

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

(608) 271-8218 prairieu@execpc.com

Located off the south frontage road (West Beltline Hwy Rd.) near the Seminole Hwy exit.

NON PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

MADISON, WI  
PERMIT NO. 1604



# 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)

December 5, 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>*

President: Ken Skog; (608) 273-4813  
(608) 661-0776

Editor: Dan Proud, prairieu@execpc.com;

Breakfast at the Men's Drop-In Shelter, Grace Episcopal Church. See Social Action news inside.

## PRAIRIE CALENDAR

### Sunday, December 7

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal

10:00 a.m. "Choosing Transformation." Second in the "Journey of Healing" series by Amy Owen.

11:45 a.m. Membership Committee meeting.

11:45 a.m. Luncheon panel of School of the Americas Vigil participants. Soup and chili lunch provided by Social Action Committee (donation requested).

### Sunday, December 14

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal

10:00 a.m. "Mozart: Life and Music." Music presented by members of the congregation and coordinated by Warren Hagstrom.

10:30 a.m. Holiday Trip to the Milwaukee Public Museum/Milwaukee Art Museum is canceled for lack of interest.

### Sunday, December 21

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal

10:00 a.m. Symbol Tree Intergenerational Service, led by Erin Bosch.

### Tuesday, December 23

**Next Prairie Fire deadline is  
Sunday, December 14, 2003**

### Monday, January 12

6:00 p.m. Prairie women (WOW) will gather at Prairie for a program on creative writing using the Writers' Way model. Paula will be facilitator.

### Saturday, February 28

Prairie Fundraiser Trip to the Chicago Art Institute's Rembrandt exhibit. See flyer on Bulletin Board, or call Pat Watkins at 233-5795 for further information. Cost is \$56 and is due by January 6.

## DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sunday, December 7

"Choosing Transformation" This is the second in a series of three programs on forgiveness given by Amy Owen. We will revisit what forgiveness means and how uncovering the true impact of a painful event can help us forgive, and move on to examine what barriers might be preventing us from making this healing choice. We will

also begin to focus on the person who hurt us, and consider how our view of that person impacts our own well-being.

At the lunch following Amy Owen's program, a panel of students from the Madison Unitarian Universalist Young Adults Campus Ministry (MUUYACM) will join us. These students participated in the November 21–23 vigil at the School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Georgia.

The vegetarian soup and chili lunch will be provided by the Social Action Committee, as a fund raiser for our local projects (men's homeless shelter, Interfaith Hospitality Network, etc.). Students planning to join us are Lynn Ann Czarnecki, Derrick Wagner, Megan Kratz, Kevin —, Noah Natzke, and possibly others. Thanks to Sarah Lord for contacting these young activists from the campus UU group.

### **Sunday, December 14**

Nifty Gifty is our annual opportunity for kids to make gifts for their family and friends. Nifty Gifty begin at 9:30 a.m. and continues through the end of the service upstairs. Kathy Converse is coordinating again, with help from Rachel Long, who is organizing a project involving solo gloves. Please let Anne Urbanski know if you can help the kids make or wrap their gifts.

On this Sunday, we will celebrate the life and music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Mozart's life is fascinating. He was perhaps the most famous child prodigy in history; he composed great religious music, but was he a good Catholic? Many members of the congregation will perform some of his great music—more than a dozen soloists, plus the choir, plus the congregation. Come and enjoy.

## **OUR SOCIETY**

### **OUR NEW R.E. DIRECTOR**

For those who were not at Prairie on November 23, I'd like to introduce our new Director of Religious Education, JEANIE TRIGG.

Jeanie moved to Madison earlier this year from Appleton, where she was a member of the Fox Valley UU Fellowship. Jeanie has three grown children (the youngest in college) and she's currently a substitute teacher for all grades in the Madison Metropolitan School District. She has many years of teaching experience as well as a lot of RE experience too, including working with high school youth groups.

Jeanie will be easing into her job beginning December 1, but some of you might have met her already because she's been attending Prairie frequently the past two months. Please join me in welcoming her to our congregation, and please consider what you can do to help smooth her transition. With everyone's help we'll continue to support our RE program so we can grow Prairie.

Many thanks to Ken Skog, KK Anderson and Randy Converse for their hard work on the DRE search committee. All four of us are glad we've found such a well-qualified DRE.

*Anne Urbanski*

## **FINANCE**

### **PLEDGE CHECKS**

Just a reminder: Please be sure to add the specific pledge year (2003 or 2004) on your pledge check memo during this month so we credit your contribution correctly. Send checks to the treasurer, Susan Hagstrom, at Prairie or put in the Sunday collection. To be credited for the 2003 tax year, be sure checks are received by December 15.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### **OUR NEW PRAIRIE DIRECTORY**

We are working on the new edition of the Prairie Directory of Members and Friends. If you have a change or correction from your entry in the 2002 edition, please turn it in to Dan Proud, Al Nettleton, Judy Skog, or Phoenix Wardell. We especially want to bring e-mail addresses up to date!

