

Prairie Fire



July 2014

Prairie Calendar

(See descriptions of programs below)

- Sat. Jul 5** 9 am **WOW@Prairie**
Sun. Jul 6 10 am **Service - "Patriotic Songs"** - Mary Mullen
12 noon **Humanist Union**
5:30 pm **Men's Group**
Sun. Jul 13 10 am **Service - "The Courage to Create"** - James Galasinski
11:45 am **Prairie's Book Club**
Sun. Jul 20 10 am **Service - "Sustainability"** - Rev. Sandra Ingham
Tues. Jul 22 1:30 pm **Prairie Elders**
Sun. Jul 27 10 am **Service - Joint Service with Sauk Prairie, at Sauk Prairie**
10 am **Alternative Service - "General Assembly 2014 Ware Lecturer Video"**
held at Prairie
Mon. Jul 28 6:30 pm **Spanish Speakers Potluck**

WOW@Prairie: Women of Wonder meets every 1st Saturday of the month at Prairie. Bring a breakfast/brunch dish to share. Contact: Anne Urbanski, 221-4053; aneu53714@gmail.com

"Patriotic Songs": To celebrate the July 4th holiday, Mary Mullen will lead us in an examination of our feelings about patriotic songs. If an unexamined life is not worth living, an unexamined patriotic song is not worth singing.

The Humanist Union meeting will start with a potluck lunch at 11:45 am. Then from 12:30 to 1:30 pm, Bob Park will lead an informal discussion on *What can low power FM (LPFM) radio do for humanists and freethinkers?* Bob recommends reading [The Case for Radio](http://fusmadison.org/voice) on the First Unitarian Society website at <http://fusmadison.org/voice>.

The Men's Group meets the 1st Sunday of the month at Prairie. Bring a dish to pass. Contact: Dan Proud derrproud@att.net

"The Courage to Create": James Galasinski will examine some of the different ways of being creative and explore the close ties between it and spirituality. Living a creative life is more than learning a particular art or craft. It is making the daily authentic choices that make us who we are.

Prairie's Book Club will discuss Legends of the Fall by Jim Harrison. Legends of the Fall is three novellas, "Legends of the Fall," "Revenge," and "The Man Who Gave Up His Name." According to the Goodreads website, the book "confirmed Jim Harrison's reputation as one of the finest American writers of his generation. These absorbing novellas explore the theme of

revenge and the actions to which people resort when their lives or goals are threatened, adding up to an extraordinary vision of the twentieth-century man.” Suggested by Mary Mullen.

"Sustainability": What came to your mind when you read that word? Did it have something to do with the environment or climate change? That is not what this Sunday primarily will be about though it could be a piece of the puzzle. The puzzle is this: What sustains you? When life gets difficult; when things go wrong; when grief overwhelms you; when you are in pain; when there is seemingly nothing but darkness, what keeps you going? The answers to these questions have everything to do with telling our stories. There will be time in this service to do some sharing of stories.

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 will be: "IRAQ...What should we do?" 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).

Joint service with Sauk Prairie: The service will be a "This I Believe" panel comprised of members from both congregations. (see note under Prairie News)

Alternative Service: "General Assembly 2014 Ware Lecturer Video": This year's Ware lecturer, Sister Simone Campbell, of "Nuns on the Bus" fame, is the National Coordinator of [NETWORK](#), a National Catholic Social Justice Lobby. She is a religious leader, attorney and poet with extensive experience in public policy and advocacy for systemic change. In Washington, she lobbies on issues of peace-building, immigration reform, healthcare and economic justice.

Even when our regular service is away from Prairie, we need to keep the building open for those who might not know about the location change or visitors. Those who attended the TED talk at Prairie, on the Sunday during retreat, enjoyed a great conversation over coffee and fresh from the fryer beignets. This time there will be homemade pastries, fresh coffee and more stimulating conversation.

Spanish Speakers Potluck will meet at the home of Amy Schulz, 2304 S. Syene Rd. Please bring a dish to pass, if you can - everyone welcome! More info or to arrange a ride contact Rosemary Dorney 238-4382.

