

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.

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MADISON, WI
PERMIT NO. 1604



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>

October 25, 2001

President: Erin Bosch (608) 238-6285

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

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Sunday, October 28

9:00am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00am

“All Souls Day” presented by Ruth Calden.

Saturday, November 3

9:00am-1:00pm

Prairie Beautification – clear the clutter.

6:00pm

Fall Frolic – go bowling and sleep over if you wish.

All are invited. Call Randy Converse for details,
238-1856.

Sunday, November 4

9:00am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00am

“Photography”, the last program of Jean Matos’ lay ministry.

11:45am

Book Club meets downstairs to discuss “Woman in Amber”.

Wednesday, November 7

7:00pm

Board Meeting. Open to all interested members.

Sunday, November 11

9:00am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00am

Sandy Ingham continues her lay ministry delving into “Regretting, Remembering, Returning”.

12:00noon

Fall Parish Meeting to vote on the budget.

Sunday, November 18

9:00am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00am

“Christianity”. Warren Hagstrom will share some thoughts with us.

11:45am

Women’s Group meets downstairs. Bring a snack to share and enjoy the company of other women.

**Next Prairie Fire deadline is
Sunday, November 4, 2001**



DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Prairie's Fourth All Souls' Day Service

On Sunday October 28, Ruth Calden will lead a celebration of All Souls' Day with a service of remembrance. Sharing a memory of personal loss can not only give comfort and lighten grief but also can unite us on the profound level of common mortality. As someone said after an All Souls' Day service, "I was no longer alone with my grief, but part of a whole community who had also lost loved ones."

Any one wishing to share a memory of someone dear who has died is encouraged to bring a photo and/or a defining object, to speak briefly and light a candle. Or you may prefer to simply light a candle in silence. So that all those wishing to participate may do so, please limit your words to about a minute. As is our custom, the service will conclude with the reading of names of all the Prairie members who have died and the viewing of photos and objects brought by the congregation.

For comments or questions call Ruth Calden, 233-5717.

Saturday, November 3:

Prairie Beautification, 9:00am-1:00pm

Come one, come all. People of any age (or no specific age) are welcome. We will be cleaning and fixing in the kitchen and the meeting room.

Cleaning supplies will be provided – no fix-up ability required. There will be something for every age or ability level.

~ Judy Skog, 273-4813

Fall Frolic, Saturday Night

HELP...HELP... join the fun at FALL FROLIC...

Go bowling and sleep over. Let Randy, 238-1856 or Robin, 286-9165 know if you are interested!!

Sunday, November 4:

Photography

Jean's last program will highlight creativity and art using the realm of photography. If you have a photo(s) you'd like displayed, please call Jean, 255-2209. She plans to set up the display, Saturday night.

Book Club

The November meeting has been switched to November 4th. We'll be discussing "Woman in Amber: healing the trauma of war and exile" by Agate Nesaule. At our last meeting, we selected the January 13, 2002 book. It will be "Taliban" by Ahmed Rashid. Books can be purchased at Borders for 20% off if you mention you are part of the Prairie Book Club. For more information, call Mary Mullen, 298-0843.

Fall Parish Meeting

The Fall Parish Meeting will be on November 11th at 11:30. There will be a potluck of finger foods that we will consume during the meeting. Please bring things like cheese, crackers, quick breads etc. This format should keep us nourished during the meeting, and also allow us to lessen the time commitment involved. It is important that YOU attend this meeting so we can get your input on the proposed budget and you can get an overview of what's in store. The agenda will include a budget proposal followed by discussion, and adoption of a final budget.

OUR SOCIETY

Program Synopsis Sep. 30:

"Deep Ecology and the UU Resolution"

Prairie celebrated its fall open house by kicking off Prairie's intensive study groups on environmental issues. Guest speakers Per Kielland-Lund, Mike Chesney, and Jennifer Olson outlined how the study groups are organized and how involving and potentially transforming they can be.

Groups focusing on three issues were formed that day: Choices for Sustainability; Deep Ecology; and Voluntary Simplicity. Each group will have 8-12 members who will meet eight times and then present one or two Sunday programs on a subject that resonated most with them. There still is time to join a group, contact Aileen Nettleton, 238-6053.

Program Synopsis Oct. 7:

Sandy Ingham "An Eye for an Eye?"

UU minister Sandy Ingham spoke on how a spiritual community can respond to the September 11th terrorist attacks. After so many words have

already been said about the horrific destruction and loss, it is still necessary for us to speak the words of loving compassion, mindfulness and hope. It is needed especially when our voices are not in agreement with the majority of voices speaking now for war. As Ruby Mae, a character in Sandy's children's story believes, it's better to speak clearly and take the chance of appearing foolish than to speak unclearly but with an impressive appearance.

Program Synopsis October 21

Part II: How Homophobia Hurts Us All

In her follow-up program, Bev Cann led us through an exercise that highlighted the privileged status of heterosexual couples in society. She then facilitated small group discussions of the ways in which homophobia impacts not only the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community in the schools but all students. Bev provided information on the gay-straight alliances that have formed in some schools and how they benefit all students. We all benefited from this informative and important program.

