

Prairie UU Society, 2010 Whenona Drive, Madison WI 53711-4843

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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)

September 26, 2003

Prairie Fire is the semi-monthly newsletter of Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society. The two most recent issues may be seen at <http://www.prairie.madison.uua.org>

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Editor: Dan Proud, prairieu@execpc.com;

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Sunday, September 28

NO SERVICE AT PRAIRIE—12:30 p.m. Potluck and 2:00 p.m. Program at Rock County Unitarian (Janesville), with Dick Ramsdell and others in this new and growing congregation. See Details of Upcoming Events for directions.

Saturday, October 4

3:00–5:00 p.m. Religious Education Volunteer Orientation at Prairie.

Sunday, October 5

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal
10:00 a.m. Lay Ministry Series: "The Living Tradition I," by Al Nettleton.
11:30 a.m. Membership Committee at Prairie.

Monday, October 6

6:00 p.m. Women's Group: movie *Babette's Feast*, at Prairie. Please bring a dish to share for dinner.

Sunday, October 12

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal
10:00 a.m. "Beginning the Journey of Healing," presented by Amy Owen.

11:30 a.m. Prairie Book Club discusses *Welcome to the World Baby Girl* by Fannie Flagg, at Prairie.

**Next Prairie Fire deadline is
Sunday, October 5, 2003**

Wednesday, October 15

7:00 p.m. Prairie Board Meeting at Prairie.

Saturday, October 18

3:00–5:00 p.m. Religious Education Volunteer Orientation at Prairie.

Sunday, October 19

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal
10:00 a.m. "When Good Things Happen to Bad People," presented by Jerry Beuer.
11:30 a.m. Committee Fair will follow service. Pizza will be available.

Sunday, October 26

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal.
10:00 a.m. "All Souls' Observance," led by Orange Schroeder.

Sunday, November 2

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal.

10:00 a.m. "Our Homeless Children," presented by Jani Koester.

11:30 a.m. Membership Committee at Prairie.

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 28

"Reach out to touch and be with one another..." Prairie will hold a joint service in Janesville with members of the newly organized Rock County Unitarian Church, now numbering forty members.

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Potluck begins at 12:30 p.m. Janesville will provide tableware and beverages. At 2:00 we will meet briefly and then break into get-acquainted discussion groups.

Contact Doleta Chapru at 238-4970 or

dchapru@aol.com if you need child supervision.

Driving directions:

All I-90 ramps into Janesville are closed for bridge work. Take Hwy 14 or 51. (Folks without cars, notify Doleta if you cannot find a ride.)

Hwy 14 from Madison: Take Park St. S to the Hwy 18-151 beltline. Continue S on Hwy 14. As you approach Janesville, turn Rt on BR 14, which becomes N. Washington. Make a sharp L turn onto W. Mineral Point Ave., then a Rt turn onto S. Jackson St. Turn L (northeast) on Court St. Drive about 3 blocks and turn L into the parking plaza built over the river.

Hwy 51 from Madison: Drive E on Hwy 18-151. Turn right (south) on Hwy 51. In Janesville, Hwy 51 becomes N. Parker Dr. Go several blocks then turn R (southwest) on E. Milwaukee St. Go about a block and a half to, but not across, the Rock River. Turn left into the parking plaza built over the river.

After you park, walk to the NW corner of the parking lot. Tucked back by an alley between the two corner buildings is the rear entrance to 23 W. Milwaukee St, the former Dubes Jewelry Building. Go to the Nineties Room on the second floor. (An elevator is at this entrance.)

People who walk to the building from another parking area, look for signs on the front entrance of 23 W.

Milwaukee St. Caution: E. Milwaukee St. is on the wrong side of the river. Call (608) 201-6922 or (608) 751-0762 if you need help.

Reminder: If you are able, please bring ample, stick-to-your-ribs food to the potluck.

Sunday, October 5

"The Living Tradition" is the title of Al Nettleton's Lay ministry, starting October 5. The series of programs will be based entirely on the UU hymnal, which is a wonderful resource that we regularly use as a source of readings or music to reinforce a particular service. It is also a book that can give us insight into some important UU and non-UU authors and composers.

