



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)

July 22, 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

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

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Sunday, July 24

*10:00 a.m. "Inspired by General Assembly," led by Sarah Lord, Patty Stockdale, and Mary Mullen.

Tuesday, July 26

5:00 a.m. Serve breakfast at homeless men's shelter
*2:00 p.m. Prairie Elders meet at Oakwood West.

Wednesday, July 27

6:30 p.m. Midweek Meal @ Prairie

Sunday, July 31

*10:00 a.m. Annual Joint Meeting of UU
Congregations of South and West Wisconsin, at the
Free Congregation of Sauk County
12:00 noon. Humanist Union meets after potluck.

Wednesday, August 3

6:30 p.m. Midweek Meal @ Prairie

Sunday, August 7

*10:00 a.m. "Songs and Stories for All Ages"
presented by Mike Briggs and Dan Proud

Wednesday, August 10

6:30 p.m. Midweek Meal @ Prairie

Sunday, August 14

8:30 a.m. Prairie Board meeting at Prairie
10:00 a.m. "Mist Around the Bend," presented by
Susan Urban
*11:30 a.m. Parish meeting on bylaw changes
*11:45 a.m. Prairie Book Club potluck and book
discussion at Prairie.

NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE: SUNDAY, AUG. 7

Saturday, August 27

12:30 p.m. Playreaders Organization meeting. Call
Pat at 233-5795

Friday, September 16 to Sunday, September 18

*Annual Prairie Retreat, Bethel Horizons

(* = Details follow in this issue.)

DETAILS OF COMING PROGRAMS

Sunday, July 24

A highlight of the year for many UUs is attending the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly (GA), the continent-wide annual conference held this year in warm Ft. Worth, Tex. The informative and inspiring workshops and lectures, the plenary sessions during which delegates vote on social action issues and hear about "breakthrough congregations," the services, the exhibit hall, and the city in which the GA is held make each GA a thrilling experience. Come hear what you missed from Sarah Lord, Patty Stockdale and Mary Mullen.

Sunday, July 31

The Free Congregation of Sauk County hosts the annual joint meeting of the UU Congregations of south and west Wisconsin each summer. This year the topic is "How Can UU Congregations Be a Voice of Reason in Today's World?" Presenters will be John Powell (First Unitarian Society), Mike Briggs (Prairie UU), Dave Ramsdell (Unitarian Congregation of Rock County, Janesville), Chris Limburg (James Reeb UUC), and the Rev. Jody Whelden (Free Congregation of Sauk County).

A picnic potluck will follow the service. Everyone is also invited to tour the Freie Gemeinde Library Collection, which contains books, periodicals, music, photographs, and personal memorabilia dating back to 1852.

Directions: Take Hwy. 12 west to Sauk City. At the first light after the bridge, turn right on Water Street. Go 3 blocks and turn left on Polk Street. Go 3 blocks.

Sunday, August 7

Mike Briggs and Dan Proud conclude their 3-part lay ministry series on the power and inspiration of folk music with an intergenerational and participative program of folk songs and stories. If you can play the comb, the spoons, or other homemade instruments, bring them to Prairie! Rated G (Good for Kids as well as Adults).

OUR SOCIETY

SPECIAL PARISH MEETING AUGUST 14

The congregation will meet briefly following the Sunday program on August 14 to vote on the following proposed changes to the Society bylaws:

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that Article V G of the Bylaws be amended as follows:

G. The Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held each year in April, at such time and place as shall be fixed by the Executive Board. The principal business shall be the election of officers, and of the members of the Committee on Committees, ~~and if the professional ministry option of Article VIII is in effect, chairperson of the Ministerial Relations Committee.~~

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that Article VII [intro] of the Bylaws be amended as follows:

The President shall be a nonvoting *ex officio* member of all standing committees except the Committee on Committees. The minister shall be a nonvoting *ex officio* member of all standing committees except the ~~Ministerial Relations Committee~~ Committee on Ministry and the Committee on Committees.

3. BE IT RESOLVED, that Article VII B 2 of the Bylaws be repealed and re-created as follows:

2. Committee on Ministry

a. The purpose of the Committee on Ministry is to enhance the quality of shared ministry within the congregation, if the congregation selects a professional minister. The committee consists of three members who serve staggered three-year terms that begin on January 1. The members are appointed by the executive board upon consultation with the professional minister. The committee elects its own chair.

b. The committee advises and evaluates the professional minister. It facilitates shared ministry by explaining the role, expectations, and contract of the ordained minister to the congregation and by helping to make the professional minister aware of any possible concerns arising in regard to shared ministry within the congregation. The committee submits a formal report of the professional minister's performance, including salary recommendations, to the board by October 1 of each year. Due to the nature of its responsibilities, the committee's meetings are normally closed, but members of the congregation are encouraged to provide comments on the successes and limitations of shared ministry to the committee members. The committee is not intended to replace direct discourse between the professional minister and the membership.

c. If there is no professional minister, the committee is dissolved. If a new professional minister is selected, the existing committee is dissolved and a new committee is appointed.

4. BE IT RESOLVED, that Article VII A 3 of the Bylaws be amended as follows:

3. Once selected for the position, the minister need not be reelected yearly, but a review of ~~his/her~~ the minister's tenure shall be undertaken at least every three years by the ~~Ministerial Relations Committee~~ Committee on Ministry.

