



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)

September 23, 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, September 25

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal
10:00 a.m. "Being Called to Greater Intimacy with Our Earth," presented by Penny Andrews

Tuesday, September 27

2:00 p.m. Prairie Elders, Second Floor Exercise Room, Oaks Building, Oakwood Village West.

Wednesday, September 28

6:30 p.m. Midweek Meal @ Prairie

Friday, September 30

7:00 p.m. New Orleans Musicale and Benefit at Prairie

Saturday, October 1

7:30 p.m. Prairie Playreaders meeting at the home of Mona Birong, 599 Glen Drive. Info: 233-5995.

Sunday, October 2

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal
10:00 a.m. "Social Decay of Empire," presented by Bob Reuschlein
*11:30 a.m. RE Parent-Teacher Coffee for grades K-2 and high school

Sunday-Sunday, October 2-9

Interfaith Hospitality volunteer week for Prairie

Wednesday, October 5

*No Midweek Meal @ Prairie this week!

(* = Details follow in this issue.)

NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE: SUNDAY, OCT. 2

Sunday, October 9

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal
10:00 a.m. "Gaylord Nelson, Not a Unitarian, But..." presented by Mary Mullen.
*11:30 a.m. RE Parent-Teacher Coffee for pre-school

Saturday and Sunday, October 15-16

Fall Frolic at Prairie

DETAILS OF COMING PROGRAMS

Sunday, September 25

Hurricane Katrina and the Tsunami are the most recent examples of the power of our Earth's elements. After centuries of western thought looking at Earth as a mechanical problem to be solved, a new paradigm is emerging. September 25th will consider another type of relationship and look at the Earth Charter, a UU-influenced code of ethics, that suggests a pathway.

Penny Andrews is a UW Hospital chaplain. She grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, and was in Junior High School one of the times that the Cuyahoga River caught fire. She worked in the alternative energy movement in the 70's and has coordinated Madison's Earth Charter Community Summits for the past two years.

Penny was also one of the founding members of James Reeb UU Church, holds a Doctor of Ministry degree and is an ordained Interfaith minister.

Sunday, October 2

Bob Reuschlein presents "Social Decay of Empire." The religious right sees decline of empire and sees a problem of ethics and a failure to follow the scriptures. They see a great nation losing its way morally and beginning to pay the price for its indulgence. Then they vote for the morally pure politicians hoping to turn things around, unwittingly worsening the problem as their politically chosen ones vote to continue and enhance empire, through higher military spending in the federal budget.

What is really happening here? What is the real process of socioeconomic decay? How widespread is the problem? Is almost every aspect of modern life pervaded and shaped by the forces of empire? Why would many of our commonest social problems spring from the same causes? Is there anything we can do about it? What is the nature of this beast, this thing called empire? Bob will explore the Reuschlein model of how these things are all interconnected.

Sunday, October 9

Mary Mullen presents "Not a Unitarian, But..." Gaylord Nelson wasn't a Unitarian Universalist, but he was the embodiment of many of our UU principles. Although we all know him as the founder of Earth Day, which demonstrated his "respect for the interdependence of all existence of which we are a part"--our 7th principle-- it is less commonly known how he also stood up for the inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process; and the goal of world peace, liberty, and justice for all.

How did he get to be such a person? How did he demonstrate and uphold each of the principles? How has his life inspired others? What are the lessons for us? These are some of the topics that will be explored. There may be a surprise speaker or two as well.

OUR SOCIETY

THE VIEW FROM MY BRANCH



This week I heard a story about a man who said he had a dog living on each of his shoulders. They decided how he would respond to people. One dog was the angry, self-righteous, critical dog. The other dog was the compassionate, listening, and collaborative dog. A friend of his asked him how he figured out which one to let handle any situation. The man said, "It is always the one I feed the most."

This is a good story. It reminds us that we have a choice about how we respond to a situation. In any given moment, there are many ways to answer and act. We sometimes feel like there is just one way. But, really, there are many, many ways. However, in order to have a choice, we must slow down, wait and choose carefully.

This entails (1) recognizing that we are about to react instead of respond; (2) remembering that we can wait before we respond; (3) breathing in peaceful thoughts and breathing out our desire to be self-righteous or critical; (4) thinking of a response which can be respectful and yet clear about what we want to communicate; and (5) choosing.

