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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.

October 25, 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.prairie.madison.uua.org>

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7703

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PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Sunday, October 27

9:00 a.m. Choir

10:00 a.m. Jane Camerini, "Wallace and the Evolution of Life."

Sunday, November 3

9:00 a.m. Choir

10:00 a.m. "All Soul's Day Celebration" presented by Ruth Calden. A celebration of the lives of loved ones who are no longer with us mirroring Day of the Dead celebrations in Mexico.

Noon. Potluck featuring guest speaker, Ken Hannaford-Ricardi of Voices in the Wilderness. "What's Next for Iraq" will be the topic.

Monday, November 4, 2002

5:45 p.m. Supper at the China House

7:30 p.m. WOW meeting at Prairie facilitated by Rose Smith.

Sunday, November 10

9:00 a.m. Choir

10:00 a.m. Rose Smith's second lay ministry on Immigrant Stories.

11:30 Book Club "The Girl with the Pearl Earring"

Saturday, November 16

7:30 p.m. Playreaders, at Nettleton's, 645 Sheldon Street.

Sunday, November 17

9:00 a.m. Choir

10:00 a.m. Gabriel Laden presents "Doorway to the Soul."

Sunday, November 24

9:00 a.m. Choir

10:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Intergenerational program.

Sunday, December 1

9:00 a.m. Choir

10:00 a.m. Winter Reading: Book Reviews by Prairie Folks.

November 24-Dec. 1

Interfaith Hospitality Network shift at Midvale Lutheran.

***Next Prairie Fire deadline is
Sunday, November 3, 2002***

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, October 27th

Jane Camerini will discuss the book she recently had published, called "The Alfred Russell Wallace Reader: A Selection of Writings from the Field". It was written with the hope of reaching audiences much broader than the small scholarly field of the history of science.

Jane received her PhD from a UW interdisciplinary committee, rather than from a single department. Her research on the role of maps in the history of ideas about evolution and ecology was supported by faculty from Botany, Zoology, Geography, and History of Science. Jane will be talking about the life and work of Alfred Russell Wallace who independently discovered the theory of evolution by natural selection and spurred Darwin into getting his "On the Origins of Species" into print. Wallace incorporated evolution by natural selection into a One World View which was scientific and spiritual.

Sunday, November 3

For the past four years, Prairie has celebrated All Souls' Day with a simple ceremony of remembrance. Once a year we take time to feel our connections with those whose lives have helped shape us. . . . to remember, share and celebrate the lives of those we have lost. In order to accommodate everyone who wishes to light a candle and speak about someone, please limit your remarks to a minute, two at the very most. If possible bring a photo and/or defining object that you associate with the life of the person you remember. Please place photos and objects on the table after you light a candle so they can be viewed later by the congregation. Or you may prefer to simply light a candle for someone in silence. As is our custom, the names of all Prairie members who have died will be read at the end of the service. If you have questions, call Ruth Calden at 233-5717.

Sunday, November 10

Immigrant Stories. This is the second in the lay ministry series coordinated by Rose Smith. Bev Cann and Bob Park will speak about the Canadian experience in their families.

OUR SOCIETY

Thank You

Submitted by Judy Skog

A big thank you to all the helpers who came to clean Prairie on October 12. The kitchen really sparkles and there's room in the fridge again. Thanks Barb, Mary, and KK. The meeting room is minus dust bunnies, we can actually see through the windows, and there are no more potluck goobers on the chairs thanks to Sharon, Ken, Randy, and Toby. The men's bathroom is once again pristine thanks to Larry and Ezra. And an extra big thanks to Al and Robin for getting the plugged outside drain (which contributes to water problems in the basement) unplugged almost all the way through.

Long Range Planning Committee - Update

Submitted by Ken Skog

Thank you to all that have been participating in the Dessert Pot Luck Discussion Groups. Your comments are helpful. The committee will particularly work on ideas to address the concerns and fears people may have and bring our (and your!) ideas to help with decision making at the Parish meeting. The committee would like to share its thoughts about how we would ask Prairie members to begin decision making about having a half-time minister. We propose to first have a simple resolution where we agree to pursue steps to obtain a minister. A draft of the simple resolution is below.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

The members of Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society agree to take steps to pursue the option of contracting with a half-time professional minister for one year. The steps will include fund-raising, and providing enough funds are raised, forming an ad hoc Ministerial Search Committee that is elected by the membership as required by the Prairie by-laws.

