



# 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 Bond of Union)

**April 23, 2004**

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

President: Ken Skog; (608) 273-4813

Editor: Dan Proud, prairieu@execpc.com; (608) 661-0776

## **PRAIRIE CALENDAR**

### **Friday, April 23 through Sunday, April 25**

Central Midwest District Assembly, Lisle, Illinois

### **Saturday, April 24**

☞ 12:00 noon. Memorial service for Timothy Fast at First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Drive

### **Sunday, April 25**

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal

☞ 10:00 a.m. "Rollback of Environmental Laws: An Inside Story," presented by Robert Martin, former EPA Ombudsman

☞ 11:45 a.m. Potluck and Annual Prairie Spring Business Meeting

### **April 25 - May 2**

☞ Prairie's shift with Interfaith Hospitality Network

### **Monday, April 26**

6:15 p.m. Potluck and WOW Program at Prairie

### **Tuesday, April 27**

Prairie cooks at men's drop-in shelter breakfast

### **Sunday, May 2**

☞ 10:00 a.m. "Caged Birds: Slavery in Today's World," facilitated by Pat Watkins

### **Sunday, May 9**

10:00 a.m. "Is My World Threatened by Islam?," presented by Bob Lawrence

### **Saturday, June 19**

☞ Prairie Bus Trip Fund Raiser to Milwaukee

☞ = Details follow in this issue.

## **DETAILS OF COMING EVENTS**

### **Sunday, April 25**

Robert Martin is the former EPA Ombudsman (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) whose resignation on Earth Day 2002 made national news. Martin served Presidents Bush, Clinton, and Bush. His presentation will give an insider's account of the ongoing rollback of major environmental laws. He will describe the major events that led to his resignation, with special attention to the efforts that prevented him from fulfilling his required duties to environmental protection and public health.

### **Sunday, May 2**

"Caged Birds: Slavery in Today's World" will be facilitated by Pat Watkins. On at least three occasions, the topic of modern slavery has been proposed to the UUA as a social action issue to come before the congregations in the parish polls. On none of those occasions has it made it onto the list to be voted upon at general assembly. However, in the past few years the topic has begun to receive a substantial amount of global attention.

We will look at the various kinds of slavery, where it is found, who is involved, and what kind of attention is being given to it by the media. Lastly, we will discuss what kind of efforts are being made to deal with it, and what we, as Unitarians can do to address it.

**Next Prairie Fire Deadline: May 2**

## OUR SOCIETY

### SPRING PARISH MEETING AGENDA

Prairie UU Society will hold its 2004 Spring Parish meeting on Sunday, April 25, after the Sunday program. The program and a potluck lunch will begin at 11:45 a.m.

The agenda, printed in full in the last Prairie Fire issue, includes the election of officers for 2004-2005. The nominees for the officers are:

President	Mike Briggs
Vice President	K.K. Anderson
Secretary	Dean Schroeder
Treasurer	Dirk Herr-Hoyman
Denominational Affairs	Mary Somers
Finance	Kathy Converse
Housing & Property	Larry Nahlik
Long Range Planning	Ken Skog
Membership	Dan Proud
Program	Doleta Chapru & Warren Hagstrom
Religious Education	Rachel Long & Brian Kuzdas
Social Action	Bob Park

### MEMORIAL SERVICE SCHEDULED

A memorial service for Timothy Fast, who died March 18, will be held on Saturday, April 24, at First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Drive, at 12 noon. It would have pleased Tim to know that friends from all parts of his life were gathering to honor his memory. Please join our family in a final farewell to a man we dearly loved.

*Rosemary Dorney*



### AUCTION ITEMS AVAILABLE

At the Prairie Annual Auction, five items were not bid on and were held in reserve. We will place a notice for silent auction on each item at the Prairie welcoming table for five Sundays. The items are child care and adult (respite) care.

If you are interested in more information on the child or respite care or want to bid and cannot attend Sunday services, contact Kathy Converse at [conversekrtm@msn.com](mailto:conversekrtm@msn.com) or 608-238-1856.

