



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." (Bond of Union)

June 24, 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

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PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Sunday, June 26

*10:00 a.m. "And So, How Are the Children?" led by Peggy Haack and Cindy Rudd

Tuesday, June 28

*5:00 a.m. Prairie volunteers serve breakfast at men's shelter, Grace Episcopal Church
*2:00 p.m. Prairie Elders meet at Oakwood Village West

Wednesday, June 29

6:30 p.m. Midweek Meal @ Prairie

Sunday, July 3

*10:00 a.m. Independence Day Picnic at the home of Galen and Rose Smith.

Wednesday, July 6

6:30 p.m. Midweek Meal @ Prairie

Sunday, July 10

*10:00 a.m. "UU Team Trivia" intergenerational service
11:30 a.m. Prairie Board meeting at Prairie

Sunday, July 10 to Sunday, July 17

*IHN week: Prairie hosts homeless families at Midvale Lutheran Church

Wednesday, July 13

6:30 p.m. Midweek Meal @ Prairie

NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE: SUNDAY, JULY 3

Sunday, July 17

10:00 a.m. "Spirituality Without God," presented by the Rev. Sarah Oelberg
*11:45 a.m. Prairie Book Club discusses *Red-Gold* by Allen Furst, at Prairie

Wednesday, July 20

6:30 p.m. Midweek Meal @ Prairie
*6:30 p.m. Spanish Speakers meet at the home of Amy Schulz, 2304 S. Syene Rd.

Thursday, July 21

*6:00 p.m. Prairie WOW meets for potluck and program at Prairie.

(* = Details follow in this issue.)

DETAILS OF COMING PROGRAMS

Sunday, June 26

In "And So, How Are the Children?" we pay tribute to young children and envision the world we want to create for them. Presenters are Peggy Haack and Cindy Rudd, active members of the James Reeb Congregation, and childcare providers in Madison.

Sunday, July 3

Rose and Galen Smith host the Independence Day picnic at their house, 218 DuRose Terrace, 3 blocks east of Midvale and a block south of Regent in Madison. Bring food to share and your own beverages, eating utensils, plates and cups. Activities will include hikes in Hoyt Park and hanging out on the Smiths' deck.

Sunday, July 10

How much do you know about people, places, and things associated with UU history? Not much? That's okay, because you will have teammates to share their knowledge. Come for fun, fellowship, and an education. All ages are welcome at this program of learning about our denomination through play!

OUR SOCIETY

MEN'S SHELTER BREAKFAST PROVIDES CRUCIAL AID

Did you know that the men at the downtown shelter at Grace Episcopal rarely get a hot breakfast? Prairie is one of the few volunteer groups that provides a complete breakfast. The men at the shelter appreciate and look forward to our scrambled eggs with turkey bacon, cheddar cheese, and green peppers, along with the juice and cereal we supply.

Prairie has been providing this service for at least 15 years. You can help continue the tradition by helping out at the next shelter breakfast the morning of Tuesday, June 28. You may contribute by purchasing and delivering the groceries next Monday (paid for by the Social Action Committee), or by cooking and serving the food on Tuesday morning (you must be there by 5 a.m.). Please contact Paula Pachciarz (273-4806 or pachwack (at) sbcglobal.net) if you would like to volunteer.

Paula Pachciarz

[*Note: to protect individuals from Web hooligans, for our e-mail addresses we substitute (at) for @ and insert spaces. —Ed.*]

PRAIRIE ELDERS WILL MEET JUNE 28

Prairie Elders meets Tuesday, June 28 at 2:00 p.m. in the second floor activity room of the Oaks Building at Oakwood Village West. Latecomers are always welcome. If convenient, please bring a few cookies, fruit, cheese, crackers, etc. Beverages will be furnished.

Discussion Topic: Accumulated trash and treasures: how will we, did we, deal with it all?

Experienced downsizers among our sixty-five-plus bunch, please come share your wisdom and the joys of being stuff-free. Those still pondering the future of the scarf Grandma Minnie brought back from the Columbia Exposition or your baby teeth your mother kept wrapped in an embroidered hanky, please come with questions. Folks who never accumulated stuff in the first place or plan to leave its fate to the younguns, come anyway to share good times and offer the group's packrats some moral support. We will begin with brief tips from the experts, then open the floor for questions, discussion and casual conversation.

Parking near the Oaks Building is limited. For additional parking, follow the entry road to the top of the hill and turn right. Ask a receptionist in one of the buildings for the best way to walk back. People unable to walk that distance should be dropped off at the Oaks.

At our May gathering, fifteen participants, including newcomers and well-tanned snowbirds, shared knowledge of aging in other cultures. Topics ranged from caretaking responsibilities of Korean daughters-in-law to historic land liens protecting seniors in Wisconsin.

