

Prairie Fire

June 2015

Pub. Date: 05/27/2015



Prairie Calendar

(See descriptions of programs below)

Sat	June 6	5:00 am to 7:00 a.m.— Men's Shelter Breakfast
Sat	June 6	9:00 am— WOW —at Prairie
Sun	June 7	10:00 am service— Religious Education Wrap-Up —Holly Tellander—As the religious education year ends, we will recognize Our dedicated staff and their classes and share plans for expanding outdoor learning in our new expanded yard
Sun	June 7	11:45 am— Humanist Union presents a TED talk —with Daniel Dennett
Sun	June 7	5:00 pm— AFIK Men's Group —at Prairie
Sun	June 14	10:00 am service— Summer Reads —Rose Smith
Sun	June 14	11:45— Soup Sunday
Sun	June 14	11:45 am— Book Club — <i>Far From the Tree: Parents, Children, And the Search for Identity</i>
Sun	June 21	10:00 am— Make Music Madison —Madison's annual summer Solstice tradition is to make music and Prairie has been one of the venues. Since the solstice falls on Sunday this year, our regular service will be the start of the days' activities. We will move outdoors for an all music service by Prairie performers. We recommend you bring lawn chairs. Plan to stay for the day and bring a picnic lunch for your family
Mon	June 22	Evening— Spanish Speakers —at Prairie—Potluck Dinner—Call Rosemary for a ride: 608-238-4382
Tues	June 23	1:30-3:30 pm— Prairie Elders —at Prairie—Optional to bring a Snack—Chat at 1:00 with discussion at 1:30
Sun	June 28	10:00 am service— TBA
Sun	July 5	Picnic here at Prairie, after the service
Sun	July 26	Annual Joint Service & Picnic with the Free Congregation of Sauk County in their lovely space in Sauk City.

June 6—**Mini Collection for the Men's Drop-In Shelter**

This collection is mini because it's short in duration and because a lot of small sizes are needed. Regular size clothing and bedding are needed, too, however. Below is the wish list posted in the kitchen of the drop-in men's shelter. I am asking that you bring items on the list that you want to donate to Prairie. There will be a bin in the foyer. Then I or another volunteer can take the items to the shelter on Saturday, June 6, our next breakfast gig at Grace Episcopal Church.

Travel size

shampoo
bar soap
lotion
conditioner
toothpaste

toothbrushes, disposable razors

twin size blankets--don't need to match!

twin size flat sheets--don't need to match!

bath towels, kitchen towels (Don't need to be in good condition. The more worn towels will be made into rags.)

Men's clothing

t-shirts
underwear
socks
pants
jeans
sweatshirts
light-weight jackets

Coffee, tea, hot chocolate

coffee cups

Any questions? Contact Paula.

[608.206.1770](tel:608.206.1770)

pjchz@gmail.com

June 7— From 12:30 to 1:30 pm on Sunday June 7th we will view and discuss a TED talk video by Daniel Dennett titled *Let's teach religion — all religion — in schools* (24:45 min. long) which can be seen online [here](#). (This was originally scheduled for Prairie's annual family retreat.) We will start with our usual potluck lunch at 11:45 am.

[Preview YouTube video Dan Dennett: Let's teach religion -- all religion -- in schools](#)



June 14—An annual tradition at Prairie, **Summer Reads** is your opportunity to share a favorite book. Imagine you are packing for your summer vacation. What book do you download on your Kindle? What book on CD do you check out from the library to play in the car on the drive to your vacation destination? What paperback do you make room for in your luggage? It's that book that is worth re-read. Well, share that book with your Prairie family.

June 14--***Far From the Tree: Parents, Children, and the Search for Identity***, by Andrew Solomon, Chapters 6 (Schizophrenia) & 9 (Transgender) and any other chapters besides Chapter 1 and 5 (Son & Autism) which we previously discussed.. Solomon's startling proposition in ***Far from the Tree*** is that being exceptional is at the core of the human condition—that difference is what unites us. He writes about families coping with deafness, dwarfism, Down syndrome, autism, schizophrenia, or multiple severe disabilities; with children who are prodigies, who are conceived in rape, who become criminals, who are transgender. While each of these characteristics is potentially isolating, the experience of difference within families is universal, and Solomon documents triumphs of love over prejudice in every chapter. Suggested by Mary Mullen.

June 21—**All Day Music at Prairie**--Like music? Then Sunday, June 21, will be your day at Prairie. Prairie will present an outdoor all-music service on Sunday, June 21, at the usual time of 10-11 a.m. as part of the city-wide Make Music Madison event.

And that's not all. There will be music all day long following Prairie's service until 8:00 pm at night! The event is sponsored by Prairie and the Dunn's Marsh Neighborhood Association.

