

**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.



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.*

December 6, 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>*

President: Ken Skog; (608) 273-4813  
7703

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

## PRAIRIE CALENDAR

### **Sunday, December 8**

9:00 a.m. Choir  
10:00 a.m. Immigrant Stories Part III by Rosemarie Lester and Daisy Peterson.  
11:30 a.m. Potluck and Parish Meeting  
7:00 p.m. New Member Orientation

### **Sunday, December 15**

9:00 a.m. Choir  
10:00 a.m. "Conscientious Objection" presented by Jackson Tiffany.  
11:30 WOW-general discussion.  
7:00 p.m. New Member Orientation.

### **Thursday, December 19**

6:30-9:30 p.m. Spanish Speakers Potluck.

### **Sunday, December 22**

9:00 a.m. Choir  
10:00 a.m. Intergenerational Christmas Program.

### **Tuesday, December 24**

5-8 a.m. Men's Drop-In Shelter Breakfast

### **Saturday, December 28**

7:30 pm. Playreaders meet at the home of Pat Watkins, 230 N. Meadow Lane, Madison. Phone 233-5795. Everyone welcome, please join us.

### **Sunday, December 29, 2002**

10:00 a.m. Second Annual Game Day—Bring board games, Boggle, cards, etc.

### **Sunday, January 5**

9:00 a.m. Choir  
10:00 a.m. Program to be announced.  
11:30 a.m. Book Club

***Next Prairie Fire deadline is  
Sunday, December 15, 2002  
Please e-mail articles to Rick Ruecking or  
Prairie. Wendy will be on vacation.***

## DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Sunday, December 8**

**Immigration Stories - Part III** - Continuing Rose Smith's lay ministry on immigration, Rosemarie Lester and Daisy Peterson will speak about their personal experiences of coming to the United States from Germany and Switzerland.

**Potluck and Parish Meeting**—Please remember to attend this important meeting. This is a finger food potluck, so please bring something to share.

### **Sunday, December 15th**

Jackson Tiffany, a member of Madison Friends Meeting "Quakers" will present a program on Conscientious Objection. Jackson is a member of the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice where he is co-chair of the nonviolence education training and task group.

For the service at Prairie on December 15th, he has requested that teenagers and parents of teenagers and young adults attend to learn what is happening today. Because of the war in Iraq and all the attention now given to military intervention, there are questions about contentious objection and the military. These questions are both for men and women, as women are also going into the military today.

## **OUR SOCIETY**

### **2002 PLEDGES**

*submitted by the Finance Committee*

If you have not yet completed your pledge for the 2002 pledge year (January-December), please send a check for the remainder of your current pledge to our treasurer, Susan Hagstrom, 916 Shorewood Blvd., Madison, 23705, by December 15. Note PLEDGE 2002 on the check. Thanks for helping us meet our financial obligations to keep Prairie alive! Call Aileen Nettleton if you have questions about your pledge.

### **Quote to Note**

*submitted by Bob Park*

I can honestly say that the event in Madison that touched me the most was the service on Sunday morning [November 3rd at Prairie]. Having been raised Catholic, I am conversant with the idea of All Souls Day, but no service I have ever attended made it as personal as this one.

*Signed Ken Hannaford-Ricardi of Voices In the Wilderness*

### **Book Club Meeting Rescheduled**

The December Prairie Book Club meeting has been postponed and rescheduled for Sunday, January 5, after the Sunday service.

Our selection will be RISE TO REBELLION by Jeff Shaara, a book that takes the reader from the Boston Massacre in March 1770 to the signing of the Declaration of Independence in the Summer of 1776. The author, whose father Michael Shaara also wrote historical fiction, goes inside the minds of the principal players, John Adams, Ben Franklin, George Washington and General Thomas Gage, the commander-in-chief of British forces.

The discussion has been moved to January for several reasons. First, our fall parish meeting will be on December 8, and the women's group meets after the service the following Sunday. The book, at 576 pages, is also longer than some we have read.

The Prairie Book Club welcomes anyone who has read the current selection to join our discussions. Expect a lively exchange of responses to the reading. Bring finger food to share.

### **WOW Movie and Potluck Postponed**

Previously scheduled for December 11<sup>th</sup>, we will now meet on January 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. We will begin by having a potluck of foods that we will eat with our fingers, just to try a different tactile experience and to lead into our program which is the movie, "Eating." The movie opens on a group of women gathering to celebrate birthdays for 3 friends turning 30, 40 and 50. During the party, some of the women discuss their attitudes toward food and men and discover hilarious parallels. The movie is 110 minutes in length. Please join us! All women of Prairie and friends are invited. We are a group of wild, wonderful, wise women!

Please also note that we do meet on December 15<sup>th</sup> for general discussion.

## **Opportunities**

### **New Member Orientation**

New Prairie members are invited to two new member orientation sessions to be given at the church. At 7:00 Sunday, December 8 - "Our Personal Religious Histories" and at 7:00 Sunday, December 15 - "Prairie and You." The sessions, led by Rick Ruecking, will introduce members to each other, review the history of the denomination and our fellowship, and explain how Prairie functions. These meetings have been popular with new members, and you are encouraged to attend both sessions. Childcare will be provided.

### **Thanks a Bunch!**

*submitted by the Membership Committee*

We appreciate the efforts of all who helped to make Prairie a welcoming place during the month of November. Thanks go to coffeemakers KK Anderson and Brian Kuzdas; greeters Norma Briggs, Ruth Calden, and Orange Schroeder; and cupwashers KK Anderson, Robin Carre, Randy Converse, Larry Nahlik, and Phoenix Wardell. We apologize to those whose names we have overlooked. If you wish to help in the coming month, you may sign up at the greeting table before or after each service.

