

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

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MADISON, WI
PERMIT NO. 1604

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>

President: Ken Skog; (608) 273-4813

Editor: Wendy Williams; webet@chorus.net; (608) 249-7703

September 20, 2002

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Friday, September 20

Playreaders at 7 p.m. at the home of Paula Pachciarz and Carl Wacker. See Article.

Saturday, September 21

Fundraising trip to the Milwaukee Art Museum.

Sunday, September 22

"Political as Religious" by Rev. Jean Darling.

Sunday, September 29

"Excited about UUA!" presented by Brian Kuzdas, Mary Mullen, Bob Reuschlein, Nancy Schraufnagel, and Pat Watkins, Prairie members who attended the UUA General Assembly in June.

Friday –Sunday, October 4-6

Prairie Fall Retreat!

Monday, October 7

7:30 p.m. WOW meeting

Sunday, October 13

10:00 a.m. "Jenk's Disappointment" presented by Mark Ward, a third-year student at Meadville Lombard, and the ministerial intern at First Unitarian Society.

11:45 to 12:45 Prairie Pledge Drive Kick-off Luncheon.

Monday, October 14

7:30 p.m. WOW

Sunday, October 20

11:30 a.m. WOW—Open Discussion

Monday, November 11

7:30 p.m. WOW

November 24-Dec. 1

Interfaith Hospitality Network shift at Midvale Lutheran.

***Next Prairie Fire deadline is
Sunday, October 6, 2002***

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 22

Jean Siegfried Darling is a born-and-raised UU, with a passion for social justice and the habit of worrying those uncomfortable places the way you do a sore tooth. She is also the daughter of Rachel Siegfried, who is one of Prairie's respected elders. Jean was ordained in May 2002 jointly by Unity Temple UU Congregation and First UU Church of Detroit. "The Political as Religious" is a reflection on freedom, on the ideal way of life, and on the importance of participating in our political system.

October 7, WOW Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

The October WOW meeting will be lead by Mary Mullen. She will discuss the book she edited in 1990, "In Our Own Words: The Best of the Dunn's Marsh News." This is a book about the neighborhood that Prairie UU belongs and the history that brought the neighborhood together legally in 1973 which developed the ongoing organization still meeting today. Mary Mullen was cofounder of this organization and the book gives the dope on how the association got started. We will learn how it used to be and how the neighborhood was developed.

We will also talk about what programs and projects WOW would like to do this fall and winter. We meet at 7:30 at Prairie. If anyone would like to have supper before the meeting we can meet somewhere at 5:45. Suggestions may be emailed to Mary Somers at asomers@execpc.com or call at 276-8397.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 13; 11:45-12:45 PM PLEDGE DRIVE KICK-OFF LUNCH

Mark your calendars, check your budgets, bring your pens and come to the sixth annual Pledge Drive Kick-off Lunch and enjoy great sandwiches, beverages and dessert (contribution is \$4.00). We will discuss our proposed budget and pledges for 2003. This is your chance to learn about the goals and needs of Prairie UU as well as how your financial contribution is vital to meeting these goals. Your giving keeps Prairie alive, growing, and available to serve the Madison community. Please join us for lunch!

RETREAT UPDATE

Retreat Update, Oct 4-6

We have a large group of Prairie folks registering this year and thanks to Prairie volunteers and Bethel naturalists, we have an excellent range of activities and discussions for our retreat. We are all looking forward to our yearly retreat where we can relax among prairie grasses, enjoy hiking trails and views from cliffs, enjoy good food and reconnect with one another.

Friday evening: Check in with Mary Somers for your room assignment. Please bring finger foods to share.

Bring: linens, blankets, towels, pillow, soap. The beds are single beds. You may purchase linens to use at the retreat for \$4 a bed. Also bring a camera for the Nature walks, the book, "King Leopold's Ghost" for book discussion, a flashlight, insect repellent, warm clothes and shoes for outdoors and or course your Talent Show instruments and music or skit and props, and dancing shoes for folk dancing. Mealtimes are at 8 am, 12 noon and 6 pm. Please arrive promptly.

