Prairie Calendar

(See descriptions of programs below)

**Fri Oct 2**
6:00 p.m. **Board Game Night**

**Sat Oct 3**
5:00 a.m. **Men’s Shelter Breakfast**
9:00 a.m. **WOW** meets at Prairie

**Sat Oct 3**
*Fall Frolic*

**Sun Oct 4**
8:45 a.m. **Choir rehearsal** meets in the Annex
10:00 a.m. service—**Humanism, Hubris OR Humility?—Part Two**—by Rev. Sandra Ingham
11:45 a.m. **Humanist Union** meets
5:30 p.m. **Men’s Group** meets
8:45 a.m. **Choir rehearsal** meets in the Annex
10:00 a.m. service—**Maria Mitchell—An astronomy pioneer**—This is another in Robin Proud’s series on UU foremothers

**Sun Oct 11**
11:45 a.m. **Board Meeting** in the Annex
7:00 p.m. **Program Committee** meets in the Meeting House
8:45 a.m. **Choir rehearsal** meets in the Annex
10:00 a.m. service—**Religious Education: Guiding our children’s search for truth and meaning**

**Sun Oct 18**
11:30 a.m. **Soup Sunday**
11:45 a.m. Book Club: **Wonder** by R. J. Palacio
9:00 a.m. **Flea Market** at Prairie
8:45 a.m. **Choir rehearsal** meets in the Annex
10:00 a.m. **service to be announced**

**Mon Oct 26** **Spanish Speakers** will meet at Prairie. There will be a pot luck dinner. Call Rosemary Dorney (238-4382) or Donna Murdoch (238-3802) if you need a ride.

**Sun Nov 1**
8:45 a.m. **Choir rehearsal** meets in the Annex
10:00 a.m. **service—To be announced**
11:45 a.m. **Humanist Union** meets

**Sun Nov 8**
10:00 a.m. **UUSC speaker Guest at your table**
October 4—Humanism, Hubris OR Humility?—Part Two—Rev. Sandy will continue her reflections on humanism—her personal beliefs on the subject as well as the historical perspective. We will attempt to delve more deeply into the question of how or whether humanism breeds hubris or humility or both or neither. and, we will try to at least begin a conversation about two concerns for Unitarian Universalist humanists: (1) is humanism still the predominant belief in our congregations? And (2) has humanism outlived its usefulness, especially for young people?

October 4—Humanist Union hears about Raif Badawi case—1000 Lashes is the title of Eric Snyder’s presentation to the Humanist Union on Oct. 4th. He will talk to us about the story of Raif Badawi, the blogger sentenced in Saudi Arabia to 10 years in jail and 1000 lashes for criticizing his country’s version of Islam. Badawi’s book, 1000 Lashes: Because I Say What I Think, was published in English in August. His wife, granted political asylum in Canada, has helped found the Raif Badawi Foundation for Freedom. Potluck lunch at 11:45 am, program 12:15 to 1:15 pm.

October 18—During September, we launched our 2015-2016 Prairie Religious Education (RE) program. Since Prairie UU has many new members, including families with children, we wanted to provide an update of our RE Program early in the program year. We will talk about RE from three perspectives: overall goals and philosophy by the Director of RE, experiences teaching from a RE teacher and instructor for Our Whole Lives curriculum, and a compilation of comments from young adults who attended UU RE programs. The youth will be commenting on how the experience of attending a RE program have influenced their life choices and decision making. Come join us and see why we consider our RE Program to be a very important aspect of our Prairie community.

October 18—Book Club selection is Wonder by R. J. Palacio. (fiction, 325 pages) Born with a terrible facial abnormality, Auggie has been home-schooled by his parents his whole life, in an attempt to protect him from the cruelty of the outside world. Now, for the first time, he’s being sent to a real school—and he’s dreading it. All he wants is to be accepted—but can he convince his new classmates that he’s just like them, underneath it all? (Goodreads review) recommended by Gary Gates

Message from the President—Gary Gates

Wake up and smell the coffee! I find it curious that something people like so much has become a symbol for facing up to reality.

But coffee costs money and someone has to make it and someone has to clean up afterwards.

All of which is pertinent to the need for a successful pledge drive. We love the community Prairie provides, but keeping Prairie running costs money. Patty’s choice of a coffee cup as the "thermometer" of progress in our pledge drive seems very pertinent. Somehow we have to pay the utility bills, staff salaries, building repairs, etc. And if we
really want to operate in accord with the seven principles of Unitarian-Universalism, we need to pay fair salaries, recognizing the value our staff brings. Also, we now have two buildings, and when it comes to buildings, two definitely do not live as cheaply as one.

