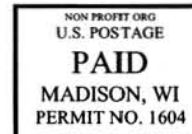


Prairie UU Society 2010 Whenona Drive Madison WI 53711- 4843
(608) 271-8218 prairieu@execpc.com
Located off the south Frontage Rd. of the West Beltline Hwy near the Seminole Hwy exit.



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>*

April 12, 2002

President: Erin Bosch (608) 238-6285

Editor: Wendy Williams; webet@chorus.net

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Sunday, April 14

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
10:00 a.m. Deep Ecology—Conclusion of Series.
11:00 a.m. **Potluck and Forum**
7:00 p.m. Meditation

Sunday, April 21

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
10:00 a.m. "We Belong to Each Other"
Jody Whelden, Meadville Lombard Theological
School student.
11:30 p.m. **Parish Meeting**
7:00 p.m. Meditation

Tuesday, April 23

7:00 p.m. New Member get-together

Sunday, April 28

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
10:00 a.m. "Cole Porter" presented by Wayne
Hagstrom.

**Next Prairie Fire deadline is
Sunday, April 21, 2002**

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, April 14: Growing Greener

Members of the four ecology study groups will present a final program building on the groups' findings. We have two aims: To provide practical information for making choices that allow us all to live more in balance with the earth; To brainstorm how to incorporate this ecological ethic into decisions that affect Prairie. (We have a very good start already.) We'll be relying on your input!

Discuss Prairie Growth at Potluck lunch

Prairie will be holding a potluck lunch on April 14. The Long Range Planning Committee will be asking several people to speak briefly about alternative propositions to meet Prairie's core values and growth objectives. After they speak we will ask people to discuss the propositions and, at the end, record their views on paper to aid the Long Range Planning Committee in their work.

The propositions state alternate ways Prairie could make plans that would

- Meet the core values identified at our August 31, 2001 workshop
- Support growth of RE and provide an environment that fosters spirituality, reflection, and action based on UU principles as identified by members in a September 2001 poll

- If hiring staff is accepted as a way to work toward these goals, consider staff that would take on roles identified by members in a December 2001 poll – 50% or more of respondents agreed with the following roles and responsibilities for staff

**Nurturing members and the
 Prairie community (74%)**
Administration (74%)
 Counseling (63%)
Religious Education (50%)

Efforts under *each* of these propositions could lead eventually to Prairie having a larger building.

Each of the following 4 propositions is intended to meet these core values (from 8/31 workshop):

- To have religious education that nurtures children and community
- Provide an environment that fosters spirituality, reflection, and action based on UU principles (nondogmatic)
- Provide stimulating, diverse Sunday programs using multiple resources and time for discussion

Proposition 1 – Ad hoc Sunday programs by persons with ministerial training

Prairie would seek to increase adult membership and the number of children in the RE program by **remaining lay led** and having the Program Committee engage people with ministerial training to provide Sunday programs on an occasional basis – less than once a month - to aid in providing an environment that fosters spirituality, reflection, action based on UU principles (nondogmatic) and aid in providing stimulating, diverse Sunday programs using multiple resources. The Program Committee would seek to identify programs that are most attractive to new attendees and use them more often. Efforts to greet, nurture, support, and counsel members would continue to be shared by Prairie committees and by members as a whole. This alternative seeks to attract members based on the value that everyone contributes in their own way and everyone's contribution is valued in a successful community.

Proposition 2 – Part-time minister

Prairie would seek to increase adult membership and the number of children in the RE program by hiring a **part time minister** whose primary role would be to nurture members and the Prairie community (particularly new attendees and members), provide counseling, serve as a resource for children's and adult RE. As a *secondary* duty the minister would provide Sunday program presentations up to 1 Sunday a month to help provide spirituality, reflection, action based on UU principles. To retain lay leadership in programs, the Program Committee could remain the organizer of Sunday programs. The minister could aid as a resource in organizing Prairie activities as delegated by the Board. This would help alleviate burn out of Board members.

Proposition 3 – Part-time minister

This proposition is similar to proposition 2 but the role of the part time minister would be strengthened to provide programs up to 2 Sundays a month. The minister's role in providing programs could be roughly equal to her or his role to nurture members and the Prairie community (particularly new attendees and members), provide counseling, serve as a resource for children's and adult RE. The somewhat stronger role in programs is viewed as providing program content and structure that would help attract and retain members needed to meet our growth objectives.

Proposition 4 – Part-time facilitator

This proposition addresses the option of hiring part or full time non-ministerial staff. Evaluation of this option was strongly supported in the Sept. 2001 poll. Prairie would seek to increase the number of children in the RE program through attracting increased participation by adults (potential members or friends) by hiring a **part time facilitator of cooperative services**. This would be a person actively involved in the life of the congregation and knowledgeable about its membership. The facilitator would gather information about visitors and see that each visitor received a follow-up phone call. Recognizing that the strength of Prairie is its

members and that it functions in a bottom up cooperative way, the facilitator would endeavor to make a connection between a visitor with particular needs or interests and a member or members who would like to meet those sorts of needs or shared those interests. The facilitator would aid in communications between members, committees, Board officers, the RE Director and the office administrator (if not combined with the facilitator position) to help keep things running smoothly. This would include notifying appropriate members any time a member needed special help or support such as a hospital visit. The facilitator could aid as a resource in organizing Prairie activities as delegated by the Board. This would help alleviate burn out of Board members.