Message from the President

~ Gary Gates

When asked if I would accept the nomination to be Prairie's President, my first reaction was "I'm not ready! I've only been here two years and I don't know enough about how things work and besides I've got to get my personal life in better order." My second thought was that all of the better-qualified people must have turned it down already! Well I still don't feel ready and all those better-qualified people had better watch out because I know how to delegate.

I accepted the nomination because the Prairie community felt like home to me the first time I

came and it has continued to feel that way. I want to be a part of making it feel like home for other people.

Prairie has many strengths. In addition to the warm welcoming people, I have been particularly thrilled with the Religious Education program and with the wide and stimulating quality of our services. My highest goal would be to ensure continued quality in these areas. If possible I would like to strive for even higher quality but frankly I don't know what that could be.

We have some obvious challenges, such as figuring out how to use our new building effectively. The most important challenges are probably still unknown. But when my term is over I want to be able to look back and see that Prairie is still the welcoming community that won my heart two years ago and still has it today.

Prairie News

RE News: We regret to announce that Rebecca Malke-Eliganti is leaving her position as Prairie's Director of Religious Education. She has accepted an offer from Memorial United Church of Christ, in Fitchburg, to become their Director of Faith Development. Her new job begins July 15, so she will be wrapping up her duties at Prairie by the end of June or early July.

It will be a huge challenge to find someone to replace Rebecca as Prairie's DRE, but this is a great opportunity for her and we know Prairie members and friends wish her the very best in her new endeavor. We know she will bring the same dedication, depth of knowledge, and organizing skills to the UCC congregation that she has shared with us here at Prairie.

Kent Wenger and Paula Pachciarz
Co-chairs, RE Committee

Back by Popular Demand! The joint service with the Free Congregation of Sauk County (FCSC) is a go. We did not have this combined service last year, but you said you wish to continue the tradition. It will be held **SUNDAY JULY 27, at the Freethinkers Hall In Sauk City**. We are still in need of people who would like to share their stories, specifically in answer to these questions: Why do you believe what you believe? Can you describe your spiritual orientation, your theological leanings? (and, yes, that includes those of you who consider yourselves to be agnostics and atheists) Most importantly, can you share with us what led you to the answers to these questions? That is, what persons and/or events shaped your current beliefs? AND, can you do this within a time frame of 5-to-7 minutes? Please let Sandy or Penny Eiler know if you are interested.

PLUS! Please remember that part of this joint celebration with the FCSC folks involves a picnic potluck afterwards on their beautiful grounds.!! **Please bring a dish to share!** Thanks!

14 Acts Performed on Prairie Grounds for Make Music Madison



Total Challenge Drumline from Chicago

For the second year in a row, Prairie, along with the Dunn's Marsh Neighborhood Association, hosted free music outdoors on June 21, as part of the Make Music Madison event. This year, listeners were treated to nine hours of music starting at 11:15 am with a literal bang - the Total Challenge Drumline, from Chicago. They literally brought out the neighbors as they marched around the whole block. The music ended at 8:15 pm with the mellow notes of Mike Briggs' accordion.

Patty Stockdale and Paula Pachciarz harmonized. Together they sang folk songs, a Pete Seeger song, and 2 Bob Dylan numbers.

Dan also performed with Guitars for Vets, a group he started in Madison that gives guitars to veterans who have taken lessons and reached a certain level of competency. Their act was a singalong and gathered the largest audience.

The Continental Drifters are Rosemarie Lester on accordion and Ruth Calden on recorder. They were joined by Carl Wacker, on guitar and Paula Pachciarz, who sang with the group.

Mary Mullen performed with her women's band, Dark of the Moon Contra-band. She plays guitar and harmonica in the group. Performing with her were Carol Steinhart who has sometimes played duets with Mary for special music at Sunday services, Bonnie Gruber on fiddle, and Rebecca Forbes Wankster on mandolin.



Afternoon top of the walk crowd

Several of the acts included Prairie members. Dan Proud performed several solos, accompanying himself on guitar. Carl Wacker and Mary Mullen joined Dan on guitars, and



Dan Proud & friends: Carl Wacker, Dan, Mary Mullen, Patty Stockdale, Paula Pachciarz

The evening ended with Mike Briggs, a Prairie friend, playing accordion.