As you contemplate your pledge for the next year please give full consideration to the need for increased funding in almost all areas of our operations. Each of us needs to take responsibility for maintaining the quality time we have at Prairie. We cannot afford to "let someone else do it." Let's fill Patty's coffee cup until it overflows!

Musings from the Minister—Reverend Sandra Ingham

There is an old saying that part of a minister's or spiritual leader's job is to "afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted". What better example of this is there than Pope Francis? I am not in his league in this instance and we have major theological differences, as you might imagine. However, I am in complete agreement with him when he talks about climate change and income inequality. I find it disheartening that there are a lot of people, Catholics and non-Catholics, who don't want to hear these messages.

Unfortunately, I suspect that there are plenty of Unitarian Universalists who are tired of hearing about global warming, climate change, abusing the Earth, the importance of acting immediately to make systemic changes -- whether they are hearing it from me or from other Unitarian Universalist sources. Comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable -- the trick lies in attempting to find the balance between these two poles.

Recently, a member of the Program Committee commented that maybe we need to have more upbeat services. Do we? I think that the Program Committee does an excellent job of striking a balance between upbeat and "downbeat" and everything in between. The Committee is always interested in what you, the Congregation, has to say about Sunday services. You can give feedback to me or to anyone else currently on the Program Committee or considering being on it -- the most amazing Penny Eiler (who chairs this Committee) or Mary Mullen, Rick Ruecking, Kathy Converse, Barb Park, Johanna Hatch, Dawn Haug.

And, speaking of committees -- Program and all the other committees that try to keep Prairie running smoothly and efficiently.... 'tis the time of year when we are recruiting committee members. THINK ABOUT JOINING ONE OR MORE.... you will meet wonderful people, deepen your commitment to Prairie and, hopefully, feel a warm sense of accomplishment and satisfaction for having played a very important role in Prairie's well being. For more information about our committees, you can talk to me or to Karen Deaton, Vice-President of the Board, or to Gary Gates, Board President.

Enjoy the beginning of Autumn.... Rev. Sandy

More on the Flash Flea Market

Prairie's first Flash (one-day) Flea Market will be held Saturday, October 24, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Prairie Meeting House at 2010 Whenona Drive. There is a participation
form at the end of this issue of Prairie Fire. Please see that form for detailed information on becoming a vendor. After completing the participation form, please bring to Prairie and give it to me or mail to: Anne Urbanski, 521 Shady Wood Way, Madison WI, 53714. All forms must be turned in by Sunday October 11th. Participants will be on a first come, first serve basis or whoever turns in a form by the 11th of October, whichever comes first. I will stop taking application forms once I have lined up nine vendors, which is all we have room for in the meeting house.

Quick Tips—

• Make sure to bring plenty of money to make change. Keep your money and change safe in a cash/lock box (not provided)
• Have all of your items visibly labeled for sale with the price you wish to receive.

Here's to a successful Flash Flea Market!
~ Anne Urbanski

COME ONE, COME ALL... Everyone is invited to attend the MOSES 2015 ANNUAL CELEBRATION, "Building momentum together". It will be held on Saturday, October 10, from 4 -7 p.m., at Zion City International, 1317 Applegate Road. Tickets are $15.00 each. (Contact mosesticketsales@gmail.com) There will be appetizers, singers, a brief program, prizes, presentation of awards & much more. Prairie Society is a member of MOSES, a grassroots, interfaith, social justice organization that works on social action issues. Currently, MOSES and similar groups all over Wisconsin are focusing on prison reform in our state. MOSES is an amazing, energetic, inspiring organization. For more information, talk to Rev. Sandy, Molly Plunkett, Pam Gates -- or go to mosesmadison.org.

LOOKING AHEAD... Interested in exploring your beliefs in more depth?? SAVE THE SECOND SATURDAY MORNINGS IN NOVEMBER, DECEMBER and JANUARY for "Building Your Own Theology" workshops. Rev. Sandy recently discovered this classic Unitarian Universalist curriculum when moving her office from 2010 Whenona to 2006 Whenona (aka, the Annex) and would love to share it with those of you who want to delve more deeply into what you really believe.... you just might be surprised by some of the things you discover in this Adult Religious Education endeavor.

From Mary Mullen—Historical Tidbits

First Unitarian’s Archives Yield Historical Information About Prairie’s Beginnings

At the August meeting of Prairie’s History Committee, someone had the bright idea to ask First Unitarian Society whether there might be information about Prairie’s beginnings. Yes, there’s a box of folders just about Prairie. It is full of fascinating information.

Here are some examples.