We are still working on follow on resolutions about how the steps mentioned would be taken if the first motion is agreed to. Please contact members of the Long Range Planning Committee if you have questions or suggestions! The following are members: Barb Park, Chair, Mary Mullen, Anne Urbanski, Nancy Schraufnagel, Rachel Long, Norma Briggs, Catherine Mandt, Erin Bosh, and Ken Skog.

What do you think about seeding and/or growing a new congregation in Madison?"

From Ken Skog

There will be a two "identical" meetings at First Society to discuss ideas concerning a possible new congregation in Madison. Prairie members and friends are invited to attend. Questions to be discussed include: "What has the task force learned so far? What do you think it might cost to start a new congregation in the Madison area? What might land cost? A new building? An existing building? What are some possibilities for location? How do other UU congregations start new congregations? What happens to the "mother" church" What are Prairie Society and James Reeb's ideas about growing? What is the UUA's bold proposal about the formation of new congregations? "Two forums to talk about these important questions, as well as other questions you may have, are schedule for Monday and Tuesday, October 28 and 29, from 7 to 9 PM in the Auditorium at First UU Society. You're invited. Please come to either forum(or both, if you are a real glutton!)

PRAIRIE CARING COMMITTEE AND YOU

The Caring Committee this year will be attempting a different way of supporting Prairie members in times of need. The committee members, Erin Bosch, Marilyn Ruecking, Aileen Nettleton, and Linda Sheey, will each have Prairie members assigned to them so you will know who to contact if you have a special need this year. We are in the process of contacting everyone to advise each of you about your contact person.

Sometimes we may be able to provide assistance directly and other times we may simply coordinate help. Here are some examples of ways in which we can help:

- If you are in the hospital and would like Prairie to know or would like visitors or phone calls.
- If you are recovering from an illness and would like people to bring meals.
- If you need emergency child care.
- If you are dealing with a crisis and need information on community resources.
- If you would like someone to talk to about a problem that has come up.

We encourage all Prairie members to continue to support one another informally as you have in the past. This is just another way to help you, so that we can reach out to you when you need our support. If you have questions or feedback, please contact Linda Sheehy, chair, at 273-3895.

ATTENTION: THOSE WHO WANT NO MINISTER FOR PRAIRIE

Submitted by Warren Hagstrom and Doleta Chapru

The Long Range Planning Committee scheduled group meetings for input regarding a minister. The Committee will "consider group comments in preparing a motion...to have a part-time minister." To provide a forum for those who prefer Prairie remain lay-led, we have scheduled a meeting at our home, 916 Shorewood Blvd., at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, November 4. If you can attend, please call us at 238-4970. (e-mail: warrenolaf@aol.com.) If you cannot come but share our view, drop us a line at the above address (Madison 53705) or by e-mail.

MAKE YOUR PLEDGE--OR--RENEW PRAIRIE FIRE

We are in the midst of our annual pledge drive to support our budget for the 2003 year. The goal of the current pledge drive is to \$44,332. Most of the funds for our operating budget come from pledges of members and friends. If you have received your pledge information and form, please return the completed pledge information to Kathy Converse by October 20 to save yourself (and us) a reminder phone call!

If you did not receive a pledge form and wish to make a pledge or contribution to the work of Prairie UU Society or continue to receive the Prairie Fire newsletter, please complete the form below and return it by Nov. 1 to Kathy Converse, Chairperson. Thank you! The Finance Committee

Name _____

Address _____

I wish to make a pledge of _____ to
Prairie for the year 2003.

____ My check is enclosed.

____ I will pay my pledge monthly during the 2003
year.

____ I will pay my pledge ____ Monthly ____
Quarterly ____ Annually. ____.

OR: ____ I wish to continue to receive the Prairie Fire.
Enclosed is my check for _____. (suggested \$25
contribution).

Mail to Kathy Converse, 630 Pickford St., Madison,
WI 53711.