Each program will focus on one or more authors and/or composers represented in the book. There will be strong threads throughout each program that are based upon the UU principles, the author/composer and their times, and other creative works by the person. As much as possible, there will be a variety of media, speaking, and performance incorporated into each program (especially the choir, musicians, and play readers).

Sunday, October 12

Beginning the Journey of Healing. This will be the first in a series of three worships exploring the process of forgiveness given by Amy Owen.

How can we use forgiveness to heal hurts in our lives? Forgiveness has been linked to benefits in health, happiness, and human relationships through research at the University of Wisconsin, but it can be difficult to know how to start this journey.

This worship will highlight the first few steps to forgiveness, and address some challenges we might face along the way. We will discuss how we protect ourselves emotionally from the hurt (and how those might not serve us anymore), how we cope with anger, shame, and other emotions that we might feel as a result of being unjustly hurt, and how our thoughts might prevent us from moving on.

Sunday, October 19

In "When Good Things Happen to Bad People," Jerry Beurer blends seriousness and humor to examine how we can best react when good things happen to people whose negative behavior repulses us. Building on the best seller *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, Beurer offers guidelines for finding lessons in the good fortunes of people who more properly deserve a comeuppance.

Dr. Beurer, a semi-retired sociologist, has taught with Lutherans at Luther College and St. Olaf, Catholics at Marquette University, and sun worshippers at the University of Arizona. He divides his year between the Woodruff-Minocqua area, where he is a member of the Northwoods Unitarian Fellowship, and Wausau, where he attends the Universalist-Unitarian church.

OUR SOCIETY

CIRCLE DINNERS—ARE YOU READY FOR SOMETHING NEW?

It's time to sign up for Circle Dinners. (For those who are unfamiliar, a group of people gathers at one house for a potluck dinner. The group takes turns hosting the others. It's a nice way to meet people and talk.)

This year we hope to have groups of people meet around a specific topic to discuss or do. Please sign up for the topic that interests you. If you are interested in a couple topics, sign up for all of them. That gives me a little more latitude when it's time to assign people to groups. If you are in a couple or family, please let me know if all members of your group will attend together or if you plan to attend different groups (that's OK, too & might be more interesting--although more complicated).

The Topics

- create a play or skit
- cooperatively write a story or poem
- make instrumental music
- sing songs--adult
- sing songs--family
- play board games
- play word games
- do a craft or make art
- discuss the 2004 Presidential Candidates
- discuss UU Principles as applied to our lives

- a topic of your suggestion

Please call or email responses to Judy Skog (273-4813 or jaskog@tds.net). I need them by the first week in October.

Judy Skog

CALL FOR SINGERS: CHOIR REHEARSALS ARE STARTING!

Prairie's choir has begun rehearsing on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. All are welcome to participate. You don't need to be a great singer or have previous choral experience! We sing about once per month. Hope you can join us!

Barbara Park

PRAIRIE BOOK CLUB FALL AND WINTER SELECTIONS

Sun., Oct. 12 —After Prairie service—*Welcome to the World Baby Girl* is a new novel by Fannie Flag, author of *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe* and the prize-winning co-writer of the movie by that name. Suggested by Sarah Lord.

Sun., Nov. 9 —After Prairie service—*The Pianist* by Wladyslaw Szpilman.

Sun., Dec. 7 —After Prairie service—*Journey into the Whirlwind* is a personal account of the first three years of author and professor Eugenia Ginzburg's 18-year ordeal during the Stalin purges of the 1930s.

Sun., Jan. 11 —After Prairie service—*The Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell is a non-fiction book that compares commercial successes with the model of epidemics.

This is an open book club. Anyone who has read the book or wants to hear the book discussed may come to any meeting. When we meet at Prairie, participants bring food to share. Books are available at Border's West on University Avenue at a 20% discount if you mention this is a Prairie Book Club selection.

ATTENTION, PRAIRIE MUSICIANS!

