

# Prairie Fire

**June 2014**

## Prairie Calendar

(See descriptions of programs below)



**Sun. Jun 1** 10 am Service - **Transition Sunday**

12 noon - **Humanist Union potluck and discussion**

5:30 pm - **Men's Group**

**Fri. - Sun Jun 6 - 8** **Prairie Retreat @ Bethel Horizons**

**Sat. Jun 7** 9 am **WOW@Prairie** (meeting at Bethel Horizons)

**Sat. Jun 7** 10 am **Prairie's Book Club** (meeting at Bethel Horizons)

**Sun. Jun 8** 10 am **TED Talk: "The Case for Collaborative Consumption"** - at Prairie for those not attending Retreat

**Sun. Jun 15** 10 am Service - **"Flower Power"** - Sandra Ingham

**Mon. Jun 16** 6:30 pm - **Spanish Speakers Potluck**

**Sun. Jun 22** 10 am Service - **"Summer Reads"** - Rose Smith

**Tues. Jun 24** 1:30 pm **Prairie Elders**

**Sun. Jun 29** 10 am Service - **"What's New at Holy Wisdom"** - Greg Armstrong

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**Transition Sunday:** "The Transitions in Our Lives" will celebrate the transition our youth will be making from middle school to high school. This can be a period of great change and stress but is also a new beginning filled with hope and love. Come celebrate this rite of passage in our community and learn about their beliefs, their talents, and what lies ahead for them. We will also recognize the talents of our teachers and volunteers who have dedicated their valuable time to educating our young people.

**Humanist Union** will start off June with a potluck picnic at Marlborough Park, noon to 2 pm, to which all family and friends of humanists and nonbelievers are invited. Then at 8 pm on Friday 6/6, at Prairie's annual retreat, the Humanist Union will show the documentary film *The Lord Is Not On Trial Here Today* which gives the story behind the landmark McCollum case that went to the Supreme Court and brought separation of church and state to our public schools. The film was chosen by Bill Moyers for his list of "Ten Documentaries on Champions of Social Justice."

**The Men's Group** meets the 1st Sunday of the month at Prairie. Bring a dish to pass.

Contact: Dan Proud [derrproud@att.net](mailto:derrproud@att.net)

**Prairie Retreat @ Bethel Horizons** is an annual event and a great time to get to know other Prairie members in a less hurried environment. It's a time to play, sing, or chat over a cup of coffee. Contact for more info: Phyllis Long at [plong373@gmail.com](mailto:plong373@gmail.com), 608-325-7397 or Kate Liu at [kgliu@gmail.com](mailto:kgliu@gmail.com), 238-9153.

**Alternate June 8 - Coffee, Pastries and Ted Talk** - "The Case for Collaborative Consumption" by Rachel Botsman - For those of you who are not staying overnight at the retreat and are not early enough risers to make it to the Key Log Ceremony at Bethel Horizons, come view the Ted Talk, and join the conversation over coffee and pastries.

**WOW@Prairie** - Women of Wonder will meet during the retreat at Bethel Horizons.

**Prairie's Book Club** will discuss *The Light Between Oceans* by M.L. Stedman on June 7 at Prairie's Retreat. *The Light Between Oceans* is a novel of moral choices told in the meticulous records of a lighthouse keeper.

**"Flower Power"**: What do you get when you take a strong, principled individual, place him in a complex, challenging and frightening period of history, and add some beauty, often in the form of flowers, for good measure? A story of joy, tragedy, humor, sadness, goodness and evil? Yes. A profile in courage? Yes. An important, enthralling piece of our Unitarian history? Most definitely. On this Sunday, I will explore the life and times of Norbert Fabian Capek, who was once the minister of the largest Unitarian church in the world. **PLEASE BRING A FLOWER!** You will find out why when you join me at Prairie on Sunday, June 15.

**Spanish Speakers Club** will meet at the home of Mary Somers, 4467 Crescent Rd. Please bring a dish to pass, if you can - everyone welcome! More info or to arrange a ride contact Rosemary Dorney 238-4382.

**"Summer Reads"**: What book kept you up till dawn because you couldn't put it down? What book opened a new paradigm for you? It's that book you just have to share with everyone. Well here's your chance. It's time for Rose Smith's Annual Summer Reads. This is the DYI service where you share your favorite book title and author. A list will be published of all titles suggested, so you can get busy downloading them to your new Nook or Kindle.

