

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  
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# 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.*

**June 13, 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>*

President: Ken Skog; (608) 273-4813

Editor: Wendy Williams; [webet@chorus.net](mailto:webet@chorus.net)

## PRAIRIE CALENDAR

### Saturday, June 15

Prairie Fundraiser: Road trip to Milwaukee  
3:00 p.m. Socially Responsible Investing Class

### Sunday, June 16

10:00 a.m. Summer Outdoor Service at Picnic Point

### Sunday, June 23

10:00 a.m. "Sights and Insights of Laos" by Dave Zakem.

### Sunday, June 30

10:00 a.m. "Personal reflections from GA" by Wendy Williams.  
Party at Mike and Norma Briggs. Details to follow.  
Bring lawn chairs if possible.

### Sunday, July 7

10:00 a.m. Independence Day Picnic.

### Sunday, July 14

Summer Reading: Book Reviews -- moderated by Mary Mullen.

### Sunday, September 8

10:00 a.m. Ingathering Service

## DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### 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.

### Sunday, June 16

"The Music of Nature - let the senses join in" Come explore the poetry of nature through all of your senses - sight, sound, feel, taste, etc. Listen to authors express their appreciation. Sing of the enjoyment of nature in natural surroundings. Bring your own poems to read. Picnic Point is located on Lake Mendota Drive. You can turn on Lake Mendota Drive directly off of University Avenue, past First Society, and continue on until you reach the parking lot. There will be signs directing you to where we will meet."

### Sunday, June 23

Dave Zakem on "Sights and Insights of Laos" A former Prairie member, Dave's presentation, accompanied by slides and music, will cover a range of things including Buddhism, animism, socialism, tribalism, capitalism and their influence in Laotian society and culture.

Also, there will be a reception for Dave Zakem at Ruth and George Calden's house beginning at

**Next Prairie Fire deadline is  
Sunday, July 7, 2002**

7:30p.m. Directions: From Regent to Easton Segoe Road (near intersection at Regent St.) take a left onto Waukesha. The house is dark brown, the 2nd one on the right hand side.

### **Sunday, June 30**

Wendy Williams on "Personal Reflections from GA" Our very own Prairie Administrator, who is a theology student at Meadville-Lombard in Chicago, will present a service regarding her thoughts and experiences from General Assembly in Quebec City.

### **Sunday, July 7**

Prairie Independence Day Picnic. There will be a potluck picnic at Bob Durkin's house from 12p.m. to 3 p.m. In case of rain or tornadoes-the picnic will be cancelled. Please bring a generous dish to pass, your own place settings and beverages. Lawn chairs would be appreciated, too. Directions to Bob Durkin's House, 5235 Harbor Court: From S WHITNEY WAY, then LEFT onto UNIVERSITY AVE., RIGHT onto SPRING HARBOR DR., LEFT onto LAKE MENDOTA DR., and RIGHT onto HARBOR CT. The house is red and is set back from the street with a red garage.

### **Sunday, July 7, 11:30 a.m.**

TIM by Colleen McCullough will be discussed by the Book Club. Erin Bosch says this is a rather uplifting story that is set in Australia and involves a middle-aged woman and a younger man. (20% discount from Borders Book Store on University Ave.)

### **Sunday, July 14**

Summer Reading: Book Reviews -- moderated by Mary Mullen. Please share short personal reviews on a book you've enjoyed. After the service, if you like, you can bring books to lend to each other.

### **Sunday, August 4, 11:30 a.m.**

Book Group Back When We Were Grownups by Ann Tyler.

### **Sunday, September 8**

INGATHERING SERVICE: Why is there an announcement about a service in September and it's only June? Think of Prairie as you travel this

summer and bring back a vial of water (film canisters work well) to participate in our water homecoming service. Share your story from your summer travels as we mingle the water into a common urn. Oceans, rivers, streams, lakes and backyard swimming pools--all of these count. This service will be combined with the introduction of our children enrolled in the RE program.

