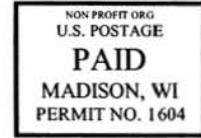


Prairie UU Society 2010 Whenona Drive Madison WI 53711-4843  
(608) 271-8218 prairieu@execpc.com  
Located off the south Frontage Rd. of the West Beltline Hwy near the Seminole Hwy exit.



Barbara & Bob Park  
5610 HAMMERSLEY RD  
MADISON WI 53711-3408



# 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.*

*The two most recent issues may be seen on Prairie's Web site at <http://www.execpc.com/~prairieu>*

January 24, 2002

President: Erin Bosch (608) 238-6285

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

## PRAIRIE CALENDAR

### Saturday, January 26

Wild Wintering with skating at Vilas Park.  
Car pools leave Prairie at 5:00pm.

### Sunday, January 27

9:00am  
Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 am  
"Risking for a Better World". Amy Owen from James Reeb attended the South African UN Conference on racism and will share her experiences with us.  
11:45 am  
Prairie Potluck – have fun, bring a dish to pass.  
7:00pm  
Meditation group meets at Prairie. You may want to bring slippers and possibly a blanket or afghan if you tend to get cold. (from Judy Skog)

### Sunday, February 3

9:00am  
Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 am  
"Choices for Sustainability".  
Presented by the "Sustainability" Study Group as part of the Deep Ecology lay ministry.  
7:00pm  
Meditation group meets at Prairie. Tonight's organizer is Paula Pachciarz.

### Sunday, February 10

9:00am  
Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 am  
Valentine's Day Intergenerational presented by Robin Carre. Children from First Unitarian Society (FUS) will be joining us as part of their study of other churches in the area.  
12:00noon  
Book Club meets to discuss HOMESTEAD by Roseanna Lippi. Bring a snack to share. For more information, call Mary Mullen, 298-0843.

### Wednesday, February 13

7:15 pm  
Board Meeting.

### Thursday, February 14

7:30pm  
Valentine's Day Drum and Song Circle with Taku Ronsman (See RSVP for details.)

### Saturday, February 16

7:30pm  
Playreading at Nettleton's, 645 Sheldon St.  
All are invited. (See RSVP for details.)



**Next Prairie Fire deadline is  
Sunday, February 3, 2002**

**DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sunday, January 27:**

**“Risking for a Better World”**

**with guest speaker Amy Owen.**

Amy Owen is a young adult member of James Reeb Congregation, and a graduate student in educational psychology at the UW. She is focused on studying the process of forgiveness.

This summer at General Assembly, she was invited to attend the UN World Conference Against Racism in South Africa with Rev. Olivia Holmes, Director of International Relations for the UUA and Rev. Melvin Hoover, Director of Faith in Action for the UUA.

The service will highlight some of her experiences at the conference as well as some reflections about race and the challenges we face in acting on our dreams for a world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.

**Sunday, February 3: Choices for Sustainability”**

This presentation by the "Sustainability" Study Group (Paula Pachciarz, John Lewis, Kathy Converse, Judy Skog, Aileen Nettleton) is the first "report" back to the congregation in the lay ministry series addressing the UUA Responsible Consumption Resolution.

Along with the congregation, we'll explore some of the challenging environmental issues we studied, discuss principles for sustainability and give examples of sustainable practices, both personal and business.

This unique lay ministry series consists of three study groups reporting their reflections from readings and discussions held over a three-month period. The discussions have generated as many questions as answers as we have been challenged to face some of the most important issues confronting us today.

**OUR SOCIETY**

**Service Auction Donations Needed**

March 10th is the Sunday for the Annual Prairie Service Auction, so start thinking about what you would like to offer. Last year we had 37 donations. exotic dinners, foods, drinks, cottages or cabins, childcare, legal or professional services, nature, music and art among many offerings. We had websites, house repair, photosession, garden tilling, horseback rides, clothing repairs, home repair, stamp art, flower notecards, folk music, family trees, and a will. Lots of laughs! Call or leave a message with Bob Reuschlein 848-5248 or email earlwal@itis.com.

