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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.*

*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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**March 21, 2003**

## PRAIRIE CALENDAR

### Saturday, March 22

7:00 p.m Karaoke night at Prairie.

### Tuesday, March 25

Men's Drop-In Shelter Breakfast

### Sunday, March 23

9:00 a.m. Choir

10:00 a.m. A dialogue entitled "A Key to Race Relations."

### Sunday, March 30

9:00 a.m. Choir

10:00 a.m. Doleta Chapru presents the final program of her lay ministry "Liberal Religion and the Challenge of Evangelical Politics."

### April 27-May 4

Prairie's Second Interfaith Hospitality Network Shift

### September 12-14

Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society's Retreat.

## DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sunday, March 23

Join members of the Madison Area Study Circles Steering Committee as they discuss ways in which dialogue has improved race relations in the Madison area. Hedi Rudd, coordinator of Madison's Study Circles on Race and several members of Study Circles steering committee will lead the panel discussion.

### Sunday, March 30

"Liberal Religion and the Challenge of Evangelical Politics" presented by Doleta Chapru. Whether top U.S. leaders claim a divine calling or are cleverly feigning it for the benefit of a power base, their messianic behavior is alarming. Doleta Chapru examines evangelical fundamentalist beliefs that hold sway on Capitol Hill and the implications for religious liberals. Be prepared for a soul-searching discussion about finding common ground with peace-loving evangelical fundamentalists without compromising our UU principles.

## OUR SOCIETY

EDITOR'S NOTE: The next two articles appear for the second consecutive issue due to the importance of the topics and the lack of contributions for this issue.

**Would you like to be a Delegate?**

**Next Prairie Fire deadline is  
Sunday, April 6, 2003**

Do you want to be an official delegate for Prairie at the UUA General Assembly in Boston from June 26-30<sup>th</sup>? If interested, please contact Ken Skog or Rick Ruecking ASAP. [kskog@tds.net](mailto:kskog@tds.net) or [ruecking@hotmail.com](mailto:ruecking@hotmail.com).

### **Should Prairie Raise Funds and Move to a Larger Building?**

*Submitted by Ken Skog for the Long Range Planning Committee*

The Long Range Planning Committee is continuing its efforts to find ways to help Prairie grow and support a larger RE program, as well as attracting the larger number of members needed for this. We are continuing to look at (1) ways additional professional staff could help and (2) the need for more and better space for both the RE program and adult programs. We are looking at ways to phase in help from additional professional staff and think it is currently important to focus more effort on the need for more and better space.

The LRP Committee would like to invite Prairie members to engage in discussions over the next month and a half about working to obtain larger facilities for Prairie.

It is important to work to develop a plan now—both to specify how we will move ahead and how we may collaborate with James Reeb and First Society. James Reeb, Prairie and First Societies are working to see if they can prepare a joint proposal to the UUA that would help grow UU membership in Dane County. If Prairie members can develop a consensus about more building space we would be in a better position to join with James Reeb and First Societies in specifying our role in the proposal to the UUA.

### **WOW to Meet at James Reeb**

For the April meeting of WOW, the women of the James Reeb UU Congregation are inviting the Prairie women to meet at 2146 East Johnson St on Monday, April 7, from 7-9 pm. Each participant is encouraged to bring a dessert or munchie to share.

We will get to know each other better and discuss issues such as growth and having a minister.

### **Feeling Better**

Metje Butler is now at home and has been for several days. She is doing very well and feels almost back to normal. However, she cannot yet drive. She expects to find out when she can drive at her appointment this week.

Metje has appreciated the support she received from Prairie people. She plans to attend Prairie this coming Sunday and is looking forward to being back.

## **Religious Education Corner**

### **Secret Friends Party set for March 30th**

*written by an anonymous and talented Prairie person*

Sunday, March 30, is the closing party!!  
Every friend should not be tardy!  
Come upstairs at service end,  
Right away you'll meet your friend.  
Every pair will eat and play;  
Then, at 1, we'll go away.

Final letter you should bring  
Right along with a potluck thing  
If these rhymes you find confusing --  
Even though they're meant amusing --  
Note the note to read below,  
Direct speech for you. And so,  
Sunday is the closing party!!

### **Plain vanilla translation:**

*submitted by Anne Urbanski for the R.E. Committee*

On Sunday March 30th we'll have the ending party for Secret Friends. Please bring one more letter and food for the potluck (remember, no nuts please!). We'll eat and play some games. The party will start after the service and end at 1:00 p.m. Also, Secret Friends who missed Prairie on March 16th -- please be sure to bring TWO letters for your secret friend on March 23rd.

