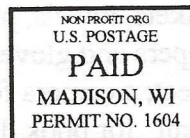


Prairie UU Society 2010 Whenona Drive Madison WI 53711-4843
(608) 271-8218 prairieu@execpc.com
Located off the south Frontage Rd. of the West Beltline Hwy near the Seminole Hwy exit.



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.

September 7, 2001

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>

President: Erin Bosch (608) 238-6285

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PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Sunday, September 9

10:00am

"Textile Arts" - first of Jean Matos' lay ministry on Creativity and the Arts.

Monday, September 10

6:30am

Spanish Speakers Potluck: at the Meeting House.

September 14-16

FALL RETREAT

Bethel Horizons Retreat Center, near Governor Dodge State Park.

Sunday, September 23

10:00am

"Three-Dimensional Art" - second of Jean Matos' lay ministry on Creativity and the Arts.

12:00pm

Prairie Bicycle Ride. Bring your bike to Prairie and go on a group tour.

Sunday, September 30

10:00am

A continuation of the lay ministry on Deep Ecology.

**Next Prairie Fire deadline is
Sunday, September 16, 2001**

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 9: Textile Arts

Jean Matos' lay ministry on Creativity and the Arts will kick off with a focus on textile arts. Quilters, embroiderers, weavers, tailors, crosstitchers, etc. will have samples of their best work and will answer questions about their creative process.

Jean's next presentation on **September 23** will focus on three-dimensional art (sculpture, ceramics). If you have any questions or are interested in participating, call Jean at 255-2209.

Sept 14-16: Fall Retreat

We're all looking forward to our yearly retreat where we can relax among prairie grasses, participate in a prairie restoration, enjoy hiking trails and views from cliffs, take part in scheduled programs, enjoy good food and reconnect with one another.

Thanks to Prairie volunteers and Bethel naturalists, we have an excellent range of activities and discussions for our retreat. The Naturalists will lead several activities for kids and others at the Nature Center, a Prairie Restoration Hands-on Workshop for those 12 and up, and a Horizons Hike.

Friday evening: Come to the Prairie Center at the top of the hill, our home for the weekend.
7:00-8:00 Registration, Room Check-In, Finger Foods (bring to share), Mixer Games

8:00-9:30 Sing-along with Doleta

Bring: Finger foods to share on Friday evening; linens, blankets, towels, pillow, soap; a shovel or trowel, clippers and gloves if you are doing the prairie project; a camera for the Nature Photo Walk; the "Red Tent" for book discussion; various fruits or veggies from broccoli cucumbers-apples-bananas-mint-for Randy's -greens- Healthy Juices workshop; your copy of "Rise Up Singing" if you have one; board games; a flashlight, insect repellent, warm clothes and shoes for outdoors; and, of course, your TALENT SHOW instrument and music or skit and props, and dancing shoes for folk dancing. In case of rain, bring your "Top 3 Books of the Year" to share along with rain gear.

Some other Saturday events will include Relation Exercises, "Deep Ecology" Preview, Outdoor Games, Bean Art, German Folk Singing, Kids Talent Practice, and Preschool Storytime. Teens are invited to help lead activities for kids (see Brian and Erica) or participate with adults. Sunday morning will close with our traditional Key Log Ceremony at the campfire.

This year we will be sharing the facilities with another group. We will be headquartered at the Prairie Center. The other group will have the Farmhouse and Barn Center. We will need to acknowledge our "co-retreaters" and limit ourselves to our own areas. This also means ALL of us will be in close quarters, with programs and bedrooms at the Prairie Center. Please remember to respect one another's needs. Mealtimes are at 8am, 12noon and 6pm. Please arrive promptly.

To get to Bethel Horizons, take highway 18 (Verona Road) west to Dodgeville. Turn right on Hwy 23 and go north, past Governor Dodge State Park until you reach county road "ZZ". Turn right (east) on ZZ and in a mile follow signs leading to Bethel Horizons.

On arrival, check-in with Rick Ruecking at the Prairie Center. He'll direct you to your accommodations, provide a map of the grounds, Bethel guidelines, and a program schedule. People arriving on Saturday will find extra copies of these materials at the Prairie Center. After unloading,

your vehicle must be parked in the parking lot at the top of the hill.

