



# 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)

**August 6, 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: Mike Briggs; (608) 835-0914

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

## PRAIRIE CALENDAR

### Sunday, August 8

☞ 10:00 a.m. "Looking Outward/Defining Our Strengths," presented by Kathy Converse and Sarah Lord.

### Saturday, August 14

1:30 p.m. Prairie Playreaders Organizational Potluck Lunch.

### Sunday, August 15

☞ 10:00 a.m. "Peace Like a River, Joy Like a Fountain," a musicale featuring Prairie musicians.  
11:45 a.m. The Prairie Book Club meets to discuss *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, by Azar Nafisi.

### Wednesday, August 18

7:30 p.m. Prairie Board Meeting

### Sunday, August 22

10:00 a.m. "How Far Can Reach a Smile?" presented by Judy Skog.

### Sunday, August 29

10:00 a.m. Intergenerational Game Day, led by Rick Ruecking and Erin Bosch

### Friday-Sunday, September 17-19

Annual Retreat, at Bethel Horizons

☞ = Details follow in this issue.

## **NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE: AUGUST 15**

## DETAILS OF COMING EVENTS

### Sunday, August 8

Kathy Converse and Sarah Lord returned to Prairie from General Assembly, loaded with thoughts and ideas on growth for small UU churches and youth programs; speaking out for social justice; and covenant groups. They will speak about these with the theme of looking outward as opposed to looking inward to achieve congregational goals.

### Sunday, August 15

Musicians young and old will share their talents and engage the audience in a celebratory service on the theme, "Peace Like a River, Joy Like a Fountain." Anticipate the unanticipated.

### Sunday, August 22

Are you feeling a little frayed regarding Prairie doings? Would you like to have a little fun without worrying about what's going to happen related to growth or to a building or a minister? We will play some games and share with each other, to build on the great community that we have at Prairie.

## OUR SOCIETY

### PROGRESS ON THE FITCHBURG SITE

Last March, our congregation voted to authorize Prairie's Board to designate a committee to negotiate a tentative agreement for the construction of a new meeting house at Fitchburg Center, and to choose an architect to design and help construct the meeting house.

The Board appointed the Ad hoc Committee on the Fitchburg Site to continue the work it had begun when it undertook fact-finding on the site last Winter. On Saturday, July 24th, the Committee took the significant step of choosing an architect.

We began at 8:00 a.m. and interviewed teams of architects all day at two-hour intervals. The firms that were invited to interview were: J. Kimber Architecture of Taliesin; Architecture Network, Inc.; Strang Architects; and BWZ Architects of Middleton. Prairie was represented by Larry Nahlik, KK Anderson, Norma Briggs, Anne Urbanski, and John Peterson. Mike Briggs sat in at the end of the day, and helped the Committee to “see the forest among the trees.”

The interviews were somewhat free-ranging, though we asked each team of architects many of the same questions, for example:

- How will you work to gain acceptance of your design by an independent-minded congregation?
- Having seen the Fitchburg Center site, how will you take advantage of the setting in your design?
- Describe Prairie UU Society to us.
- How much will initial schematic drawings cost?

At the end of each session, the committee members politely dismissed each group, and rated them using the interview evaluation form from the Qualifications-based Selection manual recommended by the American Institute of Architecture.

The interviews seemed to get better as the day progressed. In the end, BWZ edged out Strang by 3.5 points out of a possible 175. We found Strang's representatives to be enthusiastic, even passionate, about the project, and very familiar with Fitchburg Center's design standards.

In the final analysis, however, we chose BWZ. They propose an innovative idea for a “green roof,” that is a rooftop garden and community space, with tremendous potential for energy savings. Here we might emphasize that their idea is just an idea at this stage, with reviews by Prairie folk and the Fitchburg Center Design Committee in the near future. While the Ad hoc Committee realizes we might never see the partially-underground design built, we gave BWZ high marks for creativity and vision.

Next steps: We will introduce BWZ Architects to the owners and administrators of Fitchburg Center. We will organize sessions for Prairie Board

members and committees to meet with the architects to discuss their needs and desires in a new building. We will organize listening sessions for the whole congregation. We will turn our attention to negotiating the terms of a land purchase agreement with Fitchburg Center.