Sundays at 7pm: Inner Focus and Connection

You're invited to join Prairie Guided Meditation every Sunday at 7pm. We meet at Prairie on the upstairs stage. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a pillow if you'd like to sit on the floor. Typical sessions last an hour. The sessions are guided by Peter Michie, 238-7482.

A Message from Norma Briggs, Long Range Planning

"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".

~ Prairie Bond of Union

As Prairie progresses in its plans for future growth, many of us at Prairie will be sharing our visions of the shape of our developing community.

I would like to see us complement the other parts of the Dane County UU community. We already have First Society, a very large and thriving congregation, on the edge of the university campus and

distinguished by an urban society that is by choice, near downtown and on bus lines. There is James Reeb, a newer congregation living up to its name and acting on its bond of union. I believe that Prairie can make a unique contribution by living up to its "Frank Lloyd Wright building". Let me explain.

Prairie UU should be in a prairie. It should, on occasion, be able to offer a natural setting as place for retreat and meditation to all UU's in our metropolitan area. It should be in a place where we can truly feel that we are one with natural world and with one another.

Prairie folk are not rich. We could never emulate the grand building that First Society owns. But we could afford an airy, ground-hugging building with a wide-brimmed roof tucked into a natural setting of meadow and prairie. We have already decided to open our doors and welcome new and diverse members. Together with them, and with a little help from our friends, I see us as strengthening and continuing our longstanding tradition of open-mindedness and dedication to the beauty of nature, as living our dream to reach out and touch one another in a natural setting.

If upon consideration you are willing to invest in giving Prairie the future option of locating in a real prairie, call Norma Briggs, 835-0914 to discuss an investment pledge. If in three or four years Prairie chooses a different path, it will be your choice either to let Prairie use your money or to recover your investment. Either I or Mike will be happy to answer your questions or to talk with you about the details of the plan to invest in land on behalf of Prairie.

Note: The board has taken no position on this subject.

Religious Education News

What are the kids up to?

High School

We learned much about classical Hinduism in a very active way. We acted out famous parts of the Rig Veda and the Mahabarata ("The 100 Questions").

6-8

We learned lots about the beginnings of Roman Catholicism. Our teacher, Anne Urbanski, began her religious journey as a Catholic so she could give us the "inside scoop" on the Nicene Creed, The Lord's Prayer, Jesus' life and their meaning to Catholics today.

3-5

We read the story of Noah and the story of Cain and Abel. We built an arc and re-enacted the trials and tribulations of Cain and Abel. We even added new endings to the Cain and Abel story to try and add a bit more compassion to the saga. A neat way to learn about Christian ideals and how they are a part of UUism!

K-2

We talked about Jewish symbols and what they represented. We did this by reading "Jonah and the Great Fish" and making prayer shawls.

Pre-school

We experienced the UU desire to share with each other and the larger world community. We did this by making colorfully scaled fish that shared their scales according to the story "The Rainbow Fish".

Lost Somewhere at Prairie

Have you seen a key ring containing a car key, a small flashlight, and a Sentry and Whole Foods buyer's card? Pat Watkins drove to Prairie to attend the daylong workshop on growth on Sunday, August 26th, but when she went to her car to drive home, she no longer had her car key. Several of us looked all around Prairie, but could find nothing, although the key must be there somewhere. If you have any knowledge of the whereabouts of the missing key, please let Pat know at 233-5795.

New Opportunity

Here is another way to show your love for Prairie AND help enhance our Sunday experience. I have started a sign up sheet for folks to bring flowers or natural arrangements on Sundays. This is a wonderful way to share your gardens, the natural gifts of your land and your esthetic gifts

and talents. It is also a great excuse to buy yourself a beautiful bouquet, share it on Sunday and then either give it away or take it home to your own table or return it to nature.. Also if you want to bring flowers to mark a special occasion or in memory of someone, we will include that in Announcements. Prairie has vases. I thank you in advance and I anticipate your creativity.

~ Catherine Enos Mandt 256-0398

Are You Unhappy?

Do you feel that you're getting your Prairie Fire too late in the week and would like to receive it earlier? If so, let Marilyn Ruecking know, 838-8540 mruecking@hotmail.com

A Get Well Greeting to Pat Cautley

Pat has been in the hospital for a minor surgery. She is back at Oakwood at the Hebron Hall nursing home for rehabilitation before returning to her apartment. She'll appreciate visitors, but please call ahead. (I regret I don't have the telephone number).

THE COMMUNITY

The Movie Club

James Reeb Society has instituted a movie club, and invited Prairie members to participate. Once every two months, we will select a movie and then adjourn afterwards for a snack and coffee. The next movie will be on Saturday, November 17th. If you think you might be interested, either in November or in the future, please e-mail: pwatkins@facstaff.wisc.edu or phone Bridget Wolf at 441-6451.

Because the movies change on Fridays, we cannot indicate either the time or the movie choices until The Isthmus comes out on Thursday. At that time we will e-mail all those who have indicated an interest electronically, and phone those who have left messages of interest with Bridget. Let us hear from you if you are interested and want to be informed.

