"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."  (Bond of Union)

March 25, 2005

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

President: Mike Briggs (608) 835-0914

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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

Sunday, April 17

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal

*T0:00 a.m. "Wisconsin Democracy Campaign" with Michael McCabe

* 11:45 a.m. Book Club discussion of The Murder Room

(* = Details follow in this issue.)

NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE: APRIL 3

DETAILS OF COMING PROGRAMS

Sunday, March 27

Our Easter Sunday program is entitled, "Celebrating Easter in Poetry and Prose." We welcome Prairie adults to come share poetry and prose about the Easter season that have particular meaning to each reader. Keeping our UU Principles in mind, we will create a potpourri of thought-provoking, whimsical, spiritual, secular, or amusing literary gems reflecting the rich diversity of our Prairie family. Prairie writers are welcome to bring their own creations. Rose Smith will present a children's story and facilitate the adult readings, interspersed by congregational singing and special music.

To add a visual treat, bring your favorite Easter symbols. We anticipate a colorful display of fascinating items that never fail to emerge from Prairie members' attics, basements, closets and shelves.
People interested in going out to lunch afterward, please check with local restaurants to see what options are available.

Sunday, April 3

This Sunday morning is the last in the lay ministry "The Role of the Arts in Healing and Spiritual Growth". Orange Schroeder concludes this stimulating series with a guest presenter, Mr. Hanah Jon Taylor or Ms. Susan Fox, from the Midwest Center for Creative and Cultural Arts.

Sunday, April 10

This morning’s service will feature reknown scientist, Dr. Richard J. Davidson, on “Science, Meditation, and Happiness”. Dr. Davidson will be presenting the findings of his research with Buddhist monks and novice meditators and discussing the role that meditation may play in promoting emotional well-being.

Dr. Davidson is the William James and Vilas Research Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry and Director of the Waisman Laboratory for Brain Imaging and Behavior at the UW Madison. He received his Ph.D. From Harvard University in Psychology in 1976 and has been at the UW since 1984. Dr. Davidson is internationally reknown for his research in neural substrates of emotion and emotional disorders. He is the recipient of numerous awards for his research including the most prestigious award given by the American Psychological Association for lifetime achievement – The Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award. In 2003 he was elected to the Acadamey of Arts and Sciences and in 2004 was inducted into the Wisc. Academy of Science, Arts and Letters.

Dr. Davidson’s insights will be put into immediate practice as we emulate his esteemed subjects in the conduct of the Spring Business Meeting following this service.

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**OUR SOCIETY**

**HEAR YE! HEAR YE!**

The Spring Parish Meeting of the Prairie UU Society will be held Sunday, April 10 after the service and will include a potluck lunch. Business will include elections, reports of the committees including the ad hoc ministerial and building committees, and the congregation will vote on a Board decision to purchase land in Fitchburg.

Nominations for the 2005-2006 Board include:

- **President** Mike Briggs
- **Vice-President** KK Anderson
- **Secretary** Kim Trog
- **Treasurer** Dirk Herr-Hoyman
- **Denominational Affairs** Larry Nahlid
- **Finance** Norma Briggs
- **Steve Vorass**
- **Housing & Property** Ron Hornbeck
- **Long Range Planning** Ken Skog
  co-chair needed
- **Membership** Rick Ruecking
- **Program** Susan Herr-Hoyman
- **Religious Education** Rachel Long
- **Paula Pachciarz**
- **Social Action** Sarah Lord
- **Corrine Hornbeck**

**PRAIRIE BOOK CLUB MEETS APRIL 17**

The Prairie Book Club meets at Prairie on April 17, starting about 11:45 a.m. We will discuss *The Murder Room*, by P.D. James. Follow the adventures of Commander Adam Dalgliesh, the detective working on cases of murder done in an art museum in London that seem to parallel crimes featured in a museum gallery called The Murder Room. See reviews at http://wwwreviewsofbooks.com/murder_room/

**Future books and dates:**

- May 15, *The Master Butcher’s Singing Club* by Louis Eldrich
- June 12, *Maybe Baby* by Tenaya Darlington
- July ?, *Red Gold* by Allan Furst
- *Mary Mullen*
'PRAIRIE NEEDS YOU!

The Spring Parish Meeting is coming soon, Sunday, April 10, and with it comes opportunities to bring your ideas and energy to keep Prairie vital and to expand our horizons.

The standing committees in Prairie have need for more volunteers to serve the committee functions. Please help.

- **Social Action Committee**
  Keeps Prairie members aware of social action activities, both UU and in the larger community.

- **Housing and Property**
  Many hands make short work. Note: this committee has room and a ladder for you.

- **Finance**
  The yearly pledge drive and other fund-raising activities are essential to carry out Prairie's mission.

- **Denominational Affairs**
  Meet and connect with other UUs in the Central Midwest District and continental UUA.

- **Membership**
  Help us greet newcomers and build a greater community. Directory editors will be needed.

- **Long Range Planning**
  A chance to use your brain while you socialize.