## **OUR SOCIETY**

### **A Program you might have missed**

On Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, Dave Johnson presented "Teaching Literacy in Prison." Dave volunteered for 5 years as a literacy volunteer at a federal prison. The average age of the prisoners was 37 and the length of time they serve is 11 years. The highest percent of offenses are drug related, followed by robbery.

It was a friendly atmosphere in the classroom. Some were very open to learning, in fact really hungry for it. Others showed no interest. Volunteers were to be friendly but not get too familiar with the prisoners. Dave also explained what the prison was like and the difficulty of walking through the security checks when volunteering.

Inmates were able to get associate degrees in computers and business. Yet, there are no longer Pelt grants. Popular courses were those for janitors, chefs, and dental laboratory technicians.

There is no parole policy. So, there is no reward for those who do all the things you are supposed to do. There is a liberal visitation policy and have places where visitors could meet prisoners. There were 350 employees and 2 were black, although black prisoners comprised 48% of the population.

There are organized sports (e.g. basketball) and they did have gardens. Dave liked volunteering and meeting with the inmates. He inspired us with the words: "A man is more than the worst thing he ever did."

### **Proposed Study Group**

A small group of Prairieites are proposing that we form a study group around Bishop John Spong's book "Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism." We have access to a study guide for this book, and hope to gather a few interested folks to join us. We'll start at Prairie, 7 p.m., on the evening of Tuesday, July 9, and determine frequency, location and dates as the group decides. For further information, call Mary Somers, 276-8397, or Nancy Graham, 244-6595 or e-mail at [ncgraham@facstaff.wisc.edu](mailto:ncgraham@facstaff.wisc.edu).

### **Seeking computer programming work**

Dear Prairie folks, I'm looking for computer programming work and would appreciate any leads you can offer. I have been programming for nearly 17 years, and have worked for the State Legislature, CPA firms, telecommunications firms, consulting firms and on the Lands End website. My most recent job was with an Internet Service Provider. My skills are in C, UNIX and Oracle; I also have expertise with Linux and Unix system administration. I have done a lot of work with database publishing, electronic commerce and internet/intranet development. I am an excellent debugger and can find those obscure, though fatal, bugs. I can write C, C++, perl, Visual Basic and Unix shell scripts. My online resume can be found at <http://webpages.charter.net/urbanlee/Resume.html>

### **Art at Prairie**

I think the Prairie "wall carpet" is bare again! Who will hang or tack up some pictures? Children's and young people's art especially welcome. Please call Rosemarie Lester at 255 7039 if you're willing to bring something, so I can coordinate. There have been many positive comments on the project.

### **Work with Homeless Families this Month**

The next Interfaith Hospitality Network shift is June 16-23. Prairie is a participant in the Madison IHN, which is organized by Madison churches to provide housing and services for homeless families. Prairie is one of the "buddy churches" that helps Midvale Lutheran, the "host church", which houses the families for 8 days. We can do our part by providing

food, sharing meals, spending time with the parents and their children, helping with laundry, etc. This is a great opportunity for Prairie families to work together in a service activity. There are many ways individuals can serve, also. If you would like to sign up to help or find out more information, contact Paula Pachciarz at 273-4806 or email her at [pachwack@chorus.net](mailto:pachwack@chorus.net)

### **Men's Shelter Breakfast**

A big thanks to Dave Johnson and Anne Pryor for their dedication to helping out at the shelter for the past 6 months. Dave didn't miss a month during his winter stay in Madison, and Anne is a friend of Prairie who has a long-time commitment to this project. Prairie provides breakfast for the men at the Grace Episcopal shelter the 4th Tuesday of every month. The next breakfast will be June 25. If you would like to help by purchasing and delivering groceries on Monday (Social Action Committee pays), or by cooking and serving Tuesday 5-8 a.m., please contact Paula Pachciarz at the numbers above.

### **A Quote to Note**

A Native American grandfather was talking to his grandson about the tragedy on September 11th. He said, "I feel as if I have two wolves fighting in my heart. One wolf is vengeful, angry, and violent. The other one is loving and compassionate." The grandson asked, "Which wolf will win the fight in your heart?" The grandfather answered, "The one I feed."