So, for example, instead of telling our partner that we think it was dumb to not water the garden, we might wait until we can say something with kindness, but clearly. It might be like, "You must feel terrible about the flowers dying. May I help you with clearing them out? However, I really love the flowers. When you are ready, I'd like to think about how we can help it not happen again. Let me know when you are ready to talk. There is no rush."

In this way, we feed the compassionate, listening, collaborating dog rather than the self-righteous one. That means we get better and better at being peaceful and communicative. And really, what is the effect we want -- to be right, or, to keep the flowers growing?

Rev. Jody Whelden, Consulting Minister

MIDWEEK MEAL SKIPS TWO WEEKS

The Midweek Meal on October 5 and 12 are canceled, as our friends at Shaarei Shamayim are celebrating the Jewish high holidays on those two Wednesdays.

Bob Park has an alternative for October 5: an event over at Bethel Lutheran Church. I'll let him tell you about that one.

Thanks.

Dirk Herr-Hoyman

PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS OCTOBER 1

On Saturday, October 1 at 7:30 p.m., Prairie Playreaders will meet at the home of Mona Birong. Anyone is welcome; I would appreciate a call to let me know if you are coming.

Mona Birong

599 Glen Dr.

Madison, WI 53711

Home phone number: 233-5995

PLEASE SIGN UP NOW FOR OCTOBER IHN VOLUNTEERING

Prairie's next volunteer stint with the Madison Interfaith Hospitality Network shift is the first week in October, from the 2nd through the 9th.

The Midvale Lutheran volunteer coordinator, Toni Swandby, requests that as many volunteers as possible sign up in the next two weeks, since she is leaving on (a well-deserved) vacation on September 23. Let's get the ball rolling on this. The primary volunteer roles are overnight hosting (7 p.m. to 6 a.m.), dinner hosting (5:30-8:30) and food preparation (delivered by 5 p.m.). Please contact Paula Pachciarz (273-4806 or pachwack (at) sbcglobal.net) if you would like to volunteer during that week, or for more information.

Paula Pachciarz

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).

JOINING FORCES FOR FAMILIES

Prairie has been invited to support an exciting initiative created by JFF (Joining Forces for Families.) Five buses are currently en route to pick up families left homeless by Hurricane Katrina and bring them to Madison. Barb Park is coordinating Prairie's commitment to clean, paint and stock one apartment in the Allied Drive area. At the picnic on September 4, we raised \$1,000. A large group turned out on Labor Day to work on the apartment, including a contingent from the Verona Players brought by Rick Owens. Donations are still welcome to cover the costs of the buses, apartment rental, and other needs of the families. You can make checks out to Prairie Social Action Committee and send to Barb Park.

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

CHILDREN'S RE IS AN EXCITING PLACE TO BE

The RE Children's Ingathering was wonderful and our year has begun. This year, using curricula and Prairie materials that focus on our study of Social Justice, Conflict Management, and Human Sexuality, we will have over twenty adults and over thirty youth spending high-quality time in fun and enlightening ways.

We will meet over 24 times in RE classes on Sunday mornings. We will start upstairs with the adult service or downstairs in YoUUth Circle for about twenty minutes. We then get in groups organized with peers of similar age and school grade. Those classes meet until 11:20, when kids can go upstairs and families are asked to watch for them. By 11:40, kids, teachers, and nursery care are finishing downstairs.

Fall Frolic

Our RE Fall Frolic is coming up. You'll see announcements in newsletters and permission slips sent home. At 5 p.m. on **Saturday, October 15**, we meet at Prairie for a wonderful youth-oriented overnight. We end with a good breakfast and our regular 10 a.m. service and classes.

Service Sunday

On **October 30**, we have a Service Sunday. The RE kids and volunteers are ready to SERVE OUR MEMBERS. Do you need leaves raked? Wood stacked? Garden turned? Call or e-mail anyone active in RE -- please advise us where to focus our energy or offer your help. We need drivers, workers, tools, etc.

Parent-Teacher Coffees

We are asking parents, supporters and teachers to meet for coffee on a Sunday morning after service, starting at 11:30. We will meet in class groups in the room your children will be using. We look forward to meeting each other and talking about any opportunities or issues that may be relevant.