Bring a picnic lunch so you don't get hungry. Just Bakery will also be selling their baked goods from 11 a.m. until they run out. For your own comfort, you might also want to bring a lawn chair or blanket. Knitters will have plenty of time to carry on their favorite hobby while listening.

By the way, don't worry if it's rainy. In case of rain, the music and audience will just move inside.

Here's the tentative schedule:

10:00 - Prairie UU musicians present an all-music program that will tentatively include the choir; the Continental Drifters (Rosemarie Lester and Ruth Calden); John Wunderlin on French horn; Paula Pachciarz singing; Lynn Pawelski & Anne Urbanski singing; Marcia Johnson on keyboard; the Tedesco girls Ava & Sophie on keyboard; Nevenah Smith & Dan Proud; Daniel Haug on accordion; Dan Proud, Carl Wacker, & Mary Mullen leading a singalong of favorite Prairie songs; round-singing by all, and possibly more.

11:00 - Marilyn Duguid plays bagpipes. 11:15 - **Mad Town Spoken Word** is a group

of young men performing their original poems

11:30 - Helen Avakian (international fingerstyle champion, singer, & songwriter) & Dave Irwin (guitarist) will perform some jazz, Brazilian, Celtic, and contemporary folk music.

12:00 - Dan Proud doing Welsh, 60s folk & original material

12:15 - Guitarists Few & Proud - A vets guitar group does singalong standards.

12:30 - Guitars for Vets play guitar and sing rock/pop/country/folk standards for singing along.

1:00 - Dark of the Moon Contra-Band - Mary Mullen's women's folk band plays traditional music from Europe & America. You can dance waltzes, polkas, and schottisches if you like.

1:45 - Just Duet - Cindy Harrington (from the neighborhood) and Angela Smith sing with the goal of making a more peaceful world.

2:15 - Dave (singer & guitarist) & Mitch (violin) play songs from folk/rock history mixed with a bit of Country/Bluegrass/Swing for good measure.

2:45 - TBA

3:30 - Rex Loker & Kevin Royalty sing contemporary songs to make you think, delivered in harmony, backed with guitar & banjo.

4:00 - Granpa Squeezit (Mike Briggs) on accordion

4:30 - TBA

5:00 - The Oaknut Duet is two women playing classical violin duets.

5:30 - Dave Schindele performs originals and a selection of covers with keyboard and voice.

6:00 - Traditional Frequency - Two performers play traditional Irish and other world folk music.

6:30 - Steve Erbs plays original slack key delta blues-inspired instrumentals in open tuning.

7:15-8:00 pm - Son Del Atlantico - Afro-Caribbean Columbian music from the Atlantic coast - drums, stringed instruments, saxophone, voice

June 23—**Prairie Elders**—Eighty Is The New 40?!! Well. maybe in some ways! Eighty-year-olds are having mid-life crises at an alarming rate or maybe not. Seniors have to reinvent some part of their lives, perhaps learning a new way to tie their shoes, or perhaps changing to velcro. We will see and discuss some TED-talks about Life Hacks - some big and some small. Let's discuss it.

Prairie Elders aims to provide good times and mutual support for Prairie UU members and friends over 65. Our "round-robin" format makes it easier to hear and gives all of us the option of speaking. Topics alternate between general issues and personal issues. Sharing is optional: People are welcome just to come and listen.

CONTACTS: Rosemary Dorney (238-4382) or Donna Murdoch (238-3802). Call for a ride.

WHAT TO BRING: If convenient, bring your own beverage cup and a few snacks. If not convenient, don't worry about it, just come.

ABOUT US: Prairie Elders aims to provide good times and mutual support for Prairie UU Members and Friends over 65. Newcomers are welcome.

Topics alternate between general issues and personal interests; Sharing is optional. People are welcome just to come and listen.

Musings from the Minister—Reverend Sandra Ingham

Usually a congregation's minister gives an annual report at the Spring Parish Meeting. Because I was unable to be at that meeting, I will use this column for at least some of my minister's report. First of all, I would like to thank the other three people who are on the staff with me here at Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society: Dan Klock, Administrator; John Eliganti, Custodian; and Holly Tellander, Director of Religious Education. Without the outstanding work that you three do, I would be lost! Thank you for the dedication and commitment that you all bring to your positions here.

Next, I would like to say a huge THANK YOU to the two Board members who will be going off the Board on June 30: Vice President, Patty Stockdale, and Treasurer, Al Nettleton.... , and a WELCOME to the three new Board members whose terms will begin on July 1: Karen Deaton, Vice President; Bill Parmenter, Treasurer; and Kim Tedesco, At-Large.... , plus, ONGOING THANKS to the four folks staying on the Board: Gary Gates, President; Anne Urbanski, Secretary; Judy Lazarus, At-Large; and, John Richards, At-Large.

