... 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.

May 9, 2003

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.aaa.org

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PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Saturday, May 10
7:00 PM. Chapru-Hagstrom Anniversary Party at the Meeting House. All invited.

Sunday, May 11
9:00 a.m. Choir
10:00 a.m. Program entitled “Celebrating the Parent in All of Us.”

Wednesday, May 14
6:30 Spanish Speakers Potluck at the home of Kate Tucker.

Sunday, May 18
9:00 a.m. Choir
10:00 a.m. Transitions, an intergenerational service put on by the RE committee as we celebrategraduations and other passages of the children inRE. (please override this if RE sent something else.)

Sunday, May 25
Memorial Weekend Picnic at the Briggs’ home on Storytown Road in Oregon. Time and details to be announced later.

Friday, May 30
6:00 p.m. Playreaders fish dinner at the Innownter
7:30 p.m. Reading of One Act Play at Pat Watkins.

Sunday, June 1
9:00 Choir
10:00 Program to be announced.
12:15 Parish Meeting.

Sunday, June 8
9:00 a.m. Choir
10:00 a.m. John Lewis’ lay ministry continues with a program presented by Janis Tupensic.
11:30 a.m. Book Club.

Sunday, June 15
9:00 a.m Choir
10:00 a.m. Rev. Gordon Gibson, from Elkhardt, Indiana (the Mandt’s former minister) joins us to present a program.

September 12-14
Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society’s Retreat.

Next Prairie Fire deadline is
Sunday, May 18, 2003

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, May 11
Join us for a program entitled “Celebrating the Parent in All of Us.” It will be presented by a panel of Prairie people share joyful stories of parenting.
We are parents in many ways: single parents, gay parents, adoptive parents, biological mom and dad, part-time parents, surrogate parents, grandparents, stepparents, nurturing members of helping professions or simply being thrust into a parenting role when a child is in need.

For an event at the end of the program, please bring cuddly stuffed animals and dolls, stashed out of sight in a bag or box. You are welcome to bring extras to share. Please, no "mature" or military dolls or giant stuffed toys.

**OUR SOCIETY**

**Notice of a Special Prairie Parish Meeting June 1**
Submitted by Ken Skog, President

There will be a special Prairie Parish Meeting June 1, 2003 beginning at 12:15 p.m. to consider and vote on a proposal by the Long Range Planning Committee.

A number of members of Prairie attended a Congessional Growth Workshop in Green Bay May 3rd and learned of a program sponsored by the Central Midwest District Growth and Support Committee (G&S) and the Meadville / Lombard Theological School in Chicago that is intended to aid congregations that want to grow to work on growth.

The program has advanced student ministers visit congregations at least six times during the year (fall to spring), provide Sunday program talks, and offer other services including adult RE, children’s RE, work with the Board or other committees, pastoral care (by phone or in person during scheduled visits) and other types of support mutually agreed to.

The Long Range Planning Committee proposes that Prairie apply to participate in the program for the coming year beginning this Fall. The reason for the special meeting is that applications are due now for next Fall’s program.

Students and congregations are carefully matched by the program sponsors to ensure a quality experience for all. The program would begin in the fall with a facilitated workshop to understand each other’s hopes and expectations.

The program costs depend on the number of visits and number and kind of activities with the student minister. The Long Range Planning Committee thinks the high end of costs may be (tentatively) $3500.

Please come to the meeting to consider this proposal.

**Anniversary Celebration**

On Saturday, May 10 at 7:00 p.m., please come to Prairie for the DOLETA CHAPRU AND WARREN HAGSTROM "OPEN MIC" ANNIVERSARY PARTY for friends of all ages. You be the show! Entertain us all with music, poetry, magic, dance, juggling, brief readings - or just come and have a good time. We will furnish beverages and some snacks, but, if you are so inclined, bring some finger food.

**Prairie Book Club**

New - or old - to Prairie? Sunday, June 8 would be an excellent time to join our book discussion which takes place after the Sunday service. We are a friendly, drop-in group, so you need not make any commitment at all to future meetings.

For June 8, we are reading BEL CANTO by Ann Patchett. Because it is this year’s pick for everyone in Dane County to read, multiple copies are available at any public library.

Bring food to share.
Future selections are THE ECSTACY OF OWEN MUIR by Ring Lardner, Jr. (July 13) and THE NO. 1 LADIES' DETECTIVE AGENCY by Alexander McCall Smith (August 10).

The Ring Lardner book is a novel set in the 1950's. It is 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 are Satire, Catholicism, Humorous. Andy Sommers has read and recommended this book. You can get it at 20% discount at Borders on University Avenue if you tell them you are in the Prairie Book Club.

