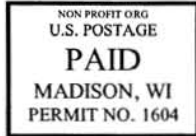


Prairie UU Society 2010 Whenona Drive Madison WI 53711-4843  
(608) 271-8218 prairieu@execpc.com  
Located off the south Frontage Rd. of the West Beltline Hwy near the Seminole Hwy exit.



# 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.prairie.madison.uua.org>*

**October 11, 2002**

President: Ken Skog; (608) 273-4813

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

## PRAIRIE CALENDAR

### Saturday, October 12

1:00-6:00 p.m. Prairie Clean-up. Jobs for all skills and abilities. Please join us and help out.

### Sunday, October 13

10:00 a.m. "Jenk's Disappointment" presented by Mark Ward, Intern at First Unitarian Society.  
11:30 Pledge Drive Kick-off and luncheon.

### Monday, October 14

5:45 Dinner at China House Buffet (at Hilldale).  
7:30 p.m. WOW, discussion led by Mary Mullen.

### Sunday, October 20

10:00 a.m. In her first lay ministry program, Rose Smith will present Immigrant Stories.  
11:30 a.m. WOW—Open Discussion

### Sunday, October 27

10:00 a.m. Jane Camerini presents "Wallace and the Evolution of Life," from information gleaned from her book *The Alfred Russell Wallace Reader: A Selection of Writings from the Field*.

### Sunday, November 3

10:00 a.m. Ruth Calden draws our attention to All Soul's Day.

### Monday, November 11

7:30 p.m. WOW

### Saturday, November 16

Prairie Fundraising Trip to the Chicago Art Institute. For information, call Pat Watkins.

### November 24-Dec. 1

Interfaith Hospitality Network shift at Midvale Lutheran

**Next Prairie Fire deadline is  
Sunday, October 20, 2002**

## DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sunday, October 13

"Jenk's Disappointment" Jenkin Lloyd Jones is one of the preeminent figures in Midwestern Unitarianism. As a Wisconsin minister and later missionary for the Western Conference he helped organize dozens of churches, reform Sunday School lessons and build an enthusiastic spirit for liberal religion. Later in life, however, he became disenchanted with the Unitarian church and left it. I would like to introduce us to this important figure in our history and then explore something of his disappointment with our movement and how it speaks to us today.

## THINGS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

### World's Greatest Scavenger Hunt

The World's Greatest Scavenger Hunt was held at the Bethel Horizon's fall retreat. Four teams: the Spidermen; the Survivors; the Iridescent Bird Feathers, and the Fungus Amungus competed for the amazing and unbelievable prizes. This year's hunt was the greatest ever. The teams sought, found, and assembled more natural and unnatural elements of scavenging detritus than was thought humanly possible. The Ultimate Wieners included Judy, Madeline, Reuben, Toby, and Carl. These hotdogs pledge to defend their title at the World's EXTREME Scavenger Hunt sometime in 2003.

## OUR SOCIETY

### Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office

While at G.A. in June, I volunteered to be the UUUNO representative to Prairie Society. Therefore, from time to time (and I hope to do this on a monthly basis) I will be contributing a news item from the UUUNO to the Prairie Fire. Please look for it. If you have questions or comments, please contact me, Pat Watkins @ 233-5795 or [pwatkins@facstaff.wisc.edu](mailto:pwatkins@facstaff.wisc.edu). At this time in the affairs of the nation and the world, I am pleased to volunteer for this job and doubly pleased that Prairie has seen fit to be a member of our U.U. United Nations Office.

### WOW Meeting on Monday, October 14

WOW will meet for supper before the meeting at the China House Buffet at Hilldale at 5:45 p.m. You do not need a reservation, just show up. The WOW meeting begins at 7:30 at Prairie where Mary Mullen will bring the book she edited about the neighborhood Prairie UU is located in, "In Our Own Words: The Best of the Dunn's Marsh News." All women are invited. If you would like more information, call 276-8397.

### PLAYREADERS

All are invited to attend the playreaders in October which will meet October 19th, Saturday night at

Andy and Mary Somers, 4467 Crescent Rd. We will meet at 7 p.m. Call 276-8397 for directions.

### "Prairie UU Day with IHN"

Normally Prairie, as a "buddy church" along with Glenwood Moravian, helps out at Midvale Lutheran at different times throughout its week-long service with the Interfaith Hospitality Network. This week we tried something different. On Wednesday Prairie filled all of the IHN shifts for the day. We hosted breakfast, cooked and hosted dinner, talked with parents, played with kids, and spent the night. Prairie's next IHN shift at Midvale Lutheran will be November 24 to December 1. We may do another "PUU Day" during that week. For more information on how to volunteer, check the Social Action bulletin board or call Paula Pachciarz at 273-4806.

### Book Club Schedule

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

Sunday, December 8, RISE TO REBELLION.

## R.E. CORNER

The pieces of the new Religious Education Model have been falling into place nicely with the tremendous support of a handful of great volunteers, a hard working, dedicated RE Committee and good patience from the wonderful young folks who come to YoUUth Circle on Sunday morning! It's truly exciting to be a part of.