To get to Bethel Horizons, take highway 18(Verona Rd)west to Dodgeville. Turn right on Hwy 23 and go north, past Governor Dodge State Park until you reach county road "ZZ". Turn right east) on ZZ and in a mile follow signs leading to Bethel Horizons.

After unloading, your vehicle must be parked in the parking lot at the top of the Hill. Mary Somers is our on-site coordinator for the retreat. If you have questions about registration or the facilities, please check with her. She will be our liaison with the Bethel staff. Robin Carre is coordinating the program. We look forward to an enjoyable weekend together as a community.

OUR SOCIETY

Book Club Schedule

Saturday, October 5 (at Bethel Horizon's retreat), Adam Hochchild's KING LEOPOLD'S GHOST.

Sunday, November 10, THE GIRL WITH THE PEARL EARRING.

Sunday, December 8, RISE TO REBELLION.

The Play's the Thing

Theatergoing is a communal act, movie going a solitary one, according to Robert Brustein. This statement also applies to the Prairie playreading group. We encourage newcomers to join us in this month's reading at 7 p.m. this Friday evening, September 20. No experience is required. The playreading will be held at the home of Paula Pachciarz and Carl Wacker. There will be a break during the reading during which refreshments will

be served and affairs of the theater and the world in general will be discussed. Please call 273-4806 for more information.

Change in Office Administrator's Schedule

After an erratic summer schedule working around my training as a chaplain at Meriter Hospital, I will be at Prairie Monday and Wednesday from 9:00-11:00. Please call or stop by within those hours if you have questions or concerns.

Also, the Prairie Fire as you will note has returned to two issues per month. Please submit your articles by either the first Sunday or third Sunday of the month. You have until 7:00 p.m. to e-mail your submissions to me or to have them in the green folder in the office off the meeting room.

Social Action Notes

Amy Wilcox and Alison, Emily and Eleanor Owens pitched in last month at the men's homeless shelter. They arose at 4 a.m. and prepared breakfast for over 80 men at the shelter in downtown Madison.

Thanks, Amy, Alison, Emily and Eleanor.

Another crew is needed for the last week in September, but Prairie can help the men's shelter in other ways this month, too. The men's shelter at Grace Episcopal "desperately" needs the following items. If you can donate any of them, please put them in the foyer and mark them for the shelter.

deodorant

toothbrushes

toothpaste

bandaids

Tylenol/acetaminophen

Advil/ibuprofen

The Madison Interfaith Hospitality Network is holding a two hour training session at 7 p.m. Monday evening, September 23, at Bethany United Methodist Church on Mineral Point Rd. New and old volunteers who have never experienced a training session are encouraged to attend. Please contact Tracey Reams (829-1176) if you would like childcare. You may also call Tracey or Paula Pachciarz (273-4806) for more information. This is a great opportunity for new volunteers especially to

find out how best to help the homeless guests of the IHN.

New to Madison and looking for Housing

Submitted by Tracy McLellan

UU new to Madison, social and political activist seeks sleeping room or roommate; \$225-350 month total + security deposit. References available. Please contact Tracy at tracymacl@yahoo.com.

Condolences

Prairie sends its sympathy and support to Pat Watkins in the death of her brother, Gordon Gaines on September 10 in E. Orange, N.J. Pat was with her brother when he died suddenly of a heart attack. Although he was in poor health his death came as a shock. Notes and cards can be sent to Pat Watkins, 230 N.Meadow Lane, Madison, WI 53705.

Sandy Ingham Relocates to Burlington, Iowa

Congratulations and best wishes to Sandy Ingham who has accepted a call to the UU Fellowship in Burlington, Iowa.

