

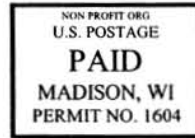
Prairie UU Society 2010 Whenona Drive Madison WI 53711-4843

(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>

February 21, 2002

President: Erin Bosch (608) 238-6285

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

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Sunday, February 24

9:00 am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00 am

"Voluntary Simplicity" – Another chapter from the Deep Ecology study group.

11:45 am

"Greetings from Missile Street," an American Friends Service Committee videotape filmed in Iraq will be shown downstairs in the High School Room by the Social Action Committee. The videotape is an introduction to the following week's Sunday program.

7:00 pm

Meditation. If you like, bring your blanket.

Sunday, March 3

9:00am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00 am

"Iraq: Campaign of Conscience," presented by Frank Paynter, a member of the Madison Friends Meeting and the Coordinating Committee of the Madison Area Peace Coalition

11:45am

Book Club meets downstairs to discuss "One Hundred Years of Solitude" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Bring a snack to share.

7:00 pm

Meditation. Try us out! Something different each time. - Judy, Dean, & Paula

Saturday, March 9

7:00 pm

Birthday Party for Erin (See RSVP for details.)

Sunday, March 10

9:00am

Choir Rehearsal

10:00 am

To be announced.

11:45am

Annual Prairie Service Auction

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

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

*we bet @
chorus.net*

11:45 am: "Greetings from Missile Street,"
Come view the American Friends Service Committee videotape "Greetings from Missile Street", filmed in Iraq. Everyone interested in gaining background information on the impact of U.S. policies on Iraq prior to the March 3rd program on this topic (see below) is urged to attend. The video will be shown in the High School Room downstairs.

Sunday, March 3:

"Iraq: Campaign of Conscience"

Frank Paynter attended workshops in Philadelphia on Jan. 19 & 20 in which experts on Iraq spoke on "Is Iraq Next? Presentations Against Expanding the US 'War on Terrorism'". Since returning he has reported on the workshops to the Committee on Peace and Social Concerns of the Madison Monthly Meeting of Friends, and on March 3rd he will share what he learned with Prairie as well.

Topics included are: - The long term effect of UN sanctions on the people of Iraq; US foreign policy choices over the last decade - from war through embargo to the contemplated "regime change"; opportunities to help the people of Iraq, including material support, medical support; lobbying efforts.

For links to more information, see the Social Action Calendar of Events posted by the Prairie Social Action Committee at <http://www.homestead.com/prsac/files/events.htm>

March 10: Prairie's Service Auction

The Ides of March are approaching and our antidote is the "World Famous" Prairie Service Auction (be there or be square!). It will be held after the church service - soup & bread at 11:45am and auction starting at noon or so with the following offerings (and more!):

Weekend at a Cottage, Garden Tilling, Weekend of Child Care, Ethic Connection Performance, Horseback Ride, Wilderness Adventure, Photo Session, Turkey Dinner, Yard Work, Stamp Art Workshop, Devil's Food Chocolate Cake, Pineapple Cheese Pie, Psychological (1 session) Accupressure or Phobia, Minor Surgical Procedure under \$300, Middle East Dinner, Pot of Chicken or Veg Noodle Soup, Bread from Breadmaker, Personal Website or CD ROM w/Phototext, Cheesecake, 2lbs Hand

Imported Costa Rican Dark Coffee, Middle Eastern Dance Class, Farm Weekend, House Cleaning, Cape Breton Oak Cakes (2 batches), Family Tree, \$60 Pottery Bowls and Mugs, two Pots of Soup and four Loaves of Bread, Pumpkin or Apple Pie, Dog Sitting, Quilt-Double Bed Size, Species Survey, Chinese Stir Fry Dinner for 2 (w/veg option). Special request, wanted: Steamed Grain Bread. Any Questions? Call Bob Reuschlein, 848-5248

OUR SOCIETY

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 covered by a lay minister, 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.

KUDOS

□ A New Directory

Our thanks to Mary Mullen and Al Nettleton for printing an updated edition of the Prairie Directory. Also included in this attractive booklet is our Mission Statement, our Bond of Union, Prairie Activities, Contacts and Bylaws. You will find the principles of the UUA on the back cover - what a handy-dandy reference.

What Do I Do With My Prairie Pledge?

You can put it in the collection basket at the Sunday service or mail it to Susan Hagstrom, 916 Shorewood Blvd, Madison, WI 53705. These two choices will work best for prompt handling.

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. Anyone who has read the selections is welcome to attend. On Sunday, March 3, the choice is ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SOLITUDE by the Colombian author Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

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 a coming of age story. CAUCASIA is the first selection for a county-wide reading project sponsored by the public libraries in Dane County.

Registrar and Program Director Needed for Fall Retreat

It's not a bit too early to volunteer for the position of registrar or program director for Prairie's annual fall retreat. It will be held from Friday evening October 4 through Sunday noon October 6 at the Bethel Horizons Nature Center and Camp near Dodgeville.

The registrar registers people who will attend, assigns housing, and is a general answer-person and liaison to the Bethel Horizon employees at the retreat. The program director puts out a call for workshops and activities and schedules the times for each event. These are both good jobs if you like turning chaos into order and want to help things go smoothly at the retreat. Previous registrars and program directors can give pointers on how to do the job well.