WOW

WOW has changed from meeting the 2nd Monday of
the month to now meeting the first Monday. We will
meet November 4th at 7:30 pm at Prairie. Rose Smith
will show a video about Artic Dance, "The story of
Margaret Murie", a great conservationist who is still
alive at 100 years old. Our October supper at the
China House was so good, we are repeating it again in
November. Join us at the China House, by Hilldale
theatres at 5:45, or we will meet you at 7:30 pm at
Prairie. Bring a friend. All women are welcome. Call
Mary Somers with questions 276-8397.

IS THERE A SONG IN YOUR HEART?

Do you like to sing? In the car? In the shower? Don't
keep your voice to yourself. Come join the Prairie
Choir. No previous experience necessary. You don't
have to be a great singer to contribute to the sound of
the whole. We meet most Sunday mornings at 9:00
a.m. and sing at one program per month. Questions?
Call Barbara Park at 273-8775.

R.E. CORNER

Thank You from the Desk of the DRE

Submitted by Kristi Sprague-Klepzig, DRE

Thank you to all who are helping to make the RE
program a great place for all of our youth. Kudos to:
Peter Anderson, Rachel Long, Erin Bosch, Bev Cann,
Robin Carre, Doleta Chapru, Randy Converse, Kathy
Converse, Larry Nahlik, Paula Pachciarz, Beth Potter,
Dan Proud and Carl Wacker. Finally, sincere thanks to

the Committee members, who have put in hours of
personal time to ensure top notch programming and
make everything tick: Denise Jess, Jani Koester, Brian
Kuzdas and Chair, Anne Urbanski. What a gift you all
are!

Opportunities

Building a Peaceful Tomorrow, An Interfaith Conference *Submitted by Bob Park*

"Building a Peaceful Tomorrow", the interfaith peace
conference that Prairie voted to sponsor with other
Madison churches, will be held on Saturday, November
2, 2002, between 8:30 a.m. and 8:30 pm, at Blessed
Sacrament Church, 2112 Hollister Ave. in Madison (4
blocks west and 2 blocks south of Camp Randall
stadium). Conference brochures and registration forms
are on the table at the back of the meeting room at
Prairie, or may be printed from the conference Web
site. The sliding scale cost of the conference is \$10 to
\$25 (depending on registrant means), and covers the
cost of both lunch and
dinner. Please register early to aid with meal planning.
The conference goals are to learn about building peace
through practical alternatives to military action and other
forms of violence, and to nourish the growth of a strong
interfaith voice that can provide a moral compass for
our country in times of war and international conflict
resolution.

The following workshops are planned: Peace/ Justice
from the Pulpit (Rev. David Cooper/ Rev. Cecil
Findley), Forgiveness as Peacemaking: the role of
forgiveness in healing and preventing conflict (Amy
Owen), Nonviolence Workshop: an introduction to the
reconciliation process (Jack
Tiffany), The Place of Music in Peace-building and
Activism (Roz Woodward/Mary Mullen/Dan Proud),
Kucinich Efforts to Secure Peace (Midge Miller),
Every Church a Peace Church (Lois Swenson),
Nonviolent Intervention in Violent Conflict (Tom
Benevento/ Kathryn Kingsbury), Peace and Resolution
in Palestine-Israel (Nasser Abufarha), Impunity and it's
Impact on Justice (Angie Hougas, Amnesty
International), Ending War with International Law (Bob
Reuschlein, World Federalists), Behind the Scenes in

Mediating International Conflicts (Prof. Joe Elder),
Stories from Ainaro: Sistering with a War-Torn
Community in East Timor (Tom Foley/Diane Farsetta),
"Islam is a Way of Peaceful Life with All God's
Creatures" (Salwa Rashad/Mrs. Najat Fraigoon).

Lunch will feature an "Interfaith Panel: Joining Our
Voices for Peace". The concluding dinner will include
an address by Ken Hannaford-Ricardi of Voices in the
Wilderness on "Iraq: Alternatives to War". Details are
available on the conference Web site at
<http://peacefultomorrow.homestead.com>. Call Bob
Park at 273-8775 with questions.

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar

**2nd, 3rd & 4th Sat 9am–2pm. Upcoming Religious
Services will be on November 9, 16 & 23rd.
Prairie Liaison: Bill Littman 829-1909**