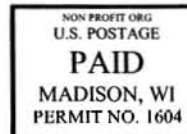


Prairie UU Society 2010 Whenona Drive Madison WI 53711- 4843
(608) 271-8218 prairieu@execpc.com
Located off the south Frontage Rd. of the West Beltline Hwy near the Seminole Hwy exit.



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.

February 7, 2002

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>

President: Erin Bosch (608) 238-6285

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

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Sunday, February 10

9:00 am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00 am

Valentine's Day Intergenerational presented by Robin Carre. Sixteen children from First Unitarian Society (FUS) will be joining us as part of their study of other churches in the area.

12:00 noon

Book Club meets to discuss HOMESTEAD by Roseanna Lippi. Bring a snack to share. For more information, call Mary Mullen, 298-0843.

7:00 pm

Meditation. All are welcome.

Wednesday, February 13

7:15 pm

Board Meeting.

Thursday, February 14

7:30 pm

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

Saturday, February 16

7:30 pm

Playreading at Nettleton's, 645 Sheldon St.
All are invited. (238-6053.)

Sunday, February 17

9:00 am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00 am

Sandy Ingham continues her lay ministry.

12:00 pm

Women's Group meets downstairs – bring a snack and share your thoughts with other women .

7:00 pm

Meditation. If you like, bring your slippers.

Sunday, February 24

9:00 am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00 am

“Voluntary Simplicity” – Another chapter from the Deep Ecology study group. Will you plan your life around harmony and balance?

7:00 pm

Meditation. If you like, bring your blanket.



**Next Prairie Fire deadline is
Sunday, February 17, 2002**

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Meditation Group Meets Feb 10, 17, 24, Mar 3

Meditation sounds pretty boring, a bunch of people sitting around in the lotus position saying "ohm", right? Wrong. We use a variety of methods to center ourselves and meditate. Some examples of what you might expect are meditation that involves movement (like Tai 'Chi), or listening to words (Guided Meditation). We also enjoy relaxing with specific postures (like Yoga). Another session may involve listening to music and going deep inside to the still place or asking your spirit guide for help solving a problem. Each week is different. Try it!
~ Judy, Dean, & Paula

Sunday, February 10

"Harry Potter and the Flaming Chalice"

This intergenerational program will explore Harry Potter from a UU perspective. You'll be treated to skits, poems, quizzes and other activities. At the end of the service let the sorting hat choose your Secret Friend. If you have a favorite Harry Potter passage or any HP costumes or paraphernalia bring them along. Meditations on Harry Potter or original skits are welcome. Call Robin Carre at 238-8725.

Sunday, February, 17

"What's Love Got To Do With It?"

No, my Valentine's gift to you will not be a critique of the song made popular by Tina Turner. My Valentine to you is a look at a deeper kind of love, one that could transform the world. There will be love stories aplenty, with help from Howard Thurman, Robert Fulghum and our UU principles.
~ Sandy Ingham

Sunday, February 24: Voluntary Simplicity

Come hear a presentation from the group devoted to Voluntary Simplicity. They will talk about the meaning and purpose of living simply, attitudes about material things, money and time, and practices for living simply. The program will draw on the views developed during our 7 weeks of discussion.

OUR SOCIETY

Wanted: Office Administrator

Prairie is seeking an office administrator to work 10 hours a week. Job duties include preparing the newsletter, taking it to the printer, and mailing it; maintaining the mailing list; scheduling building use; printing the Order of Service; purchasing supplies; routing mail and email; and maintaining the website. Computer skills are essential. Hours are flexible, pay is \$9.25 per hour. Deadline for application is February 10. For more information, email us at: prairieu@execpc.com, attention Judy Skog.

Synopsis of "Risking for a Better World" with guest speaker Amy Owen.

On January 27 Amy Owen, who attended the UN World Conference Against Racism in South Africa, inspired us all in our work against racism. She began with a children's story that illustrated the fact that each one of us has power, and we can use that power to effect change. After talking about some of the interactions among various countries and groups at the conference, she brought antiracism work down to the individual level. She believes that the fight against racism isn't about politically correct labels but about the right heart. She encouraged all of us to take a risk and speak out in our own ways. On the long journey toward equality and love, every voice makes a difference.

Put On Your Thinking Cap for Lay Ministries

Put on your thinking cap! Take flight on Cloud 9! Delve deep into your subconscious! Consider your most recent questions about life, politics, religion or the world situation!

And then... please let the Committee on Committees (COC) know what major topics you would like a lay minister to apply herself or himself to starting in the fall. Better yet, if you yourself have a fledgling idea you would like to develop into a lay ministry with you in charge, let it fly.

A lay ministry consists of somewhere between 4 and 8 services delivered over the period of several months or a school year.

Contact any member of the committee if you want to discuss being a lay minister or have an idea for the theme of a lay ministry: Anne Urbanski (221-4053), Linda Sheehy (273-3895), Barbara Park (273-8775), Al Nettleton (238-6053), or Mary Mullen (298-0843). To be officially considered as a lay minister, applicants should submit a one-page write-up after talking to a committee member. Our next COC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 20.

Update from the Long Range Planning Committee, Ken Skog, Chair

The Long Range Planning Committee will be working to arrange opportunities for members of Prairie to visit other small congregations in our area and learn how they have grown and the arrangements they may have with ministerial or other staff to help them with growth objectives. Please consider if you might be willing to make such a visit - probably on a Sunday when we have made arrangements.

Able-Bodied Movers, Hark!

John and Daisy Peterson are asking for help with the final push of their move to Monroe on the afternoon of Sunday, February 24. Please come by, 5502 Kroncke Drive, to offer as much or as little of your "schlepping" talents as you can. Directions will be posted and pizza will be served.

