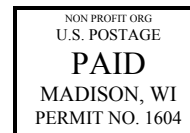


Prairie UU Society 2010 Whenona Drive Madison WI 53711- 4843
(608) 271-8218 prairieu@execpc.com
Located off the south Frontage Rd. of the West Beltline Hwy near the Seminole Hwy exit.



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 online version is available at <http://www.execpc.com/~prairieu>

December 6, 2001

President: Erin Bosch (608) 238-6285

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

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Sunday, December 9

9:00am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00am

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

11:30am

Social Action Committee Bake Sale followed by Soup and Sandwich Documentary Movie.

11:45am

Discussion: “Spirituality” in Our Sunday Service

11:45am

Open Book Club tackles “Angle of Repose”

7:00pm

Guided Meditation with Peter Michie

11:45am

Prairie Potluck and Long Range Planning Discussion.

11:45am

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

7:00pm

Guided Meditation with Peter Michie

Sunday, December 23

9:00am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00am

Intergenerational Symbol Tree Celebration, led by Erin Bosch, with snacks and sweets after the service. You’re invited to bring a symbol and a snack.

Saturday, December 15

7:30pm

Playreaders at Pat Watkins, 230 N. Meadow Lane. Please RSVP at 233-5795 if you plan to attend.

Sunday, December 16

9:00am

Choir Rehearsal

9:30am

Nifty Gifty

10:00am

“Words and Music of the Season” led by Rosemarie Lester and Doleta Chapru.

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

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

What Would Jesus Do?

On December 9th Sandy Ingham presents the third in the series of her lay ministry. She states, “We don’t talk a lot about Jesus in most of our Unitarian Universalist congregations. I think that can be a mistake on our part, a kind of “throwing out the baby with the bath water”. What better time to consider the enigma that was Jesus and our

changing perception of him over the centuries than now, during the month of his birthday celebration?"

December 9: Social Action Sunday

Bake Sale, Soup & Sandwich, Documentary

On Sunday, December 9, immediately after the service, the recently reborn Social Action Committee will hold a bake sale to raise funds to keep it going. Lay in your supply of holiday goodies and then buy a cup of soup and/or sandwich to add to the bake sale revenue and watch a free showing of a documentary video on Afghanistan obtained from the Human Rights Watch International Film Festival. We plan on showing the tape downstairs about 11:45am.

The documentary, "Jung (War): In the Land of the Mujaheddin", was filmed in 1999 and 2000. It is in Dari and Italian with English subtitles, and is 114 min. long. It tells the story of an Italian surgeon and a war correspondent who joined forces to set up a hospital in this war torn country. This film showing is an important educational opportunity, not entertainment. Be forewarned: the film contains many harsh and graphic scenes- viewer discretion is advised.

What Does Spirituality Mean to You?

Judy Skog is interested in exploring what Prairie people mean when we say we want more spirituality in our Sunday services. Please meet with her for a short time after the service on December 9 to share what spirituality means to you.

She's considering doing a service on January 6th to explain what we mean by spirituality, using some of the ideas generated at this meeting. She'll also compile your ideas for the Program Committee's use. If you can't come to the meeting, email or phone so your voice will be heard. Judy Skog, 273-4813 or jaskog@tds.net

Open Book Club Meets Downstairs

On Sunday, December 9th, after service, the book club will discuss "Angle of Repose", a Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Wallace Stegner.

Nifty Gifty

Nifty Gifty, Prairie's annual alternative gift-making holiday celebration is Sunday, Dec. 16 at 9:30 (note the early start time).

Please come and help...no skill other than the desire to be helpful! If you have any of the following articles laying around your humble abode gathering dust please bring to Prairie on or before December 16th:

Artificial leaves

Lace trim - up to 1/2"

Feathers

Plaid flannel strips

Brown paper bags

Cotton

Pom poms: small, 1/2-3/4"

Colored string

Wooden beads - unpainted with hole big enough for pipe cleaner to go through

Thread spools

Metallic paper

Silver/gold thread trim

For further information, call Randy 238-1856.

Prairie Talent Wanted

"Words and Music of the Season" is the title of a Prairie program on December 16th and we need YOU - young and old! If you're willing and able to perform something musical or recite or read a poem or (very) short story related to the season, please call Rosemarie Lester (255-7039) or Doleta Chapru (238-4970) ASAP. (e-mails: rklester@facstaff.wisc.edu, Dchapru@aol.com)

Potluck and Long Range Planning

There will be a potluck after the service at Prairie on Sunday December 16th. Come and get to know each other better in a relaxed atmosphere. The

Long Range Planning Committee is hoping that some of the tables will choose to discuss desirable characteristics of a new staff person or minister. What is it we really want in a staff person? This will be an informal discussion and give us a chance to hear each other's opinions without the pressure of making a decision.

Symbol Tree Service - December 23

This is Prairie's traditional holiday service. In addition to the Symbol Tree ceremony, there will be a candlelight "Santa Lucia" children's procession. (Young people should assemble downstairs that morning.) We would like to keep the lights dim for the entire service, so those who have difficulty hearing and who benefit from reading lips, should plan to sit in the front row. We will be using candles to read the hymns also, but if you need more light and would like to bring a small flashlight, that would be fine. For the Symbol Tree ceremony, you are invited to bring an item to hang on the evergreen tree that is a symbol of something that has happened in your life the past year. You can either tell us about that event, or you can choose to read a short poem or other chosen words.

