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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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August 8, 2003

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Sunday, August 10

10:00 a.m. "Doing Well By Doing Good," presented by John Imes. Environmentally friendly remodeling. 11:45 a.m. Book Club.

Tuesday, August 12

7:00 p.m. Long-Range Planning Committee at Bob and Barb Park's, 5610 Hammersley Rd. (273-8775).

Sunday, August 17

10:00 a.m. "A Musical Celebration of Animals," a multi-generational program led by Doleta Chapru.

11:30 a.m. Brainstorming on Growth/Fund-Raising, sponsored by the Long-Range Planning Committee.

Monday, August 18

6:30 p.m. Spanish Speakers Potluck at the home of Ema Pachon. For a ride, directions, or questions, call Rosemary Dorney (238-4382). All are welcome.

Sunday, August 24

10 a.m. "A Day in the Life," a program on the Beatles and U-Us, presented by Susan Urban.

Friday-Sunday, September 12-14

Prairie UU Society Fall Retreat at Bethel Horizons Center.

Next Prairie Fire deadline is Sunday, August 17, 2003

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, August 10

"Doing Well by Doing Good," is presented by John Imes, executive director of the Wisconsin Initiative, and owner of the Arbor House Bed & Breakfast. When John and his wife remodeled and added on to Arbor House, they wanted to prove that you can do what's right for the environment (doing right) without breaking your pocketbook (doing well). They wanted to show that you can have a quality experience without spending tons of money.

Sunday, August 17

Kids, teens, grownups, family acts:

Get out your geetar, warm up your sax.
Tinkle the ivories, toodle your flute,

Tighten your bow and tune up your lute.
Bring music of lions and tigers and bears,

Tutu-clad pachyderms dancing on chairs.
Sing us a ditty of galloping geese,

Striped salamanders, pigs sliding on grease.
Or a high class "Oiseau," "Cygnus," "Nachtigal."

Let's celebrate animals, come one and come all.
We'll need a good audience, no talent demanded.

By request our fans, the program's expanded
To include a few singalongs, lively and quick.

To enter your act, please don't wait for St. Nick.
So bring frogs from the pond & bees from the hive.

In music, of course, make our church come alive!

(Sunday, August 17, continued)

Since Doleta is out of town until the 14th, contact Dan Proud (prouds@tds.net) to sign up. Those who already signed up with Doleta but didn't have a title, send the title to Dan. Doleta will play accompaniments that won't take much practice. Other keyboard players, please let Dan know if you are willing to accompany, provided you get the music soon. Folk instrumentalists who play by ear or quickly-whispered chords are welcome to accompany the singalong. Let's make joyful sounds and set Prairie's rafters ringing.

If you wish, bring stuffed animals of any size to brighten the room. We'll even set up a table for your favorite animal pictures. Anybody have animal hats or T-shirts they'd like to wear?

Immediately following the service, the Long-Range Planning Committee will lead a short, informal brainstorming session on growth/fund-raising. Snacks will be provided so you have a "little something" to go with your coffee. This is a chance to get our creative juices flowing and have some fun with ideas for the coming year. What it is NOT is an information session or a decision-making exercise.

Sunday, August 24

The eight short years that the Beatles were together (1963-1970) witnessed some of the most rapid and tumultuous social and political change in history. Susan Urban will present "A Day in the Life," a program that includes listening to a number of the Beatles' songs, reflecting on the period itself, singing, dancing, and looking at how the music reflects Unitarian Universalist values.

Office Hours for the Office Administrator

Mondays 7–9 p.m.

Saturdays 10 a.m.–12 noon

OUR SOCIETY

PRAIRIE WORK DAY KUDOS

We made a great start on mold abatement in the classrooms (washing walls and floors), plus cleaning all the toys in the pre-school area--and the big one--cleaning out the fridge. Special thanks to KK Anderson, Norma & Mike Briggs, Kate & Judy Skog, Anne & Maya Urbanski, Randy Converse, Linda Sheehy, Barb Park, Al Nettleton, and Nancy Graham.

The **Prairie Reward** goes to Kate & Maya for courageously disposing of the totally liquified & unidentifiable stuff in the fridge vegetable crisper, and to Barb for washing it afterwards.

PRAIRIE BOOK CLUB—SUN., AUGUST 10

THE NO. 1 LADIES' DETECTIVE AGENCY by Alexander McCall Smith is the August 10 Prairie Book Club selection. We meet after the Prairie Sunday service, around 11:45 am. This is an open book club. If you have read the book you are welcome to come. Bring food to share.

DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR THE RETREAT

The Retreat at Bethel Horizons, near Dodgeville is the weekend of September 12-14. The full cost for an adult with all meals and non-stop activities is only \$64. And Mars is the closest it's been in 60,000 years! What a deal! Questions? Call Rick at 838-8540 or email to ruecking@hotmail.com .

Send in your registration to Rick Ruecking, 6002 Lake St, McFarland WI 53558 by Sunday, August 31st or bring it to church. Assignment of rooms will be done on a first-come, first-served basis after accommodation for age and disability.

QUESTIONNAIRES

Please return your completed Program Committee questionnaires to the tray in the back of the meeting room or to Warren Hagstrom. Questionnaires were distributed in a previous newsletter. Extra copies are on the table near the tray.

PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS

Anyone interested in hosting one of the monthly Playreaders session, please send the date or month you are interested in hosting to Susan Hagstrom, 916 Shorewood Blvd., Madison, WI 53705, or SusanTanyaAmI@aol.com **by August 16.**

As host of Prairie Playreaders, you can choose the play to be read. It is good to estimate parts needed as between 4-15 (the upper reaches, people read multiple parts). Some munchies are usually provided by the host, with a dessert during either intermission or at the end. Playreaders is usually held on a Saturday with a start time of either 7 or 7:30, chosen by the host. This is an opportunity for anyone who has long wanted to hear their favorite play read aloud!

