etc. are encouraged to bring in samples of their best work and be ready to answer questions about their creative process. Other artists, take note: Jean's other ministries will focus on **three-dimensional art - September 23** (sculpture, ceramics), **painting, drawing and printmaking - October 14**, and **photography - November 4**. She hopes to have large displays of Prairie folks' work for each service so start looking over your oeuvre now, or be sure to finish that special project in time. If you have any questions or are interested in participating more actively in a service, call Jean at 255-2209.

OUR SOCIETY

Dan Cautley writes that Pat is doing fine after her hospital stay and has moved to the nursing home section at Oakwood Village. She'll probably be doing rehab there for several weeks before going back to her apartment. Pat is in Room 217A of Hebron Hall at Oakwood. Her phone number is 238-5373. She welcomes calls and visits. But please call ahead to assure she is available to receive you.

Julia Bonser writes that we learned from Dick's urologist that what has caused his bladder pain and related difficulties is a bladder cancer. The last biopsies showed Carcinoma in Situ. We hope it is in the early stages and can be treated with biological therapy. Dick will begin an 8 week treatment with a biological agent called BCG. This agent will stimulate the body's immune response to get rid of the cancer cells. This will last until September when we'll wait a month for healing before more biopsies will be done in October.

We ask for your thoughts/ prayers/ healing energy for the best possible outcome for Dick.

Cleanliness is next to . . . Interfaith Cooperation Days. Let's clear out the clutter & cobwebs at Prairie. Join our friends from Shaarei Shamayim for a potluck after church on **Sunday, July 22 and again on Saturday, August 4.** Following that, we will all do "Save or Pitch" in the basement. We will be pulling things out of storage, cleaning & organizing, & getting the RE space ready for the new year with a thorough cleaning. There's something for people new to Prairie and Shaarei Shamayim, as well as long-time members (cobweb detail, washing toys in the preschool area, finding out just how many broken crayons we really need, vacuuming rugs & couches, organizing files in the office, labeling drawers for contents. . .).

Please wear clothes that can get dirty. If you can help, please bring a broom, sponge mop, bucket, carpet vacuum, dusting cloths, sponges, gloves (if you use them), sturdy garbage bags, or a cardboard box for sorting junk.

Thanks, Judy Skog 273-4813

Program thanks are past due for the rush of great programs which Prairie has had this summer: The Memorial Day Picnic at the Haq/Lawrence household was deemed a huge success by all who attended. The crowd was large, the food was good, and the hosts provided tours and conviviality. The trampoline was "awesome". Thanks to Bob and Cindy.

Prairie met in the sun and rain and in the round at an arboretum council ring on June 10. Prairie folk report that Jody Bearman and Dave Folks provided for shared experiences and reflection. The guided meditation by Sandra Reamus moved us all to find peace within nature. The transition back to the meeting house was peaceful in its nature. Appreciation is in the question to the Program Committee, "Would they do more services?" Thank-you Jody, thank-you, Dave, thank-you Sandra.

In mid-June, Robin Carre completed a lay-ministry on UU's and Sexuality with practical measures for bringing our advocacy into the public discussion. We may be convinced of how crucial whole sexuality education is for our children, but we must be prepared to advocate for it in the public sector. It can and has been done. Throughout his services Robin brought insight and humor and action to topics about which we are all expert. It's a tough crowd to sell, but under his tutelage we're still buying. Thank-you, Robin.

In celebration, Bev Cann, Karen Lucas, and their friends,

Denise and Jani presented an outdoor summer solstice service based on pagan ritual. The service involved honoring the natural world through song and dance, crafts, and a symbolic letting go of the old and welcoming the new. Thank-you Karen, thank-you Bev, and thanks to all the other participants.

The Program Committee recognizes the quality of these services and programs and we are very grateful for all of the efforts these people employed in bringing Prairie Society these exemplary services. Thank-you all!

It's Always Budget Time

It's time to get ready for another budget year: CY 2002.

All committee chairs should prepare committee budgets for submittal at the August board meeting. Thank-you.

Bob Reuschlein, Chair of the Finance Committee.

Thank You

Thanks to Galen and Rose Smith for donating a sectional sofa and matching chairs for the RE space.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Gay Pride March is Sunday, July 22. The march begins at 1:30, so Prairie friends and folk could gather in front of the State Historical Museum on the corner of State St. at the Capitol Square at 1:15 and march together. (If this event is more important to you than the concurrent Prairie clean-up, perhaps you would carry our banner which can be obtained Sunday morning at church).

Interweave Summer Get-Together invites you to join with them in this annual event, **Sunday, August 12, 4 pm.** Interweave of Dane County is an organization for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and heterosexual communities of the three UU congregations in Madison who invite all to attend this festive opportunity to play, plan, socialize, and organize.

The get-together will be at McKee Farms Park in Fitchburg; a rain or shine event! Families, friends, newcomers welcome! There will be food, volleyball, hiking paths, and good people.

