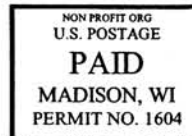


Prairie UU Society 2010 Whenona Drive Madison WI 53711- 4843  
(608) 271-8218 prairieu@execpc.com  
Located off the south Frontage Rd. of the West Beltline Hwy near the Seminole Hwy exit.



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.*

**March 22, 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>*

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## PRAIRIE CALENDAR

**Next Prairie Fire deadline is  
Sunday, March 31, 2002**

### Sunday, March 24

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

10:00 a.m. "Why have a Church?" Rev. Sandy Ingham delivers the last program of her lay ministry.

### Sunday, March 31

*No Choir Rehearsal*

10:00 a.m.

Intergenerational Service. Barbara Chatterton

### Thursday, April 4

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

### Sunday, April 7 \*Bring a Friend Sunday\*

9:00 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal

10:00 a.m.

"UUs in a Nutshell" Erin Bosch.

11:45

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

### Sunday, April 21

11:45 *Spring Parish Meeting*

Please see slate of candidates inside.

## DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sunday, March 24: Why have a Church?

Why have a Church or whatever it is we call whatever it is we do when we gather together at the same time in the same space, week after week? Why are we here, we religious liberals who call ourselves Unitarian Universalists? Is there a future for us--a future, in general, as a viable religious movement, and a future, in particular, for the gathering of people who call themselves Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society?

### Sunday, March 31: Intergenerational Service

**CAN YOU HELP?** March 31 will be our Intergenerational program commemorating Spring, Passover, Easter, the Equinox, and more! You can help us celebrate by agreeing to help with the program. Just see or call Barbara, Dean, Judy, Linda, Rick, or Warren--AKA your Program Committee. Thanks!!

### Wednesday, April 3: Housing and Property Committee Meeting.

Please join us at 7:30 at the meeting house.

### **Sunday, April 7: Bring a Friend Sunday**

Prairie is very interested in some intentional growth. In examining the growth issue, we have learned that 86% of the people in a national survey said they found their church through family or friends. Therefore, we are trying a new idea on April 7: Bring a Friend Sunday. The program's title is "UUs in a Nutshell" and it will feature Erin Bosch delivering the very entertaining words of Roberta Finkelstein, a UU minister in Sterling, Virginia (with Roberta's permission). Perhaps you have an acquaintance or neighbor who you have sometimes thought about inviting to Prairie. Now is the time to "just do it." The program will give a nice overview of what it means to be a UU. Naturally, we will all be at our friendliest that day (hint, hint). It does not come naturally to UUs to "proselytize." And yet, if we think Prairie is a great community of people (and it is), we shouldn't be afraid to "share" that with our friends. You can certainly be low key about it, but do try it. We are preparing some invitations if you would like to use them for your guests.

### **Sunday, April 28: Cole Porter's Life & Music**

**ATTENTION PRAIRIE MUSICIANS!!** On Sunday April 28 we will have a program about the life and music of Cole Porter. If you can perform, please contact Warren Hagstrom or Doleta Chapru, 238-4970, [warrenolaf@aol.com](mailto:warrenolaf@aol.com). If you need an accompanist or another kind of co-performer, Doleta or Warren can help. Cole Porter had an interesting life and wrote all those great songs. On April 28, Anything Goes.

## **OUR SOCIETY**

### **Programs you might have missed . . . .**

On March 3, we were grateful that Frank Paynter, a member of Madison Religious Society of Friends, brought us many insights on the situation in Iraq: Iraq's people are in desperate need of medical supplies and clean water systems, 4,000 children are dying each month, most of diarrhea which is preventable. The educational and health care systems are crumbling, and the appeal of Islamic extremism is increasing. Yet the U.S. and the U.N.

seem to have an interest in preserving the economic sanctions of the past 12 years. Oil is exchanged for food and medicine, but at a penalty to Iraq of about 70%. And vilifying Saddam helps justify the massive increases in our U.S. military budget. Grassroots response seems to be a way we can help. The AFSC is arranging unauthorized deliveries of medical supplies to Iraq. For more, please visit their website:

[www.afsc.org/iraq/guide/Default.shtm](http://www.afsc.org/iraq/guide/Default.shtm).