Many thanks to these Prairie folks who worked all day long to get things set up, kept them running smoothly, and helped clean up afterward: Bill Parmenter, Penny Eiler, Rick Ruecking, and Patty Stockdale, and also to Susan and Dirk Herr Hoyman who contributed their time and expertise. Mary Mullen coordinated, facilitated and served as MC for the event.

Summer Reads 2014!

Fiction

Achebe, Chinua - *Things Fall Apart*, Anchor, 1994 (Nancy Garst)
Harris, Robert - *An Officer and a Spy: A novel*, Knopf, 2014 (Robin Proud)
Harrison, Jim - *Legends of the Fall*, Delta, 1980
Johnson, Adam - *The Orphan Master's Son: A Novel*, Random House; 2012 (Anne Pryor)
Kingsolver, Barbara - *Prodigal Summer: A Novel*, Harper Perennial, 2000 (Ruth Calden)
Lake, Jay - *Mainspring (Clockwork Earth)*, Tor Books, 2008 (Nevenah Smith)
Lake, Jay - *Endurance (Clockwork Earth)*, Tor Books, 2008 (Nevenah Smith)
Lake, Jay - *Pinion (Clockwork Earth Trilogy 3)*, Tor Books, 2011 (Nevenah Smith)
Llewellyn, Richard - *How Green Was My Valley*, Macmillan, 1942 (Rose Smith)
McCarthy, Cormac - *Blood Meridian: Or the Evening Redness in the West*, Vintage, 1992
Meyer, Marissa - *Cinder (Lunar Chronicles, 1 Square Fish; 2012* (Susan Hagstrom)
Meyer, Marissa - *Scarlet (Lunar Chronicles, #2)*, Square Fish; 2013 (Susan Hagstrom)
Meyer, Marissa - *Cress (Lunar Chronicles)*, Feiwel & Friends, 2014 (Susan Hagstrom)
Rowell, Rainbow - *Eleanor & Park*, St. Martin's Griffin, 2013 (Anne Pryor)
Weir, Andy - *The Martian: A Novel*, Crown, 2014 (Robin Proud)

Nonfiction

Brooks, David - *The Social Animal: The Hidden Sources of Love, Character, and Achievement*, Random House 2012 (Paula Doyle)
Foreman, Dave - *Man Swarm and the Killing of Wildlife*, Ravens Eye Press, 2011 (Galen Smith)
Galeano, Eduardo - *Soccer in Sun and Shadow*, Nation Books, 2013 (Rick Ruecking)
Goodenough, Ursula - *The Sacred Depths of Nature*, Oxford University Press, 2000 (Paula Doyle)
Heller, Peter - *Kook: What Surfing Taught Me About Love, Life, and Catching the Perfect Wave*, Free Press, 2010 (Anne Pryor)
Ladin, Joy - *Through the Door of Life: A Jewish Journey between Genders*, University of Wisconsin Press, 2013 (Anne Urbanski)
Lightman, Alan - *The Accidental Universe: The World You Thought You Knew*, Pantheon, 2014
Mead, Rebecca - *My Life in Middlemarch*, Crown, 2014 (Anne Lundin)
Pickett, Kate & Richard Wilkinson - *The Spirit Level: Why Greater Equality Makes Societies Stronger*, Bloomsbury Press, 2011 (Bob Reuschlein)
Pressfield, Steven - *The War of Art: Break Through the Blocks and Win Your Inner Creative Battles*, Black Irish Entertainment, 2012 (Barbara Chatterton Frye)
Reynolds, David - *The Long Shadow: The Legacies of the Great War in the Twentieth Century*, W. W. Norton & Company, 2014
Zinn, Howard - *A People's History of the United States: 1492 to Present*, Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 2005 (Pam Gates)



Polkalamity



Spoken Word by Minister Fuller (and his audience)



Left: Tri Bratovchedki: Dan Gavin, Debbie Kmetz
Right: Still Jaded After All These Years



Kraus Family Band



Left: Mike Briggs

Visit Prairie's website (see below) for further information

Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society

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