

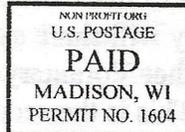
Prairie UU Society 2010 Whenona Drive Madison WI 53711-4843

(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>

September 20, 2001

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

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Sunday, September 23

9:00am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00am

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

▪ First Religious Education (RE) class,

12:00pm

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

Sunday, September 30

9:00am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00am

"Deep Ecology and the UU Resolution" with guests Per Kielland-Lund, Mike Chesney and Jennifer Olsen, Northwest Earth Institute study facilitators.

This is the second in the series of the lay ministry on Deep Ecology.

11:30am

Organizing meeting for Deep Ecology Study Groups

Sunday, October 7

9:00am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00am

Sandy Ingham – first service of her lay ministry.

(This program is tentative and may be subject to change.)

Sunday, October 14

9:00am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00am

"Painting, Drawing and Printmaking". Jean Matos presents the third program in her lay ministry dealing with Creativity and the Arts.

**Next Prairie Fire deadline is
Sunday, October 7, 2001**

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

September 23: 3-D Art

Jean Matos will continue her lay ministry by focusing on sculpture, ceramics and other three-dimensional art. If you have dabbled in these media, please bring in your creation and share.

12:00 noon: 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.

Sunday, Sept. 30: Deep Ecology Study

The "Deep Ecology" service on September 30 will introduce several of the concepts from the Northwest Earth Institute. Per Kielland-Lund and Mike Chesney will share experiences from facilitating other Voluntary Simplicity study groups in Madison. This is the second in our series on the UU Resolution, "Responsible Consumption."

Prairie members are invited to become part of one of our own "Deep Ecology" study groups. The study groups will give us the opportunity to "discover how our personal values affect the way we view and treat the earth" and to "understand what it means to take personal responsibility for the earth." After meeting regularly and reading the curricula, the study groups (about 8-12 people) will present one or two programs for the Sunday service beginning in February, picking a topic that resonated most with them.

11:30: Organizing Meeting for Deep Ecology

If you are interested, come to our organizing meeting 11:30-12:00 Sunday, September 30. There are four topics available: Choices for Sustainable Living, Voluntary Simplicity, Deep Ecology and Developing a Sense of Place.

Members of the study groups will:

- 1) meet weekly for eight sessions October-January on an evening each group chooses.
- 2) purchase the \$15 text with reading and discussion guides (scholarships available if needed).
- 3) read articles in preparation for meetings.
- 4) share leadership for one meeting, and
- 5) assist the study group in presenting Sunday services on the concepts and reflections of the group.

Essays in the study guide, certain to stimulate discussion, include topics such as "The Gaia Hypothesis," "Spirituality and the Earth," "Native American Wisdom," "Simplicity, and "Ritual" by some of the foremost writers in the field. The discussion groups are also designed to build a sense of community among participants. Bring your calendar to the organizing meeting. We encourage all who can to join us in this unique "lay ministry."

If you cannot attend the Sunday organizing meeting, please call or e-mail Aileen Nettleton (238-6053) or Rick Ruecking (838-8540) and leave a message with the days of the week open for you to join a group.

Sunday, Sept. 23: Come Join the Choir

The Prairie Choir starts its season rehearsals this Sunday, Sept. 23. If you have been singing in the past, we look forward to having you with us again. If you have only been considering joining, now would be a great time. No previous coral experience is necessary. It's good if you can carry a tune, but if your site reading is poor, don't worry. There are folks at hand who can help you find the tune and you will learn with practice! We look forward to seeing anyone who wants to give it a try. Just show up on Sunday at 9:00. We'll try to start promptly with a warm-up and then get down to business because we're scheduled to sing on September 30th.

~ Barb Park

OUR SOCIETY

Upcoming Prairie Book Club Selections

Reminder: you may buy these books at Borders at a 20% discount if you mention you belong to the Prairie Book Club.

Sun., Oct. 14 - THE NATURALIST, an autobiography by E.O. Wilson, whose book on ants won the Pulitzer Prize.

Sun., Nov. 11- WOMAN IN AMBER: HEALING THE TRAUMA OF WAR AND EXILE by Agate Nesaule is the history of this Madison woman's family who escaped Latvia in WW II and then had many adjustments to make in this country. Highly recommended by several people.

Sun., Dec. 9 - ANGLE OF REPOSE, a Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Wallace Stegner, is the magnificent story of four generations in the life of an American family.

Sun., Jan. 13 - Newest entry to the New York Times paperback bestseller list from October.

Share Your Thoughts – Coping With Grief

At the Bethel Horizons retreat a ring binder was provided for Prairie members and friends to contribute their thoughts on last week's terrorist attacks. You may also want to huddle electronically. A UU has started a Web conference page on the Internet through which we may share our thoughts more widely. Those who feel moved to do so should go to:

<http://www.econvene.com>

click on - The New Warfare

click on - a topic in the left column and

click on - a button at the top or a reply link to contribute.

(Ian and I are among the relatively small number of UUs who have contributed so far.)

