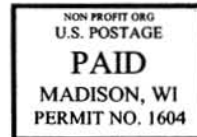


Prairie UU Society 2010 Whenona Drive Madison WI 53711-4843
(608) 271-8218 prairieu@execpc.com
Located off the south Frontage Rd. of the West Beltline Hwy near the Seminole Hwy exit.



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 26, 2002

President: Erin Bosch (608) 238-6285

Editor: Wendy Williams; webet@chorus.net

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Sunday, April 28

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
10:00 a.m. "Cole Porter's Life and Music" led by
Wayne Hagstrom and Doleta Chapru.

Sunday, May 5

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
10:00 a.m. "Margaret Fuller" join Robin Proud as
dons full costume to become Margaret Fuller.

Sunday, May 12

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
10:00 a.m. Rev. Shana Goodwin from James Reeb
Unitarian Universalist Society talks about
"Identity."

Sunday, May 19

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
10:00 a.m. "Transitions Sunday" led by Erin Bosch.
11:30 a.m. Bicycle Ride

Sunday, May 26

Memorial Day Picnic.

**Next Prairie Fire deadline is
Sunday, May 5, 2002**

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, May 12

"Identity" by Rev. Shana Goodwin from JRUC

Identity-- In religious community, knowing who you are is a precious gift we can each offer. Equally important is our capacity to know our mission as a group. How are these two dimensions of self-knowledge connected? How does the way we know ourselves connect to our spiritual lives?

Sunday, May 19

11:30 Bicycle Ride

On May 19, if the weather is good, there will be a repeat of the ride last fall on the loop along Capital City, Wingra, and Southwest bike trails. We'll stop along the way to eat Chinese food. Bring your bike to Prairie and we will leave between 11:30 and 11:45. For more information, call Al Nettleton.

Sunday, May 26

12:00 noon

Memorial Day Picnic at Rick Owens house at 2456 Spring Rose Circle in Verona. Please bring your own food to grill and a dish to pass and lawn chairs or blankets, too!

OUR SOCIETY

Programs you might have missed

On April 7th, Erin Bosch introduced a new program idea: "Bring a Friend Sunday." Prairie members and friends were asked to invite a neighbor or acquaintance to Prairie for a program titled "UU's in a Nutshell". Erin presented the words of Roberta Finkelstein, a UU minister in Sterling, Virginia, who humorously describes the challenge of defining UUism on an elevator ride down from the 20th floor. Several new people attended the service and others who could not attend expressed interest. Thank you, Erin, for an enjoyable program and for initiating an idea that may become an annual event.

On April 21, Jody Whelden put on a very thoughtful service, entitled, "We belong to Each Other". She incorporated a number of areas of diversity such as racism and sexual orientation in her talk. Jody shared a concept she is developing regarding inclusiveness. Instead of using the word "different" (as in "lots of different kinds of people"), she suggested that we all use the term "variety". Saying, "a variety of people" is much more inclusive and celebrates differences rather than dividing people into categories where people would be "different" from each other. We were fortunate to have Jody share her ideas with us. She talked about the power we have to make a difference, even though we can't do it all, we each have areas where we can contribute.

Prairie Honors Erin Bosch and Marilyn Ruecking

The contributions of two Prairie members were honored April 21. Erin Bosch, the outgoing president, was presented with gift certificates to a restaurant and a massage session, and with a memory book containing photos and comments from Prairie members and friends. The gifts were in appreciation of Erin's leadership and commitment to Prairie during her tenure. The memory book will be available Sunday the 28th for those who have not had a chance to add to it. Marilyn

Ruecking received movie theater coupons in appreciation for her dedicated work as office administrator. Erin and Marilyn, we applaud you.

Let's Celebrate Our New Members!

We've been talking at Prairie about wanting to grow, and we are! In the past 16 months, 15 new members have joined Prairie. A neat thing is that every single one of them has contributed to our community by more than just their simple presence.

First, here are the people who joined us between November 2000 and November 2001. Did you know that Mary Somers helped with getting our new directory together and has volunteered to be the Bethel Horizons retreat registrar? Andrew Somers provided us with a list of Irish Catholic school children who were undergoing nasty prejudice at the hands of Protestants and urged us to support the children and their families with a card or letter. Stephanie Adams has often greeted visitors at the welcoming table and brought her daughter Justine to sing in the choir. Jody Bearman is the new Membership Chair nominee and helped with the Easter service. Our youngest member Brian Kuzdas has contributed in ways too numerous to mention, most with the RE program.

Karen Lucas and Bev Cann have helped put on our last 2 Easter programs, and Bev lead two programs related to GLBT (gay/lesbian, bisexual, transgender) issues in the public schools. John Lewis, who has rejoined us after years away from Prairie, is involved in environmental programming. Taku Ronsman has brought her music to Prairie and offers a monthly drumming circle at her home. Our last member from 2001 is Barbara Chatterton who is a member of the Program Committee, and has agreed to accept the nomination for Program Chair.

Five more people have become members in 2002. Dan and Robin Proud came to us from Minnesota. Dan lead us in hymn-singing in the Welsh tradition a few weeks ago, and Robin has a one-woman dramatic program up her sleeve. Denise Jess and

Jani Koester presented us with our most recent Easter program. Dedication of their baby was a highlight here at Prairie a few weeks back. The most recent person to sign our membership book is Larry Mandt. He is the nominee for Prairie Secretary.

