

Prairie Fire

October 2015

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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
Sat	Oct 3	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
Sun	Oct 4	10:00 a.m. service— Humanism, Hubris OR Humility?—Part Two —by Rev. Sandra Ingham
Sun	Oct 4	11:45 a.m. Humanist Union meets
Sun	Oct 4	5:30 p.m. Men's Group meets
Sun	Oct 11	8:45 a.m. Choir rehearsal meets in the Annex
Sun	Oct 11	10:00 a.m. service— Maria Mitchel—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
Mon	Oct 12	7:00 p.m. Program Committee meets in the Meeting House
Sun	Oct 18	8:45 a.m. Choir rehearsal meets in the Annex
Sun	Oct 18	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
Sun	Oct 18	11:45 a.m. Book Club: Wonder by R. J. Palacio
Sat	Oct 24	9:00 a.m. Flea Market at Prairie
Sun	Oct 25	8:45 a.m. Choir rehearsal meets in the Annex
Sun	Oct 25	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
Sun	Nov 1	10:00 a.m. service—To be announced
Sun	Nov 1	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 Briggs 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



Ruth Calden interviewing Orié Loucks on September 22, 2015

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.”

Circle of Friends—Holly Tellander, Dir. Religious Education

Hello families! We are off to a great start downstairs this year! We've seen lots of familiar faces, and several new ones too! Come on down and check out our interactive bulletin boards and our AMAZING classrooms!

REGISTRATION

First off, I wanted to remind you all to bring your registration forms to Prairie the next time you visit. Having those forms ensures that we are able to contact you in the unlikely event of an emergency, as well as that we have accurate medical information on file for each of our students. Your registration fee of \$25 per family per semester is due at the time of registration and allows us to continue to offer great programming!

CALENDAR CHANGES

Hopefully you all received a copy of our fall calendar in your registration packet. I'm sure it's tacked up to your fridge right now! Well, please take that one down and tack up the one that is attached to this email as there have been a few important changes.

- **Fall Frolic** has been changed to from Saturday, October 4th to **Saturday, October 17th from 3-5 p.m.** - This year we will meet at Fast Forward Skating Rink in Madison to show off our wheelies! This event is for everyone at Prairie, not just our RE families! The first 20 people to register for this event get free admission, courtesy of Prairie RE! You can register by emailing me back at this address and letting me know how many people will be coming from your family. If you don't make the free cutoff - don't worry! Drop in rate is only \$5 per person, skate rental included. We hope to see lots of you there!
- **Symbol Tree** has been moved from Sunday, December 13th to Sunday, December 20th. - More details coming soon about this sweet annual inter-generational, but you definitely won't want to miss this special Prairie holiday tradition.

MONTHLY THEMES

This year in RE we are trying something new. One of the most common feedback points I have received from parents is that they would like a more tangible home/church connection. Prairie RE aspires to be an extension of your parenting goals - an extra resource in your parenting tool bag! September's theme was compassion. Daily quotes, ideas and conversation starters were posted on our RE Facebook page in the hopes that it would spark conversations at home that could be carried over and reinforced at Prairie. Printed flyers will be available for each of the monthly themes at the beginning of each month. These could be tacked up somewhere visible in your home as a means to help direct your family focus outwards and hopefully create excellent opportunities for deeper connections and social justice action!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Principal Action Workshop & Lunch - Sunday, November 22nd 11:30 - 1:30** Our September Principal Action Workshop & Lunch was canceled due to lack of registrations. But, we have another event scheduled for November! Parents - this is your opportunity to go out for a child-free lunch in Madison after service on Sunday, from 11:30 - 1:30! This event is free for Prairie families who are fully registered in RE for the 2015/2016 year. During class time on the 22nd the students will hear our guest speakers, two Wiccan priestesses who will speak about their faith traditions with a special focus on our monthly theme of "Wonder & Mystery". After class, the students will have lunch together, provided

by Prairie, with time afterward to be spent on crafts, games and other fun. Pre-registration is required to ensure adequate supervision and food for lunch. Lunch choice will be posted soon. Please specify any allergies/food restrictions at time of registration. You can register by responding to this email!

o **We still need one or two adult volunteers to help out with this event!** The event will be pre-planned and your commitment to supervision ensures that our RE families with young children feel the love of our congregation in the form of a monthly two-hour child free lunch courtesy of Prairie! Think of this as an easy social justice opportunity very close to home!

Fall Frolic - Get your skate on! Saturday, October 17th, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at Fast Forward Skate Rink.

SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ACTION – HELP NEEDED!

This fall Prairie kids will be focusing on one large social justice project that will speak to each of our monthly themes; September - Compassion, October - Wonder & Mystery, November - Unity, and December - Joy. We will be partnering up with the Pregnancy Helpline of Madison to collect items from their 'wish list' which we will organize and donate at the beginning of December. Look for more information about this great opportunity do make a social justice impact right here in our own city on our Prairie RE bulletin board, on our Facebook page, and on the Prairie News site. I will be stopping in to each of the classrooms to speak to the students about the needs of the organization, so please ask your student questions and keep this conversation rolling. Donations can be made between now and Sunday, December 6th. Donation boxes will be placed upstairs under the 'coffee table', also downstairs in the main meeting area, and in the kitchen in the Annex. Printed lists of needed items can be found at Prairie - small so you can tuck them in your wallet! You can also find a list of the needed items here: <http://www.pregnancyhelpline.net/donate.cfm>

Thanks in advance for helping make this a great outreach opportunity for our students!

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 tables 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 proceeds/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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(608) 271-8218

<http://www.uuprairie.org>