This year's event will feature bidding during lunch with our, (some might venture to say), "world famous", auctioneer, Orange Schroeder!

**What's Going On?**

Do you have some news (knowledge about past members, a rite of passage in your family, when you're leaving for Bali or Sheboygen) and want to share it with other friends and members, please let Marilyn Ruecking know and she'll put that information in the Prairie Fire.

For example, **Ruth and George** will be leaving us for three weeks to join their friends in Florida; **Pat Cautley** celebrated her 88<sup>th</sup> birthday; a letter from **Rob Steinhofer**, former Prairie member, appeared in the Friday Capital Times. It was a critique of the so-called campaign finance reform bill. The clipping is on the Prairie bulletin board.

**A Wiccaning (Baby Blessing)**

On Sunday, January 20 something magical happened at Prairie. A wiccaning was held for a small, new human being. Gemma Rose Koester-Jess, brought together a community of people in joy and love. In the central ritual, as each of us spoke to Gemma our blessing for her, we tied a ribbon onto her hoop, creating a beautiful symbol of the wishes we held in our hearts for her. We also celebrated with bubbles, music, cake and lemonade. Gemma's parents are Jani Koester and Denise Jess. Thank you, Gemma and your family, for holding this meaningful ceremony at Prairie.

### **Volunteer Opportunities, Kitchen General:**

It would be very helpful if there was a person at Prairie who would volunteer to be a "Kitchen General". This person would make sure that we have the kitchen supplies we need (paper plates, dish soap, etc.) and also be the contact person for people renting the building who want to know how many dishes etc. we have, and also be available for consultation etc. when we have Prairie weddings or memorial services. Please call Erin, 238-6285 if you are willing to volunteer in this way.

This notice was placed before but no one has come forward to take on this task.

### **Red Cross Liaison**

Barbara Rames used to serve in this capacity and she has asked that someone take on this task since she has moved. (There are many ways that we are missing Barbara.) This volunteer would contact Prairie blood donors either to thank them after giving blood, or possibly to remind them that enough time has passed so they can give again. The Red Cross would contact you with the information you need. Call Erin, 238-6285 if you are willing to volunteer for this task. This notice was placed before but no one has come forward.

### **Art at Prairie!**

Rose and Galen Smith are the first to exhibit some paintings in the meeting room. The artist is Grace Perreiah, of Louisville, Kentucky. And who will be next?? Call Rosemarie at 255-7039 or e-mail rklester@facstaff.wisc.edu

### **KUDOS**

#### **❖ UUSC Guest At Your Table**

Thanks to all those who participated in the *Guest At Your Table* fund raiser through this past holiday season. From our pocket change, we filled the boxes to the tune of \$238.61 in support of the international projects of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. With the matching grants of the Stone Creek UU Congregation, the UUSC will receive almost \$500! WhoooHooo!!

#### **❖ Shoveled Sidewalks**

On January 15, our first significant snowfall was ably handled by Al Nettleton and the team of Paula Pachciarz and her daughter, Toby Wacker. Thanks for clearing the Prairie walkways.

### **❖ Men's Drop-In Homeless Shelter**

Thank you to Barb Park and Dave Johnson for volunteering at the Men's Homeless Shelter this month. Barb bought and delivered the groceries and Dave showed up bright and early on Tuesday to help cook the breakfast.

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**RE JOURNEYS**

#### **❖ Pre-school:**

Our two themes this month were celebrating differences and the interconnectedness of all living things. To celebrate differences we read "Top of the Pizzas" and made all sorts of yummy "paper" pizzas! To rejoice in the interconnectedness of which we are all a part, we read "Who Is The World For?" and made people-animal collages. Much fun!

#### **❖ K-2:**

We got immersed in the Jewish festival of Tu Bishvat (tree planting) and the Christian festival of the Epiphany (gift exchange). To experience Tu Bishvat we looked at tree buds, sang "Stand Like A Tree" and ate seeds. We spoke about Epiphany being a time of gift giving and receiving as exemplified by the Wise Men in Jesus' time.

