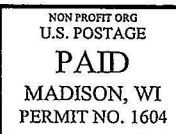




Barbara & Bob Park
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PRAIRIE FIRE

... 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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April 11, 2003

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Sunday, April 13

9:00 a.m. Choir

10:00 a.m. Dan Proud presents "The Historical View of Jesus."

Sunday, April 20

9:00 a.m. Choir

10:00 a.m. Easter Intergenerational Service

Sunday, April 27

9:00 a.m. Choir

10:00 a.m. "Coming Out as Sacrament" presented by Reverend Scott Prinster from FUS.

April 27-May 4

Prairie's Second Interfaith Hospitality Network Shift

May 25

Memorial Weekend Picnic at the Briggs' home on Storytown Road in Oregon. Time and details to be announced later.

September 12-14

Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society's Retreat.

Next Prairie Fire deadline is

Sunday, April 20, 2003

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, April 13

"Would Jesus bomb Iraq?"... "Honk if you love Jesus".... "I believe what Jesus actually said--the basic things he laid down about love and goodness--and not what people say he said" (John Lennon)... Dan Proud presents an historic view of who Jesus was and what he said, as expressed in the writings of the controversial Jesus Seminar.

Sunday, April 20

The Easter Sunday service will celebrate Spring and the Easter Season in an interesting variety of ways. We will have a Unitarian flower communion where everyone is asked to bring a fresh flower which we will put together into a common vase or container and then we will each take a different flower home with us. An egg hunt and folk dancing will be part of the service as well as another Spring ritual in which we can all participate. This service can be enjoyed by the young and those of us older than that.

Sunday, April 27

"Coming Out as Sacrament" presented by Reverend Scott Gerard Prinster, Associate Minister, First Unitarian Society. The struggle that lesbians and gay men live with--how authentic to be in a hostile world--is one that we all can relate to on multiple

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levels. What dimensions of your identity do you find challenging to live authentically? We will explore together what the "coming out" struggle can teach us and address the risks and rewards of being authentic people.

OUR SOCIETY

Notice of the 2003 Spring Parish meeting agenda for Prairie UU Society

Prairie UU Society will hold it's 2003 Spring Parish meeting on Sunday April 27 after the Sunday program and a Potluck lunch.

Agenda items are:

Election of officers for 2003 - 2004

Consideration of ways to support growth of Prairie which may include obtaining a larger building, obtaining professional staff, raising funds for a larger building or staff, and/or collaborating with other UUs.

Consideration of a bylaws amendment to allow notification of Prairie Business meetings to members by e-mail. (below)

Moved, that paragraph B of ARTICLE V: BUSINESS MEETINGS of the Bylaws of the Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society of Madison, Wisconsin (as amended November, 1998) be amended as follows:

Notice of the regular fall and spring business meetings and an invitation to the members to submit agenda items must be sent mailed at least four weeks before the meeting. The business to be transacted shall be specified in the final notice of the meeting to be sent mailed at least two weeks before the meeting. Notice of meetings shall ordinarily be mailed to the members, either by publication in the Society's newsletter or otherwise, but may be sent by electronic mail to any member who has informed the Secretary that she/he wishes to receive notice by such means. Items of business may include but are not limited to: budgets, elections, appointments, revisions to the Bylaws, committee reports, and resolutions dealing with

social issues. The agenda shall be prepared by the President or Board and shall contain items of business originating from the President, Board, committees, and/or individual members. New business, other than Bylaw changes, may be raised at the meeting at the request of ten members Members.

Note: Words that are underlined are to be inserted. Words that are ~~struck-out~~ are to be deleted.

Nominations for Prairie Board

Our new Board of Directors will be elected at the next spring parish meeting on April 27. The Committee on Committees is pleased to nominate the following members for Prairie's Board:

President - Ken Skog

Vice President - KK Anderson

Secretary - Mike Briggs

Treasurer - Susan Hagstrom

Committee Chairs:

Denominational Affairs - Mary Somers

Finance - Kathy Converse

Housing and Property - Larry Nahlik

Long Range Planning - Barb Park

Membership - Dan Proud

Program - Doleta Chapru/Warren Hagstrom

Religious Education - Anne Urbanski

Social Action - Bob Park

Fall Retreat Registrar and Program Director Needed

The Committee on Committees is looking for individuals who are willing to volunteer for the positions of registrar or program director for Prairie's annual fall retreat. The retreat will be held from Friday evening, September 12, to Sunday noon, September 14, at Bethel Horizons Nature Center and Camp near Dodgeville.

The registrar registers people who will attend, assigns housing, and is a liaison between Prairie folks and Bethel Horizon staff. The program director puts out a call for workshops and activities and schedules the times for each event. People who have done these jobs before can offer suggestions on how to do each one well.

Contact any member of the Committee on Committees for questions or to volunteer. The committee members are Brian Kuzdas (273-4813), Bob Lawrence (845-8065), Aileen Nettleton (238-6053), Paula Pachciarz (273-4806), and Linda Sheehy (273-3895).