On March 10, Dan Proud, who recently joined us from the Twin Cities led us in a program entitled "A Celebration in Song." With his help, we discovered songs in our own UU Songbook that are uplifting, if not downright rousing, and that with a little practice, we could sing them together as they should be sung: in harmony (parts) and with gusto. Thank you, Dan, on a day whose weather would have given us the cold shoulder, for ushering in spring in song!

### **Food Pantry and JFF Donations Requested**

Times are hard and food pantry supplies are low. This is a reminder that there are donation boxes in the foyer of the meeting house for the food pantry and for JFF (Joining Forces for Families), both based in the Allied Drive neighborhood. You are encouraged to bring food items for the pantry or toiletry and baby items for JFF.

### **Social Action Committee at work**

Following the March 3<sup>rd</sup> service on Iraq, the Social Action Committee has drafted its own letter, copies of which will be sent to Congresswoman Baldwin and Senators Kohl and Feingold. If you would like to read or comment on their current draft, you may view it in the Commentary section of the Social Action Committee website at [www.homestead.com/prsac/files/home.htm](http://www.homestead.com/prsac/files/home.htm)

Also, anyone wishing to learn more about the situation in Iraq following the March 3 program at Prairie will find a great deal of information on the American Friends Service Committee's Iraq Resource Guide at [www.afsc.org/iraq/guide/Default.shtm](http://www.afsc.org/iraq/guide/Default.shtm).

**Wanted (alive only): persons interested in young adults and Unitarian Universalism**

Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society is looking for two people to serve on the Madison-Area Young Adult and Campus Ministry program Steering Committee. (Channing-Murray is the predecessor of this program.) Currently lead by Reverend Mary Ann Macklin, the program serves individuals between the ages of 18 and 35 in the Madison area. The representatives would advise and support the Steering Committee (young adults) and the Reverend and be involved with the young adults. Individuals in this age group often decrease or cease their participation in Unitarian Universalism. Let's help you adults in our community learn about their beliefs, continue to live their faith and empower them to act on their beliefs. If interested, please contact Nancy Schraufnagel, Denomination Affairs chair at 273-3195 or [schraufnancy@hotmail.com](mailto:schraufnancy@hotmail.com) by Sunday March 24, 2002.

**Opportunity Knocks: Committee Fair on May 5**

The Committee on Committees has scheduled a Committee Fair after the service on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. The Fair will enable Prairie members and friends to learn more about the activities of Prairie's eight committees and to help all members to decide which committee(s) to join. You will be able to visit up to three committees during the 45-minute fair, which will include a finger food potluck. Please mark your calendars for this great opportunity and fun event for May 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Nominations for Prairie Board at Spring Parish Meeting: April 21**

Prairie's spring parish meeting, scheduled for April 21, will focus on the election of a new parish board. The Committee on Committees is pleased to nominate the following people for the Prairie Board:

**Officers:**

- President – Ken Skog
- Vice President – Paula Pachchiarz
- Secretary – Larry Mandt
- Treasurer – Susan Hagstrom

**Committee Chairs:**

- Denominational Affairs – Rick Ruecking
- Finance – Kathy Converse

- Housing & Property – Larry Nahlik
- Long Range Planning – Barb Park
- Membership – Jody Bearman
- Program – Barbara Chatterton
- Religious Education – Anne Urbanski
- Social Action – Bob Park

**Other:**

**Bethel Retreat:**

- Program Coordinator, Robin Carre
- Registrar, Mary Somers

**More News from the Committee on Committees**

The CoC met four times between mid-January and early March to develop the slate of nominees. The committee also is evaluating several proposals for lay ministries. We hope to offer recommendations to the Board in the near future. Committees on Committee members are Mary Mullen, Al Nettleton, Barb Park, Linda Sheehy and Anne Urbanski. Thanks to the nominees for their willingness to serve and to the committee members for their hard work.

