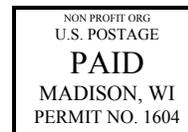


Prairie UU Society 2010 Whenona Drive Madison WI 53711- 4843
(608) 271-8218 prairieu@execpc.com
Located off the south Frontage Rd. of the West Beltline Hwy near the Seminole Hwy exit.



PRAIRIE 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>

November 8, 2001

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PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Sunday, November 11

9:00am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00am

“Regretting, Remembering, Returning”.

Sandy Ingham continues her lay ministry.

12:00 noon

Fall Parish Meeting to vote on the budget.

Thursday, November 15

6:30pm

Spanish Speakers Potluck (See RSVP for details).

7:30pm

Prairie Orientation, “Personal Religious Journeys”

Friday, November 16

6:00pm

OWL overnight.

Saturday, November 17

Playreaders (See RSVP for details).

Sunday, November 18

9:00am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00am

"Understanding Conflict in Afghanistan and

Pakistan." Joseph Elder and Cindy

Haq will share their expert and personal knowledge.

11:45am

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

Wednesday, November 21

7:00pm

"All Congregational Thanksgiving Service” at FUS (See RSVP for details).

Sunday, November 25

10:00am

"Passage of Wisdom”, Thanksgiving

Intergenerational Service featuring youngsters and elders. Presented by Larry Nahlik.

Thursday, November 29

7:30pm

Prairie Orientation, Unitarian Universalism.

Sunday, December 2

10:00am

Warren Hagstrom will devote a program in honor of “Walt Whitman”.

Sunday, December 9

10:00am

“What Would Jesus Do?” Join Sandy Ingham in the third program of her lay ministry.

Prairie Fire Newsletter Renewal

See page 3 for details.

Next Prairie Fire deadline is

Sunday, November 18, 2001

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, November 11 - "Regretting, Remembering, Returning"

Well-known educator Parker Palmer maintains that we spend our whole lives becoming what we already are. He is referring to our professional/work lives. I think it is equally true that we spend our whole lives trying to become what we already are at a deeper level: complete, whole, loving human beings. The process of doing this involves regretting things we have done, remembering what used to be meaningful; and, if we are lucky, returning to the place where we started.

November 11, Fall Parish Meeting **Pledge Drive Success**

The Finance Committee wishes to thank everyone for a great pledge drive! We are about \$4450 ahead of last year, a gain of 11.5%, only \$3108 short of our goal of \$46000. Several have doubled last years
pledge! Keep those last minute pledges coming in! Don't forget to mark next year's pledges as 2002 in the memo section of your checks when sending in pledges in advance of year-end. You must have a postmark of December 31, 2001 or sooner to be timely for tax deduction purposes. Thanks!

And don't forget to come on Sunday November 11th for the Fall Parish Meeting right after church (11:30 or noon start time) to decide the 2002 Budget and other business, such as the Social Action Chair. Bring finger foods to tide us over.
~ Bob Reuschlein, Finance Chair

Thursday, November 15, 7:30pm - Orientation **At Prairie Meeting House, Bring Your Story**

The Membership Committee is sponsoring two evenings of orientation for new members, friends or interested others at Prairie Society, November 15 and 29, at 7:30 pm. The first evening will be a discussion of our *Personal Religious Journeys*. How, after a lifetime, do we come to find Prairie a religious home? Bring your story. Light snacks will be served. Mary Mullen and Rick Ruecking (838-8540) are organizing these sessions.

Sunday, November 18 - Understanding Conflict

in Afghanistan And Pakistan

Joseph Elder and Cindy Haq will share their knowledge and views about the conflicts. Joseph Elder is Professor of Sociology and South Asian Studies who, as a young person, spent time in South Asia and has done fieldwork there. His teaching experience covers Islam and South Asia, and he worked in peace-making activities with the Society of Friends. Prairie's Cindy Haq has roots in Pakistan and has worked as a physician there in humanitarian service activities. We will have time for questions and discussion.

Sunday, November 25 - Passage of Wisdom **Conversation with our Elders**

Learn about the lives of some of Prairie's seniors as they field questions from our children. This inter-generational program is designed to encourage dialog between the youngest Prairie members and its most senior. The kids will learn about life in "the olden days", and a panel of our seniors will give their views and remembrances, while the rest of us listen and reflect.

Thursday, November 29, 7:30 pm at Prairie **Unitarian Universalism and Prairie Society**

[Who are those guys, anyway?]
On the 29th we will discuss Unitarian Universalism, Prairie's place in the UUA, and how Prairie functions (by-laws, lay ministries, and committees)

OUR SOCIETY

October 28 Synopsis - Prairie's Fourth All Souls' Day Service

On October 28th Ruth Calden presented the fourth annual "All Souls Day program. The theme of the program was "Give Sorrow Words . . . the beginning of a line from Macbeth. Ruth explained that in Mexico the dead are remembered and celebrated during community gatherings in the cemeteries on All Souls Day. Ruth's service utilized our communal gathering for Prairie members and friends to give voice to their memories of relatives and friends who have died in recent months.

UNICEF Drive

Pat Cautley won't be able to sell UNICEF cards this year and has asked me to fill in for her. I will be selling cards and calendars on the next two

Sundays, November 11 and 18 both before and after the service. Pat suggested I find a helper. Is there anyone who would like to help on one or both of the Sundays? Please call me at 273-3895.