*Larry Nahlik*

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### SUMMER SPREE

Our first ever RE Summer Spree for high school and middle school youth was a spectacular success! I attended Friday night, where the festivities began with checking out the Friendship Center facilities and beautiful grounds, along with a meeting where the youth decided how to spend their weekend.

After the Herr-Hoymans delivered a pizza dinner, Erin Bosch, Mei-Lien, and I led several games to build comfort and create community with one another. Several youth built a campfire, and everyone gathered there for music, with Carl Wacker on guitar.



On Saturday I wasn't able to be there, but according to Paula Pachciarz, there was quite an experience with some gluten-free pancake mix in the morning. After breakfast there was a scavenger hunt designed by Paula, which culminated in judges awarding one of the scavenger hunt teams with a delicious carrot cake to share, baked by Kathy Nutter.

In the afternoon, it was off to the beach at Governor Dodge, where numerous people were buried in the sand or covered in pudding during the “pudding game.” Erin Bosch was also on hand leading some awesome games and they had perfect swimming weather!

That night at the campfire, jokes were shared for hours and the campers cooked up some S'mores.



Photos by Carl Wacker



Sunday morning after breakfast and a spectacular clean-up job, Rachel Long gathered everyone for a group circle and picture. Then it was back to Prairie, after a weekend dubbed by Paula as “sensational” and by Judy Wacker as “continuous fun!”

*Melissa Gjestvang-Lucky, DRE*

## MEMBERSHIP

Updates:

Mike and Norma Briggs  
[briggslaw@earthlink.com](mailto:briggslaw@earthlink.com)

George and Ruth Calden  
[georu2@tds.net](mailto:georu2@tds.net)

## PROGRAM

### **SUPERCALIFRAGILISTICEXPALIDOCIOUS!**

It's not too late for musicians to join the musical program on Sunday, August 15. Please contact Doleta Chapru (238-4970).

## LETTERS

### **SUMMER SPREE**

WE DID IT! And, we were all still smiling at the end!



Great job everybody—THANKS for making this happen.



Photo by Carl Wacker

Special thanks to—

- Rachel for having the vision in the first place and getting the whole thing started
- Susan & Dirk for planning the menus, buying the food, and helping with ALL the meals!
- Paula for organizing the scavenger hunt & Kathy for bringing the grand prize
- Erin for leading games at Governor Dodge and Friendship Center
- Brian for generally helping keep things under control
- Dave & Gretchen Pearson for their hospitality

And of course, thanks also to Melissa for helping with planning, leading games Friday evening, and organizing the "pudding game," which was a great success!

And of course, all the Prairie kids and friends for being such great campers!

Give yourselves a pat on the back—you helped make the first ever Prairie UU Summer Spree a success!



*Carl Wacker*



## NEW BOOK ON THE HISTORICAL JUDAS

To the UU congregations in Wisconsin,

My name is Dan Unterbrink, and I have written a book on Judas the Galilean. This book details the amazing coincidences in the lives of Judas and Jesus, using the letters of Paul, the Gospels and the histories of Josephus, Tacitus and Suetonius. These coincidences are so numerous and striking that the reader will wonder why this historical period (4 BC - 19 AD) has never been adequately explored before. For example, a Barabbas prisoner release occurred right after the death of Herod the Great, in 4 BC. Herod's son, Archelaus, released Judas and others to appease the crowd. More details of the book are detailed on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com) and [www.iuniverse.com](http://www.iuniverse.com).

If you have any questions concerning the book, please feel free to e-mail me at [unterbrink7@copper.net](mailto:unterbrink7@copper.net).

Thank you for your consideration,  
*Dan Unterbrink*  
*Delaware, Ohio*

## NEW DOCUMENTARY FILM: "POETRY IN WARTIME"

(Release date: September 2004)

*We weren't going out and causing harm to people because we wanted to. It was just, the more efficiently, the faster, the better aim we had while killing people, more likely the faster we'd get to go home, which is what we wanted to do.—US Army Lt. Paul Mysliwiec, returned from Iraq in 2003.*

*Poetry in Wartime* is a new feature-length documentary film designed to expand your imagination, deepen your compassion, and change the way the world thinks and talks about war. The film explores war through images and the words of poets—both unknown and famous—to bring the experience of war into a sharp focus that inspires horror, sadness, a passionate quest for truth, and a profound sense of hope. The film presents poets from countries and conflicts around the world—from Iraq to the US and the UK, from India, Nigeria, and Colombia to Vietnam.