Our program on December 14 will be devoted to the life and music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Musicians of all ages should be considering Mozart compositions they might wish to perform. If you need an accompanist, or accompanists, or if you want suggestions of things to perform, contact Warren Hagstrom or Doleta Chapru (238-4970 or warrenolaf@aol.com or dchapru@aol.com).

WOMEN'S GROUP TO VIEW MOVIE

The movie *Babette's Feast* will be shown on Oct. 6 at 6:00 p.m. This is a wonderful movie about a religious sect with in-fighting who come together over a magical meal. For movie info, see: <http://www.karenblixen.com/babette.html>. Please bring a dish to share at our own feast.

DISCUSSION GROUP FORMING

"Since death alone is certain and the time of death uncertain, what should I do?"

This is a question posed by Stephen Batchelor in one of his books. He suggests that we allow ourselves to reflect on the fact that we are living lives that will stop. In an experiment intended to challenge himself by this fact, Stephen Levine committed himself to living a year as though it were his last: "To practice dying. To be fully alive. To investigate the dread of, and resistance to, life and death. To live in mercy and awareness. To undertake a life review with gratitude and forgiveness." He presents his reflections in his book, *A Year to Live*, which he offers as an opportunity to resolve our denial of death as well as our denial of life and to heal and revitalize our lives.

I would like to bring together a small group of Prairie members who wish to examine their personal relationships to dying and death. The group will focus on our reflections on the above question and how we would change our lives, our fears of living and dying, extending gratitude and forgiveness, writing a memorial service and an epitaph, and saying good-bye to loved ones.

We will meet approximately every four weeks for either

one year or until the beginning of summer at my home during the weekend. Meetings will include checking-in, various exercises and meditations, and discussion. Reading Levine's book is strongly suggested. It is 168 pages long and costs \$10.00.

If you are interested in participating in the group, please call 273-3895 or email lindasuzannels@aol.com by October 12th. I would like to begin meeting either October 18th or 19th.

Linda Sheehy

SUNDAY SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Program Committee asks that announcements be sent in advance to the Administrator at prairieu@execpc.com for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin. This will help people to remember your news, and shorten time spent on announcements in the service. Submission deadline is Friday night.

PRAIRIE MEMBER NEEDS A RIDE

Metje Butler has a dental appointment on October 16th (Thursday) at 1:15 on the far east side. It is expected to last about 1 to 1 1/2 hours. She has been advised to have a friend do the driving. This could be one person who is able to wait for her or two people if necessary. Can anyone help out with this? If so, please call Metje at 244-3659.

Linda Sheehy

PROGRAM

RESULTS OF PRAIRIE PROGRAM QUESTIONNAIRE

We distributed the questionnaire in July and August and received 28 replies, which is not so bad for the summer. The questionnaire listed 52 programs from June 2, 2002, to May 25, 2003. Respondents were asked to "circle the title of programs you liked best, ideally 8 to 10."

In interpreting the results, bear in mind that most members miss some Sundays, respondents could list fewer or more than 10, and some probably did not

consider picnics and the Retreat as "Sunday programs." There is probably a sample bias, since families with school age children are somewhat less likely to attend in the summer.

There was a great deal of variation in choices of most liked programs. Fifty of the 52 programs received at least one person's choice of a favorite, and 40 of them received the choices of at least three persons.

The most liked programs:

Cal Dewitt, environmental stewardship, 3/9	64%
John Nichols, civil liberties, 9/15	61%
Doleta Chapru, A Posse of Giddy Girls, 1/26	46%
Jane Camerini, Alfred Russell Wallace, 10/27	46%
Doug Smith, Come Before Winter 2/23	32%
Robin Proud, Elizabeth Gaskell, 4/16	32%
Norman Stockwell, community media, 3/2	32%
Ruth Calden, All Souls' Day, 10/20	32%

Prairie's participatory programs and panels of members were popular as well. In addition to the All Souls' Day programs, the summer books

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program led by Mary Mullen and the May 11 panel about "The Parent in All of Us" were each favorites of 29%.

There weren't many written comments. Here are some:

The Ingathering program led by Barbara Chatterton, Sept. 8: "I liked it, except limit how much each person tells, please." (You may have noted that Barbara accepted such suggestions this year.)

