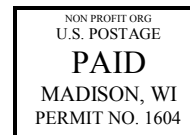


Prairie UU Society 2010 Whenona Drive Madison WI 53711-4843
(608) 271-8218 prairieu@execpc.com
Located off the south Frontage Rd. of the West Beltline Hwy near the Seminole Hwy exit.



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>

January 10, 2003

President: Ken Skog; (608) 273-4813

Editor: Wendy Williams; webet@chorus.net; (608) 249-7790

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

**Next Prairie Fire deadline is
Sunday, January 19, 2003**

Sunday, January 12

10:00 a.m. Rosalind Woodward with help from Mary Mullen and Dan Proud present "Place of Music in Peace Building and Activism."

Sunday, January 19

10:00 a.m. "Immigrant Stories, Part 4" join us for Rose Smith's last program in her lay ministry.

Sunday, January 26

10:00 a.m. From Doleta's Lay Ministry, "A Posse of Giddy Girls" Wyoming Territory's 1869 battle for women's suffrage.

Tuesday, January 28

Prairie provides breakfast for Men's Drop-In Shelter.

Sunday, February 2

10:00 a.m. Bruce Miller on Peace efforts in Colombia.

Sunday, February 9

10:00 a.m. Amy Owen presents a program on "Forgiveness."
11:30 a.m. Book Club "Empire Falls"

February 9-16

Madison Interfaith Hospitality Week

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, January 12

"Place of Music in Peace Building and Activism"
Rosalind Woodward will present a program to introduce music as a paradigm for unity and balance. The program will provide an overview of the powers of "sonic effect" which enhance respect and compassion. She will be assisted by Dan Proud and Mary Mullen. Together they will show and discover the place of music in peace building and activism today.

Sunday, January 26

"A Posse of Giddy Girls" brings to life heroes and villains in Wyoming Territory's 1869 battle for women's suffrage. Territory Governor John Campbell, South Pass City Justice of the Peace Esther Morris, two candidates for the first territorial legislature and a gutsy journalist set the stage for the U.S. Constitution's nineteenth amendment. They provide models of courage for today's struggle against infringement of our Constitutional rights.

OUR SOCIETY

Long Range Planning Meeting Invitation

From Ken Skog

All Prairie members are invited to a meeting of the Long Range Planning Committee **after the Prairie Program Sunday January 12**. We will discuss growth objectives for Prairie and consider planning activities and actions that could further those objectives. We would particularly like to have people come who think they may be willing to become members of the committee.

Please bring finger foods to share. We propose to meet about an hour and a half.

January Playreading Postponed

The date for January Playreading Group will be postponed from January 11 to a date not yet set. Watch for information or check with Rachel Siegfried or Mona Birong.

Prairie Book Club

The new dates and selections for the Prairie Book Club have been established. Please note all dates are Sundays after the Prairie service. Bring food to share. Books are available at 20% discount at Borders on University Ave. Be sure to mention that your book is a Prairie Book Club selection.

February 9, EMPIRE FALLS by Richard Russo, a Pulitzer Prize novel about a leading family in a small New England town. Many plots and subplots, but a review promises that you will not get lost. The book is 483 pages and recommended by Al Nettleton.

March 9, THE ECSTASY OF OWEN MUIR by Ring Lardner, Jr., a novel set in the 1950's about a man snared by the McCarthy hearings, who sees things in black and white, and goes whole hog for whatever he is involved in. Some key words: Satire, Catholicism, Humorous. Recommended by Andy Sommers.

April 6, THE CORRECTIONS by Jonathan

Franzen, described in an Internet review as "spellbinding story with sexy comic brio, and evokes a quirky family akin to Anne Tyler's, only bitter."

<http://www.oxfordmusic.com/ole/franzenco.html>

This book was recommended by Al Nettleton and is 528 pages.

May 4, A LIFE OF HER OWN by Emilie Carr. A novel set in the Alps. Recommended by Rose Smith.

June 8, No book has been selected as yet.

Thank You

submitted by the Membership Committee

The following persons volunteered their time in December to make coffee, greet visitors, and wash up after the service: Erin Bosch, Rachel Long, Mary Mullen, Kathy Nutter, Barb Park, Molly Plunkett, Dan Proud, Judy Skog, Phoenix Wardell. Phoenix again deserves special mention for dedicated cup washing and general kitchen maintenance. Barb Park and helpers (Barb Chatterton, Judy Skog, Rachel Long and others) put out a great spread for the parish meeting and cleaned up to boot.

A Note From A Grateful Food Pantry

Prairie received the note of thanks below. Check the bulletin board to see the original.

"HAPPY HOLIDAYS. On behalf of Allied residents, we thank you for all you've done. Our wish for you is a Very Happy Holiday, and everything wonderful for the year to come! From the Food Pantry"

UU Young Adults in Milwaukee?

Bryan Kroes and Laura Luepke are in the process of starting a UU Young Adult group at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee. They are looking for young adults in your congregations who attend UWM or are in the Milwaukee area currently who would be interested in being a part of this group. If anyone knows of any young adults, please contact Bryan Kroes or put them in touch with Bryan Kroes

(singkabal@yahoo.com or 414-881-7077).

Social Action Notes

December Breakfast at Men's Shelter

Submitted by Paula Pachciarz

Prairie's monthly breakfast at the men's drop-in shelter fell on the 24th last month and was fully staffed. Robyn Dahler, Paula Pachciarz, Judy Wacker, and Maggie Whitehead cooked the food that Barb Park purchased the day before. Judy, Maggie and Robyn are sophomores at West High School and they all say they would like to do this service again! We found out that the men get few hot breakfasts and really look forward to the one that we provide: scrambled eggs with bacon, green pepper, and cheese, cereal with milk, and juice. The next shift falls on Tuesday, January 28.