The film offers a broad diversity of voices—warriors and civilians, victims and veterans, journalists and historians, immigrants, refugees, and activists. It includes poets from Iraq and the current Poets

Against the War movement as well as ancient Sumerian priestess Enheduanna and Homer, Emily Dickinson, Langston Hughes, Walt Whitman, Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon, and survivors of Hiroshima.

What you can do:

1. Learn more about the film: <http://www.voicesinwartime.org/voicesinwartime/Film/PoetryInWartime.aspx>
2. Ask your local library or community center to schedule a special advance screening—especially on 9/11: <http://www.voicesinwartime.org/voicesinwartime/Film/septemberproject/septemberproject.aspx>

Thanks for your help in telling millions of people about one of the most important films of the year.  
Yours,

*Andrew Himes*  
*Executive producer of Poetry in Wartime*

## DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

### JOB OPENING FOR YOUNG ADULT PROGRAM COORDINATOR

First Unitarian Society is calling for applicants for a 1/3-time Program Coordinator for Young Adult and Campus Ministry. Job details are posted at: [www.fusmadison.org/adult/YACoordinator.shtml](http://www.fusmadison.org/adult/YACoordinator.shtml)

Feel free to contact Rev. Scott Prinster at [scottp@fusmadison.org](mailto:scottp@fusmadison.org) or at 233-9774 x24 for more information.

### UU OPENINGS IN WAUSAU

**Director of Religious Education:** 20-25 hrs/wk  
Requirements: Bachelors Degree or equivalent; excellent computer software and communication skills; instructional experience; ability to recruit, manage and direct a volunteer and paid staff; ability to work with children and adults; develop and implement a religious education curriculum.

Send resume and references **by Aug. 15** to:  
First Universalist Unitarian Church, P.O. Box 1448,  
Wausau, WI 54402-1448.  
Email: [Kathy@uuwausau.org](mailto:Kathy@uuwausau.org)

**Paid Nursery Care Provider:** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.,  
Sundays, Sept. 12 through June 12, 2005.  
Requirements: Prior child care. Send resume and  
references **by Aug. 15** to: First Universalist  
Unitarian Church, PO Box 1448, Wausau, WI  
54402-1448. Email: [Kathy@uuwausau.org](mailto:Kathy@uuwausau.org)

**Music Coordinator:** 10-month position, approx. 10  
hrs/wk. Coordinate Sunday music, develop new  
music programs. Must work cooperatively and be  
familiar with various musical styles. Piano/organ /  
choir skills a plus but not required. Could be  
combined with organist and choir director duties.  
Total job description from the email  
[Kathy@uuwausau.org](mailto:Kathy@uuwausau.org). Send resume and references  
**by Aug 15** to: First Universalist Unitarian Church,  
PO Box 1448, Wausau, WI 54402-1448

### **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS EXTENDED FOR REEB RE COORDINATOR**

The deadline has been extended to August 15 for  
receiving applications for Religious Education  
Coordinator at James Reeb Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation.

#### **Position Description:**

1. Attend JRUUC on Sundays.
2. Coordinate parent volunteers for classroom.
3. Sunday orientation of RE to new families.
4. Communicate with parents and teachers.
5. Track attendance of the RE program.
6. Convene and attend the RE committee monthly.
7. Problem-solve issues that arise on Sundays.
8. Coordinate work with office/professional staff.

#### **Qualifications:**

1. Good organizational skills
2. Good communication skills with adults & kids.
3. Ability to work well with staff.
4. Child Development or Ed background desirable.

#### **Hours and Pay:**

Approximately 4 hrs/wk x 3 wks/mo x 10 mo/yr  
Stipend: \$120 month for 10 months

#### **How to Apply:**

To apply, send a letter of interest **by August 15** to  
[Jruuc@terracon.net](mailto:Jruuc@terracon.net) or to:

James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
Attention: RE Committee  
2146 E Johnson Street, Madison, WI 53704

~~~~~  
Friday, August 9, marks the beginning of Fravardeghan  
Days, or Muktdad (memorializing ancestors), in the  
Zoroastrian religion. The ensuing 10 days lead to  
Nowruz, the start of the New Year for those who follow  
the Shenshai calendar.  
~~~~~