The schedule for Parent-Teacher Coffees is:

- Sunday, October 2 Grades K-2 and High School
- Sunday, October 9 Pre-School
- Sunday, October 16 Middle School
- Sunday, October 23 Grades 3-5

As we plan for the next few weeks, there are a few things we're working on. If you missed teacher orientation, please talk with Bob or the RE Committee to see about what we did and get your materials. Even with people and schedules already in place, we need substitute teachers and childcare providers -- would you please volunteer as a backup? Classes will be handling snacks differently this year -- talk with your teachers about what your group will do. We are talking with James Reeb and First Unitarian RE youth and advisors about sharing overnight and service projects with them.

It is lots of fun as the church year resumes. I am honored to be your new DRE and I am excited by what we can do together to pursue life-long learning. We are a team making our search for UU experience meaningful, fun, and bright.

Thank you. See you in church.

Bob Radford, Director of Religious Education

FALL FROLIC

KIDS AND VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Saturday and Sunday, October 15 & 16
Starts at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, at PRAIRIE

We'll have supper on Saturday & breakfast on Sunday.

We'll be inside & outside -- dress wisely!

We'll be spending the night -- those who want.

We'll be celebrating change of the seasons & fall holidays.

Ends Sunday 10 a.m. -- then, we go to church.

COME JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE LIGHT

WE WILL DO LOTS OF LIGHT-RELATED ACTIVITIES:

- Flashlight Tag
- Light Dancing
- Light Meditation (at YoUUth Circle)
- Crafts with light
- Games
- Stories

STAYING OVERNIGHT IF YOU WISH

Things to Bring:

- FLASHLIGHT
- CANDLE
- OVERNIGHT GEAR (SLEEPING BAG, TOOTHBRUSH, SOAP, ETC.)
- FRUIT TO EAT (2-3 pieces, Some to eat and some to share)

COMING IN A COSTUME IS GOOD!!

MEMBERSHIP

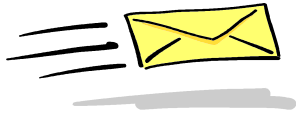
Please note the following update:

Rev. Jody Whelden

Office: 608-271-8218

Home Office: 608-231-9707

LETTERS



THE BOOK SALE WAS A SUCCESS!

Hi!

I'd like to thank everyone who donated books for the book sale and those who bought books. We raised nearly \$100 dollars.

Thanks,

Corrine Hornbeck

A CALL TO HELP

Hi!

Can you imagine a day without toilet paper, soap, or deodorant? Many of us live with that reality. It's too expensive to buy on already stretched household budgets.

There is a big need in our community for toiletries, diapers, toilet paper, and similar items. Food stamps do not cover these items.

From November 1 to 13, businesses, religious organizations (including James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Church), community members, students, etc. are joining together to hold a Personal Care Items Drive. After just 10 days of discussing the idea, nine dropoff points have been confirmed throughout the Madison area and four food pantries in different areas of the city are on board. (All items donated will be distributed to a food pantry that services that local area.)

This is a grassroots, community effort. There is a need in our community and people/organizations are rallying to fill it.

I am writing in hopes that you will please help on this project.

There is a need for:

- additional conveniently located dropoff sites (especially in south Madison and the far northeast)
- poster/flyer design
- printing services (for posters and flyers)
- media contacts and article/press release writing
- delivery of donations bins to dropoff locations
- delivery of donations and bins to pantries
- oversight of project geographical area (based on local food pantry region)
- other administrative services

Please volunteer! This is a grassroots, community effort, so volunteers are vital.

Together, let's make sure no one in our community has to go without toilet paper, soap, or deodorant this November.

To volunteer, please contact me ASAP at 608-826-0883.

Thanks!

Eileen Newman

[*Ed. Note: Eileen Newman is a friend of Prairie, recent to Madison, and has attended several of our events.*]

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

INTERFAITH CALL FOR JUSTICE WEEKEND IN D.C.

Anti-torture activists gather in Washington this weekend, **September 24-26**, for an interfaith Call for Justice Weekend to demand an end to U.S.-sponsored torture. See the last issue of *Prairie Fire* for details.

CONCERNED ABOUT ANTI-GAY MARRIAGE LEGISLATION?