## SOCIAL ACTION

### News and Notes

*Submitted by Paula Pachciarz*

Recent donations to the local food pantry and the men's homeless shelter have been generous and timely. We delivered several bags of groceries to the pantry and bags of toiletries, men's socks and other items to the shelter. Thank you. These seemingly small items do make a difference.

Prairie's first volunteer shift of the year with the Madison Interfaith Hospitality Network took place in early March. The following people offered their time to this community service: Robin Carre, Susan Hagstrom, Paula Pachciarz, Marilyn Ruecking, Dave & Marcia Johnson and their daughter and son-in-law, Orange Schroeder, Anne & Maya Urbanski.

## MEMBERSHIP

### Unsung No Longer

*Submitted by Paula Pachciarz*

Last Sunday, March 10, Prairie awarded its first Unsung UU award to longtime member Pat Cautley. Pat was presented with a bejeweled "crown", a framed award, and the warm regard of Prairie members and friends, who all joined in singing a round wishing peace to the children of the world, a cause to which Pat has devoted much of her life. Newspaper clippings of some of Pat's career and service highlights are currently on display in the foyer. Copies of Pat's nomination for the UUA Unsung UU award are also available there. We encourage those of you who weren't present for the surprise award ceremony to look over the nomination, which describes some of the contributions to church and society made by this remarkable woman.

## Denominational Opportunities

Central MidWest District Annual Assembly is April 4 & 5, with CMwD Board meeting and service April 6, in Evanston, IL. Pushing the Comfort Zone: Engaging in Diverse Community is the topic. Registration is due March 21. For information see [www.cmwd-uua.org](http://www.cmwd-uua.org) or [chosmer@cmwd-uua.org](mailto:chosmer@cmwd-uua.org) or

phone 708 236-0831 during business hours. Pat Cautley will be recognized as an Unsung UUA nominee. If you would like to be a delegate, please contact Ken Skog or Rick Ruecking.

## Local Invitation

Greetings Rainbow Families Wisconsin Member or Supporter:

I would like to take this opportunity to show off the new design for the Rainbow Families Wisconsin website and give you an early notice of the Third Annual Rainbow Families Wisconsin Conference to be held in Milwaukee, WI on May 17.

Secondly, as we update our records, we are also updating our list-serve group. Please let us know you are still interested in receiving RFW information or items of interest for LBGT families by re-registering your information on our newly created group by sending an email to this address:

[rainbowfamilieswisconsin-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:rainbowfamilieswisconsin-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

Please check your organization's information and send any updates to me and I will make the changes. If your organization is not listed, please send relevant information to us and we can post it for you.

The Third Annual Rainbow Families Wisconsin Conference set for May 17 in Milwaukee, WI. The registration materials are on the website now. Please print out the forms and mail them in with your payment to: Rainbow Families Wisconsin Conference, 3019 Lineville Rd, Green Bay, WI 54313.

<http://www.geocities.com/rainbowfamilieswisconsin/>

Thank you for your time and feel free to share this information with friends and family.

Patti Thompson, RFW volunteer webmaster  
[pjthompson2@wisc.edu](mailto:pjthompson2@wisc.edu)

**From the UUA**

**From the President of the  
Unitarian Universalist Association**

Dear Friends,

We wait, breath held, for what will almost inevitably be the coming of war. Some of us have participated in vigils for peace. Some of us believe that this war is necessary. But all of us now wait. And all of us need support.

The UUA staff has assembled a variety of resources to help. They are evolving, but there is already much on our website [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org), and more will be added during the next 48 hours. If war comes, we will post both a statement and a pastoral prayer from me, which can be used in worship, or for personal reflection.

We wait, breath held. But we do not need to wait alone.

William Sinkford

**Office Hours for Office Administrator**

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 April 12, 19 & 26th.  
Prairie Liaison: Bill Littman 829-1909**

**For your Consideration**

*Submitted by Wendy Williams*

**March-Mad**  
by May Sarton

The strangely radiant skies have come  
To lift us out of winter's gloom,  
A paler more transparent blue,  
A softer gold light on fresh snow.  
It is a naked time that bares  
Our slightly worn-down hopes and cares,  
And sets us listening for frogs,  
And sends us to seed catalogs  
To bury our starved eyes and noses  
In an extravagance of roses,  
And order madly at this season  
When we have had enough of reason.