March and April Book Club Dates Changed

In March and April, the Prairie Book Club will meet on the first Sunday of the month instead of the dates previously planned. This is due to other important events at Prairie. Anyone who has read the selections is welcome to attend.

Upcoming Book Club Selections

On Sunday, March 3, the choice is ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SOLITUDE by the Colombian author Gabriel Garcia Marquez who won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1982. This novel was first published in 1967 in Argentina.

On the back cover, a NEW YORK TIMES reviewer notes that it "tells the story of the rise and fall, birth and death of the mythical town of Macondo through the history of the Buendia family." "Fecund, savage, irresistible..."

On April 7, the selection is CAUCASIA by Danzy Senna. This is a first novel about a bi-racial family during the 1970's. In particular, it is the story of the daughter who looks more like her white mother than her African-American father. She is taken "underground" by her mother who fears she is being hunted by the FBI because of her association with radicals. CAUCASIA is the first selection for a county-wide reading project sponsored by the public libraries in Dane County. You won't be able to put this book down until you finish it. That was my experience anyway.

~ Mary Mullen

An Alternative to the "War on Drugs":

Study/Action Issue 2001-2002, possible Statement of Conscience **Your comments, please**

The Study /Action Issue **An Alternative to the "War on Drugs"**, has been drafted by the UUA Commission on Social Witness as a Statement of Conscience (SOC) and is requesting comments.

Issue: How can Unitarian Universalists contribute to a reformulation of drug policies which would reduce drug use without infringing on civil liberties, scapegoating minority communities, interfering with the internal affairs of other countries, or dehumanizing drug users?

In 1998 over 500 world leaders declared that the war on drugs was doing more harm than the drugs themselves. Coercive measures have had little impact in reducing drug use, but they have clogged our criminal justice system and produced an unusually large number of non-violent offenders in United States prisons. The drug war has been particularly hard on the poor and people of color: African Americans use about 13% of the drugs and do 74% of the prison time for simple possession.

Drug war interventions in Central and South America have undermined democratic institutions, driven peasants into greater poverty, and damaged rainforests. Innocent collateral victims of this war include HIV babies and people living with AIDS, glaucoma, and other diseases for which they are denied adequate medicine. All this has resulted without significantly slowing the use of drugs. Drug war policy-makers continually use political rhetoric and mythology to disparage expert opinion, scientific facts, and alternative drug management strategies that have been successfully used by other countries. Our national leaders have refused to recognize the mandate of eight states for the unrestricted use of marijuana for medicinal purposes.

Most of the more than \$18 billion dollars budgeted by the federal government to fight the drug war is allocated to police action. Unitarian Universalists have opposed this punitive approach to drug abuse for two decades. Legislators who would support a more balanced approach to drug use need the

support which a strong Unitarian Universalist statement on this issue can provide. We can make a difference to the world we inhabit; it's now time to revisit this issue.

Please comment on your impressions, whether this can be a springboard to action and how this SAI helps define UUism to Nancy Schraufnagel, Denominational Affairs Chair, 501 N Whitney Way Apt 7 Madison, WI 53705 or schraufnancye@hotmail.com by **February 17th, 2002**. Any questions on this Study/Action Issue or process please write or phone 273-3196

RE JOURNEYS

❖ Wild Wintering:

We did some WILD WINTERING without any snow! Before dinner we played tag and then watched a Disney video about Ruby Bridges, an Afro-American who helped integrate the New Orleans public schools. After we devoured Anne Urbanski's YUMMY spaghetti, sauce, and garlic bread, the Hendrix's cornbread, and Carl's peeled by machine apples, we did some board games and moving games inside. We then retired to the video room to watch "Schrek" and eat popcorn.

❖ High School:

We "walked" down the 8-fold Path of Buddhism. We contemplated our mandalas. We sustained ourselves through these explorations with Einstein bagels. Maybe we reached enlightenment in our own ways...

❖ 6-8:

On January 20th we attended our brother/sister church down the street - the Baptist Church. On January 27th, we delved into comparing their service with others we have attended. Some of us are going to OWL at James Reeb and learning LOTS.

❖ 3-5:

We continue to have good attendance. Most of the time we have 5-8 students. Miracles and good/evil were on our minds the past two classes. We talked about the miracles described in the Old Testament stories of Jonah, Daniel, and Abednego. We probed ideas about good and evil as we read the story of Job.

❖ K-2:

We thought about what it means to lead a peaceful life. We talked about peace via the stories of Mildred Pitts Walter and Jean Craighead George. We learned what Martin Luther King, Jr. meant by living a life of peace even though he was treated differently because he was not a white person. We had fun talking about differences by drawing different animal tracks.

❖ Preschool:

Our two themes this month have been justice/fairness and interconnectedness. To think about interconnectedness we made bugs from clay and imagined a "bug's life". To think more about justice we built miniature busses and pretended to be Rosa Parks. Everyone was allowed on our busses!

RSVP/You're Invited The Social Events Calendar

February 14, 7:30pm:

Valentine's Day Drum and Song Circle

Come celebrate by sharing rhythms, dances, and songs at Taku Ronsman's, 6318 Hartford Drive, Madison, from 7:30-9:30. Please RSVP by phone (608) 442-3552 or e-mail tronsman@charter.net

Epilogue

As Congress considers the President's proposal for the largest increase in military spending in decades, they would do well to remember the words of a former President: "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in a final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed--those who are cold and not clothed."

~ Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1953

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar

2nd, 3rd & 4th Sat 9am-2pm. Upcoming Religious Services will be on Feb. 9, 16, and 23
February 10: Annual Meeting 2-4pm
February 26: Purim Party, 4:30-8:00pm
Prairie Liaison: Bill Littman 829-1909