### **Social Action Notes**

*submitted by the Social Action Committee*

Eighteen Prairie members and friends helped to make Thanksgiving week a bit easier for four homeless families. They participated in the Interfaith Hospitality Network by assisting Midvale Lutheran in hosting the families. By sharing a meal, staying overnight, and providing food to eat, the following folks represented Prairie in its latest IHN shift: Erin Bosch, Robin and Jonah Carre, Jeanette, Mike, and Mark Clawson, Paula Pachciarz, Rick Ruecking, Orange Schroeder, Kristi, Ben, Eli and Safi Sprague-Klepzig, Anne and Maya Urbanski, Kim Zinski and Sage and Glen Yoerger. If you are interested in volunteering for the first time for IHN and would like to know more about the experience, talk to these folks!

Thanks to those who donated socks and shoes for the men's shelter, food for Allied Drive pantry, and toiletries for Allied Drive Joining Forces for Families. Your donations are appreciated and will be used. Thanks to Barb Park for again buying the men's shelter breakfast groceries and to Dan Proud for again working the very early breakfast shift.

## **Community Events**

### **Holiday Art and Craft Sale**

FUS is hosting its first annual Holiday Art and Craft Sale on December 15<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Lower Meeting House.

### **Holiday Blood Drive**

As the holiday season approaches, you may be trying to find a special gift for your loved ones. Please take a few minutes to remember those who need a very special gift indeed; blood, the gift of life.

Cancer patients, premature babies, accident victims and others rely on generous donors to give blood through the American Red Cross.

Please give blood at the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Holiday Blood Drive on Tuesday, December 24 from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Alliant Energy Center. Parking is free, child care is provided and Santa will be making a visit. By giving one unit of blood you can help save the lives of up to three people. Please call 227-1357 or 1-800 GIVE LIFE (448-3543) and make a commitment to giving blood. Your gift will be treasured for many holidays to come!

### **Winter Solstice Celebration**

On Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Circle Sanctuary will be sponsoring a Winter

Solstice Celebration at First Unitarian Society. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the program begins at 7:00 p.m. The evening will include drumming, music, storytelling, sharing of Winter Solstice lore and customs from different traditions and cultures, and a candlelight meditation and ritual for world peace and planetary wellness.

You are asked to wear something in traditional Yuletide colors of red, green, and/or white. Children are welcome, but no childcare is available.

Please bring 3 cans of food for the food drive, a bell to ring, and a new votive candle and a votive glass candle holder. If you wish, you may also bring a drum/rattle to play.

The minimum contribution for the evening is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child. All proceeds benefit Circle Sanctuary Nature Preserve. All food collected will go to a food pantry to feed the disadvantaged in rural Wisconsin. No pre-registration is necessary.

### **Noon Musicales at First Unitarian Society**

All programs are on Fridays from 12:15 to 1:00 p.m.

On December 6<sup>th</sup>, the Madison Wind Octet performs the Mozart Serenade in C Minor and International Suite by Elizabeth Raum.

On December 13<sup>th</sup>, the title of the program is 20<sup>th</sup> Century Art Songs featuring soprano Susan Craft and pianist Susan Mielke.

The last musicale of the year is December 20<sup>th</sup>. Please join the Annual Christmas Carol Sing. Special refreshments will be offered.

Admission for all programs is free. Coffee and tea are available and brown-bag lunches are welcome.

### **UU News**

#### **UU Peace Corps Volunteers Help Women and Children in Bulgaria**

In Bulgaria today, 60 percent of the people survive on less than \$2 a day. In the agricultural community of Straldja, half the adult population are retired (many on pensions less than \$30 a month) and of the rest, 40 percent are unemployed.

Women and children suffer the most from such poverty. Two Peace Corps volunteers in Bulgaria are working on projects to help these two groups.

Edith Sloan has created a project that would fund a women's weaving and sewing cooperative. You can see more information at:

<http://reldavis.freeservers.com/women>.

And Rel Davis' project would equip a local "hizha" or mountain lodge for youth nature camps. For photos and more information, check out the website:

<http://www11.brinkster.com/reldavis/hizha>.

Tax-exempt contributions to either of these (or to any of a number of Peace Corps projects around the world) can be made on the web at:

<http://www.peacecorps.gov>.

For more information, contact Rel Davis, Peace Corps Bulgaria, at [reldavis@yahoo.com](mailto:reldavis@yahoo.com), or Edith Sloan at [drsloan42@yahoo.com](mailto:drsloan42@yahoo.com).

And, you can help make life a lot easier for some of Bulgaria's poorest -- and pick up some true bargains for yourself or as gifts -- at the non-profit website:

<http://www.craftcenter.org>.

### **Quotes to Live By**

"We must judge others not by our light but by their own."

--*William Ellery Channing*

"Harmony exists in difference no less than in likeness."

--*Margaret Fuller*

"It is in our lives, and from our words, that our religion must be read."

--*Thomas Jefferson*

**Office Hours for Office Administrator**

Monday and Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Please note: Wendy will be on vacation December 11-24. She will return to normal hours December 30.

Beginning January 7, Wendy's hours will be Tuesday and Friday: 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

**Shaarei Shamayim Calendar**

**2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sat 9am–2pm. Upcoming Religious Services will be on December 14, 21, and 28.**

**Prairie Liaison: Bill Littman 829-1909**