Al Nettleton highly recommends the THE NO. 1 LADIES' DETECTIVE AGENCY. It is set in Botswana. A review points out that the protagonist's "cases range from exposing a freeloader posing as a father, to discovering whether or not a young Indian girl has a boyfriend, to determining the legitimacy of a worker's injury claim, to revealing the real reason behind a doctor's inconsistent performance." This is different from the ordinary detective story that focuses on one big crime to solve. A reviewer says: "There are some very profound moments in the book... It is a great mixture of seriousness and humour." Discussion questions can be found at <http://www.readinggroupguides.com/guides3/ladies'_detective_agency1.asp>.

Spanish Speakers Potluck

On Wednesday, May 14, at 6:30 p.m. Spanish Speakers will be holding a potluck at the home of Kate Tucker. The address is 4504 Camden. Please call Kate for directions, 261-4461. Please also bring a dish to pass.

Playreaders

Prairie Playreaders Annual Fish Dinner at the Innkeeper, 2424 University Avenue (corner of Highland). Everyone is welcome, but you must RSVP by Monday, May 26th. After dinner (7:30pm), we will adjourn to the home of Pat Watkins, 230 N. Meadow Lane (233-5795) for desert and the reading of a short one-act play. You may attend one event or both.

News from the Treasurer
Submitted by Susan Hagstrom

I will be on vacation May 26-June 11 (Australia). If you want to send in pledges, etc during that time, please mail them to my home address at 916 Shorewood Blvd., Madison, WI 53705. I will take care of anything I receive promptly after I return.

Help!
Submitted by Rosemarie Lester

Help! Has anybody seen a book entitled "Full Catastrophe Living" by a man named Kabat-Zinn? It belongs to Linda Sheehy who had lent it to me, probably has her name in it, I thought I'd brought it to Prairie to return it to her - and it's disappeared. Please call Rosemarie at 255-7039 if you know of its whereabouts.

For your Consideration

Submitted by Rosemarie Lester

Just War is:
just destruction
just suffering,
just agony,
just bloodshed,
just killing,
just murder,
just carnage,
just death,
...just war?

Written by Brent Graber
(From the newsletter of the Center for Holocaust, Genocide and Peace Studies, U of Nevada at Reno, May 1999)
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 May 10, 17 & 24th.
Prairie Liaison: Celeste Robins 249-5933
QUESTIONNAIRE FROM THE LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Most of you who are on Prairie News have seen and responded to this questionnaire. For those who aren’t, here is a copy.

Submit a maximum of one reply for each adult in your family, whether “member” or “friend.” To avoid duplication, please identify who you are when you send your reply. Your answers will be kept in complete confidence, unless you choose to share them yourself.

Send your response to Norma Briggs (e-mail <brigglaw@execpc.com> or snail mail, 1519 Storytown Road, Oregon WI 53575). Norma will tabulate the answers, and the committee will share the numerical results with the membership on May 11, but will continue to keep tabulating responses after that date for a reasonable time.

Indicate your response by making an x or by circling “yes” or “no”.

1. a. I want Prairie to remain an inter-generational community.
   
   yes   no

   b. My family will have to leave unless there is a more viable R.E. program

   yes   no

   c. It is more important to me to maintain continuity with Prairie’s past than to spend a lot of time and money making changes in order to attract and keep more families with children

   yes   no

2. It is vital that Prairie relocate:

   a. within 1-2 miles of its present site

   yes   no

   b. within an urban area

   yes   no

   c. only within the city of Madison

   yes   no

   d. very close physically to First Reeb

   yes   no
e. some distance from other UU churches
   yes    no

f. where there is some green space close by
   yes    no

g. other (specify)

3. a. I want Prairie to retain its separate identity
    yes    no

   b. I would be interested in merging with Reeb
    yes    no

   c. even if it means
      Prairie's name and identity is lost
      yes    no
      moving into Reeb's present building
      yes    no
      putting Prairie's assets into Reeb's intended church building on the east side
      yes    no
      sharing a board and minister
      yes    no

4. a. I would like Prairie to have a halftime minister
    yes    no

   b. I would leave if Prairie were to hire halftime minister
    yes    no

   c. I have mixed feelings but think I could live with a group decision to have a halftime minister
    yes    no
   i. Especially if s/he focused on R.E. needs
ii. Especially if s/he led only one or two Sunday morning programs each month

   yes, no

iii. Especially if s/he was a humanist

   yes, no

iv. Other (specify)

Name (confidential: ____________________________ )