



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>

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February 7, 2003

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Sunday, February 9

9:00 a.m. Choir

10:00 a.m. Amy Owen presents a program on "Forgiveness: The Peace Begins at Home."

11:30 a.m. Book Club "Empire Falls"

Saturday, February 15

7:30 p.m. Play Readers.

Sunday, February 16

9:00 a.m. Choir

10:00 a.m. Intergenerational Service (Childcare provided).

11:30 a.m. WOW

Monday, February 17

6:30 p.m. Spanish Speakers Potluck

Sunday, February 23 *Doag Smith*

9:00 a.m. Choir

10:00 a.m. Madison's Study Circles on Race *← postponed*

11:45 a.m. Annual Prairie Service Auction immediately after the service. Lunch will be available for purchase at a reasonable cost. Childcare will be provided. See additional information in the Our Society section.

March 2-9

Interfaith Hospitality Week.

Sunday, March 2

9:00 a.m. Choir

10:00 a.m. "The Role of Community Media in a Democratic Society" presented by Norman Stockwell.

Sunday, March 9

9:00 a.m. Choir

10:00 a.m. John Lewis presents his first lay ministry on "Science and Spirituality."

Sunday, March 16

9:00 a.m. Choir

10:00 a.m. John Lewis presents his second lay ministry "Equinox Celebration."

**Next Prairie Fire deadline is
Sunday, February 16, 2003**

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, February 9

Amy Owen, a member of James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, who spoke to us last year on the conference in South Africa, will do a program on "Forgiveness: The Peace Begins at Home." In this time of looming war, how do we bring peace into our lives? How can we move beyond intellectual comprehension of our past hurts

to a more heart-centered feeling of wholeness? In this service we will be exploring what forgiveness does and does not mean, the benefits of forgiving, and a bit of how we can use it in our own lives.

OUR SOCIETY

SERVICE AUCTION DONATIONS

The Annual Prairie Service Auction is coming up on February 23. The Service Auction is a great way to connect with Prairie members in a different way and contribute to Prairie at the same time.

Start thinking about a service **you** can offer. In past years the services have included home baked pies and breads; guided nature and photography walks; meals served for 6-8 people; special help with computers, taxes or preparation of a will; child care opportunities; weekends at a farm or camp; art work such as stained glass, pottery, or stationary; and help with tasks such as washing windows and cars.

Consider the talents, abilities, or interests you have that others might appreciate. Call or email Kathryn Converse (238-1856 or conversekrtn@msn.com) or Aileen Nettleton (238-6053 or aanett@execpc.com) with your services. You may also let them know if there is a service that you need. They may be able to find someone who can offer that service!!

You can anticipate and budget now for a few services that will be offered including a Chinese Dinner, an inventory of plants on your property, sailing and picnic, and home repair. These are just a few of the fabulous assortment of services available at our auction.

Mark your calendars and bring you checkbooks for this very enjoyable fundraiser. Orange Schroeder is the auctioneer for this major fundraiser of the year. The auction will begin immediately after the Sunday service and will last from 11:45 to 2:00. A lunch will be provided at a reasonable price and childcare will be provided. You can call or email Kathy Converse if you would like to help with the lunch or childcare (238-1856 or conversekrtn@msn.com).

Play Readers Gather

If you are interested in reading a play with fellow Prairie members, please feel welcome to join the Play Readers at the home of Rosemary Dorney and Tim Fast on Saturday, February 15th at 7:30 p.m. Their address is 4205 Odana Road and their phone is 238-4382.

Spanish Speakers Potluck

On February 17, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. there will be a Spanish Speakers Potluck at 4606 Waukesha Street (home of the Caldens) hosted by David & Marcia Johnson. Please bring a dish to pass, but feel welcome to come even if you are unable to bring food. Call David and Marcia 233-5717 or Rosemary Dorney at 238-4382 with questions.

WOW

Sunday, February 16, after Prairie morning service we will meet at Prairie. Bring finger food to share. This is the regular meeting where we check in with each other - a good way to get to know each other.

Interfaith Hospitality News

Please note that the week that Prairie helps Midvale Lutheran host homeless families has been moved back. The new dates are March 2-9. We will be mustering our volunteers towards the end of February. Also, as of Wednesday, February 5 the IHN day center and offices will have moved to its new digs at 1125 University Avenue.

Guest At Your Table

It is time to wind up this annual fundraiser for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Anyone who would like to support the UUSC projects at home and overseas by donating money can give the GAYT box or a check to Paula Pachciarz. Sunday, February 9 will be the last day to submit your donation.

Warm Hearts and Hard Work in a Cold Month

The following people helped make Sunday mornings go smoothly by their valued help making coffee, greeting visitors, and cleaning up the kitchen after the service. Thanks go to KK Anderson, Randy Converse, Susan Hagstrom, Dave Johnson, Rachel Long, Dan Proud, Marilyn Ruecking, Orange Schroeder, Rose Smith, and Phoenix Wardell. Apologies to anyone who belongs on the above list but was left off.