The first month of YoUUth Circle, we focused on building community and getting to know each other, laying some nice ground work for a healthy learning environment. We will be focusing on the 7 Principles of Unitarian Universalism this year, beginning with completing our rainbow, which was started at Bethel Horizons on October 5, during a fun intergenerational YoUUth Circle. Thank you to all of the folks who attended! We really appreciate your interest and hope that you left with a better sense of what we are doing in RE this year.

**Upcoming dates to note:**

There will be a **volunteer orientation** on Saturday, Oct. 26, from 2:30 until 4:30. We changed the format of the RE Program this year, in part, to ease the time commitment needed by adults to teach classes, but we still need folks to help out. We don't need a year-long commitment, but we do need people willing to support our youth and their education. Please try to take the time to attend the orientation. Please call Kristi at 278-1975 with your particular questions or interests.

Saturday, Oct. 26, is also the date set for **Fall Frolic!** Look for more information in the coming weeks and think about ways you might be able to participate/help out!

## Community Events

### **Soulforce Seminar with Rev. Dr. Mel White**

On Friday, October 11th and Saturday, October 12 at First Congregational Church (corner of University Avenue and Breese Terrace), the winner of the ACLU's National Civil Liberties Award, the Rev. Dr. Mel White served the Christian community for thirty years as a pastor, professor, author, film maker, and ghost writer to some of the nation's most powerful religious figures. After a thirty year struggle to "overcome his homosexuality" (through various therapies" from exorcism to electric shock), White finally accepted his sexual orientation as "a gift from God."

For the past seven years Dr. White and his partner, Gary Nixon, have traveled across America, peaking, organizing, lobbying, and protesting injustice. In writing his autobiography, *Stranger at the Gate: To Be Gay And Christian In America*, Dr. White "came out" of his closet to bring hope and healing to his GLBT sisters and brothers and to begin his own justice ministry on their behalf.

For the past four years, Mel has been guided by the "soul force" principles of M.K. Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in his own struggle to win justice for sexual minorities. On February 15, 1995, White was arrested for "trespassing" at Pat Robertson's CBN Broadcast Center. The story of his arrest, the 22 day prison fast, and the 'little victory' that followed, made news across the nation.

"When I stumbled into activism," Mel White admits, "I didn't know there were rules for doing justice effectively. Then I discovered the 'soul force' principles for non-violent change as taught by Jesus, Gandhi, and King. That discovery has revolutionized my life and ministry."

On Friday evening, October 11, Mel will present a lecture "Homosexuality: The verdict is in. Not a sickness, not a sin". The lecture is open and free to the public and will start at 7:30pm. The Soulforce workshop on Saturday October 12 will begin at 9am and will also be held at the First Congregational church. The workshop is open to the public, however reservations are suggested as there is limited space. There is a \$3 admission fee for the workshop.

For information contact: Mel White at Fax: 949-455-0959 or Email: [RevMel@aol.com](mailto:RevMel@aol.com), or [www.melwhite.org](http://www.melwhite.org), or [www.soulforce.org](http://www.soulforce.org).

### **Pagan UUs Feast and Celebrate**

The Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPs) is a group of pagan UUs from all three congregations in Madison. We gather at First Unitarian Society to celebrate the solstices, equinoxes and the pagan holidays between them. Our next celebration is Fall Equinox, Sunday, September 22nd at 5 p.m. in the West Living Room at First Unitarian Society. We will gather for Samhain on November 3rd and for the Winter Solstice on December 22nd. Each evening we begin with a potluck supper and then create a participatory, earth-centered ritual to honor the season. This is an open circle. Men, women and children of all ages are welcome, as are any newcomers to pagan traditions. Contact: Nancy Vedder-Shults, 231-3362.

### **Vacation with UU's in South Florida!**

Join UUs from all over North America for a week of fun in the sun! Play, laugh, sing, and celebrate the new year at S.W.I.M.!

**S.W.I.M.**, the Unitarian Universalist Southeast Winter Institute in Miami, is an annual UU Retreat and Family Camp for UUs and like-minded people

of all ages which happens every year from Dec 26th through Jan 1st.

S.W.I.M. offers outdoor adventures (including tours, hikes, rides, hot tubbing, and sailing), workshops (including crafts, spirituality, and personal growth), programming for youth, teens, and young adults, fantastic food, and a close-knit community of friends.

*For more information, please visit us online at <http://www.swimuu.org> or write to 40 Pearl Street, Black Mountain, NC 28711 USA for a brochure.*

*S.W.I.M. is a member in good standing of CU2C2, the Council of Unitarian Universalist Camps & Conferences, an affiliate of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).*

## Opportunities

As many of you know, for years Pat Cautley sold UNICEF cards and other UNICEF materials at Prairie during the month of November. Last year, when she knew she would not be able to continue with this project, she asked me to do it for her. This year, however, I have decided not to do it. Is anyone interested in taking this on? It involves connecting with a very nice couple who orders materials and distributes them to people to sell within their organizations, picking up the materials, and selling them at Prairie for two consecutive Sundays in November. If you would be interested in giving this a try, please call Linda Sheehy at 273-3895 or e-mail at [lindasuzannels@aol.com](mailto:lindasuzannels@aol.com).

### Shaarei Shamayim Calendar

**2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sat 9am–2pm. Upcoming Religious Services will be on October 13, 20 & 27th.  
Prairie Liaison: Bill Littman 829-1909**