~ Bob Park

A Tragic Event in American History, a Call for Peace

There are several e-mail appeals to the leaders of our country to let sanity prevail. We are all grief-stricken by the appalling, inhuman events of September 11. However, in the terrible aftermath of these events, we must plead with our leaders to remain calm and not rashly attempt to exact swift revenge.

Here is one petition that Calls for Peace and Justice: "In the aftermath of the ruthless attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, we implore the leaders of the United States to ensure that justice be served by protecting the innocent citizens of all nations. We call for PEACE and JUSTICE, not revenge."

If you have access to the Internet, please help by signing this petition to be sent to President Bush. Follow this link:

www.thePetitionSite.com/takeaction/224622495

The system centralizes signature collection to provide consolidated useful reports for petition authors and targets. Total signatures : 65,982

You may also contact your Congressional legislators by telephone, letter, and email. We must promptly alert our leaders of this urgent matter.

~ Mary Mullen, Judy Skog

If It Belongs to Prairie, Bring It Back

Please look around your house for Prairie song-books, hymnals, RE curricula, or other Prairie items, and return them to Prairie by the end of September. That way we can all enjoy their use.

Committee chairs (current or past or way past), please look through the committee materials you have at home and decide if some of it should or could be stored at Prairie (or, does it need to be thrown out? You would know better than Marilyn or I). Does some of it need to be stored on the Prairie computer as well as your own. Each committee has a file folder on the computer in the downstairs office, and at one point each committee was given a floppy disc to provide storage for important stuff. We have lots of wonderful materials, but if other people don't know what's out there, we keep re-inventing ourselves. Thanks for your help in getting us organized.

~ Judy Skog

Spur Their Imaginations

Can you donate dress-up clothes for the pre school, also hats & matchbox cars. The RE contingent could also use new balls & sports stuff but only if it's new or in good shape. Does anyone have an art easel that they no longer use (kids outgrew, or whatever)? Please consider donating it to Prairie. The ones we have are serviceable, but very old, very heavy & covered with paint drooling (not very appealing).

Do you have any good children's books, or cartoon books like Foxtrot that your family has outgrown? The Prairie library would gladly take them off your hands. Give them to Randy Converse, so he knows what we have. Thanks!

First Call for Help

The Caring Committee has been established to help Prairie members in need. The types of support offered are writing notes, rides, telephoning, preparing food, home visits, child care, support for people dealing with life crises (e.g., grieving), tape delivery, and as a community resource list. The primary contact person has a list of volunteers with specific support roles. The current primary contact is Marilyn Ruecking, 838-8540.

Volunteer for the Interfaith Hospitality Network

October 14 - 21 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. Every three months Prairie, along with two other churches, volunteers help. The emphasis is on working with the families and easing their transition during this difficult time in their lives. If you do volunteer, sign the logbook – the book is usually on the kitchen counter at Midvale.

An Update on Shirley Grindrod

Shirley's not doing well with her chemotherapy treatments and would welcome a visit from fellow UU's. She's at Middleton Village Nursing and Rehab Center, 6201 Elmwood Ave, Middleton,

THE COMMUNITY

A Message from the UUA and the UUSC to all Unitarian Universalist Congregations

The devastating acts of terrorism against the United States this week have caused unprecedented human loss and suffering in New York City, Washington, D.C., Pennsylvania and elsewhere in our country. We at the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee are deeply shocked and saddened by the enormity of this national tragedy. Our hearts and prayers go out to the innocent victims of these attacks and their families.

Unitarian Universalist congregations and individual UUs may well elect to contribute directly to relief funds of their choosing, but for those who are looking to contribute through the UUA and the UUSC, send your donations to:

New York City Humanitarian Relief Fund
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
PO Box 845259
Boston, MA 02284-5259

~William Sinkford, President UUA

~ Valora Washington, Executive Director, UUSC

September 27, 7:00pm: Globalization and the World Trade Organization

Mark Richie, head of the Minneapolis-based Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, will speak on the upcoming World Trade Organization ministerial in Doha, Qatar (a tiny middle-eastern country). Richie will explain why every one of us should be concerned with what happens in Doha. His talk will take place at the Madison Labor Temple, 1602 Park St. It is free and open to the public. For further information, contact Nancy Graham, 244-6595

October 6th, 9:00am: Council of All Beings

Earth-lovers, Gaia-philes and Tree huggers All, Nancy Vedder-Shults will be facilitating a Council of All Beings on Saturday, October 6th from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at First Unitarian Society. This communal ritual, created by Joanna Macy and John Seed, allows us to augment our human identity in order to speak on behalf of other life-forms on our beautiful, but threatened earth. This moving experience includes story, song, mask-making and visualization. In light of the recent tragedy, I think that getting in touch with our oneness, with the interdependent web of all existence will be a blessing.

Hope you can all make it. (\$15-\$30 for the day.)
Send name and address with check (payable to Nancy Vedder-Shults) to Nancy at 2810 Gregory Street, Madison, WI 53711. Sponsored by the WSpR Circle of First Unitarian Society.)

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar
2nd, 3rd & 4th Sat 9am-2pm Religious Sv
High Holy Days Services
Wed Sept 26 5pm-10pm Yom Kippur Eve
Thurs Sept 27 9:30am-10pm Yom Kippur