OUR SOCIETY

November 4 Service: - "Exposure to Light"

Jean Matos presented "Exposure to Light," the last in her series on the arts. We discovered that many Prairie people are photographers, and Jean encouraged them to share and tell about their pictures. Among them were Jean herself, Bob Park, Metje Butler, Marty Drapkin, Suzanne Phillips, John Peterson, Doleta Chapru, Warren Hagstrom, Judy Skog, Ken Skog, Ruth Calden, Mary Mullen, Betty Jallings and Dick Bonser. The quality and variety was outstanding - thanks to Jean for "enlightening" us with her lay ministry!

November 11: - "Regretting, Remembering, Returning", Reflections of Sandy Ingham

When Sandy spoke about returning, she meant becoming who one truly is. She explained that we never really lose our true selves; rather, through experiences and conditioning we forget who we truly are. The journey back to our true selves can be supported by our participation in a community of seekers who are interested in spiritual growth, by our friends, and by love.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The past couple of weeks have been filled with adventure, not classroom adventure which is always a treat thanks to our hard-working teachers and students, but an adventure which included the following:

Social Action Sunday

During Social Action Sunday we thought about different ways to encounter terrorists as opposed to the one presently being pursued in Afghanistan. Non-lethal weapons were created that would frustrate rather than kill. We worked with recyclable materials and then took photographs of our weapons. We plan to send the photos to President Bush to show him there are young people in Madison, Wisconsin trying to come up with more humane ways to encounter terrorism.

Thanksgiving Intergenerational Sunday

We learned a lot about what it was like to live in America and Great Britain before the widespread use of plastic, computers, frozen food and videos. Interesting anecdotes were provided by Warren, Norma, Rose and Betty. They are our mentors in the finest sense! Thanks Larry for bringing them together for us.

November 18: - "Understanding Afghanistan and Pakistan"

Cindy Haq and guest Joe Elder presented this program. Joe began by tracing the history of the region: the mid-1970's revolution and the 10-year Soviet war resulted in 3 - 5 million living in refugee camps. From these camps emerged a generation without families or opportunities, who became recruits to the extremist Taliban regime. US money brought in weapons and the heroin market. Presently, the war is "justified" as US retribution for Sept. 11, when the underlying mission may be control of the region's oil reserves. Cindy spoke of her dual-culture upbringing in Pakistan and the US, and that our differences are only superficial: we share a common humanity. Even so, women are treated differently, and women's and children's rights and needs are most at risk in wartime. Cindy noted that women in both Pakistan and Afghanistan have been oppressed by government abuses of Islamic doctrine. The greatest need is for education that will lead to healthy families and opportunities. Many thanks to Joe and Cindy for sharing their understanding of this difficult situation.

Can You Donate a Card Table?

From Judy Skog: - in my work to fix up Prairie I have thrown out a number of VERY wobbly card tables. We don't have very many "good" ones now. Please consider donating a new card table to Prairie. It would be fantastic if three new tables were donated.

Guest At Your Table

Over the next few weeks we'll be celebrating the work of the UU Service Committee (UUSC) by taking part in the "Guest At Your Table" program. Please take a guest box home, put it on your dining room table and deposit loose change in it each day. We'll be collecting the donations (in the form of a check) after the first of the New Year.

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is devoted to advancing human rights and social justice in the United States and throughout the world. For example, UUSC has made a grant to the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), an innovative human rights colleague agency that is doing outstanding work globally to counter discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and HIV status.

Art to Lift the Spirits

We invite Prairie artists of all ages to make the front of our meeting room more colorful! If you would like to hang any of your pictures and/or photographs for a week or two, please call Rosemarie Lester at 255-7039 or e-mail rklester@facstaff.wisc.edu She'll assemble a roster/timetable.

THE COMMUNITY

December 19, 9:00pm:

St. Olaf Christmas Festival

We'd like to invite all our Prairie friends to watch the St. Olaf Christmas Festival on WHA-TV on Wednesday, December 19 at 9:00. Filmed in early December at St. Olaf, the televised version will be an hour-long program edited down from the 2 1/4 hour live concert/Christmas worship service. It features over 500 student singers (including our son Erik) and a full student orchestra. The Christmas Festival has been a St. Olaf tradition for almost

100 years.

If you get a chance to watch the program, look for Erik -- he's in the Chapel Choir, the ones in the upper left corner wearing long maroon robes. In fact, he may be easy to spot...second row from the top, third from the left.

~ Dean and Orange Schroeder

December 13, 6:30pm:

Fran Zell's First Book of Fiction Benefits IHN

Fran, a friend of Prairie's, will read from her published book, "The Marcy Stories" on December 13th 6:30pm at the Café Zoma, 2326 Atwood Ave. Admission is by donation. All proceeds will go to the Interfaith Hospitality Network.

Interweave Holiday Get-together, December 15,

Interweave invites you to join members for a holiday night out on Saturday, December 15. We will be attending the singing ensemble Perfect Harmony's annual holiday concert at Grace Episcopal Church at 7:30 p.m. There is no charge for the concert, but donations will be accepted at the door. Interweave is a group of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Unitarian Universalists & their friends from all three Dane County UU congregations. Please call (831-9731) or email lizdann76@hotmail.com) if you have questions about the concert.

RSVP/You're Invited – The Social Events Calendar

Play Readers

December's meeting will be on Saturday the 15th at 7:30 at Pat Watkins home, 230 N. Meadow Lane, Please RSVP at 233-5795 if you plan to attend. Newcomers are always welcome. If you would like a ride, call Susan Hagstrom at 238-4790.

<u>Shaarei Shamayim Calendar</u> 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sat 9am–2pm Religious Sv
--

December's services will be on Dec 8, 15, 22
Saturday Dec 15, 3:00-8:30pm Hanukkah Party