**Prairie Elders** aims to provide good times and mutual support for Prairie UU Members and Friends over 65 and UUs living at the facility where we meet. The topic this month is "Camping: Does it Build Character? If Not, Why do People do It?". If convenient, bring your own beverage cup and a few snacks. Newcomers welcome. Nakoma Room, Heritage Oaks building, Oakwood Village West. Call for directions, parking or a ride. Rosemary Dorney (238-4382) or Donna Murdoch (238-3802).

**"What's New at Holy Wisdom"**: At our regular meeting time and place, Greg Armstrong will be sharing the latest on the LEED's Silver building and prairie restoration at Holy Wisdom. After the service, at 12:30 pm, we will have a field trip and potluck lunch at Holy Wisdom. Please bring a dish to pass and your table service (plates, flatware and cups) for everyone in your party.

## **Prairie News**

**Roy Zimmerman Concert:** A small, but enthusiastic audience was entertained by musical satirist Roy Zimmerman at the Meeting House on May 10. Thanks to Bill Parmenter for coming early to set up the sound and tending the mixing board and to Anne Urbanski for collecting money at the door. Photos of the concert at Prairie are posted in the left column of our Twitter site at <https://twitter.com/uuprairie>.

**2014 auction offerings** are still available. A list is on the bulletin board in the foyer. Examples are dinners, outdoor activities, pesto and dog treats. Please check out the list and let the PUU administrator or Kathy Converse know if you are interested as soon as possible.

**Interfaith Hospitality Network Week is June 8 - 15:** One of Prairie's social action commitments is being a buddy church for Midvale Lutheran as they house homeless families as part of the Interfaith Hospitality Network Shelter Program, which is part of The Road Home. Please consider volunteering to serve dinner or various other jobs to help Prairie honor its commitment to this wonderful organization. You can call Erin Bosch for more information about IHN (238-6285), or you can go to the Midvale Lutheran website for a description of the volunteer jobs and to sign up: [The Road Home | Midvale Community Lutheran Church | Madison, WI](#)

**Committee on Ministry:** As mentioned in the May edition of this newsletter, Prairie has a Committee on Ministry (COM). This committee advocates for and supports the minister. The COM is designed to provide feedback to our minister and to help her communicate with the Executive Board and with the congregation as a whole when needed. Ideally, anyone who has feedback for the minister (what we might call the "c's" -- compliment, complaint, constructive criticism, concern) should give that feedback directly to the minister. But, as we all know, sometimes people have difficulty with one-on-ones of this sort. Because we have the COM, people can use that committee to voice their opinions if they feel too uncomfortable to simply talk to the minister. We do ask that there be no anonymous feedback. The members of the Committee on Ministry are Heidi Hughes, Kate Liu, Rick Ruecking, and Rev. Sandy.

**SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, July 27,** Prairie will have a shared service with the Free Congregation of Sauk City. **NOTE:** The service will be held in Sauk City and will be primarily lay led. The theme is "I believe what I believe because. . . . These beliefs were shaped by. . . . (people and/or events) in my life." We are looking for 3-4 persons from each congregation to share their stories about their beliefs and tell us where they would place themselves on a "belief scale" (agnostic, atheist, Christian, Buddhist, Jewish, pagan, humanist, ??) and why they would place themselves there and how they arrived at these beliefs because of people and events that shaped their lives. Please talk to Rev. Sandy or Penny Eiler if you are interested in being part of the storytelling.

**Make Music Madison** is an annual one-day citywide, free, outdoor music festival to be held on the Summer Solstice, June 21. The goal is to generate a continuous wall of music as people walk around participating spaces. Prairie, along with the Dunn's Marsh Neighborhood Association, are providing a venue for the neighborhood. Music starts at noon and continues until about 8:00

in the evening. Stop by and enjoy the music! Bring your own snacks and a lawn chair. Don't forget the sunscreen! You can find more information at [www.makemusicmadison.org](http://www.makemusicmadison.org).

**Rev. Sandy** will be in Providence, RI, from June 23-30 for our annual General Assembly and UUMA (Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association) meeting. As always, she will be available via email or phone while she is gone.

**July 6 service:** It's quite a while until our July 6 service that will focus on the Fourth of July holiday, but here's a preview. It will be a musical program of patriotic songs. After each one or two songs, you, the congregation will have a chance to share the feelings and images that came to you as you sang or listened. As usual, there will be different responses. Expect to learn more about our complicated feelings about this holiday and the music connected to it.