The program on Angkor Wat led by Larry Nahlik, Sept. 8: "slides made Larry's story come alive..."

The program on emigrating from Canada organized by Rose Smith, Nov. 10: "Wonderful!"

Study circles on race, March 3: "...a good panel...different angles."

The panel for "The Parent in all of us, May 11: "enjoyed the sharing and different viewpoints." "The Best!"

Respondents liked the variety of Prairie programs. Every respondent chose both programs presented by

outside speakers and by Prairie members as favorites. If one crudely classifies programs as "informational," "social action," or "sharing of experiences," 84% of the respondents had a favorite in each of the categories.

Warren Hagstrom

WANTED: ARTISTS, POETS, REPORTERS

The Prairie Fire needs some artwork, some poetry, and other works of creativity, especially from anyone in the ages 2-12. And are there any school-age volunteers who would interview a member and take their picture?

Please talk to Dan Proud or e-mail your name to prairieu@execpc.com to apply for this fun job!

Office Hours for the Office Administrator

Mondays 7-9 p.m.

Saturdays 10 a.m.-12 noon

MEMBERSHIP

Changed addresses:

Jean Matos
324 S. Mills St.
Madison, WI 53715



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

This year the RE Committee is asking every church member to volunteer two hours (or more) sometime during the year to ensure that we offer the best R.E. program. Activities you can volunteer for:

 Call volunteers

- 🚗 Child care transport
- 🍪 Bake cookies
- 🍷 Serve snacks
- 🍷 Buy snacks
- 🔗 Buy/pick up supplies
- 👤 Lead friendship circle
- 👤 Lead ritual
- 📅 Special events coordinator
- 👤 Special events helper
 - 👤 Nifty Gifty
 - 👤 Fall Frolic
 - 👤 Wild Wintering
 - 👤 Spring Fling
- 👤 Lead OWL class
- 🗑️ Weekly cleanup
- 🗑️ Major cleanup
- 🔗 Organize supplies
- 👤 Summer childcare
- 🚗 Transport kids

To help Prairie members and friends feel more confident about volunteering to help in RE, the committee has scheduled two volunteer orientation sessions, to be held **Saturday, October 4**, and **Saturday, October 18**, both from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Prairie. We will have refreshments and provide take-home materials, so please contact Anne Urbanski or Kristi Sprague-Klepzig to pre-register. With your enthusiasm and energy we'll make this a great year for RE.

LETTERS

RECOMMENDED TALK ON LGBT VOICES

Hi all,
I know Chris Smith and recommend her highly:

"How LGBT voices are transforming church and society," October 9th at 7:00 p.m., Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ, 1501 Gilbert Road, Madison. Over the last generation lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people have pushed the church to include and welcome all people of God. What has this movement meant for the church? How has it transformed the way we understand theology, hope, resurrection? Where is this movement inviting us

to go in the future? How has this movement within the church impacted the way we relate to the wider society? (Presented by Christine M. Smith, Professor of Preaching and Worship, United Theological Seminary, Twin Cities.)

Diane Vezmar-Bailey

POTLUCKS

Dear Editor:

A number of members have noted that the quality of food, and even the quantity, has been rather sorry recently. We can do better, and we might begin by impressing our hosts in Janesville on September 28.

Warren Hagstrom

OPPOSING LEGISLATION

Hello to all,

There are three pieces of pending legislation that we could successfully work on together. Some of your congregations—Appleton, Racine, Kenosha, Brookfield, Mequon, Wausau and Eau Claire—could have a particularly strong voice!

The three issues are:

1. Preservation of Wisconsin's Family Planning Waiver—An effort is underway to remove teenage women from a waiver program that provides family

planning services under the Medical Assistance program. Women eligible under the waiver would not otherwise be eligible for Medicaid services.

2. Conceal and Carry—The right to carry a concealed weapon.

3. Refuse to hire/ability to terminate on the basis of felony conviction. This bill would allow employers to refuse to hire and/or terminate current employees on the basis of a felony conviction (if they have not been pardoned). Employers would be protected from legal action on the basis of discrimination under the bill.