Rick Ruecking is our on-site coordinator for the retreat. If you have questions about registration or the facilities, please check with him. He will be our liaison with the Bethel staff. Aileen Nettleton is coordinating the program. We look forward to an enjoyable weekend together as a community.

Book Club Selection, Sept 15 at Bethel Horizons
Reminder: you may buy these books at Borders at a 20% discount if you mention you belong to the Prairie Book Club.

Our first fall selection, THE RED TENT by Anita Diamant, is on the schedule for discussion Saturday, September 15, at our Bethel Horizon's retreat. This fascinating story is narrated by Dinah - granddaughter of Jacob in the Bible - who becomes a much-sought-after midwife.

If you recall the story of Jacob and Esau, of Jacob's son Joseph who was sold into slavery by his brothers, and of the wives of Jacob including Leah and Rachel, the book will hold special interest for you because it richly develops the characters of all these people and more. Those who aren't familiar with those stories will still be riveted to the book which portrays an intimate picture of women's lives in a herding culture, in the city in a wealthy home, and in an Egyptian city during that time. By the way, the red tent was the place of isolation for menstruating women.

The author has written five non-fiction books about contemporary Jewish life (including Choosing a Jewish Life and The New Jewish Wedding. For more information, see

<http://www.lucysbooks.com/pages/theredtent.html>
http://ancienthistory.about.com/library/bl/uc_bkrev_sujazz1.htm?iam=dpile&terms=%2BThe+%2BRed+%2BTent
<http://www.newtonvillebooks.com/authors/diamant.html>

Sunday, Sept 23, 12noon: Prairie Bicycle Ride
The date for our ride around the loop formed by the Capital City, Wingra Creek and Southwest bicycle trails has been changed to Sept. 23rd at 12:00, with the rain date Sept. 30. Plan to bring your bike and join us for all or part of the ride. The total loop is

about 16 miles and we will stop for lunch at Fish Hatchery Road.

OUR SOCIETY

Sad News

We were saddened to hear of the death of former Prairie member, David Carson. David died on August 12 of pancreatitis. He and his wife Barbara lived on a ranch in Texas. Many Prairie members remember David and Barbara's warm hospitality on their Cottage Grove farm, the tragic death of their son Bruce and David's Prairie service on Ho Chi Minh during the Viet Nam war. David was an early founder of the Madison Group Health cooperative and a passionate supporter of alternative energy and the Freedom from Religion Foundation. Our hearts go out in sympathy to Barbara and their children, Laurel and Jonathan. Barbara's address is P.O. Box 4856, McDade, Tx, 78650

Teaching opportunity with High School Religious Education Class.

Okay, admit it. For a long time now you've harbored a secret fantasy of teaming with Rick Owens to form a dynamic duo of RE teachers. Well, now's your chance. Rick is about to embark on a solo flight as the High School RE teacher, and he would like a co-pilot to come along for the ride. You will explore the terrain of Eastern religions with the "Sacred Threads" curriculum, get a chance to participate in stimulating discussions with the high-schoolers and still be upstairs at least half the time. If you are interested call Randy Converse at 238-8725.

How Will You Spend Your Bush Tax Rebate?

Will you consider giving a part (e.g., 10%) of it to UUSC or the UUA? The UUA is trying to establish a full time Office of Public Witness, to get OUR message out, to counter the strident right-wing agenda. What a worthwhile way to spend the Bush boondoggle. Send your contribution to:

Unitarian Universalist Association
UU Public Witness Fund
25 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108-2800

Sunday, September 2: Canoe Party, Picnic

And A Fond Farewell to:

"Barbara Rames"

A small woman
With an Alchemist's touch.
Strength born from conviction:
We walk this earth to serve.

Quietly tending the garden
Pulling weeds in the blazing sun
Stung by bees, washed with rain
Asking for nothing in return.

Her eyes watching our faces,
Tending the garden of our souls.
Noticing a tear, a lowered gaze
Missed by those of us too busy
In our mundane clutter.

A hand on the shoulder
An unexpected poem in the mail.
Or recited, with a rainbow voice
Kissed with thunder.

Thinking of those needing blood
Giving her own til they turned her away
Encouraging the rest of us
To roll up our sleeves and save a life.