You are invited to an Action Wisconsin House Party at James Reeb UU Congregation on **Saturday, October 22, 2005**, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Help support Action Wisconsin's effort to defeat Wisconsin's proposed ban on civil unions and gay marriage. Learn how the proposed amendment goes too far and hurts real Wisconsin families. Other states have passed similar amendments. Learn why Wisconsin is different and why we can win. Come enjoy friends, beverages, hors d'oeuvres and prizes.

Invite everyone you know!

\$15 suggested donation, \$10 if you can't afford it and \$25 if you can! Children are welcome (free). All proceeds benefit Action Wisconsin.

This event is organized by Moms for Social Action and other concerned people at JRUC. For more information or to volunteer to help, contact Michelle Martin at 251-1768 or Sharon Barbour at 255-5981. Please RSVP to Michelle or Sharon if you plan to attend.

Thanks,
Abbie Hill

JOIN THE UU COACHING NETWORK

The UUCN (UU Coaching Network) is growing and invites you to join! This non-profit association is a community of professionally trained life coaches anchored in the UU principles of compassion, integrity, and inclusion. To learn of its mission and how you can benefit from membership, please visit www.uucoachingnetwork.org. If you are considering hiring a coach, UUCN is also a resource to find the right coach for you.

Lisa Martell, UUCN Board of Trustees

KATRINA T-SHIRT FUNDRAISER

You may have heard that Unitarian Universalists across the country have contributed over \$1,000,000 to Hurricane relief efforts being coordinated by our UU districts in the south: the Southwest UU Conference/District and the Mid-South District. They are selling the T-shirts described below.

CMwD District Staff

KATRINA RELIEF

Have you given time, treasure or talent to help with Katrina Relief?

If so you are eligible to purchase one of these special t-shirts complete with Owner's Manual describing what the words mean.

\$7.50 per t-shirt will go to the UUA-UUSC Gulf Coast Relief Fund.

To Order:
Send check or Money Order for \$15.00 along with t-shirt size to:
Alternative Prints
13046 Berlin St
Poway, CA 92064

JOURNEY TOWARD WHOLENESS NEWS

Excerpts from the UUA Congregational Advocacy and Witness initiative newsletter

UUA AND UUSC GULF COAST RELIEF FUND

By September 1, the UUA and UUSC had created the UUA-UUSC Gulf Coast Relief Fund to aid the victims of Hurricane Katrina. As of September 11, the relief fund had received \$627,174. To donate, go to www.uua.org/news/2005/050831_katrina/donate.html

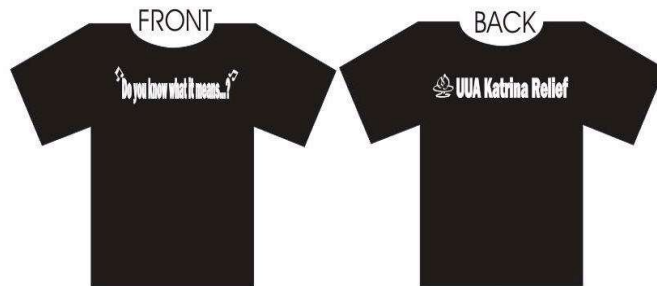
The Fund works closely with Advocacy & Witness staff, Southwest & Mid-South District staff, and UU clergy and lay leaders in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Mississippi.

For more information on the fund, see www.uua.org/news/2005/050831_katrina/panel.html

You will also find resources for children and families and word from the UUA Trauma Response Ministry.

PEOPLE'S INSTITUTE FOR SURVIVAL AND BEYOND, NEW ORLEANS

The UUA has an ongoing partnership with this outstanding anti-racism training organization which also consists of a strong community organization that was based in New Orleans. Ron Chishom, Barbara Major, and our own Jayphia Christos are all fine and with family. However, the organization's offices have been completely destroyed. See <http://www.pisab.org/> <<http://www.pisab.org/>> for a full report and how you can help.



Available in youth sizes S-L and Adult S-2XL

Size	Quantity	Cost
Total		

ACORN-- ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS FOR REFORM NOW

The UUA and UU congregations worked closely with ACORN to register voters and get out the vote in 2004. Many UU congregations partnered with ACORN's Project Vote. We are also working together now in the Let Justice Roll Living Wage Campaign coalition. The UU Funding Panel has supported many ACORN initiatives and UU congregational participation.