Most of the time during my tenure with you -- already into my third year! -- the Board has been busy with decisions that concern the "Prairie Annex", aka that house next door that is now ours and part of Prairie's space. We were approached about buying it. We eventually bought it. We have remodeled it. We are beginning to furnish it. We are landscaping it. We are thinking about various uses for it. (I am using the word "we" generously here, in its broadest sense to mean the Prairie Community.)

What will the Board do next? I hope that it will now turn its attention to completing the writing of Prairie Policies and Procedures. I definitely understand how this is not the most exciting work -- at least for most of us. I am usually the first person whose eyes "glaze over" when we start talking about policies and procedures. HOWEVER, THIS WORK IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR ANY ORGANIZATION, ESPECIALLY FOR CONGREGATIONS. Let us GIVE THANKS to those people who not only are good at this kind of work, but also seem to enjoy it! And, I do believe that Prairie is fortunate to have at least a couple of such people on our Board.

We need to be much, much clearer about how we conduct business in this organization and who is responsible for what. We need to be able to give new Board members and new Committee Chairs a written document stating exactly what it is that is expected of them. We need to be very clear about what we expect from our volunteers so that they can work on what they are charged to do without getting bogged down in learning basic processes and too often reinventing the wheel when it comes to procedures of how boards and committees work. (No, I haven't forgotten to thank Committee Chairs; that will be in my next column.)

I will be out of the country from June 5th to the 26th. I look forward to returning to the beginning of a brand-new "church year" on July 1st. And, I am going to do everything that I can to enable myself to look forward to talking about policies and procedures -- I think there might be a few lattes consumed by me before Board meetings this coming year. What I am most eagerly looking forward to is seeing the actual written policies and procedures -- yes, of course on the computer. But, ALSO, in loose-leaf notebook form for Board members and Committee Chairs to use during their tenures.

As always, your contributions and suggestions are welcome -- any member of the Prairie Community is invited to make comments to me or to anyone on the Board about what should be included in the important work of documenting what our work here is and how we should go about doing it.

ENJOY SUMMER!! Rev. Sandy

From Ruth Calden--Historical Tidbit

Circle Dinners started in 1970

Circle dinners have been a mainstay of our Prairie community for a long time. But when did they start? According to a newsletter dated Oct. 7 1970 supplied by Elinor Loucks , it was started by our first minister Dave Meyers.

He writes in that newsletter of 1970 "I would like to propose Prairie circle dinners (groups of 5-8 adults who rotate being hosts for dinner over a period of months or weeks, each host supplying the main dish and beverage with other people bringing other things...."). Dave also proposed in that same newsletter a play reading group which subsequently met monthly for many years in members' homes.

Yea! Prairie Society will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2017!

From your Prairie History Committee:

Mary Mullen, Chair, Barbara Park, Rosemary Dorney and Ruth Calden

Message from the President—Gary Gates

I was pleased with the turnout at the Retreat for the sessions on Prairie's future. Many ideas and concerns were expressed including:

1. The Religious Education program is vital.
2. We should have a) A full-time minister b) We should have no minister c) We should continue with a part time minister.
4. We should have a publicity program to make Prairie better known.
5. We should identify the unique things we already are and do (such as being the only lay led UU Society in Madison) and build on that.

As I said at the Retreat, my objective is to get people talking about where we want to go, I hope these ideas and others will be a continuing discussion at Circle dinners, the Men's group, WOW, after and before Sunday services and whenever we get together. Only by continuing to look at questions about who we are and who we'd like to be will we be able to continue the unique and caring community we are now.

Circle of Friends—Holly Tellander, Dir. of Religious Education

Prairie RE May Happenings

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2016 RE-Imagined Summit--You have two options for attending the RE-Imagined Planning Summits this summer! Hopefully you will be able to make at least one of these sessions where we will discuss ideas for the 2016 RE year. Come with your ideas about what works, what doesn't and how Prairie's RE program can help support your parenting goals and values. Please RVSP to holly@tellander.net and indicate whether you will need childcare.

NOTE: This event is NOT JUST FOR PARENTS! This event is for anyone who has an idea about how to improve our current program and understands that it truly does take a village to raise a child. A robust, dynamic and active RE program is the key to our future. Please RVSP to holly@tellander.net

Option 1: Monday, June 22nd, 6:30-8:30

Option 2: Saturday, June 27th, 10:00 – 12:00

IT'S SUMMER TIME AND WE NEED YOU!

Our traditional classes go on hiatus during the summer, and though kids LOVE free time, we want to make sure we continue to offer thought provoking experiences. Summer is the perfect time to share a passion that you have with our kids! We've already had offers of a solar telescope experience as well as some plant pod stamping art! What can you bring to the party downstairs? Want to hang out, but fresh out of ideas? A giant binder of ideas complete with reflections – organized by categories – is in the works. You'll hear more about this on our June 7th service. In the meantime, get those creative juices flowing and talk to Holly Tellander if you have a great idea or even if you don't!