Holding babies born into pain,
Helping children in their classrooms;
Looking for ways to serve
Rather than to be served.

Barbara Rames
One in a billion
Shining like the North Star
To show us the way.

~ Lisa Glueck

Orange Schroeder made a ringbinder for poems and greetings as a keepsake for Barb. If you wish to contribute, make your submission no larger than 8.5 X 11 and send or bring it to Orange.

If you want to write a check for Karen Gross' project to provide a textbook to each of the children in her little community, make it out to "Prairie UU Society" with the notation "for Karen Gross".

Barbara's new address is:
3532 Bryant Ave. South Apt 319
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Who Is That Beautiful Child?

Did you know that the pictures on the RE bulletin board upstairs & downstairs change regularly? Thanks, Carl Wacker, for taking such great pictures and updating the bulletin board!

Hospitality

Sorry to report there are no volunteers listed on the sign up sheets. We depend upon our volunteers, so please plan on pitching in.

THE COMMUNITY

Fran Zell – A Happening!

Fran's first book of fiction, "*The Marcy Stories*" has just been published! She is hosting an open house and book signing on Sun, Sept 30 from 3 to 5 p.m., 324 S. Mills Street (corner of Vilas) All Prairie members are invited.

The book (206 pages, \$14) will be available at any of the following events. Also available on Amazon.com and at area bookstores:

October 12, 6:30 pm: Book Party at Room of One's Own Bookstore, Madison, with Chicago author S.L. Wisenberg (*The Sweetheart Is In*, Triquarterly Books, Northwestern University Press) and Madison performance artist, Jodi Cohen.

Nov. 1, 4 to 6 pm: Zona Gale Gallery, Portage, WI, reading and reception for "The Whole Mishpocheh," an art exhibition by Madison artist, Janis Nussbaum Senungetuk.

Dec. 13, 7 p.m. Cafe Zoma, 2326 Atwood Avenue, Madison. Reading with Madison writer, Ken Haynes to benefit Madison's *Interfaith Hospitality Network*.

TBA. Reading for creative writing students, English faculty, and the public at UW-Whitewater

September 17, 6pm: Starhawk: Global Uprising: From Seattle to Genoa and Beyond
The meeting will take place at First Unitarian Society, cost is \$5-15 sliding scale. Starhawk is the author of several books linking earth-based spirituality to actions to change the world. A feminist and peace activist, she has become a major voice for the anti-corporate globalization movement

in recent years. Some of her writings can be accessed at her web page: www.starhawk.org
There will be a short reception starting at 6 pm, with light refreshments and two songs by Nancy Vedder-Shults. The talk is scheduled for 6:45 pm, with time for questions and discussion afterwards, and possibly a ritual led by Starhawk.

Tuesday Workshops

For those interested in attending future globalized protests, such as the one in Washington D. C. on Sept. 30, Starhawk will also be facilitating two community direct action trainings on Tues. Sept. 18 at 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm at the Memorial Union. See "TITU" for the exact room location. No fee, although donations for Starhawk are gratefully accepted. Sponsored by Madison Fair Trade Action Alliance, Sustain Dane, Ironics, Rainbow Bookstore, First Unitarian Society's Environmental Action Committee, James Reeb Unitarian-Universalist Congregation, and welcomed by WORT radio. For further information, contact Nancy Graham, ncgraham@facstaff.wisc.edu, 244-6595

Precious Pints

Our latest blood donors were Judy Skog in July and Paula Pachciarz at August's end. Then FUS sponsored a site on Labor Day Sunday and Cindy Haq and her grown-up children Aaron and Heather each gave a pint. There may be other Prairie people among the thirty donors, they will be celebrated when we learn their names.

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar

2nd, 3rd & 4th Sat 9am-2pm Religious Sv
This month's services will be on Sept 8, 15, & 22
Sat, Sept 8 2pm-5pm Bar Mitzvah
High Holy Days Services
Mon Sept 17 4pm-10pm Rosh Hashanah Eve
Tues Sept 18 8:30am-2pm Rosh Hashanah
Wed Sept 19 8:30- 2pm Rosh Hashanah
Wed Sept 26 5pm-10pm Yom Kippur Eve
Thurs Sept 27 9:30am-10pm Yom Kippur
Prairie Liaison: Bill Littman 829-1909