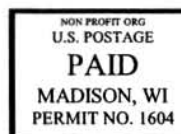


Prairie UU Society 2010 Whenona Drive Madison WI 53711-4843
(608) 271-8218 prairieu@execpc.com
Located off the south Frontage Rd. of the West Beltline Hwy near the Seminole Hwy exit.



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>

March 8, 2002

President: Erin Bosch (608) 238-6285

Editor: Wendy Williams; webet@chorus.net

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Saturday, March 9

7:00 p.m. Birthday Party for Erin

Sunday, March 10

9:00 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal

10:00 a.m.

Dan Proud will delight us with: "A Celebration in Song."

11:45 a.m.

Soup & Bread followed by the not-to-be-missed Prairie Service Auction (keep reading for further details).

7:00 p.m.

Meditation. If you like, bring your blanket.

Friday, March 15

7:30-11:30 p.m. Drum & Song Circle at Taku Ronsman's home. (Read on for further details).

Sunday, March 17

9:00 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal

10:00 a.m.

"Deep Ecology" Rick Ruecking's group will present the third program in this lay ministry.

11:45 a.m. Women's Group. All are welcome.

Please bring finger food to share.

7:00 p.m. Meditation. Blanket optional.

Sunday, March 24

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

10:00 a.m. Come here Sandy Ingham deliver the last program of her lay ministry.

Sunday, March 31

No Choir Rehearsal

10:00 a.m.

To be announced.

Thursday, April 4

Author of *Caucasia*, Danzy Senna, speaks in Madison. Please check the "Isthmus" for time and place.

Sunday, April 7

9:00 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal

10:00 a.m.

To be announced

11:45

Prairie Book Club discusses *Caucasia* by Danzy Senna. Bring finger food to share.

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

OUR SOCIETY

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, March 10: A Celebration in Song

In the Welsh tradition of St. David's Day, congregations gather to celebrate spring by singing together in harmony. Using songs from our UU Hymnbook, Dan will give us some of the tradition and the fundamentals, then lead us in singing in parts. Come join us as we make beautiful music together.

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

Sunday, March 17:

What the heck is "deep" ecology? The third group in this lay ministry will define the term and then present various related topics. Learn about the green triangle and if you are hip when it comes to bioregionalism.

The Programs that were . . .

For those who missed a Sunday or those who would like to reflect further, the Program Committee reminds you:

On Sunday, February 10, we boarded the Hogwarts Express from platform 9 3/4 for our Valentine's Day intergenerational service. We explored the importance of making good choices. We were joined on the Hogwarts Express by a class of aspiring witches and wizards from First Society (they are studying the Neighboring Faiths curriculum).

Ken Skog led the "Voluntary Simplicity" program on February 24, beginning with a brief overview of some of the ideas considered by a small study group, with the objective of being able to live with balance in order to find a life of greater purpose, fulfillment and satisfaction. A means of helping to achieve this goal was identified as voluntary simplicity in time commitments and personal possessions.

Norma Briggs, quoting from an "Economist" article described us as a generation beginning to shed the need to hang on to all of the stuff that advertisers, since World War II, have persuaded us to accumulate. Shedders are more likely to give gifts of experience than of more things.

Small groups added specific ideas for shedding. Bob Park closed by sharing local resources for those who want to act on the concept of voluntary simplicity and to develop a way of life sustainable for generations to com.

"There is enough in the world for man's need, but not for man's greed. Civilization, in the real sense of the term, consists not in the multiplication but in the deliberate and voluntary reduction of wants."
--Gandhi

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 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.

Book Club May and June Selections

Your trusty Prairie Book Club regulars have chosen the next few months' books. After *Caucasia*, the county-wide book selection which we will be discussing on April 7, we have chosen *A Message Before Dying* by Ernest Gaines and *Fall on Your Knees* by Ann-Marie MacDonald.

A Message Before Dying takes place in the Mississippi Delta. It is the story of a black man who is about to be executed for a murder he did not commit and a black teacher who unwillingly takes on the task of trying to help him go to his death a man instead of the animal his lawyer characterized him as during his trial. The book is 256 pages long. We will discuss this book on Sunday, May 12.

Fall on Your Knees has been on the New York Times paper best seller list for four weeks. According to the description, it is "the story of a family on Cape Breton Island, off Nova Scotia." This is a 508-page book, so start early. We will discuss it on Sunday, June 9.

Reminder: These books are available at a 20% discount from Borders Book Store on University Avenue. Just tell the clerk it is a Prairie Book Club selection and you are a member of the club.

Circle Dinner

Help! My circle dinner group disintegrated and I would be happy to be circle dinner "floater" where an extra person is needed. Or, if there are five or six people who would like to form a new group, I am willing to coordinate. Contact Rosemarie Lester at 255-7039 or e-mail rklester@facstaff.wisc.edu.

RE Journeys

Here are 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.

Generation Next

You may have noticed a proliferation of babies around Prairie lately. In order to provide them with a safe and stimulating environment (and to allow their parents to attend the services), the Religious Education committee is soliciting loans or donations of safe, sturdy and clean baby accoutrements. These may include bouncy seats, play mats, work stations,

etc... Please clear all donations with Randy Converse, 238-1856.

Good News!

Donna Murdoch is recovering from her pneumonia and is hoping to be discharged to rehabilitation this week. Congratulations, Donna!

THE COMMUNITY

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 schraufnancye@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 schraufnancye@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 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 SusanTanyaAmI@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.

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