- **Program**
  Opportunities to direct and improve the adult services. Another brainstorm for the creative.

- **Religious Education**
  The youths in Prairie need your talents and guidance to assure they have fun and wholesome experiences. Ask any teacher about their experiences with this great group of kids; worthy of a small sacrifice.

- **Lay Ministries**
  This is what makes Prairie unique in religious experiences. We depend upon the knowledge, talent, skill, and creativity of 100 bright people to challenge our thinking and enrich our lives.

Contact the Committee on Committees to join:
Mary Mullen          KK Anderson
Rick Ruecking        Norma Briggs
Susan Hagstrom

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

As a part of the March 20 service, Prairie youth presented a very cute skit for the Spring Equinox. Thanks to all the fantastic actors: Judy – Ostara, Goddess of Spring; Kulani and Miko – rosebushes; Leif, butterfly; Daren and Maya, spring youths; Noah, bird/rabbit; and Toby, fox.
On April 3, we will vote on the organization for our social action fundraising walk of April 17. The older kids and teens will walk to raise money while the younger kids clean-up the neighborhood and then PLAY in the park.

April 23-24 is our Spring Fling overnight. Mark your calendars to attend if you are in RE! We could use more adult volunteers.

In Peace, Melissa Gjestvang-Lucky

PROGRAM

IDEAS SOUGHT
Ideas for programs on topics of spirituality are sought by the Program Committee. Contact Warren Hagstrom or Doleta Chapru (238-4970).

Lay ministries are needed to provide a 4- to 6-week series during the 2005-2006 program year. The Program Committee then schedules these presentations in coordination with other single Sunday service programs and monthly presentations that we are anticipating will be provided by a part-time minister. Do you have an idea for a series to inspire the congregation to thought and action?

PRAIRIE WEB SITES
Society Home Page: prairie.madison.uua.org
News Group: groups.yahoo.com/group/prairienews/
Views Group: groups.yahoo.com/group/prairieviews/
Social Action: socialaction.homestead.com
Humanist Union: http://humanist.madisonwi.us
Long Range Planning Committee: www.execpc.com/~prairie/ planning (no space)
FRAMING OUR VALUES IS TOPIC OF BOOK DISCUSSION AND TRAINING

A discussion of the widely acclaimed book, *don't think of an elephant – know your values and frame the debate: the essential guide for progressives* by George Lakoff, will be held on **Monday, March 28**, in FUS West Living Room from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. If you want to talk about the ideas in this important new book about how progressives and liberals can better frame our values, this discussion is for you. Alan Knox will facilitate the discussion. Please let Joy Knox (e-mail lj Knox@chorus.net or call 831-0021) know if you plan on coming. If possible, please read the book first. It is a short paperback and reads very quickly. A 25-minute summary video will be shown first. There is no charge for this event; refreshments will be served.

On **Wednesday, March 23**, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., a "training" on how to use the ideas in the book will be held at the Social Justice Center at 1202 Williamson St. (across the street from the Willy St. Coop). A staff member of WI Citizen Action from Milwaukee will help us practice using a values approach to talking about what we wish our government to be. This will also be offered free of charge. For more details, information, and registration, please email Sharon Barbour (Reeb UU church) at sharbarb@yahoo.com


FUS LIBRARY AVAILABLE TO AREA UU’S

The FUS Library Committee would like to more formally share its resources with all area Unitarian Universalists.

The library hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and during weekend church services (4:30 p.m. on Saturday and 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. on Sunday). The checkout procedure consists of a 4-week self checkout (written procedures are posted in the library).

Thank you, in the spirit of cooperation, Ann Smiley, FUS Library Committee chairperson

HUMANISTS DISCUSS ETHICAL CULTURE

On April 3rd the Humanist Union will discuss the Ethical Culture movement led by Bridget and Thomas Doxtater. The Doxtaters were members of the Ethical Humanist Society of Greater Chicago, which is a member of the American Ethical Union. The AEU web site http://www.aeu.org states “Ethical culture is a humanist religious and educational movement inspired by the ideal that the supreme aim of human life is working to create a more humans society.” The meeting will start with a light lunch at noon. Participants bring sandwiches or finger foods to pass. The discussion will end at about 1:30 p.m.

FRIDAY NOON MUSICALES

First Unitarian Society 12:15 – 1 p.m.

April 1 – The Centraline Trio

April 8 – Nils Bulthmann, viola

April 15 – Beethoven, Chopin, Couperin, Ligeti, Liszt, Xchristina Naughton, piano

✓ April 22 – Tunes from 20’s and 40’s

April 29 – Handel, Spohr and more... Kay Frazier, Tamara Brognoano, Eva Wright and more players.

IN MEMORIAM

Today, news of the death,

Leave taking of a friend, arrived.

My own fire-grief burns – enkindles.

On evening’s foehead, the sun places

A blood gleaming sign,

changes the night’s face to gold

Just as death dresses me with a burning flame

At the western edge of life”

By R. Tagore, March 26, 1941