From the DRE

It may have been cold outside, but things were warm, fun and full of laughter at this year's Wild Wintering Special Event, held at Prairie and at Rollerdrome on January 25 and 26, 2003. Many of our youth showed their talents during the Talent Show, emceed by Erin Bosch! Others showed their talents on the roller rink, skating rings around a variety of Prairie adults. I was so proud of the older kids who took it upon themselves to help out new or younger skaters. What a great group we have! Thanks to all of you who drove, fed us dinner, slept over, made breakfast, helped to clean up or spun the spinner for a wild game of Twister!

Youth Circle has completed its first trip through learning the 7 Unitarian Universalist Principles! In January, we "grew by exploring ideas together" while writing group guidelines in partnerships; we "believed in ideas and acted on them" through working on Service Projects. The youngers made delicious muffins to sell, piping hot, at the Social Action Committee Bake Sale. The olders continued work on their play, which will be performed to raise money for various humanitarian and animal rights causes. We "insisted on peace, freedom and justice for all" when learning about a wide variety of Civil Rights activists through information shared with us by the youth in YoUUth Circle. And, finally, we "valued nature's web of life" by braving the cold to explore the great beauty of nature through the lens of a camera.

Things to look for in February and March:

- A nature photo exhibit presented by YoUUth Circle kids.
- OWL Parent Orientation for parents of children in grades K-6, Feb. 9, after service. Childcare will be made available. Expect the program to last about 30-45 minutes.
- A Valentine's Day Intergenerational Service on Feb. 16
- A play performance after Service on March 2
- OWL Programming for kids in grades K-6 beginning on March 9

Our program has been blessed by many volunteers over the past two months. Thank you for checking out the clipboard and helping where needed. What a relief! Also, something new to note: Prairie RE is offering childcare for Infants through age two from 9:45-11:30 on Sundays. If you wish to use this service, just bring your child downstairs and settle them in with our two childcare providers, Asmita and Ritika Batajoo.

Finally, a big welcome to Sam, Seth, Kailin, Meagan and Tara! We love seeing new kid faces downstairs. Please take some time to welcome these new folks to Prairie, and also note that Tara has a peanut allergy. Now Eli has an older role model as he lives with his peanut allergy, and we have another reason to make sure that all snacks are peanut and peanut product free at Prairie.

Help-Wanted: Rides for Childcare Providers

We now have two childcare providers downstairs for infants through age two. You may know the teens, Asmita and Ritika Batajoo. They have worked at Prairie in the past.

They need rides to Prairie in the morning (arrival time is 9:45) and then need to be brought home again (leaving time is 11:40). They live 4-5 blocks north of the intersection of Mineral Pt and Whitney Way, about 5-7 minutes from Prairie.

Here's my hope: Our family is currently providing transportation. It would be great if someone or a family could sign up for an entire month of

transportation. Then the young women would know who to expect and who to contact, if needed, each month.

Please e-mail me if you can help in this way. Or, give me a call at home. We could trade off when March starts. Thanks!!

Kristi Sprague-Klepzig
KSKoak@aol.com or call 278-1975.

For your Consideration

Another Look at Justice

Submitted by Wendy Williams

Bill Murray, the president of Meadville-Lombard, has offered the following reflection on economic justice.

The following excerpts from my favorite "syndicated columnist," Molly Ivins, point up an issue that crosses party lines in that both Democrats and Republicans participate in it. The issue is money and politics, and the tragedy is that we live, not in a democracy, but in a plutocracy, a society ruled by the very wealthy because they are the ones who enable politicians to be elected and re-elected.

"The state of the union is that money talks and public policy is sold to the highest bidder. Those who give money in political contributions—less than one-tenth of one percent of the U.S. population gave 83 percent of all campaign contributions in the 2002 elections -- get back billions in tax breaks, subsidies and the right to exploit public land at ridiculously low prices.

"This system in turn costs ordinary American billions of dollars, not to mention the costs to health, safety and the environment, and the cost of not having enough money for good schools."

She then gives a lot of examples of huge, highly profitable corporations that paid zero taxes from 1996-1998 -- AT&T, Chase Manhattan, Enron, Exxon Mobil, General Electric, Microsoft, Phillip Morris. Other corporations got millions in rebates. Quoting the NY Times she observes that while the

rich pay more income tax than the poor or middle class, the latter two classes pay so much in sales taxes, state and property taxes and social security taxes that the actual percentage of total taxes is about the same --18 percent of total income. Let me quote Ivins: "The poorest fifth (of the population) with an average income of \$7,946, has a cumulative tax rate of 18 percent... The richest fifth, with an average of \$116,666, now pays 19 percent in cumulative taxes."

The catch-22 is that the people who benefit from the system are the same who make the laws and that means it will be hard to change the system.

Thoughts of Spring

Planting Onions

By Jane Flanders

It is right
that I fall to my knees
on this damp, stony cake,
that I bend my back
and bow my head.

Sun warms my shoulders,
the nape of my neck,
and the air is tangy with rot.
Bulbs rustle like spirits
in their sack

I bury each one
a trowel's width under.
May they take hold,
rising green in time
to help us weep and live.

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 February 9, 16 & 23rd.
Prairie Liaison: Bill Littman 829-1909