### **Message from the President** **~ Barb Park**

This is my last article for the Prairie Fire as President of Prairie. I thought we would look back at what we have accomplished as a community during the past four years. During my first year, my goal was community building. We had just come through some difficult times and needed to reconnect with one another. That was the beginning of Soup Sundays – an instant hit! We also played together during a New Years Party and Wine and Cheese tasting among other events. Rebecca Malke proved to be a wiz at organizing social events! She came up with the idea of opening the church to the neighborhood at Halloween. The families return now every year with their kids who are hoping that Penny Eiler will be there making balloon animals.

During the second year we had a much more serious purpose – restructuring our governance. I'm sure everyone was sick of attending meetings, but in the end we had a new set of by-laws. Everyone contributed their ideas, but it would not have happened without Rachel Long guiding our discussions and Al Nettleton's behind the scenes work making all of the revisions as new ideas were proposed.

I thought we were out of the woods for my third year and could coast but - no. The house next door became available for purchase. Back to meetings for everyone. Did we want to stay put, at least for 10 years? That was the first question to be answered. Through that discussion we came to the realization that we have become the anchor of the Dunn's Marsh neighborhood and that is an important role. So, stay. That decision made, the next task was raising funds. Mary Mullen and Patty Stockdale stepped up as fundraisers extraordinaire and kept us on track to raise enough money to buy the house outright when added to the money in our Growth Fund. Thanks to everyone's generosity, we met our goal and closed on the house at 2006 Whenona Dr. on July 1, 2013.

Now this year, our project has been to work on transforming the house into a building that will meet the needs of our community. Dirk Herr-Hoyman was very qualified to shepherd this effort and agreed to head the committee. The group selected Todd Barnett as our architect and Scott Krupp from Mascott Brothers as our builder. After much struggle and discussion, the committee finally came up with a plan to offer to the congregation and the plan and funds were approved at

a Parish Meeting on April 27. Dirk is so busy at work he felt this was the right time to turn the reigns over to someone else, so Tom Robinson has taken over his role and will oversee the work. So now it is full steam ahead!

Gary Gates will be stepping into the role of President. I know that everyone will give him the same wonderful support that you all have given me over the past four years. We have accomplished a great deal together and I'm sure we will continue to grow as a community. Thank you all!

## **Musings from the Minister**

**~ Reverend Sandra Ingham**

What comes to mind when you hear the word conflict? Do you want to run away? Do you feel your "hackles rising"? Do you go into defensive mode? Do you clam up, shut down? How do you handle conflict at work or within groups to which you belong? How do you handle conflict within your family? How was conflict handled when you were growing up? However you experienced conflict in your family of origin is important because this is most likely still the way you approach conflict situations.

In a moment of either weakness or insight, I voluntarily and willingly signed up for a weeklong workshop in conflict management. Thus it was that I found myself in Minneapolis two weeks ago for a Mediation Skills Training Institute sponsored by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. The week was intensive, exhausting, full of excellent material and seemingly endless role-playing exercises. At times, I felt as if I were being asked to do a semester's worth of work in one week.

It will take me awhile to "unpack" this experience, as well as to get through my extensive notes and the manual that we worked from during the week. My goal is to put as much as possible of what I learned into practice. For this to happen, I will need your help (the operative word being practice). I am far from being a skilled mediator, so with your knowledge and permission, I would like to practice on you in the weeks and months to come.

What, you say? We have conflicts at Prairie? Of course we do. And that's not a bad thing because conflict is everywhere. We can't change that. What we can change is our attitude toward conflict. The challenges are to: manage it well; keep it from destroying relationships; use it to help us communicate better; prevent it from ruining our infrastructure; not let it keep us from doing the work of the world,

I want us to become comfortable with and welcoming of conflict. I want us to view conflict as an opportunity for growth and for getting to know each other better. I want us to see conflict as a tool for spiritual growth and practice and for community building. What I relearned at the institute.... The three things necessary for us to reach these goals are: good listening skills; respect, and trust. This is going to be an exciting, challenging, even fun journey for us all!  
Happy Summer!

**In the Good Old Summer Time**



**Soakin' the Feet**



**Who's havin' fun?**



**Hoofing it**



**Mary & Patty's 2014 Biking Buddies**

Thanks to Mary Mullen and Kathy Converse for pictures contributed.

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