Rather than burden you with all the details—please let me know if you want more information. I can send a blurb about the bills and actions that are being

recommended. All three of these bills are on the fast track.

Also, if you would rather that I contact a lay person in your congregation—please let me know who that person might be and I will take it from there.

Sincerely,
Wendy Cooper
Social Justice Coordinator
First Unitarian Society of Madison
900 University Bay Drive
Madison, WI 53705
608-233-9774 ext 25
wendyc@fusmadison.org

For Prairie and Madison Social Action news, visit
<http://www.homestead.com/prsac/files/home.htm>

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar

2nd, 3rd & 4th Sat. 9 a.m.–2 p.m.
Prairie Liaison: Celeste Robins 249–5933
CelestialR@charter.net

OTHER NEWS

NEW SINGLES GROUP ON THE WEB

The new singles group at First Unitarian Society is beginning a "Yahoo Group" for communication, for single Madison area UU's. This is an online message group that can be accessed by email or on the Web, and it will help us stay in touch for announcements, ideas, and discussion between meetings. This will be a closed group with moderated membership, so it will be a safe space for us to communicate. Contact Ellie Amico at heartwell@aol.com if you would like to join

the online group.

Singles Group at F.U.S.

KEEPING UP WITH SUSAN URBAN

For those who enjoyed the August 31 presentation by Susan Urban, here are some upcoming dates when she is performing in Madison:

Sat., Nov. 1, 8 p.m. Speed Jump Java Joint, "Strong Voices" with Ingrid Stark, 908 E. Johnson, Madison. Info: 663-8130

Sun., Nov. 2 (The Day of the Dead), 9 and 11 a.m. Special Music at James Reeb UU with Ingrid Stark, 2146 E Johnson St., Madison. Info: 242-8887 or jruuc@terracom.net

VEGAN COFFEE CAKE RECIPE

(courtesy of the Bethel Horizons kitchen)

Batter:

1 1/4 cup Soy milk

3 tsp. Baking powder

Topping:

3 cups Unbleached flour

1 cup Sugar

1 tsp. Cinnamon

3/4 tsp. Nutmeg

1/2 tsp. Allspice

3/4 cup Margarine

1/2 cup Chopped walnuts (optional)

Mix topping and set 1 cup of it aside. Mix the rest of the topping with batter. Pour into a 9"x9" pan.

Sprinkle reserved topping on top of batter. Add 1/2 cup chopped walnuts.

Preheat oven to 375°. Bake for 30 min.

THE MADISON INSTITUTE SAYS, "DO COME"

The Patriot Act Under Surveillance: Protecting our Democracy will be the theme of Professor Christopher Pyle on Saturday morning, October 11, 9 a.m. to noon, in the auditorium of the State Historical Society at 816 State Street on the UW-Madison campus.

Professor Pyle, now at Mount Holyoke College, is both a teacher and an activist. He has an extensive

background in civil liberties stemming from an early experience as a whistle-blower on the military's spying on civilians. With interests in history, law, and politics, he has been a witness for Congressional Committees and an author of books and articles for many newspapers and magazines.

For us he will review the history of civil liberties in our country and will analyze and assess the government's incredible new powers under The Patriot Act.

A reception for Professor Pyle will be held Saturday evening at 7 p.m. at the home of Midge Miller, 213 DuRose Terrace.

For further information, contact Connie Threinen at 238-5489 or Threinen@AOL.com.
The Madison Institute

RED CROSS IN URGENT NEED OF BLOOD DONATIONS

Our local American Red Cross has been on an urgent appeal for blood donations this summer. Blood banking organizations across the country joined the Red Cross in an urgent request to loyal and new donors of all blood types.

In 50 proud years, our local Red Cross has never advised a hospital to cancel an elective surgery. With your help, we won't have to start now. Thank you for your help.

West Donor Center Hours (4860 Sheboygan Ave.)

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

Wednesday, Friday: 8 a.m.–1 p.m.

Saturday: 8 a.m.–12 noon

2nd & 4th Sundays: 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