## SOCIAL ACTION

### CAN YOU HELP SCRAMBLE 252 EGGS?

The holidays feel like a time of plenty to many of us. We worry about what to include in our dinner—not about getting enough to eat. The men at the Drop-In Shelter often don't know where their next meal is going to come from, but they know they can count on the generous breakfast Prairie brings them every month.

If you can spare the time in the early morning **Tuesday, December 23**, your assistance with cooking and serving the breakfast would be appreciated. Please let Paula Pachciarz know if you can help out (273-4806, [pachwack@chorus.net](mailto:pachwack@chorus.net)).

*Paula Pachciarz*

### GUEST AT YOUR TABLE 2003 IS STARTING

Sunday, November 30 we kicked off the Guest at Your Table program by handing out the colorful boxes and distributing inserts and special program covers. Guest at Your Table is a program that supports the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, an organization grounded in the UU principles which works for human rights and social justice around the world.

This year, the focus of the program is on women and children living in the midst of war or conflict.

You can support this wonderful program by putting a little change in the Guest at Your Table box at every meal, or by making a contribution at the end of the program in January. Boxes and literature are available at Prairie.

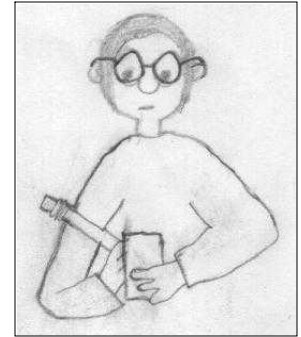
*Dan Proud*

---

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

*Exclusive: From the Desk of Our Roving Reporters*

[*Ed. Note: This is the second in a series of interviews conducted by Prairie youth. We are focusing initially on people involved with the R.E. program. Please enjoy the humor!*]



*Drawing by Toby Wacker*

### BRIAN KUDZAS

Brian is 21. During the service he helps with the R.E. program. Brian is also on Prairie committees. This is a little bit about his life, according to Brian....

Brian's parents supposedly put him in a box as a child and labeled it Baby for Sale, \$5. No one took him. Today, he lives on the West Side in an efficiency apartment. He thinks that it's boring having his own place and says, "It's not what it's cracked up to be." He works at TDS Metrocom. He is in a sales team that tries to make business run more smoothly.

For fun, Brian likes to shoot potato guns. His girlfriend is Erica Skog, and she's the most precious person in his life. He chose to come to Prairie because Erica came, and he says he stayed because of all the nice kids here.

Brian is very helpful to our community in all kinds of ways and we are very glad that he is a part of Prairie!  
*Madeline and Reuben Arnold-Long*

### CALLING ALL LONELY GLOVES!

We have a project pending in R.E. which can use all your old single knit gloves. It's fine if they're threadbare in spots—we'll put them to good use. There will be a box upstairs for them, or find one of the RE folks to "hand" off to. Thanks!

*Rachel Long*

Prairie UU: <http://my.execpc.com/~prairie/>

PrairieNews Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/prairienews/>

PrairieViews Group:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/prairieviews/>

Social Action: <http://socialaction.homestead.com>

**Office Hours for the Prairie**  
**Office Administrator**

Mondays 7–9 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m.–12 noon

**Shaarei Shamayim Calendar**

Tues. 3:45–6:15 p.m. & Sat. 8:45 a.m.–1:15 p.m.  
Prairie Liaison: Celeste Robins 249–5933  
[CelestialR@charter.net](mailto:CelestialR@charter.net)

**DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**SPREAD YOUR UU VALUES AND BELIEFS—  
BECOME A CHALICE LIGHTER**

A Chalice Lighter is anyone who agrees to support, three times a year, congregations that apply for grants from the district's Growth and Support Committee. You donate a minimum of \$10 each time.

*(continued)*

If you would like to become a Chalice Lighter and support congregations in need in our Central Midwest District, talk to Nancy Schraufnagel or contact her at 501 S. Whitney Way Apt. 7, Madison, WI 53705.

Several people in Prairie are already Chalice Lighters: thank you!

## OTHER NEWS

### PANEL DISCUSSION ON ABUSE AND VIOLENCE IN LESBIAN RELATIONSHIPS

"The Lesbians Next Door: Abuse and Violence in Lesbian Relationships" is the title of a panel discussion to be held Thursday, December 4, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Madison Senior Center, 330 West Mifflin St.

Panel members include Nancy Worcester, faculty in Women's Studies at the UW-Madison and director of the statewide Domestic Violence Training Project; Molly Herrmann, who has done research on abuse in lesbian relationships; Jessica Delgado of the Rape Crisis Center of Dane County; and three lesbian survivors of abuse.

"It's a difficult topic, but emotional and physical abuse among lesbians occurs more often than most people realize," said Daña Alder, discussion organizer and also a survivor of an abusive relationship with another woman. The title for the discussion was chosen, Alder said, as a way to signal that such abuse sometimes occurs right next door, but "we fail to see it because it doesn't fit our stereotype of two women together. The less we talk about abuse in lesbian relationships, the harder it is for women to seek supportive services."

The discussion is sponsored by the Lesbian Health Task Force of Dane County and the Madison Senior Center, and is part of a larger series of events called 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence.