We will continue meeting monthly throughout the summer. Contacts: Donna Murdoch 260-8551, Rosemary Dorney 238-4382, Doleta Chapru 238-4970.

Doleta Chapru

IHN STILL NEEDS OUR HELP

Last month, May 15, some of you may have noticed the beautiful flowers that graced our meeting hall. Those flowers were from the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) in appreciation for our participation in its vital service to the homeless families in Madison.

Our next shift as buddy church to Midvale Lutheran's role as host will be July 10 to July 17. There are multiple ways in which you may help out that week. You may prepare part of a meal, share a meal, play with the kids, stay overnight, provide transportation, etc. You are welcome to volunteer without having had training, but IHN urges volunteers to attend a training session as soon as possible. These are scheduled throughout the year.

To sign up for a volunteer task next month, or for a training session, please contact Paula Pachciarz (273-4806 or pachwack (at) sbcglobal.net).

Paula Pachciarz

BOOK CLUB MEETS SUNDAY, JULY 17

The Prairie Book Club meets on Sunday, July 17 to discuss *Red-Gold* by Allen Furst.

We meet on Sundays after the Prairie service. Bring food to share. Even if you haven't read the entire book, you are welcome to come for the discussion.

Mary Mullen

SPANISH SPEAKERS EAT, SPEAK, AND BE MERRY ON JULY 20

If your Spanish is a little rusty or if you are just looking for an opportunity to trill some R's, come on out to the monthly Spanish Speakers potluck and meeting on Wednesday, July 20, at 6:30 p.m. This month it will take place at the home of Amy Schulz, 2304 South Syene Road. Her telephone number is 273-2639, or call Rosemary Dorney (238-4382) for more information.

WILD OUTSTANDING WOMEN SET FOR JULY 21

Hi everyone, the women of Prairie WOW will meet Thursday, July 21, at 6 p.m. for a potluck supper. We decided to meet this summer and, those of you who teach or have winter commitments, please try to join us and bring a friend. You do not need to be a member of Prairie to come. Mark your calendars for July 21.

Mary Somers

ROOMMATE NEEDED

Have apartment, need a roommate. Any age, gender, or ethnic or religious background is acceptable. Please call Phoenix at 271-8365.

ARCHIVIST NEEDED

Prairie is currently without an archivist, and records keep propagating! If you are interested in collecting and organizing artifacts that will make up the history of our Society, please contact Mike Briggs (835-0914) or K.K. Anderson (255-3596).

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.madisonwi.us

Humanist Union: <http://humanist.madisonwi.us>

Long Range Planning Committee:

www.execpc.com/~prairieu/planning (no space)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Hello, Everyone!

Does anyone have copies of the "In Our Hands" Social Justice curricula for any of the grades? We are missing a lot of copies and the RE Committee thought that past teachers may still have their copies. Please let me know if you find one!

Are you interested in creative conflict resolution? How about giving kids and teens positive and accurate messages about sexuality? We are still looking for teachers for next year's RE program!

The curricula next year will focus on Social Justice and we will also be using the OWL sexuality curricula for some classes. All of the UU curricula give easy-to-follow lesson plans and instructions for teachers, and there is definitely room for creativity if you are so inclined. If you like kids and/or teens and are able to commit to being at Prairie for some Sundays, please consider teaching RE! This is an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our youth and give them some positive tools to create social change.

The number of Sundays that you teach is flexible. It could be two a month for part or all of the year, or a block of consecutive Sundays.

Please contact me at 236-0196 or at [m_a_gl \(at\) att.net](mailto:m_a_gl@att.net).

The Religious Education year is officially over, so there won't be classes until late September (we'll know the exact start date soon), but kids can still have fun downstairs at Prairie during the service. Isha will be providing childcare for kids twelve and under. Isha is in high school and has been doing childcare downstairs for the last few months and does a fantastic job! We will have a second person to help with childcare if necessary.

I will be leaving a simple snack for children to share and some fun activities for different age groups to do together. Activities may be outside, weather permitting. Please let me know if you have any other suggestions.

I hope your family has a great time at Prairie over the summer! In peace,

Melissa Gjestvang-Lucky, RE Director

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR UU-UNO FALL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Application Deadline: 1 July 2005

The UU-UNO is now accepting applications for their Fall Internship Program. The term of placement is from early September through late December 2005. During that time, candidates should be available to work 2-4 days a week.

Those accepted for the position will:

- Gain entry to meetings and events at UN Headquarters, and report relevant information back to the office
- Research and write on a topic related the UU-UNO Program Initiatives (such as the Millennium Development Goals or UN reform)
- Write for the newsletter, *Window on the World*
- Contribute to the day-to-day office expenses

For details on how to apply, please visit <http://www.uu-uno.org/>.

The UU-UNO is an Associate Member Organization of the Unitarian Universalist Association and supported by direct contribution from Unitarian Universalist women and men, congregations, and youth, women's and men's groups.