Prairie YoUUth, please mark your calendars and stay tuned for further details. As usual we will also need some adults to help with activities and to chaperone the group overnight. If you want to volunteer to help out, please contact Anne Urbanski at urbana@charter.net or phone 221-4053.

Field Trip to Middleton Community Church

Submitted by Barbara Chatterton

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Long Range Planning discussion and potluck after the service on April 6. As a result of that meeting, there will be a tour of this church on Saturday morning, April 12. 10:00 is the approximate time but please call Barbara Chatterton at 238-7482 to lock in the time and to coordinate the trip.

Playreaders

Playreaders Group will meet Saturday, April 19th at 7:00pm at Dan and Robin Proud's house, 114 Glen Hwy (1 block east of Rosa and 2 blocks north of Regent). Play to be determined.

Spanish Speakers

There will be a Spanish Speakers potluck on Wednesday, April 16th at 6:30 p.m. David and Marcia will host the potluck at 109 Alden Drive. Please call Rosemary Dorney for directions or other questions at 238-4382.

Please bring a dish to share, which need not be Hispanic. If you are unable to bring food, please come anyway. Spanish Speakers is open to all skill levels and you are welcome to bring friends.

Hymnals at large

Do you happen to have a hymnal at home? (It's the gray book-Singing the Living Tradition) If so, please bring it back to Prairie. Our supply is running low and we want everyone to be able to really belt it out on Sunday mornings.

Religious Education Corner

RE SPRING FLING SET FOR SATURDAY, MAY 3RD

Saturday, May 3rd, is the date for Prairie RE program's annual Spring Fling party/overnight.

SOCIAL ACTION

Social Action Website

Submitted by Bob Park

The Prairie Social Action Committee calls your attention to the Social Action Calendar of Events posted on <http://socialaction.homestead.com/>. Click on the Calendar of Events button to learn about selected events in the Madison area. The calendar is updated weekly.

News and Notes

Submitted by Paula Pachciarz

Our next shift helping Midvale Lutheran to host homeless families through the Interfaith Hospitality Network will take place April 27-May 4. Individual volunteers and families are needed to help in a variety of ways: cooking part of a meal, sharing a meal, staying overnight, helping with child care in the evening, doing laundry, setting up and breaking down. This can be a personally rewarding community service. Look for the large sign-up board at the Sunday services. Contact Paula Pachciarz for more information.

Past and future volunteers are strongly encouraged to attend a 2 hour training session which the IHN offers periodically. The training helps increase awareness of the variety of issues that homeless families face, and suggests how we can best help the families deal with these issues.

The first 3 training sessions will be held at the IHN day center. Contact Shannon Hayes at 294-7998 if you would like to sign up for a session.

Monday, May 5th, 7-9 p.m.

Tuesday, June 10th, 7-9 p.m.

Wednesday, July 16th, 7-9 p.m.

Thursday, August 14th, 7-9 p.m. at Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ

MEMBERSHIP

Hospitality

Submitted by Membership Committee

Sunday mornings before and after the program are running smoothly thanks to the many people who pitch in with making coffee, bringing flowers, greeting friends and visitors, and washing up. This is just a reminder that the sign-up sheet for these light tasks is on the greeting table in the foyer. If you would like to help out, please take a moment when you enter the meeting house to sign up so that requests for volunteers do not need to be made during the service. Grass mowing will be added in a few weeks. The sign-up for the RE program is also on the greeting table. Thank you.

Local Invitation

Mandala of Peace

The public is invited to join Venerable Ngawang Chojor as he creates a mandala of peace April 7-12 at First Unitarian Society.

Now a resident of Madison, Venerable Chojor is a senior monk from the Namgyal Monastery, the personal monastery of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Dharmasala, India. He is a master of many Tibetan Buddhist ritual arts. Venerable Chojor will create the mandala of Avalokiteshvara, the deity of compassion. He is creating the mandala to help heal people's minds through compassion and to bring peace to the world.

All people are invited to come and watch Venerable Chojor create the mandala and to pray for peace. The basic schedule is 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday through Saturday. It will occur in the hearth room of First Unitarian Society.

Venerable Chojor will begin each morning with a brief ceremony. Then he will construct the mandala by carefully laying patterns of colored sand in a precise design. On Saturday, April 12 Venerable Chojor will give a brief talk about the meaning of the mandala at 9 am. Then he will continue constructing it throughout the day, dismantling the mandala in the

late afternoon.

First Unitarian Society, the sponsor of this event, is located at 900 University Bay Drive in Madison.

For more information, contact Anne Pryor at 244-7099.

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

For your Consideration

Submitted by Wendy Williams

Love by May Sarton

Fragile as a spider's web
Hanging in space
Between tall grasses,
It is torn again and again.
A passing dog
Or simply the wind can do it.
Several times a day
I gather myself together
And spin it again.
Spiders are patient weavers.
They never give up.
And who knows
What keeps them at it?
Hunger, no doubt,
And hope.