Susan Hagstrom

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The great aim of education is not knowledge but action.—Herbert Spencer

The Religious Education Committee has met twice this summer to discuss and plan for the upcoming school year, and our hope is not only that Prairie's youth become knowledgeable but that they also put their knowledge into action, as the curricular theme for the year is Social Justice.

The committee, including Religious Education Director Kristi Sprague-Klepzig, has spent a great deal of time reflecting on last year's program model of YoUth Circle and making changes where they seemed necessary. Be watching your mail boxes for a letter outlining the program for the 2003-04 school year, as well as details regarding our new mandatory "volunteer" program. Change is afoot!

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar

2nd, 3rd & 4th Sat. 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

Prairie Liaison: Celeste Robins

CelestialR@charter.net

Currently, the Committee consists of Chair Anne Urbanski, RE Director Kristi Sprague-Klepzig, Robin Proud, Denise Jess, Jani Koester and Brian Kuzdas. If you have an interest in joining the RE Committee, which meets monthly, please contact a Committee member. Thanks!

(Also, thank you for the well wishes, good deeds and kind thoughts during gall bladder illness, surgery and recovery. I am feeling so much better!)

Looking forward to a wonderful year in RE!

Kristi Sprague-Klepzig, DRE

MEMBERSHIP

New addresses:

Brian Kuzdas

bkuzdas@tds.net or briankuzdas@tds.net

Kristi Sprague-Klepzig, DRE:

bananamoon@charter.net

LETTERS

Hi all,

Did any of you misplace a ring at Prairie? A member of Shaarei Shamayim found a ring next to the sink last Saturday. If it belongs on your finger, please email me or the Prouds so we can arrange to reunite you.

Thanks,

Judy

Attached are articles from the 1st and 2nd pages of the Nov. 29, 1979 *Prairie Fire*. I think members would be particularly interested at this time in looking back at these articles on our original building purchase.

Bob Park

[Ed. Note: These articles, on Page 4, are edited for conciseness.]

(*Prairie Fire*—Nov. 29, 1979)

Prairie Approves Building Purchase

After an extensive discussion at its specially called parish meeting Nov. 18 the society unanimously gave its approval to the purchase of the former Baptist church building located at 2010 Whenona Way for the sum of \$60,000. The purchase is still contingent upon the ability of the fellowship to borrow money from a religious foundation, probably the Veach foundation in New York.

In recent weeks there have been several discussions held to determine whether the society's needs could be better met in a building of its own rather than in rented facilities.

Factors in the decision, in addition to the directly financial ones, were the condition and location of the building, its ability to accommodate the space needs of the adult and R. E. programs, the need for insulation and possibly heating system changes, and the cost of upkeep.

At the meeting additional pledges toward the down payment (\$12,000) brought the sum now pledged to \$9,170. Members also increased their operating expense pledges by \$2,267.

FUND RAISING SALE

Contributions are needed for a fund raising sale to meet the goal of \$20,000 for the down payment on our church building. Needed are plants, craft items, and baked goods. Art items will be accepted on a commission basis if pre-arranged.

The sale will be held on Dec 16, 1979, at a time and place to be announced Sunday. Members are asked to plan now on what they can contribute.

PLAY AS YOU PAY --Dick Bonser

Although I seem to have lost my copy of "1001 Ways To Raise Money Easily," suggestions have been pouring in from Prairie people. One suggestion is that we "pay" for our circle dinners by putting one or two dollars per person in the kitty each month. This is probably affordable for most of us. I think this should be done on a voluntary basis for each circle, though. If you decide to do this, I

would like the host for the month to send me a check, made out to Prairie Society Building Fund, for the amount donated each month. This will eliminate any chance of getting these donations confused with any individual pledge payments.

Other suggestions have included a dance party, a Las Vegas night, a ski party, bingo games, and a book re-sale. All of these are good ideas, and I would like to hear even more. If any of these ideas appeals to you, please let me know. If you have another suggestion, I want to know it. I realize that we haven't much time to raise money with these ideas before January 2, when we need to close on the building, but our need for money won't end with that event. All of these ideas will come in handy sooner or later, so tell me about your pet project or activity.

UUSC NEWS

From the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) E-mail Bulletin:

Iraq relief fund provides humanitarian aid

In response to the war in Iraq, the UUSC created an Iraq Relief Fund to help ease the sufferings in that country. Although UUSC does not have any programs in Iraq, we have identified two nonprofit, nongovernmental agencies we believe are best equipped to address the humanitarian needs of the vulnerable and neglected populations in Iraq during this period of recovery and reconstruction. For more information, visit

<http://www.uusc.org/news/article072803.html>.

Women offer hope for future of Afghanistan

With all eyes focused on Iraq, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is concerned that the women and children of Afghanistan will be forgotten. With the generous help of our members and friends, UUSC has been able to provide help to women survivors of the war in Afghanistan as they strive to move from crisis to having a voice in the creation of a civil society that promotes peace, stability and self-sufficiency. The need for humanitarian aid is still overwhelming. For more information, visit

<http://www.uusc.org/news/article072503.html>.

Relief aid for Afghanistan war victims

Thanks to the generosity of our members and supporters, UUSC has been able to distribute more than \$100,000 in humanitarian relief aid to nongovernmental organizations working in Afghanistan and neighboring countries, especially Pakistan. For a list of the recipients of our second round of grants, visit

http://www.uusc.org/news/article072503_3.html.

[For Prairie and Madison Social Action news, visit

<http://www.homestead.com/prsac/files/home.htm>]