SUMMER WOMANSPRIT RETREAT

The Central Midwest District (CMWD) Women and Religion Committee is pleased to announce the 12th annual summer retreat at Camp Ronora in southwest Michigan, August 5-7, 2005.

Summer WomanSpirit at Camp Ronora provides a time and a place to connect with the elements of land, sky, fire, and water, as well as with each other, and with our inner selves. As we play and dance under the sun, moon and stars, we synchronize with

the Dance of the Universe. We acknowledge our power and worth, and the power and worth of all. We find and become the joy of creation.

Registration and brochures are available online at www.womenandreligion.org. We offer a special maiden program for girls 7-16 and childcare for younger children.

For more information, call (269) 369-1114.

INVITATION TO JOIN UU GROUP, AMERICANS FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Americans for Religious Liberty was founded in 1982 by UU and other liberal religious leaders to help counter the theocratic political agendas of the Religious Right. Heading ARL since 1982 is Edd Doerr (one of my former parishioners in Indianapolis), author of the 1982 UUA General Assembly resolution on "Public Education, Religious Liberty and the Separation of Church and State" (see text below). Edd is a long-time UU and a member of River Road Unitarian Church in Bethesda, Maryland. He has spoken in over 100 UU pulpits in 32 states and is one of the founding board members of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, supported by the UUA.

ARL exists to further the values expressed in the 1982 resolution, which are shared by Americans of many religious traditions.

You are encouraged to familiarize yourself with ARL and its work by checking out its Web site, www.arlinc.org. It contains the texts of ARL's most recent newsletters and other material that may be useful to you and your congregation. ARL publishes the highly regarded Voice of Reason newsletter and has produced more books in the religious liberty field than any other group.

As ARL is built on core UU values, you are invited to join ARL or subscribe to ARL's newsletter. Either is only \$25 per year. A donation of \$50 or more will get you a one-year membership, with newsletter, plus a copy of Forrest Church's great new Beacon Press book, *The Separation of Church and State: Writings on a Fundamental Freedom by America's Founders*. See ARL's Web site for a membership form.

Jack Mendelsohn, Unitarian Universalist Association

OTHER NEWS

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES URGES GRASSROOTS CAMPAIGN TO END THE WAR

From the NCC News Service (an arm of the National Council of Churches)

New York, June 16, 2005 – The National Council of Churches USA has welcomed bi-partisan legislation introduced in Congress today urging President Bush “to announce a plan for the withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Iraq by the end of the year.”

Rep. Walter Jones (R-N.C.) and Rep. Neil Abercrombie (D-Hawaii) introduced the legislation.

NCC General Secretary Bob Edgar urged churches to participate in a grassroots campaign to encourage members of Congress to support the resolution.

“The development of an exit strategy for Iraq is long overdue,” Edgar said. “It is time for the Administration to inform the American people as to when we will leave this war-torn country. While we are pleased that this legislation has been introduced, we call on all people of faith to contact their Members of Congress and urge them to pass it.”

In a recent op-ed piece sent to U.S. media, Edgar and two other peace activists stressed the importance of a resolution that clarifies U.S. policy on when the war will end.

“It is of the utmost importance for the U.S. Congress to make this official. A declaration would ease growing concerns about U.S. imperial ambitions in the region and fears that the U.S. desires to secure the region’s oil fields against the growing energy appetites of China and India,”

the op-ed piece said.

The other authors of the piece are Joe Volk, Executive Director, Friends Committee on National Legislation, and Jim Winkler, General Secretary, Board of Church and Society, United Methodist Church.

According to a Gallup poll released last week, three-quarters of Americans support a withdrawal of some or all troops starting immediately.

“The administration’s policy in Iraq is failing,” said former Congressman Tom Andrews (D-Maine). “There is no light at the end of the tunnel, only the lights from oncoming trains in the form of daily suicide bombings and ambushes. It is time to start bringing our men and women in uniform home.”

The NCC is part of a national coalition urging an end to the war. The coalition, which includes MoveOn.org, True Majority, Sojourners, Working Assets and the National Organization of Women, is planning a national grassroots outreach campaign encouraging Members of Congress to sign onto the bi-partisan resolution.

“Iraq’s future will be determined by how the political struggle among its factions plays out. The U.S. military occupation only complicates, and defers resolution of that struggle,” said Susan Shaer, Executive Director of Women’s Action for New Directions. “Meanwhile, over 1,700 American soldiers have been killed in Iraq. Many tens of thousands of Iraqis have also died,” she said.

“It is a truism that there are no longer any good options in Iraq,” Andrews added. “The question is how long will U.S. policy makers pursue a failing policy at an unacceptable cost, human and financial. It is time the Congress demand a plan for a phased withdrawal of U.S. forces.”