### **PRAIRIE OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR HOURS**

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

### **SHAAREI SHAMAYIM CALENDAR**

*Saturdays 8:45 a.m.–1:15 p.m.*

*Prairie Liaison: Celeste Robins 249–5933*

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD**

*[You can find more about these announcements on  
the information table in the fellowship hall.]*

Saturday, August 21. Returning Prisoner  
Simulations, MUM, 2300 South Park St., middle of  
Villager Mall. Donations asked: \$15 adults/\$8 teens.  
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### **UUSC E-MAIL BULLETIN**

---

*The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee: advancing human  
rights and social justice in the United States and throughout the  
world.*

---

### **International pressure is needed to end humanitarian disaster in Sudan**

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is  
appalled at recent reports of ethnic cleansing in  
Darfur, Sudan against the Fur, Masalit and Zaghawa  
peoples. The Sudanese government backed by the  
Janjaweed Arab militia, has been accused of carrying  
out a systematic and deliberate campaign of terror  
against civilians in this western region of Sudan, on  
the border of Chad. The United Nations has  
described the current crisis in Darfur as "the world's  
greatest humanitarian disaster."

For more information, including action items on  
what you can do to help, visit:

<http://www.uusc.org/info/article071604.html>

\*\*\*\*\*

## **UUSC puts the spotlight on human rights at General Assembly**

UUSC members and supporters participated in many exciting events at the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association, held this year in Long Beach, Calif. Among the GA highlights were a presentation from Burmese pro-democracy activist, Ka Hsaw Wa, who spoke about the long history of human rights abuses he has documented that have taken place under the ruling military regime in his native country.

UUSC also sponsored a resolution that was approved by General Assembly delegates that puts the spotlight on the multinational corporation Unocal for human rights abuses committed by the Burmese military during the company's construction of a natural gas pipeline.

For a photo essay about UUSC's events at General Assembly, visit:

<http://www.uusc.org/info/article070904.html>

UUSC's top awards for outstanding social activism and commitment to principles that promote human rights and social justice were presented at General Assembly. To read more about the recipients, visit: <http://www.uusc.org/info/article062604.html>

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Support the growth of democracy in Burma**

UUSC and its colleague organization, EarthRights International, have been working together to defend the Alien Tort Claims Act (ATCA), a law which enables U.S. multinational corporations to be held accountable for the roles they have played in human rights violations in Burma and elsewhere around the world. On behalf of EarthRights, we are sending a message to our members and supporters about a way they can support democracy in Burma. By participating in an EarthRights Round-Up party, UUSC members and supporters can help EarthRights raise money for their lawsuit against U.S. company Unocal for abuses committed while constructing a gas pipeline in Burma, as well as for Earthrights' work to defend the ATCA.

For more information about the Round-Up program, visit <http://earthrights.org/sept20roundup>

This year, at General Assembly, participants selected UUSC's petition on the Alien Tort Claims Act for an

Action of Immediate Witness. To learn more about this, visit [www.uusc.org/info/article070104.html](http://www.uusc.org/info/article070104.html).

\*\*\*\*\*

## **India elections signal positive changes for UUSC partners**

The stunning victory of the secular Congress party during recent elections in India dealt a blow to the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) that was welcomed by all progressive and secular forces in the country.

UUSC's partners in India report that it will be liberating for the minorities and oppressed people with whom they work. In addition, voting in this surprising election was all done electronically -- no small feat in the world's largest democracy.

To learn more about the recent elections in India, visit: <http://www.uusc.org/info/article072904.html>

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Youth and young adults can defend democracy at summer workcamp**

Youth and young adults: let your voice be heard during this crucial election year! There are still some openings for participants in our Defending Democracy workcamp from Aug. 29 to Sept. 3. Held in New York City to coincide with the Republican National Convention, this is a great opportunity for those who want to get involved in election-related activism. So far this year, dozens of youths have worked with UUSC to learn more about how to get involved in this year's election. You can, too!

For more information, visit

[http://www.uusc.org/news/v3b\\_flyer\\_WEB.pdf](http://www.uusc.org/news/v3b_flyer_WEB.pdf)

\*\*\*\*\*

## **PRAIRIE WEB SITES**

*Prairie UU Society:*

<http://prairie.madison.uua.org/~prairie/>

*Prairie News Group:*

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

*Prairie Views Group:*

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

*Social Action:*

<http://loonfoot.com/prsac/FILES/home.htm>