From *Finding Hope when Dreams Have Shattered*, by Ted Bowman (submitted by Bob Park)

### **Beautiful People, Beautiful Flowers**

Thank you to all the beautiful Prairie members and friends who brought flowers to church this past season. Rose and Galen Smith, Barb Chatterton, Orange Schroeder, Rachel Siegfried, Aileen Nettleton, Metje Butler, Barb Park, and Rick Owens (my apologies to any who were missed) are among the generous folks who parted with their posies for our benefit. A special thanks goes to Rick Owens who shared his "office flowers" with us numerous times. The beautiful flowers greatly enhanced our

Sunday morning experience. They brightened the winter days, added an element of natural beauty to the service and delighted our eyes! Now that summer is upon us we hope to see many homegrown bouquets...Please!

## Opportunities

### UU Family Network

The UU Family Network 2002 packet "Generations of Faith" is online at [www.uua.org/families](http://www.uua.org/families)! There are celebrations - "Our Ancestors" sermon by Keith Kron, "Family Stories" sermon by Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley, and more. The Rites of Passage section includes Meg Cox's Ritual Newsletter and a study guide to Marriage From the Heart by the author Lois Lellerman. Family Heritage selections include Beyond the December Dilemma adult education program by Debra Haffner and an intergenerational sermon by Barbara Fast "Making Grape Jelly With My Father: A Recipe for Happiness." In the Intergenerational Programs component there are contributions by Jan Devor (Connections Dinner), Lani Nelson-Zlupko (Family Mentoring), James Coomes (Game of Family Life), and much more. Of course there are reviews of books and curricula. These are only a few of the treasures in this packet. For the sake and love of your families and your congregations, check it out!

Pat Hoerltoerfer, Children and Family Programs Director, e-mail: [phoerltoerfer@uua.org](mailto:phoerltoerfer@uua.org).

### Summer child-care opportunities at Prairie

Asmita and Ritika, who have provided friendly and reliable child care in Prairie's nursery the past few months, will not be in Madison during June. This means that we need volunteers to sign up to care for any younger children who might attend or visit during the five Sundays in June -- June 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th. Prairie youth (grades 7 and up) will be paid \$10; adults get to donate their time. We will also need one person (adult or teen) per week during the summer to supervise children in grades K-5 who come to Prairie with their parents and choose not to attend the service. I will start a sign-up sheet at Prairie on June 2nd. Please contact Anne Urbanski, email [urbana@charter.net](mailto:urbana@charter.net), or phone 221-

4053, to volunteer. Thank you!

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

### Prairie Playreaders Annual Fish Fry

Friday, June 14th - Come attend the Prairie Playreaders Annual Fish Dinner and One-Act Playreading. The fish dinner will be hibachi-style at the Ginza, Odana Road. The One-Act plus dessert (rhubarb pie, I think) will be at the Hagstroms, 916 Shorewood Blvd. Please leave a message at 238-4970 or e-mail at [SusanTanyaAml@aol.com](mailto:SusanTanyaAml@aol.com), [Hagstst@dhfs.state.wi.us](mailto:Hagstst@dhfs.state.wi.us) - how many will attend what. I need names for the dinner by the 12th.

### Openings for Kids and Families at Camp Unirondack

Camp Unirondack has several openings in Emerson I (June 30 to July 6) and Emerson II (July 7 to July 13). Both of these sessions are for youth in grades 4 - 6. We also have opening in Family Canoeing I (June 30-July 6) Youth Canoeing I (July 7-13) and in our Backpacking Wilderness Trip Camp (August 18-24). We have room for 2 or 3 more families in Family Camp (August 18-24). For information about registration please see the Unirondack Web Page - [www.unirondack.org](http://www.unirondack.org) or e-mail Nat Shed at [director@unirondack.org](mailto:director@unirondack.org). Please note that all other sessions are full and have waiting lists. After June 15th please call the camp number - 315-376-6888

### Shaarei Shamayim Calendar

2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sat 9am-2pm. Upcoming Religious Services will be on July 13, 20, 27

Prairie Liaison: Bill Littman 829-1909