ACORN has lost its office in New Orleans and is helping with search efforts for local members. It has also organized a major relief effort and coordinated the Mobile Action Center. After a three-day journey from Flint, Michigan, the ACORN Mobile Action Center arrived in Houston, Texas on Sunday, September 11. The van made stops at ACORN offices in several cities on its way to Houston, collecting relief supplies and donations for the ACORN Hurricane Recovery and Rebuilding Fund.

In Houston, the Mobile Action Center traveled to shelters, churches, motels, and apartments housing hurricane survivors. Over 250 Katrina survivors and Houston ACORN members met in Houston to begin organizing a Hurricane Survivors chapter. The van will help promote the organizing drive, and connect survivors to the services they need. For more news and details, see www.acorn.org/index.php?id=2716.

Susan Leslie

*Director for Congregational Advocacy and Witness
UUA, 25 Beacon Street, Boston MA 02108
(617) 948-4607; sleslie@uua.org*

OTHER NEWS

MADISON PAGAN PRIDE DAY OCTOBER 1

Madison Area Pagan Pride Day is **Saturday, October 1**, 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Lakeview Park in Middleton (on the side of Allen Boulevard away from the lake, at Mendota Ave.) Please plan on joining us for a day of education, activism, and community. During the day there will be a variety of vendors, workshops, entertainment, and rituals. See <http://GWPPD.org> for more information, or write to GWPPD@GWPPD.org. (I'm at the other end of that address, so no fear!)

Dorothy Krause

RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE SCHEDULES SPECIAL DONATION FOR OCTOBER 1

In an effort to replenish depleted supplies as a result of Hurricane Katrina, the Red Cross Blood Mobile will be at Lakeview Park in Middleton, WI on October 1, 2005, from 1:00 to 5:00 PM to accept blood donations. Red Cross volunteers will also be on hand to accept financial donations from area residents who wish to contribute to the hurricane relief efforts.

To give blood you must be healthy, at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, and not have donated blood in the last 8 weeks (56 days). "Healthy" means that you feel well and can perform normal activities. If you have a chronic condition such as diabetes or high blood pressure, "healthy" also means that you are being treated and the condition is under control. Other aspects of your health history will be discussed as part of the donation process, and you will receive a brief examination to measure temperature, pulse, blood pressure and blood count.

For more information on blood donation please visit www.redcross.org or to make an appointment to donate blood, call 1-800-GIVELIFE (1-800-448-3543), or, 800-626-4017 ext 357, or, walk-ins are welcome. Donations of physical items will also be accepted at the same location, to aid in the work of the Interfaith Hospitality Network of the Madison Area <http://www.madison.com/communities/ihn/>.

Their current Wish List, taken from their most recent newsletter, includes

- Baby wipes
- Bleach
- Car seats
- Diapers (sizes 2 and up)
- Feminine hygiene products
- Laundry soap
- Madison Metro bus passes
- Play kitchen - wood or very sturdy
- Razors
- Riding Toys (small)
- Shaving cream
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- African American hair care products
- Cleaning supplies (full size)
- Deodorant
- Dishes

First aid supplies including infant items
Garbage bags
Infant formula
Light bulbs,
Lotion (full size)
Paper towels
Phone cards
Pillows (new or unused)
Pots & pans
Postage stamps
Silverware
Small household appliances
Toilet paper
Financial gifts to allow IHN to direct resources to their most critical needs.

These fundraisers are being held in conjunction with the 8th Annual Madison Area Pagan Pride Day, part of The Pagan Pride Project, a non-profit organization, whose primary goal is the advancement of religion and elimination of prejudice and discrimination based on religious beliefs, and, to foster pride in Pagan identity through education, activism, charity and community. <http://gwppd.org> for more information.

MADISON INSTITUTE FORUM ON NEO-CONSERVATISM PLANNED FOR OCT. 1

You are invited to the next open forum at the Wisconsin Historical Society, **Saturday, October 1**, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Do you wonder about the influence of conservative policies on this country? Then come hear “Gulliver in Lilliput, American Foreign Policy in a Neoconservative Age,” given by Professor Shadia Drury of the University of Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. Professor Drury has given intense scrutiny to Leo Strauss (1899-1973), commonly considered the force behind the current neo-conservative movement. This is a good opportunity to become well informed about the many influences on American foreign policy.