A “Prairie Site Group Agreement” dated 1/15/1970 shows the names of First Unitarian Society and Prairie Society members who invested in the land that could have become a Prairie building site on the hill that is now within Elver Park. The 15 investors are Arthur Altmeyer, Paul Ayres, Jessica Barr, Katherine Bradley, Patricia Cautley, Charles Davidson, Richard Hartshorne, Camilla Lowe, Raymond Munts, Roland Parrish, Paul Rauschenbusch, William Rice, Robert Siegfried, Velma Stauffer, and Orrin Tompto. At that time, Pat Cautley, Charles Davidson, Roland Par-
rish, and Robert Siegfried were signed members of Prairie in our first membership book.

On 11/23/1979, Prairie applied for a $50,000 Veatch loan from the North Shore Unitarian Society in Plandome, New York. That loan became the backbone of purchase money for our building at 2010 Whenona Drive. Aileen Nettleton was Prairie’s President at this time, and Mike Brigss was listed as the attorney who would handle the loan. The application notes that the legal membership was 65, the RE enrollment was 32 children, and the average pledge was $230 a year. In today’s dollars, that average pledge would now be $836.

A folder contains several materials from the 5/4/1980 dedication of 2010 Whenona Drive. One document is FUS’s minister Max Gaebler’s talk at the dedication service. In that talk, he emphasized that “a church is - or should be - a community of memory and of hope, a community that recognizes not only those individuals who happen to comprise its membership at any given moment, but that counts as well the procession of remembered faces of those who have for many years or for a few been part of its company and that is always sensitive as well to those who in time to come will inherit the concern and the devotion and the substance that we in our time pass on.”

Committee members Mary Mullen and Ruth Calden have visited First Unitarian’s archives 4 times, taking notes and taking photos of the documents. The archives are located in the basement of the original Frank Lloyd Wright building, accessed by a door just beyond the receptionist’s counter. Their keeper is a former Wisconsin Historical Society archivist, Carolyn Mattern, who has very graciously let us occupy a little desk as we do our research.

Mary Mullen and Ruth Calden in the archives of First Unitarian Society
WHAT IS THE CARING COMMITTEE?

Who at Prairie can come visit you or someone in your family when you are in the hospital? Who at Prairie can you contact if you come home from surgery and would appreciate seeing a friend or having some meals delivered? Who can be a caring person to share in a family death or other crisis?

The Prairie Caring Committee is here for Prairie members so you can depend on someone for support in times of need. As a religious community, we want to reach out and provide support when you need it. Members of the Caring Committee each attempt to maintain contact with a group of members, but we need your calls to best support you and others in the society. In turn, we appreciate all members who offer their own support to one another individually or when called upon.

If you or someone else in Prairie may need caring support from Prairie, please contact any of the members of the committee: Erin Bosch, Dean Schroeder, Pam Gates, Cheryl Robinson, Linda Sheehy, and Aileen Nettleton, chair (238-6053). If you do not reach the committee member who is your contact person or if you do not recall who that is, please call any member. We will try to help get the response you need. We also encourage you to contact our minister, Sandy Ingham, 920-217-2236 or minister@uuprairie.org.

You can check the list of Caring Groups on the Prairie bulletin board to see who is your Caring Committee contact person. With changes in our committee, you may have a different “contact person.”
PRAIRIE UU SOCIETY FLASH FLEA MARKET

Participation Form

Please print except where your signature is requested.

Name ______________________________________________________________________________

Address _____________________________________________________________________________

Phone ________________________________________ Email __________________________________

Terms and conditions of participation

Vendor applications will be processed first come, first served. We have room for a total of 10 large folding ta-
bles in the main meeting room.

______ I will need to use a Prairie table. (You get 1 table and 2 chairs.)

______ I will bring my own table. My table is ___ feet by ___ feet

Each vendor is responsible for their own goods, including set-up and take-down.

Each vendor will collect the money from their sales. Please bring a box to hold cash and coins.

At the end of the day, as payment for use of space, each vendor will pay 20 percent of their flea market pro-
ceeds/sales to Prairie. Cash or check is acceptable. Make checks out to PRAIRIE UU SOCIETY.

Set-up will take place Friday night, October 23, between 6:30 and 9:00 p.m.

Sales will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 24.

Sale ends at 4:00 p.m. that day. You might want to mark down items during the last hour.

Any items not sold are the responsibility of the vendor. Any items you do not remove from the building will be

donated. If you choose to donate any items, you must put it in a box or other convenient way to remove it and/
or help move it to the pick-up spot.

While we will have baked goods for sale by RE kids, and coffee for vendors, please bring your own lunch and
other drinks. If you have any allergies, please let us know ahead of time for food preparation.

I UNDERSTAND AND I AGREE TO THE TERMS OF PARTICIPATION.

Printed name ___________________________________________ Date _________________

Signature _____________________________________________________
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: 608-298-0843.

Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society

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