Opportunities

Sign up for a Prairie Circle Dinner

Circle dinner groups are now being organized by the Membership Committee. Sign up and enjoy several meals during the next year with the same, small, group of Prairie friends. This is how it works: Sign up sheets will be passed around at Prairie for the next three weeks. When you see it, add your name and phone number. Also indicate if you would like the group to include your children when you are at other's homes. (Or send an e-mail to Al Nettleton at aanett@execpc.com, with same information.) After the lists are complete, groups ranging in size from six to ten will be formed and one of the people in the group will be asked to invite the others to the first dinner. Then it is up to the group to decide details of the dates, locations, and menus of the next meal together. Most circle dinner groups organize a potluck, with the host providing the main dish. Some hosts have reserved the Prairie building for their dinner. Occasionally a group has decided to eat together at a restaurant.

Circle dinners are fun and a great way to get to know others in Prairie. New members and friends are specifically invited to participate.

RSVP/You're Invited

FALL CONFERENCE - WOMEN OF THE CENTRAL MIDWEST DISTRICT

Sign up now for a great weekend at Lake Geneva, November 8-10. Sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation, the keynote speaker is Patricia Monaghan, a leader of contemporary earth spirituality movement. Patricia, a faculty member at Depaul University and author of several books, will speak on "Celebrating the Goddess". The conference will include many workshops, arts and crafts, dancing, drumming, Pilatus and Yoga, games, a bonfire, and time to connect with women of our religion at a beautiful setting. Contact Sharon Burdick at 262-634-6906 or Pshamar@aol.com for additional information and a brochure.

RE Corner

"You look so familiar but I just can't place your name." "I wonder who she is." "Why is she looking at me like she wants me to do something with that clipboard?"

My name is Kristi Sprague-Klepzig, and my family, Ben, Eli (4), Safi (1) and I have been attending Prairie for about a year. We have been somewhat irregular about attendance, but that has all changed. You may know I have been asked to be the new Director of Religious Education for Prairie, and I may follow you around with a clipboard from time to time to ask for some support with the Religious Education Program.

In 1991, I graduated from UW-Madison with a degree in Elementary Education and a Minor in Spanish. From there, I took a job in Northern Wisconsin (Weyerhaeuser), lived on a farm and taught in a self-contained 8th grade classroom for two years. I was a bit out of my element and eager to return to the culture of Madison. So, two years later, in 1993, I began teaching grades 6-8 at Wingra School on Monroe Street. Then, a year later, I

transferred to a classroom to teach grades 1-3 with Denise Jess, also of Prairie. I stayed in this progressive, experiential and exciting learning environment for 4 more years, until the birth of Eli.

I have been home with Eli and Safi for the past 4 years and truly miss teaching, discussing education, being with other adults! I hold a lot of interest in getting teachers and students excited about coming to Prairie to see what will be happening in their classes, in creating a stronger connection between the people upstairs and the people downstairs, participating in some wonderful traditions and trying out some new ideas, too.

I look forward to seeing all of you more often and feel honored to be able to work with the children and adults involved in the RE program. Thanks to those of you who have already given me a warm welcome, and I invite others of you to pull me aside to say hello or to pop downstairs to see what is happening. See you soon!

YoUuth Circle says "Please keep nuts at home!"

submitted by Anne Urbanski for the RE Committee

The R.E. Committee recently learned that a child in our Prairie YoUuth Circle had an anaphylactic allergic reaction to peanuts a few years ago and almost died. This means that child may NEVER come in contact with any product containing peanuts or other kinds of nuts. Even breathing something that contains nuts, nut oils, or flour processed with nuts could set off a life-threatening allergic reaction. So for the sake of this child's health and everyone's peace of mind, when you bring food to share at Prairie, please make sure it DOES NOT contain any kind of nuts. That applies to food for potlucks as well as snacks for after services. If you don't make it from scratch, please read the package label carefully. Thanks for your help in keeping our kids safe.

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar
2nd, 3rd & 4th Sat 9am-2pm. Upcoming Religious Services will be on October 13, 20 & 27th.
Prairie Liaison: Bill Littman 829-1909