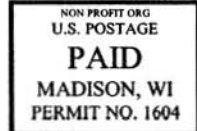


Prairie UU Society 2010 Whenona Drive Madison WI 53711-4843
(608) 271-8218 prairieu@execpc.com
Located off the south Frontage Rd. of the West Beltline Hwy near the Seminole Hwy exit.



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>*

May ~~April 26, 2002~~

President: Erin Bosch (608) 238-6285

Editor: Wendy Williams; webet@chorus.net

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

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 19, 2002**

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, May 12

"Identity" by Rev. Shana Goodwin from JRUUC

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

"Transitions" led by Erin Bosch

Our annual Transitions Service is when we honor our students who are graduating from 8th grade. Justine and Alice have each prepared a short presentation, then we will celebrate with them by dancing around the colorful Maypole that Norma and Mike Briggs will be planting in the Prairie yard for the occasion. This will be a fun intergenerational service. Pray for good weather.

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

2:00 p.m.
Memorial Day Picnic at Rick Owens house at 2456 Spring Rose Circle in Verona. Ice Tea and Lemonade will be provided. Please bring your own food to grill and a dish to pass, your own place settings and lawn chairs or blankets, too! If you wish, you may also bring games or sports gear.

Saturday, June 15

Prairie Fundraiser: \$ 53 (due by May 24th) includes entrance to Boerner Rose Gardens, Milwaukee Public Museum, I-Maxx Theater and lunch. See Pat Watkins or Prairie bulletin board

OUR SOCIETY

From Our Members

These words were found by an anonymous Prairie Member in Jim Hightower's newsletter *The Lowdown*. They were submitted in response to his call for a name-the-scoundrels contest, in light of the Enron scandal and similarly-run corporations.

The winning entries:
profiteerorists
vulture capitalists
grabbitteurs

Other submissions:

sleazewhiz
paidtriots
terrortunists
grand theft autocrats
corporados
corporats
pillage idiots

On a topic closer to home, the following is offered by another member who found it humorously appropriate to the many changes afoot at Prairie.

Flogging a Dead Horse

Dakota tribal wisdom says that when you discover you are riding a dead horse, the best strategy is to dismount and walk. However, in churches we often try other strategies with dead horses, including the following:

Buy a stronger whip.

Change riders.

Say "This is the way we have always have ridden this horse!"

Appoint a committee to study the horse.

Rewrite the standards for dead horse performance.

Hold a workshop to increase riding ability.

Point out that dead horses make fewer demands. Declare that our dead horses are better than the Baptists' dead horses.

Change the requirements, declaring that, "This horse is not dead."

Say, "We tried walking once, and it didn't work."

Do a Sunday service on the inherent worth and dignity of dead horses.

Just 'cause some folks are happy riding a dead horse, doesn't mean you have to be .

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: Spring is all around us (well sort of—lots of green but not so mild temperatures). We are

continuing to ponder our places in the web of UU life in the world. We tended our indoor garden. We read *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears*. We created marshmallow flowers.

K-2: We learned more about Judaism by celebrating the holiday of Yomha-Atzmaut, a kind of Earth Day event. We made flower crowns—quite stunning.

3-5: The Crucifixion was our focus this half of the month. We did a mini-service depicting the events of a Catholic Holy Week in which the crucifixion is the climax.

6-8: We learned first-hand about the Orthodox Church in Madison by attending a service. Incense, priests with attendants. . .very solemn.

9-12: We immersed ourselves in the music and memories of Cole Porter.

Service Sunday: We raised money for two local groups: The Doers (an Afghan relief group) and our very own Prairie Social Action Committee. We played a version of Pictionary in which the Doers were pitted against Prairie. A right answer got you money for your team. Both teams ended up getting about the same amount of money, surprisingly enough!

RE PICNIC

Here is an open invitation to a Picnic! Next Sunday, May 12th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. there will be an end of school year picnic to commemorate RE's hard work! All Prairie folks are invited to Marlborough Park for the fun!

Wanted: New Director of Religious Education

Randy Converse has decided to pass on the hat of DRE so that he has only one hat at Prairie—that of a member of the congregation. Duties include: coordinating church school curriculum and related activities, supporting teachers, organizing social events, conducting outreach, responding to the religious education needs of our families. Ten hours per week, then months per year, \$12.50 per

hour. In interested, please send resume by May 22, 2002 to urbana@charter.net or DRE, Prairie UU Society, 2010 Whenona Drive, Madison 53711-4843.

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 at 3:00 p.m. We hope to have a financial planner to answer questions at one of the sessions. Call 273-4813 for details.

Two Members Moved Out of State

Matthew Glenn and Liz Martin wrote with much regret recently to advise that both had moved to Lynchburg, Virginia after their employment situation at the organic farm no longer seemed workable. They had enjoyed our friendship, community and services. In fact, Prairie was a major factor for them in wanting to stay in Wisconsin. They hold fond wishes that Prairie will continue to thrive and appreciate the kindness extended to them while they were here.

Words to Consider

Judaism's Ahavat Olam: Love

We are loved by an unending love.
We are embraced by arms that find us
even when we are hidden from ourselves.

We are touched by fingers that soothe us even when we are too proud for soothing. We are counseled by voices that guide us even when we are too embittered to hear. We are loved by an unending love.

We are supported by hands that uplift us even in the midst of a fall. We are urged on by eyes that meet us even when we are too weak for meeting. We are loved by an unending love.

Embraced, touched, soothed and counseled... ours are the arms, the fingers, the voices; ours are the hands, the eyes, the smiles. We are loved by an unending love

RSVP/You're Invited
The Social Events Calendar

A Farewell Celebration and Picnic

Rev. Mary Ann Macklin, Young Adult & Campus Minister, and Deb Phelps, Former Prairie Member, are returning to Bloomington, Indiana, where Mary Ann has accepted a ministerial position.

Come share in the festivities, reflections and jolly good humor in sending Mary Ann and Deb off to Indian with heartfelt wishes on Sunday, May 19th at Noon at the FUS Meeting House.

Please register by May 15th. The cost is \$7 per adult and \$3 per child. If you have questions, please call Marilyn Wilson at 231-2277 or Jane and Steve Holtzman at 233-6056.

**UU GLBTs and Their Friends and Allies/
Summer Concert Series**

Interweave, the GLBT organization for the three UU congregations in Dane Douny, invites new members to share their ideas and bring their unique contributions to the group.

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 a potluck before the first summer concert of American Music featuring Womonsong and Perfect Harmony, gay and lesbian-inspired choral groups will present this benefit for the Homeless on Friday night, June 7th, at 8:00 p.m.

E-mail Liz at lizdann76@hotmail.com or call Diana Vezmar-Bailey at 233-9774 if you are interested in either of these events or want more information about Interweave.

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