Contact any member of the Committee on Committees for questions about these volunteer opportunities or to volunteer: Anne Urbanski (221-4053), Linda Sheehy (273-3895), Barbara Park (273-8775), Al Nettleton (238-6053), or Mary Mullen (298-0843).

RE JOURNEYS

Here's the latest findings by the RE students on world religions and UUism:

High School:

"Intriguing" is how we might have described our class this week. We discussed Western vs. Chinese philosophies. The differences were "intriguing."

6-8:

We began our journey into the compassionate world of Buddhism. The Broken Squares game let us experience how to cooperate quietly. The meditations helped us focus on some interesting parts of ourselves.

3-5:

We learned LOTS more about Jesus' birth. Did you know there were 2 versions of his arrival on the planet?

K-2:

We experienced the Christian holiday of St. Valentine's. We made fun wreaths. We talked about love, cupid, and St. Valentine, an interesting combination...

Preschool:

We had six students this week...wow... Feast or Famine. You can never predict. We did more celebrating our connections with non-human living things. We made animals from Play Dough and pictures using animal stamps.

THE COMMUNITY

Exchange of Homes

I'm a member of the UU Church of Boulder, Colorado and I am planning on spending this June and July in Madison. I'm hoping to find someone interested in exchanging homes with me. I live in the Nyland Co Housing Community just east of Boulder and have a sunny, cozy townhome. I'm a single 57 year old female teacher and will be in Madison to spend time with my new grandson. If you might be interested, please email me at nancymalee@earthlink.net. I would also be interested in housesitting.

~ Nancy Lee

UUA General Assembly June 20th –24th Quebec City Call for Delegates!

This year's General Assembly will be June 20th – 24th in Quebec City. Delegates representing Prairie will vote on Alternatives to the "War on Drugs" as a Statement of Conscience, select a new Study/Action Issue and Actions of Immediate Witness.

Delegates are required to attend the Plenary sessions, vote and report back to Prairie about General Assembly. Selection of delegates follows Denominational Affairs Committee Policy and Procedures. Prairie provides a limited monetary help for GA expenses. Everyone is encouraged to apply and attend. There are some scholarship and volunteer opportunities available through UUA. Join with UUs from around the world for action, learning, worship and fun. Attending General Assembly is a life-changing experience! If interested in serving as a Prairie delegate, please contact Nancy Schraufnagel at 273-3195 or schraufnancy@hotmail.com by March 10th.

Faith & Freedom: Tending Our Souls CMWD Annual Meeting April 12th to 14th

The Central Midwest District Assembly is Friday, April 12th to Sunday, April 14th at the UU Church of Columbia Missouri. Reverend Forrest Church's keynote speech is based on his book American Creed: Union of Faith and Freedom. A proposed revision of the District Bylaws, including changes in the Board structure and area representation, will be voted upon. Workshops include Developing a Music Program, Small Group Ministry and Peace and Justice workshop. Anyone interested in serving as Prairie's delegate, please contact Nancy Schraufnagel by March 10th at 273-3195 or schraufnancy@hotmail.com.

Gay & Lesbian Spirituality, Bishop Shelby Spong's workshops and Wartmann Lecture

The ministers of *First Unitarian Society* are offering Gay and Lesbian Spirituality: a discussion based on readings from GLBT Writers and supporters on Tuesday March 5th, 19th and April 16th. This class will dovetail with Shelby Spong's workshops "Transcending Barriers—Sex Drove me to the Bible" on Saturday April 6th and Wartmann lecture "No Fallen, Just Incomplete--A New Approach to the Question of Evil" on Sunday April 7th (free). Shelby Spong's programs on April 6 & 7 are certain

to be thought-provoking and meaningful. The Saturday program is half-filled already, so if you have an interest in attending, be sure to sign up soon.

To register for the course and/or workshops, contact Kim Hughes at First Unitarian Society, 233-9774. (Also see FUS Adult Education Courses Booklet on the back table).

RSVP/You're Invited The Social Events Calendar



March 9, 7pm:

Birthday Party for Erin Bosch

It's a milestone – the BIG 5-0. On March 9th, starting at 7pm, come to the Meeting House and celebrate. Be prepared for dancing (bring your favorite music); chatting; various contests (trivia, hula hoop, head standing, costume); and storytelling (either an anecdote about one of Erin's eccentricities, or humor on aging in general).

Costumes are encouraged: - any styles from the last five decades, old prom dresses, leisure suits, etc. All ages are welcome (especially babies). No gifts, please, but if you'd like to bring some munchies, that would be appreciated. Please RSVP to Richard: RBOSCH@metastar.com or 238-6285 (and tell him your preference for libations: beer (brand)? wine? soda? juice? gin?)

March 23: Playreaders Excursion

This month the Prairie Playreaders are inviting everyone to go to the MATC production of "Jekyll & Hyde - the Musical" on March 23, at 8 PM. Tickets are \$12 General, \$11 Senior and \$6 student. This is a fairly recent musical and should be quite interesting. Contact Susan Hagstrom by March 3rd at 238-4970 or SusanTanyaAml@aol.com if you are interested. She'll be interested in knowing what type of ticket, how many, and any questions. If you want to purchase your own ticket you may call 243-4000 to make reservations.