This proposition would not preclude the Program Committee engaging people with ministerial training to provide programs from time to time, but programs provided or organized by members would be given precedence, in recognition of the value of such programs in meeting our own needs and providing a deeper understanding and appreciation of one another.

Tuesday, April 23: New Member/ Attender Get-Together

New people, we want to get to know you better and give you a chance to get to know each other and some of us long-time members in a less-rushed atmosphere than Sunday mornings. A get-together is scheduled for Tuesday, April 23, from 7-9 pm., at Prairie. It is especially for people new to Prairie in the past year or so and for anyone else who wishes to attend. In fact, we hope that at least a few "old-timers" will attend.

The meeting will focus on the spiritual journeys that have brought us all together at Prairie. Newcomers will also have a chance to ask questions about how Prairie works and about Unitarian Universalism in general. We also hope you will tell us what you want to get from your association from Prairie and let us know how we are doing in that respect. If you want to talk to someone about this event beforehand, contact Mary Mullen (298-0843), Erin Bosch (238-6285), or Rick Ruecking (838-8540).

Light snacks will be provided.

Sunday, April 21: "We Belong to Each Other"

Jody Whelden, Candidate for UU Ministry, enrolled at Meadville Lombard UU Theological School and member of First Unitarian Society of Madison, will lead a service on We Belong to Each Other. "We belong to each other," was a statement made by the Rev. James Lawson of the NAACP of Southern California, at the UU Central Midwest Social Justice Conference, which was held here in Madison this past winter. Do we agree with this sentiment? If so, how do we live up to this sentiment? If not, what does that mean? How do we deepen the conversation on the personal, the public, the congregational work in the realm of living in a pluralistic society? A congregational dialogue will be invited, as always.

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. 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

Two Prairie members and one old Prairie friend got up early to cook breakfast for about 90 homeless men the 4th Tuesday in March. Prairie has provided a monthly breakfast for men at the Grace Episcopal continuously for over 15 years. We were told by the manager that our scrambled eggs with turkey bacon, green peppers and cheese is the men's favorite. Dave Johnson, Paula Pachciarz and Anne Pryor worked the March breakfast. The date for our next shift is Tuesday, April 23. Contact Paula Pachciarz if you are interested in volunteering.

Changes/Additions to your Directory

These people have new e-mail addresses.

Barbara Chatterton <bchatter10@charter.net>
Peter Michie's <pmichie@tds.net>

Taku Ronsman <tronsman@charter.net>

Please add these people to your directory:
Dan and Robin Proud 833-0904

Parish Poll/"Congregational Directives for GA Action" Choose new Study/Action Issues for GA. Please vote in the Congregational Directives for General Assembly Action poll. This is the only way for congregations to ensure that the General Assembly will have the opportunity to choose a Study/Action Issue for two years of study and action from among a field of issues that are of greatest concern.

Please indicate below which issues you want studied and acted on. Rank your choices in order with 1 being the most important.

- S-1 Civil Liberties
- S-2 Indigenous Peoples
- S-3 Modern Slavery
- S-4 Peace and Terrorism
- S-5 Police Brutality
- S-6 Prison Reform
- S-7 U. S. Foreign Aid

Information and/or ballots are available at Prairie or www.uua.org/csw/SAIproposals2002. Please respond by April 14 to Nancy Schraufnagel, Chair, Denominational Affairs by ballot, by phone 273-3195 or e-mail schraufnancy@hotmail.com.

Opportunity Knocks: Committee Fair on May 5
The Committee on Committees has scheduled a Committee Fair after the service on Sunday, May 5th. 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 5th.

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar
2nd, 3rd & 4th Sat 9am-2pm. Upcoming Religious Services will be on May 11, 18, and 25.
Prairie Liaison: Bill Littman 829-1909

Social Action Coming Events

An address by Gaylord Nelson, a concert, a film, a dance group performance and a conference are on the Social Action Calender of Events for the last half of April. The Calendar is maintained by the Prairie Social Action Committee at <http://www.homestead.com/prsac/files/events.htm> and posted on the Social Action bulletin board by the drinking fountain at Prairie.

RSVP/You're Invited

Shar'arei Shamayim Member's Presentation: "Pursuers of Peace" on the West Bank

On Wednesday, April 24, 7:30 p.m., Sha'arei Shameyim member Karen Shevet Dinah will present an illustrated talk, "Rodfei Shalom- Pursuers of Peace: Israelis and Palestinians Who Don't Make the Headlines" at Prairie. Karen spent a week in Israel in February as a member of an international delegation organized by Rabbis for Human Rights. In observance of Tu B'Shevat (the Jewish "New Year of the Trees"), the group planted olive trees in the West Bank and met with both Israeli and Palestinian peacemakers. She returned to Madison with photographs of her trip and a nuanced view of the difficult path Israelis and Palestinians must take to achieve an end to violence. She is eager to share her experience with all who are concerned about the tragic situation in the Middle East. Prairie members are especially welcome.

Interweave

Interweave, the GLBT organization for the three UU congregations in Dane County, invites new members to share their ideas and unique contributions. Interweave's philosophy is that when people meet and get to know each other as fellow human beings, fellowship, friendship, and trust result. Interweave organizes social events, plans educational opportunities, and participates in community activities. Join us for dinner at Sa-Bai Thong, by Magic Mill at 2840 University Avenue, on Wednesday, May 1, 6:30 or April 21, 1:00-3:00 on the east side >for a potluck. Email Liz at lizdann76@hotmail.com or call Diana Vezmar-Bailey at 233-9774 with questions or interest.