



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>

May 9, 2003

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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 celebrate graduations and other passages of the children in RE. (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 Inntowner
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 Congressional 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 Rang 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 ECSTASY 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/guides3/1adies'_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 Intowner, 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

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

yes no

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): _____