### GLOBAL JUSTICE AND THE SOA: WITH GROWTH COMES CHALLENGE

*[Ed. Note: This article gives background on the vigil at the U.S. Army School of the Americas, where Madison youth from MUUYACM recently joined protests. See Page 1.]*

This weekend, on the anniversary of the murder of nine Jesuit priests, their housekeeper, and her daughter by graduates of the U.S. Army School of the Americas (SOA), more than 10,000 people gathered at the gates of Ft. Benning, in Columbus, Georgia, to call for the school's closure.

In an act of civil disobedience, nearly 30 people scaled a chain-link fence barring entrance to the base, facing up to six months in prison and \$5,000 in fines. While the impetus for this annual demonstration has been the long list of human rights abuses committed by Latin American soldiers trained at the SOA—including torture, kidnappings, assassinations, and massacres—the campaign to close the school continues to evolve, in many ways exemplifying the postmodern activism of the global justice movement.

Looking out over a vast technicolor sea of heads, accented occasionally by a cardboard cutout of Mohandas Gandhi or sign displaying one of martyred Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero's memorable phrases, it was difficult to imagine this demonstration's humble origins among a handful of Catholic activists some 14 years ago. Dianne Malthiowetz, 57, who was at Ft. Benning this weekend with United Auto Workers, said, "They [the older folks] are all still here, but lost in a sea of youth." Malthiowetz, who has attended the rally every year since its inception, noted that the movement noticeably changed after the watershed World Trade Organization protests in Seattle, when a wide diversity of groups converged as a movement for global justice.

That diversity of issues and voices has spread to SOA Watch, the main organizer of the movement to close the SOA. While differing in their platforms, groups and individuals calling for the SOA's closure say that by supporting abusive regimes, it represents the injustice of national and corporate interests over and against human rights. The school itself has claimed reforms, and in 2001 changed its name to the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation. But the movement is broader than the school or its name. "Not only is SOA Watch concerned about this school of terror," says SOA Watch organizer Eric LeCompte, "but we're also concerned about the broader foreign policy that this school represents."

As the movement has grown, protesters have also seen intensified efforts by law enforcement to control

protesters. In recent years, the base's entrance has been barred with fencing and barbed wire, whereas before demonstrators were able to freely "cross the line" in a solemn procession of protest. Now any who wish to do so must climb over the fence and face increased penalties. Other measures have created an atmosphere of intimidation, including police searches and metal detectors for every person entering the perimeter of a guarded and monitored "protest zone." SOA Watch and the ACLU have taken legal action to oppose what they call unconstitutional interference in what has always been a nonviolent vigil.

Despite the complex questions faced by a growing movement—challenges faced by a new generation of activists worldwide—the noise of the weekend's events came into focus during Sunday's solemn "funeral" procession. None seemed deterred by the police presence, or by the previous day's attempts by the U.S. Army to drown out the rally by blaring patriotic hymns from a crackling loudspeaker. The prayer vigil spoke loudly in its simplicity, as the names of the SOA's victims were remembered in the litany. With their presence, thousands of diverse consciences bore witness together, lest a legacy of human rights abuse linked to the SOA be buried in rhetoric or faded collective memory.

Even as the increasing size and momentum of this movement creates new challenges and internal obstacles to address, growth has also been its greatest strength. Through increased awareness of the atrocities committed by SOA graduates, and a broader critique of U.S. foreign policy, there is optimism that the bill to close and investigate the SOA—HR1258—may pass in Congress this spring. Citing an increase in congressional support for the bill, LeCompte remarked that, "With new partners like Amnesty International, United Auto Workers, the AFL-CIO, with church groups from around the country, and religious organizations, we believe that through a concerted lobbying effort we will be successful in bringing this school to a close."

There's still time to take action to close the SOA! If you haven't already, go to our action page and send a message to your congressperson asking them to

support HR1258, a bill that would close, investigate, and prevent the re-opening of the SOA.

Take action today at:

[http://go.sojo.net/campaign/close\\_the\\_SOA/8u77g84zjnk65t](http://go.sojo.net/campaign/close_the_SOA/8u77g84zjnk65t)

*Jesse Holcomb*

### **PHOTO EXHIBIT BY MARTY DRAPKIN**

Prairie member Marty Drapkin is having a photographic exhibit, "Mothers and Daughters," at the Madison Civic Center, 211 State Street, during January 2004. The exhibit features black-and-white photographs, including some of past and current Prairie folks. It will be at the Crossroads Gallery on the 3rd floor, between January 2nd and 30th.

### **YOU CAN ORDER UUSC HOLIDAY CARDS**

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee holiday cards are tremendously popular this year. Two of the four new designs are still available for consignment orders. Please contact Shari Yeaton at [syeaton@uusc.org](mailto:syeaton@uusc.org) or 617 868-6600, ext. 310, if you would like to purchase cards directly from UUSC.

### **NEW LGBT ESTATE PLANNING INFORMATION ON WEB SITE**

Protect your relationship and your rights... get all your ducks in a row! Check out a new Web site design for LGBT estate planning at [www.RainbowLaw.com](http://www.RainbowLaw.com)!

The new design is more informative, easier to navigate, and offers complex and difficult information...In Plain English!