#### **❖ 3-5:**

We continue to gain wisdom from the Old Testament. We read or re-enacted several Old Testament classics: - Solomon, Samson/Delia, and David/Goliath. WOW, we are really good actors and actresses. We also can come up with some really constructive alternative endings to these stories...

#### **❖ 6-8:**

We have been learning about the Black Baptist Church. We talked about Martin Luther King's relationship with the Black Baptist Church. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of January we will be attending the Baptist Church in our neighborhood. Stay tuned for our reactions to this experience. We also had a chance to learn about life as a Buddhist monk, thanks to our friend Larry Nahlik.

#### **❖ 9 and Above:**

We participated in Judy Skog's spirituality service. It was great fun learning about all the various aspects of spirituality. We also learned lots about the lives of Buddhist monks from Larry Nahlik who was a "monk for a week" in Thailand in 1998.

**RSVP/You're Invited**  
**The Social Events Calendar**

**February 14, 7:30pm:**

**Valentine's Day Drum and Song Circle**

Come celebrate Valentine's Day by sharing rhythms, dances, and songs with heart. All ages welcome! Come to Taku Ronsman's house at 6318 Hartford Drive, Madison WI from 7:30-9:30. Please RSVP by phone (608) 442-3552 or e-mail tronsman@charter.net

Directions: From Madison, take Verona Road south to Highway PD; go west (right) to Manchester St, turn left (south); 1st street off PD is Hartford Drive, turn right. 6318 Hartford is on the right side of the street.

**February 16, 7:30pm: Playreaders**

This month's meeting will be at Aileen and Al Nettleton's home, 645 Sheldon St. All are invited. For more information, call Aileen at 238-6053.

**THE COMMUNITY**

**Learn CPR Free of Charge**

Every year about 220,000 American adults die from sudden cardiac arrest, 95% die before they reach the hospital. What would you do if someone you love suffered a heart attack? Invest just two hours and learn CPR. Knowing CPR could save their life.

Check the flier on the Prairie bulletin board or call the American Heart Association 221-8866 for registration information. These community programs are being offered on Saturday from February 2<sup>nd</sup> through February 23

Health risk screenings are also available for those at risk for heart attack or stroke.

**February 9, 2:30: Militarism and Conscientious Objection Discussion at Orchard Ridge UCC**

The Youth Group and the Peace and Justice Committee of Madison Mennonite Church want to extend the invitation to the youth at Prairie (and their adult supporters) to hear Eric Meyer talk about Militarism and Conscientious Objection. Eric is a young man from Indiana with an Anabaptist/Mennonite background. After the talk,

there will be pizza and games. Please RSVP by contacting Carola, 873-0613 or cbreckbill@yahoo.com

**March 8-9, Social Justice Conference**

The First District Wide UU Social Justice Conference will be held at First UU Society (FUS) on March 8-9. If you are interested in being involved or can volunteer home hospitality to a visiting U.U. attending the conference, please contact Wendy Cooper at 233-9774 (wendyc@fusmadison.org), or Leila Pine at 233-5566 (lpine@tds.net).

**Economic Globalization, UUA Study/Action Issue Topic**

Economic Globalization Study Circles are being planned at First Society. Their purpose is to learn more about the topic and to explore the ways in which it impacts human rights and economic justice. We are called to study, act upon, and provide input to for the 2002 General Assembly. If interested in participating in a study circle, contact Wendy Cooper at 233-9774 (wendyc@fusmadison.org).

**Human Rights Film Series**

The following films will be shown at FUS on Sunday afternoons either in the Gathering Room of the Lower Meeting House or the West Living Room from 3-6pm:

February 17 American History X  
March 17 Snow Falling on Cedars  
April 21 American Tongues

Discussion will follow each presentation. Refreshments and child care will be provided. Please let Suzie deBeers, 833-0506, know the names and ages of children that require child care.

**Shaarei Shamayim Calendar**  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sat 9am-2pm. Upcoming Religious Services will be on January 26, and February 9, 16, and 23  
February 26: Purim Party, 4:30-8:00pm  
Prairie Liaison: Bill Littman 829-1909