MAGGIE SIEGFRIED SINGS AGAIN

Our own Maggie Siegfried regularly performs in the jazz-surf-classic country group, Catfish and Costello. You can catch the Catfish at the Mill Street Grill in Cambridge from 6 to 9 p.m. on three upcoming Saturdays: July 23, August 13, and August 20.



TREATS AT THE PRAIRIE RETREAT

This year's annual retreat at Bethel Horizons (September 16–18) always features an abundance of treats, edible and nonedible. The nonedible treats you can count on include a nature walk, workshops and discussions, the Saturday night variety show, games, and an outstanding Sunday service. A couple treats this year are innovations: a book sale and the UU trivia game.

- Used Book Extravaganza (social action fundraiser). Now is the time to clean out those bookcases! We're looking for donations of fiction, nonfiction, children's books, softcover or hard. Bring donations to Prairie or to the retreat, or call Corrine Hornbeck (274-3895) if you need to schedule a pickup. We'll have a big book sale at the retreat.
- UU Team Trivia Challenge. About 30 people participated in this trivia game on July 10 at Prairie. We're offering it again at the retreat for those who missed the fun. Players move around 6 different stations, identifying pictures of famous UU people, places, and symbols. There are 61 answers and 7 extra credit points for deducing connections between some of the celebrities. The winning team on July 10 chalked up 52 points, and every team got at least 40 points.

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 ELDERS PLAN JULY 26 MEETING

Prairie Elders meets Tuesday, July 26, at 2:00 p.m. in the second floor activity room of the Oaks Building at Oakwood Village West. Latecomers always welcome. If convenient, please bring a few cookies, fruit, cheese, crackers, etc. Beverages will be furnished.

Discussion Topic: "Fun Times and Diversions: What do we do for enjoyment?" Play Scrabble, work out, romp with grandchildren, watch classic movies, feed birds, quietly sit with friends? Come share those things that give you pleasure.

Those who wish may bring a small item for a mystery bag, something people are unlikely to guess ---like a tool for removing clay from turkeys' feet. During the discussion everybody will have a chance to examine and guess the bag's contents. Mystery items will be displayed and identified toward the end of the meeting.

Parking lots are again available along the driveway to the Oaks Building. 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.

Newcomers who need directions or further information, please call Donna Murdoch 260-8551, Rosemary Dorney 238-4382, or Doleta Chapru 238-4970.

BOOK CLUB PLANS NEXT TWO MEETINGS

The Prairie Book Club announces its next two meetings:

Sunday, August 14, *Year of Wonders* by Geraldine Brooks. This is a novel set in 1655 in a small village in England at the time of the Black Plague. It is based on the real village that voluntarily decided to quarantine itself when hit by the Plague. The theme is the conflict between God and Nature (or religion and science). For an excellent discussion of the theme, an interview with the author, and a discussion guide, go to http://www.penguinputnam.com/static/rguides/us/year_of_wonders.html.

Saturday, September 17, *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini; discussion at the annual Prairie retreat. This is a novel about a privileged boy of Afghanistan who emigrates to the United States to bury the memory of a tragic event involving his good friend who is his servant's son. Success and love in his new country isn't enough to make him forget, and he returns to Afghanistan to try to make things right. The author was born in Kabul and his family emigrated to the U.S. in 1980. For more details about the story and a study guide, consult http://www.penguinputnam.com/static/rguides/us/kite_runner.html.

WORK WANTED: BASEMENT, GARAGE, AND PORCH MOPPING AND VACUUMING

I furnish hard work. You furnish transportation, instructions, equipment, supplies, ample work space, and a sturdy banister on basement stairs. Please, no ladders, furniture moving, or heavy lifting.

References available on request. Call 608-271-8365.

Thomas "Phoenix" Wardell

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

CLEANUP TIME

Hello, Everyone! It is time for the summer RE Cleanup, July 31 after the service. Please come and help get the space ready for the next RE year to start. And don't worry, it is much cleaner than the last time we had a cleanup! We'll supply food, music, and special treats.

Hope to see you there!

Melissa Gjestvang-Lucky, RE Director

PRAIRIE UU IS SEEKING RE DIRECTOR

The Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society seeks an RE Director for \$12.50/hour for 12 hours/week during the school year, including Sunday mornings. The ideal candidate is familiar with UU principles, and has experience and enjoys working with children and teens. E-mail for resumes, references, and questions: andersonkk (at) yahoo.com or ra_a_1 (at) tds.net

MEMBERSHIP

Please note the following member updates:

Jori Conca

271-6238

joriconca (at) yahoo.com

Karen Deaton

karendeaton (at) tds.net

Kristin Long and Andy Swartz

klong5 (at) myrealbox.com

swartza (at) hotmail.com

Rachel Siegfried

Tabor Oaks

6175 Mineral Point Road

Madison, WI 53703

238-7739

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

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

UU BED AND BREAKFAST DIRECTORY

Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU're Home* (formerly *Homecomings*) can help you fulfill your dream. For 25 years, we've provided a network of hosts in North America (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people.

The directory is published every year in April. For a copy of the 2005 directory, please send a check for \$18 to *UU're Home*, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806. *UU're Home* has just launched a new web site at www.UUreHome.com, which includes about half of the listings. Entries are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added.

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/~prairie/planning (no space)