Please RSVP by Wednesday, August 1. Call Liz at 831-9731 or email her at: lizdann76@hotmail.com Bring a dish to pass. *Directions: Take Fish Hatchery Rd. (Hwy D) south to Brendan (first street south of PD); turn right on Brendan; go past the tennis courts and take a left turn into McKee Farms Park.*

Scouting For All

GLSEN notifies us of August protest demonstrations for opening scouting experiences to all. Current plans:

Monday, August 20: 4 - 6 pm. March and rally from State Capitol to Library Mall Mall.

Tuesday, August 21: 4 - 6 pm. Protest United Way of Dane County at 2059 Atwood Av.

Wednesday, August 23: 4 - 6pm. Protest Four Lakes (BSA) Council office, 34 Schroeder Ct.

For more information contact: Dennis Coyier 2866 Alydar Way, Cottage Grove, WI 53527 608-839-5452

RSVP – The Social Events Calendar

Hosts needed for Prairie Playreaders!

Playreaders is a group of long-standing that meets monthly at a host's home to read plays. As host, you choose the play read that month. The host generally provides finger snacks and beverages while reading, with an intermission delicacy.

If you are interested in hosting playreaders, or want to read a play, come to the initial **playreading, September 8th, 7 pm**, at Susan Hagstrom's, 916 Shorewood Blvd., Madison 53705.

Call Susan at (H) 238-4970 or (W) 267-4797 if you have any questions. If you cannot attend the initial playreading date, and still wish to host, please send your choice of month, or actual date if you have a preference, to her address, or e-mail at SusanTanyaAml@aol.com (upper/lowercase necessary).

Everyone is welcome on September 8th, even if you don't wish to host a play and snack will be provided as well!

Summer Spanish Speakers

Anyone interested in the summer meeting of the Spanish Speakers' Potluck group, please call Rosemary Dorney. She can be reached at 238-4382.

OUR SOCIETY

Greetings and congratulations to new members:

Mary and Andy Somers

Mary and Andrew Somers became members of Prairie UU Society in December 2000 but we became acquainted two years earlier, when Andy gave a Sunday morning presentation about his work for human rights in Ireland. True to his Irish heritage, he has been active in securing release for political prisoners held by British in Northern Ireland. He has made many trips to that country to aid the cause of human rights there.

Andy grew up in a Roman Catholic family in New York State, attended St. John's University, then law school in New York City. His experience as an attorney was colored by a natural sympathy for the underdog and a wish to make the legal system truly serve the ordinary citizen. In Wisconsin he worked with the attorney general's office and then became a municipal judge in Fitchburg. He served in that office for 14 years, retiring about ten years ago. You'll want to read (in our Prairie Society book of members' mini-biographies) an excellent article about him from the Wisconsin State Journal. His dramatic talents, useful in the courtroom, are known to us through our play readers group. He plays piano, and his reading covers a wide range of subjects and plots. A major clue to character: Andy quit smoking after an almost lifelong habit.

Mary grew up in Oshkosh, Wisconsin and became a nurse there, working for 13 years. She obtained a bachelors degree in community services, than a master's in health services and

planning. Mary then worked 23 years at St. Mary's hospital, becoming its business director. She has served on a variety of city and state committees and boards. She was an alderperson in Middleton - all this as volunteer, in addition to her professional work. She has traveled in Russia, Greece, France and Great Britain. Mary's religious upbringing was Roman Catholic. She and Andy were married in an Episcopal ceremony 10 years ago. Their united family now includes six grandchildren all less than six years old. Often birthday presents are zoo memberships and happy birthday celebrations are at the zoo.

Andy and Mary live just two blocks outside Madison at 4467 Crescent Road in Fitchburg, phone 276-8397. We're so pleased to have this charming couple become part of Prairie.

Stacking Chairs

The Program Committee asks people NOT to stack chairs after the service! We appreciate the spirit of helpfulness, but in this case, it's counter productive, i.e. not good for the chairs. This notice comes from the program committee. Thanks.

Allied Drive Food Pantry and JFF

Thanks to all who donated to the Allied Drive Food Pantry during the past few weeks. Summer food pantry levels are typically low and Prairie is good at remembering this. Also, donations of diapers, formula and personal items for Allied Drive area residents (Joining Forces for Families) have been going strong and are much appreciated.

Homeless Shelter

The 5-8 a.m. shift at the men's homeless shelter is a tough one to make yourself get up for, but the extra sets of hands are always appreciated by the shelter staff and the men being served. Thanks to the following individuals for purchasing groceries and making and serving breakfast: Mary Mullen, Andy and Mary Sommers, Paula Pachciarz.

Come Sing A Tapestry

Come sing a tapestry! Be the voice of harmony,
Weave a world of peace and beauty and let the spirit
of your heart sing through.

A single voice speaking out, in courage and in truth,
When joined with others in unity becomes the voice
of liberty –

A mighty chorus over tyranny

A joyful spirit lives anew!

*~ Excerpt from a song sung by the Prairie choir May 2001
and submitted by Barb Rames*

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar

Religious Service on 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sat. 9am–2pm
This month's services will be on July 14, 21, 28
September 8th Service will be from 12 – 5 pm