~ Linda Sheehy

RE Journeys

High School

We learned a bit more about classical Hinduism. Larry Nahlik did a guest presentation on Yoga. We saw some similarities between Yoga and Hinduism. We practiced some serious meditation to physically experience Yoga/Hinduism.

6-8

During the past couple of weeks we learned some more about Roman Catholicism. We tried to figure out how Roman Catholicism is similar to and different from other forms of Christianity. We attended St. Joseph's Catholic Church to experience first-hand, Madison Roman Catholicism. Thanks for the trip, Kerry and Anne.

3-5

Our class discussed the stories of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Esau. We thought about what moral values their stories revealed to us. We ate some stew and built some altars to make these stories really come alive. Thanks John and Rachel.

K-2

We really enjoyed building a Sukkat. Building a Sukkat is a way Jews celebrate the harvest and express their thanks for good things. We were quite pleased with how our Sukkat turned out!

Pre-school

We had great fun learning about respect for all things by making animal collages. We got a great idea to illustrate the UU principle that each of us is unique but no less important than anyone else. We got this idea by making pumpkins of all different sizes and shapes!

Nifty Gifty, December 16

Put this on your calendars! Come and help the RE kids with their holiday projects. No preparation needed! It's a creative experience and a chance to

mingle with the young members of our congregation. Let Randy know ASAP if you're interested, 238-1856!!

IHN A Success Thanks to Our Volunteers

Thanks to all who helped homeless families by providing meals, serving them and sleeping overnight. Our volunteers for October were Martha Greco, Orange Schroeder, Rick and Marilyn Ruecking, Paula Pachciarz, Kathy Helm, Erin Bosch, Anne and Maya Urbanski, Molly Plunkett, Rosemarie Lester and Robin and Jonah Carre.

Our next commitment is December 16-23, a busy time of the year, so mark your calendars now.

Prairie Fire Newsletter Renewal

We appreciate our friends and past members continued interest in Prairie by subscribing to the Prairie Fire newsletter. If you aren't currently a member or haven't made a pledge for 2002, we need to know if you wish to continue receiving our newsletter and if you wish to make a contribution to help offset the costs of printing and mailing.

Please check the line that applies to you:

____ I/We wish to renew the Prairie Fire and enclose a \$25 contribution.

____ I/We wish to continue to receive the Prairie Fire but cannot make a contribution at this time.

____ An additional contribution/pledge to Prairie UU Society is enclosed.

Amount enclosed: _____

Pledge for 2002: _____

____ I/We do not wish to continue to receive the Prairie Fire.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please mail by December 1 to: Marilyn Ruecking, Administrator, Prairie UU Society, 2010 Whenona Drive, Madison, WI 53711.

THE COMMUNITY

Human Rights Film Series

The Human Rights Film Series brochure is available at Prairie. Next movie is November 18th,

“Incident at Oglala”. Films will be shown at First Unitarian Society from 3 to 6pm.

Saturday, December 1, 7:00pm - Celebration of Life, An Interfaith Service in Observance of World AIDS Day

Come join people of all faiths in a celebration to honor those living with HIV/AIDS, remembering those who have died and recognizing all those touched by this disease. The evening will include song, reflection and a community meal following the service. The service will be held at First Congregational Church, 1609 University Ave.

**An Elegy to AIDS
by Katrina Schroeder**

Counting t-cells like lucky stars,
hoping he'll have enough
to get through another week.

Pain that slowly entered the body
eventually consumes
all that crosses its path.

What his body wouldn't give
for a handful of peaceful years --
now chaos rules.

So much to take care of.
No longer with a hope of well being,
but arrangements.

He lays idly by,
wondering how long he'll live,
watching us plan for the future.

Good-bye, never spoken, lingers in the air,
as his body finally gives up fighting
the battle he tried so hard to win.

Through my tears I see the somber room
sparkle with fragments of hope
that someone, somewhere,
will find a way to win this war.

Thursday, November 15, 6:30pm - Spanish Speakers Potluck

You're invited to join the Spanish Speakers at the home of Win Winfrey, 222 Jackson St, Madison 245-0383. Bring a dish to share if you can. All are welcome. If you have any questions or need a ride, call Rosemary Dorney at 238-4382.

Play Readers

This month's meeting will be on Saturday the 17th at Paula Pachciarz's house, 4709 Sherwood Road. Please RSVP at 273-4806. Newcomers are always welcome. If you would like a ride, call Susan Hagstrom at 238-4790 and leave a message.

Wednesday, November 21, 7pm - All Congregational Thanksgiving Service

The three Madison UU congregations will be joining in the annual Thanksgiving Day service held at the First Society Meeting House. Much of the planning has already been done, but input from all three congregations is encouraged. If anyone is interested in representing Prairie, please contact Nancy Schraufnagel at 273-3195.

If you'd rather sing than organize, you have a golden opportunity. Each year a choir consisting of members from the three congregations is formed to sing at this service. Rehearsals begin soon so those interested in being in this one-time choir may contact Barb Park at 273-8775. There will be two choir rehearsals. The first rehearsal will be November 18th from 1-2pm with a potluck at 12:30. The second rehearsal will be on the 21st at 6pm. Prairie members have greatly enjoyed their participation in the choir in past years.

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar

<p>2nd, 3rd & 4th Sat 9am-2pm Religious Services This month's services will be on Nov 10, 17, 24 Sunday Nov 18 2:00pm Congregational Meeting</p>
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RSVP/You're Invited – The Social Events Calendar