**Office Administrator**

Hello. This is your editor writing. My name is Wendy Williams. I am a member of James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, where I am quite active. Currently, I serve as a lay minister. My enthusiasm for Unitarian Universalism pushes me closer to become a UU evangelist. While at one point that might have frightened me, I now think it is a good thing since I am enrolled full-time at Meadville-Lombard Theological School in Chicago. Fortunately, I am able to complete my classes in two days so that I can handle my job at Prairie among my other list of commitments. You can find me at Prairie Monday and Thursday mornings. Give me a call. I would love to hear from you. (My e-mail is again viable. Sorry for the inconvenience. I much prefer e-mail, but in dire circumstance you may call me at 249-7703).

**THE COMMUNITY**

**Greater Isthmus Group: Update on April 24th**  
Madison Urban Ministries advises that an exciting meeting occurred a few weeks ago with the Greater Isthmus Group. That group, which includes more

than 20 clergy, parish nurses, apartment owners and congregational leaders met with United Way staff-person Larry Olness. The Basic Needs community solutions team of the United Way has convened a group, including businesses to propose strategies to improve low-cost housing access in Dane County. You are invited to a meeting on their progress, on Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. at St. John's Church, downstairs. The address is 322 E. Washington Avenue.

### **Rainbow Families Wisconsin**

"Celebrating and Supporting our Families With Pride" Second Annual Spring Conference at the First Unitarian Society from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Keynote address by Mary Lou Munts begins at 9:00 a.m. Ms. Munts is a mother of three children and a grandmother of seven. One of her daughters is a lesbian who is raising three adopted children with her partner. Munts is a former Wisconsin State Assemblywoman and the current co-chair of Wisconsin Common Cause. She will offer insights for families in this era of increased civil rights and rapidly changing social values. There is childcare available. Additionally, a teen program is offered.

### **UU Family Camp**

Looking for something to do with your family? This may be it. Consider a week of family fun at Bayside Camp, a Unitarian Universalist family camp held at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Camp is held at the George Williams Conference Center July 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> and includes morning adult workshops and worship services—with an emphasis on quality childcare and activities for kids. Also there is plenty of free time in the afternoons for family fun and relaxation. For more information, call: Jeanine Calabria (317) 924-4221 or browse to [www.avalon.net/~cmisss/bayside](http://www.avalon.net/~cmisss/bayside).

### **Other News**

Andrew L. Somers, Jr. was presented the Dan O'Kennedy award for his outstanding efforts for peace and justice in Ireland by the Irish American Unity Conference at its convention in Washington, D.C. Somers has spent the last 15 years investigating, reporting, and speaking about human rights abuses in Northern Ireland and the United Kingdom.

### **Living with Grief**

HospiceCare Inc. is locally sponsoring a teleconference via satellite on April 24<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 to 4:00 p.m. at Rocky Rococo's at 1753 Thierer Road. The topic is "Loss in Later Life" and will examine the needs and barriers faced by our aging population and exploring ways that professionals and others can more effectively assist those coping with the range of losses found in later life. The cost is \$20.00 and includes lunch and a copy of the *Loss in Later Life* book. For more information please contact Todd McVey at HospiceCare at (608) 327-7192.

### **Celebrate Springtime at Olympia Brown's UUWF's Fifth Annual WomanSpirit Faire and Bizarre on May 5<sup>th</sup>.**

Come to Racine with your family and friends to celebrate spring and women's spirituality with drumming, aura imaging, tarot, Maypole dancing, craft sales and more on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 5 p.m. at the Flatiron Mall, 1661 Douglas Avenue, near Highways 32 and 38. Admission - \$1.

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

### **April 7: Bring a friend Sunday**

Please see description within the Community Calendar section. Yes, this is our planned program and has the potential to grow our membership. And yet, plan to have fun and meet some really wonderful new people.

### **Shaarei Shamayim Calendar**

**2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sat 9am–2pm. Upcoming Religious Services will be on April 13, 20, and 27  
Prairie Liaison: Bill Littman 829-1909**