We have been greatly enriched by our new members. On most Sundays we also have visitors, and many of them have returned. Let's all get to know them and their talents so they get a chance to share themselves with us. That's the way we keep Prairie alive and growing.

May 12 Special Meeting Called

Right after church service, 11:30am, there will be a special church parish meeting convened to adopt budget changes to meet two urgent building needs, for a sump pump \$3414 and new entryway carpet of \$2288. Fortunately, the service auction came in at double the budgeted amount and pledges of \$2330 came in after the November 11 budget meeting last Fall, so only \$1167 needs to come from capital reserve to balance the budget and meet these needs.

Service Auction Success

The March 10th Service Auction was a huge success! We doubled our budget goal receiving \$4415! Special thanks to Orange Schroeder, our auctioneer, and Judy Skog and Rose Smith for organizing the food! Thanks to the callers, Sharon, Orange, Bob, and Aileen and the many volunteers, donors, and bidders that day. Trips, massages, and dinners were especially popular as we filled out our schedules for the coming months

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.

Religious Education Corner

Pre-School: We did a couple of neat projects to celebrate our connection to birds and the rebirth that their hatching represents. On one occasion we read Owl Babies and made binoculars from discarded paper towel rolls. On another we made eggs with chicks inside!

K-2: We did lots of things to learn about Easter as a time of rebirth. We talked about several Bible stories: "The Lord's Supper," "Jesus prays at Gethseman," and "The Resurrection." De Paola's Book of Bible Stories helped us understand these stories a lot better. We also created symbols of Easter and the phenomenon of rebirth that happily occurs each Spring.

3-5: Thinking about miracles and the power of healing (a miracle in itself!) was our focus the past couple of classes. How could Jesus actually have walked on a large body of water? Did faith have something to do with it? We had fun exploring the great power of laughter to heal our spirits!

6-8: Fundamentalism was our topic. We discussed the differences between fundamentalism and cults. Engaging conversations that included a young guest from First Society.

9-12: We enacted a Japanese tea ceremony as a way to experience Zen. We learned much about the Shinto religion and its influences on Japanese culture via Tara Converse's video and her recounting of her stay in Japan. We *even* created a haiku about bagels of all things!

*Bagels and cream cheese
Fluffy food for the kami
So warm and yummy*

ECOLOGY STUDY BOOKS

Copies of the Deep Ecology, Voluntary Simplicity, and Sustainability study books from the Northwest Earth Institute that were used in our Prairie study groups may be checked out from the upstairs office.

Investing With Your Values

Do your eyes glaze over whenever you meet with your financial planner? Do you hate investing in big corporations which pollute or treat their workers poorly? Do you wish you could have an impact on the environment or workplace safety if only you had enough money? Find out how you can make your money work for you and support your values (even if you only have a checking account). Judy & Ken Skog will be leading 3 sessions about Socially Responsible Investing, based on the book Investing With Your Values. The first session will be either May 11 or 12 (with apologies to Mom if it's the 12th). We hope to have a financial planner to answer questions at one of the sessions. Call 273-4813 for details.

THE COMMUNITY

The Habitat ReStore accepts new and used building-related materials from contractors, suppliers, individuals, remodelers and property managers. Some materials are used directly in the construction of Habitat homes, but most are offered to the general public to purchase at reduced prices.

Donating materials to the Habitat Restore:
When you have good, reusable or new materials, give us a call at (608) 661-2813. You will be asked for a description of the materials as well as your contact information. We prefer that donors include delivery of the materials to the store as part of their donation, so please indicate if you are able to deliver your donation to the Habitat Restore when you call.

Wanted – Used and surplus materials, fixtures, tools:

- **Cabinets**, up-to-date and not damaged
- **Plumbing**, usable fixtures, parts and supplies
- **Electrical**, useable fixtures, parts and supplies
- **Windows**, insulated glass, no broken glass or sashes accepted
- **Hardware**, knobs, hinges, locks, nails, cabinet pulls, nuts, bolts, screws
- **Lumber**, at least 6' in length
- **Doors** with jambs No broken glass
- **Roofing**, no scrap materials please!
- **Carpet**, no used carpet, no stains or odors

- **Tools**, hand, garden, working power
- **Flooring**, wood, ceramic tile, vinyl
- **Millwork/trim**, wood casing and base, vinyl base, ceramic
- **Miscellaneous**, masonry, sheathing, siding, drywall supplies

Sorry, the Habitat Restore cannot accept:

- lead based materials
- used appliances
- used toilets
- tub surrounds
- paint
- toxic materials
- blinds
- wallpaper
- furniture

RSVP/You're Invited The Social Events Calendar

Afghan Benefit Dinner

The Seeds of Hope for Afghanistan campaign is being organized in Madison by DOERS (<http://doerswi.homestead.com>), who will work through the Mennonite Central Committee to provide such items as tools and seeds to enable returning Afghan refugees to plant this season's crop. The centerpiece of the campaign will be an Afghan meal prepared and served in cooperation with the local Afghan-American community, featuring authentic Afghan food (with vegetarian options).

Time and place: Saturday May 11th, 5:30pm - 8:00pm. At Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ Gilbert Road at Tolman Terrace. Special guest speaker, Doug Hostetter, will reflect on his dangerous trip last winter delivering aid to the people of Afghanistan.

Tickets are available on a sliding scale from \$12 to 25. To purchase tickets contact Bob Park or call Phyllis at 251-6892.

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar
2nd, 3rd & 4th Sat 9am–2pm. Upcoming Religious Services will be on May 11, 18, 25