What's Up Downstairs?

Our first PAD day was a big success! We had a lot of fun tying fleece blankets and watching Bolt and reflecting on what our 7th principle looks like in action. We started several cat/dog/rodent blankets (thanks to Greine & Luna for the idea and all the cutting!) We'll be working on those for the next few weeks and sometime this

summer we will schedule a field trip to donate the blankets to the humane society. If you love critters, you won't want to miss this field trip!

ARTISTS WANTED!

As we wrap up another school year, no doubt your student has come home with some lovely art. Prairie's RE kids will have the opportunity to display their most proud works in our sanctuary over the summer weeks. Please give pieces to Kathy Converse or Holly Tellander. All pieces will be returned. Can't wait to see the results!

Did we mention that WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU DOWNSTAIRS THIS SUMMER?? Come on down, kids keep us young!

IS ANYONE STILL READING??? **We can always use donations of pre-packaged string cheese, single serve applesauce containers & saltine crackers (COSTCO, ANYONE?). THANK YOU IN ADVANCE!!**

 As always, thanks for your support! 

From Paula Pachciarz—Men's Shelter

Here are the summer dates for the Men's Shelter:

June 6
July 4
Aug. 8
Sept. 5

A Family Outing?

I'd love to schedule Prairie's breakfast volunteers for the summer months so that I won't have to send out monthly appeals. The men's shelter breakfast is a great opportunity to do a service together as a family now that school is out. Youngsters should be of middle school or high school age. Volunteers arrive at the downtown shelter at Grace Episcopal Church at 5:00 a.m. It takes about two hours to prepare and serve breakfast and if you enjoy the Saturday Farmers' Market, you are already there! The work is easy and the hot breakfast is much appreciated. Please contact me if you would like to sign up.

Paula Pachciarz

[608.206.1770](tel:608.206.1770)

pjpchz@gmail.com

From Karen Deaton

THE DIRT ON OUR LANDSCAPING PROJECT

Have you noticed the progress we've made? A new lawn is getting established on the Whenona side of the Meeting House and Annex. Coming soon: low-maintenance flowering shrubs on the Whenona side of our property, and a fence

and gate between the buildings, to help contain little ones who may tend to wander.

These items are welcome donations:

- **Rocks** that are softball-size or larger (Just bring them if you have them, and place them in the grassless area near the back-door stairs of the Meeting House. Let a Prairie teen know if you want help carrying them). We will select some donations to use for a rock garden near the walkway steps in front of the Annex. Others will be used for activities in the children's natural outdoor classroom.
- Pieces of **logs** to make a "stump circle" in the back yard. They should be at least 10 inches in diameter and at least 6 inches long.
- **Sticks** that are at least 2 or 3 inches in diameter and 6 feet long, for the children to use in building tepees and other structures.
- Large **hostas**, if you have extras that you would like to contribute (please get approval first by calling or emailing me).
- **Contributions** toward purchasing shrubs.
- A **rain barrel**.

These jobs need to be done:

- Installing about 8 feet of fence, with a gate.
- Removing some unneeded fencing.
- Lots of dirt-moving with shovels and rakes in the back yard of the Annex.

Let me know if you're interested in helping!

Many thanks to Mary Mullen, Patty Stockdale, and Martin Arnold for hauling and unloading compost; to Jim Lyne, Randy Converse, and Martin for spreading compost; to Martin for tilling the yard; and to Kathy Converse, Randy Converse, and the grades 2 - 4 RE class for pulling garlic mustard and other weeds. I hope I haven't missed anybody, but I wouldn't be surprised if I have - if so, I apologize

From Orange Dean

A Gathering of Norma's Family and Friends
Fitchburg and Oregon, WI
Saturday, June 6, 2015

Fitchburg Senior Center, 5510 Lacy Road, Fitchburg, WI
2:00 pm Visit with Norma's family (Oak Hall Room)
2:30-3:30 pm Remembrance (Fitchburg Room)
Anyone who would like to share a memory of Norma may speak

Norma and Mike's Home, 1519 Storytown Rd, Oregon, WI
Drinks and appetizers provided. Potluck dinner at 6 p.m.
4:00 pm Wander Norma's garden, or join a guided garden tour. Singing, dancing, and making music encouraged. Celebrate Norma!
6:00 pm Potluck supper

8:45 pm Lighting and release of Chinese sky lanterns

9:00 pm Sing “Oh, How Lovely Is The Evening” Norma closed many dance programs with this round.

Norma’s celebration is “Open House” - feel free to attend part or all of the day

Please consider volunteering for and participating in one or more of Prairie’s committees or groups—A full list is located on Prairie’s website: <http://uuprairie.org/aboutus/#com>, or call Patty Stockdale for contact information: (608) 293-0843. Visit Prairie’s website (see below) for further information.

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