### PRAIRIE BUS TRIP FUNDRAISER JUNE 19

On Saturday, June 19, we will travel to the Rose Show at Boerner Gardens in Whitnall Park (and the peonies will probably still be in bloom), followed by lunch at Mader's German Restaurant in Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward. Then, it's off to the Milwaukee Public Museum for the I-Max film on Egypt, followed by the Egyptian exhibit "The Quest for Immortality: Treasures of Ancient Egypt" (audio guide included).

Price of the entire package and transportation is \$71 which is due no later than May 15th. For additional details, contact Pat at 233-5795.

## SOCIAL ACTION

### HOSPITABLE HEARTS

In 2004, Prairie will work with the Madison Interfaith Hospitality Network for four week-long shifts. This valuable agency helps families find homes and jobs. Prairie last volunteered in February and the next shift will be from Sunday, April 25 to Sunday, May 2. There are opportunities for both adults and children to be involved with this effort. Look for the sign-up board and information sheets at Prairie on Sundays.

Please contact Paula Pachciarz if you would like to volunteer or would like more information.

*From April 21 to May 2, the Baha'i observance of Ridvan commemorates the 12 days that Baha'u'llah spent in the garden of Ridvan during his exile in Baghdad. During this time he proclaimed himself as the one announced by the Bab. On the 1st, 9th, and 12th days of Ridvan, Baha'i followers suspend work.*

## **PROGRAM**

### **A POEM FOR OUR PLANET'S PEOPLE**

Bob Park will read this poem in the April 25 service.

#### ***The Planet is a Gift***

*by Dawn Shegonee*

In the womb of the universe  
Spins a circular egg  
It's the Mother Earth, the planet  
You travel near her  
Can you hear her many sounds?  
The cries of millions being murdered every second  
The people  
The screams of millions in fear every second  
The people  
Feel the pain to the womb  
Wars of violence  
The war machine

Travel to another place...

Can you see the many colors?  
Blue, green, yellow, black, red, purple, white  
The mother who gives us all nourishment  
From the water and the plants  
Such beauty and goodness  
The mountains  
The streams  
The birds  
The trees  
The peaceful, sacred places

Travel to another place...

Earthquakes, floods, pollution  
The mother is not in balance  
She is sick  
The spinning egg is underdeveloped  
It is immature  
Loss of nutrients  
Loss of oxygen  
The water is contaminated  
The blood nourishes the egg

Stillborn,

Not yet.

Remember...  
Responsibility,  
Respect, nurture, honor, bless  
Make peace, and forgive.

The planet is a gift.

*(Reproduced with permission from the Call For Peace Web site,  
[www.callforpeace.org/poem.html](http://www.callforpeace.org/poem.html))*

## **OFFICE HOURS FOR THE PRAIRIE OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR**

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

## **SHAAREI SHAMAYIM CALENDAR**

*Tuesdays 3:45 - 6:15 and Saturdays 8:45 - 1:15*

*Prairie Liaison:*

*Celeste Robins 249-5933 / [CelestialR@charter.net](mailto:CelestialR@charter.net)*

## **PRAIRIE WEB SITES**

*Prairie UU: [my.execpc.com/~prairieu/](http://my.execpc.com/~prairieu/)*

*PrairieNews Group:*

*<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/prairienews/>*

*PrairieViews Group:*

*<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/prairieviews/>*

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

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### **PRAIRIE DIRECTORY**

Changes:

Kim Truog

835-6397

[kimsjimt@inxpress.net](mailto:kimsjimt@inxpress.net)

### **MUUYACM SEEKS HELP GETTING TO GA**

MUUYACM (Madison Unitarian Universalist Young Adult and Campus Ministry) members are very excited to attend the upcoming General Assembly. However, many of us would benefit greatly from some financial support. We are looking for more financially established adults to sponsor MUUYACMers for GA.

If you are interested in helping a young adult experience GA by donating money, please contact Scott Prinster at [scottp@fusmadison.org](mailto:scottp@fusmadison.org).

Thank You!

*Lynn Ann Czarnecki*