Guest at Your Table

submitted by the Social Action Committee

You may turn in your donations to this UU Service Committee project on any Sunday morning in January. Checks are preferred and should be made out to the UUSC. Please give your envelopes to Paula Pachciarz.

Religious Education

From the DRE's Desk

Submitted by Kristi Sprague-Klepzig, DRE

The month of December has flown by with a lot of activity! In early December, YoUUth Circle learned about the third UU Principle, "Yes! To life long learning," by learning about the many Festivals of Light that are celebrated at this dark time of year. The younger kids made gorgeous tin can luminaries (You may have heard some pounding upstairs!) while the older folks worked on their community service project-raising money for various non-for-profit, humanitarian organizations. Thanks to Peter Mitchie for his consistence in working with this great group of young people!

We also enjoyed a Sunday of making homemade gifts-Nifty-Gifty! It was a wonderful time! Thanks

you to the following folks (in no particular order) for lending a hand in gathering materials, planning projects, setting up, working with kids to glue and glitter and wrap, and for cleaning up afterwards: Paula Pachciarz, Kathy, Randy, Mei-lien and Tara Converse, Mary Mullen, Rosemary Lester, Robin Carre, Doleta Chapru, Peter Mitchie, Denise Jess, Jani Koester, Anne Urbanski, Brian Kuzdas, Carl Wacker, Judy Skog, John Peterson, Susan Hagstrom and Ben Sprague-Klepzig! Whew!! What a great crew we had! And, the creations made were just beautiful.

January promises to be an exciting month as we continue learning about the UU Principles and about the important work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., which fits so well with the Principles we are learning. Finally, on January 25 and 26, we are anticipating a fantastic time with Wild Wintering! (Volunteers are still needed for this event.)

Thank you so much to all of the folks who have signed up to volunteer downstairs with the RE Program. I am overwhelmed by your support! And finally, a hearty thank you to Orange and Dean for the donated new books: "This Place I Know", "The Next Place" and "Granddad's Prayers of the Earth." If you wish to donate a book to the library downstairs, please talk to a committee member if you are looking for ideas.

A blessed New Year to all!

Opportunities

Journey Toward Wholeness Announcement

On Saturday, February 8, the Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Association will host a regional gathering at the Evanston UU church. This is an event designed to hear from congregations about their experiences with anti-oppression world. Congregations are asked to send delegations of 3-5 people (at a cost of \$10/person) to share your successes, challenges, and need for support in this important work. The JTW Transformation Committee is seeking to identify strategies that are effective in anti-oppression, justice making, and

From the Office Administrator

Thank You

As many of you know, I had the good fortune of vacationing in Hawaii from December 11 – 24. In my absence, many people pitched in to help cover the phone, mail, and newsletter among other things. While I do not know of everyone who helped out, please accept a general note of appreciation with particular thanks to Paula Pachciarz, Ken Skog, and Rick Ruecking.

New Office Hours and the Prairie Fire

This quarter I will be attending school in Chicago on Wednesday and Thursday. As a result, I have changed my office hours to Tuesday and Friday. This means that rather than mailing the Prairie Fire on Wednesday morning, I will need to have it to the Post Office by Tuesday morning. While that should facilitate your timely receipt of it, it also means that I must hold the deadline for submissions firm: Sunday evening by 7:00 p.m.

Security

Several times since the weather has turned cold, the side door has not been latched. If you enter or exit by the lower side door (on Whenona), please be certain that it is latched. Thanks for your help.

New Office Hours for Office Administrator
Tuesday and Friday: 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar
2nd, 3rd & 4th Sat 9am–2pm. Upcoming Religious Services will be on January 11, 18 & 25th.
Prairie Liaison: Bill Littman 829-1909

social transformation. They want your experience and perspectives on the Journey Toward Wholeness initiative and its programs. While this event is primarily targeting Chicago-area congregations (no overnight arrangements are possible through the organizers or host church), other CMwD congregations are invited to attend, if they have participated in any of the JTW programs.

For more information or to make reservations, please contact Dori Davenport at the district office by January 10. As you may know, Dori is the Central Midwest District Religious Educator and Consultant Coordinator. You may contact her at the District office (708) 236-0831 or her cell phone (708) 805-1866.

UU Mexico Delegation
Submitted by Leila Pine from FUS

Are you interested in traveling with a UU delegation to Mexico this February 2-9 to meet with Mexican workers and liberation theology priests working together for peace and justice?

Steve Wilson, a UU friend who is now working with the UU's for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC) in Boston, said they are looking for UU's who are interested in joining them on the Mexico trip this February.

Itinerary: Meetings with well-known activist Bishop Samuel Ruiz and a community of priests practicing Liberation Theology, as well as meeting with sweatshop workers (maguiladores), mostly girls and young women, who are trying to organize a free, independent union through the Frente Autentico de Trabajadores (FAT), a progressive, democratic alternative labor federation. Time will be split between Mexico City and some rural areas, and the trip will include a briefing on globalization with Arroyo upon arrival.

Cost: \$500 will cover food, ground transportation, housing and translator services. Plane fare and personal spending money will be extra. Call Pam Kelly, staff person at the UUJEC, at (617) 542-0634 for more information and/or to sign up.

