

# Prairie Fire

August 2017

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## Prairie Calendar

(See descriptions of programs below)

**Fri Aug 4** 6:00 p.m.—**Board Game Night**

**Sat Aug 5** 5:00 a.m.—**Men's Shelter Breakfast**

9:00 a.m.—**Prairie WOW**—meets in the Annex

**Sun Aug 6** 10:00 a.m.—**My Source, Mark Twain**—by Penny Eiler. This is another in the series on UU's six sources. The words and deeds of Mark Twain will challenge you to confront powers and structures of evil with humor and sarcastic wit

12:00 p.m.—**Luncheon for Terri and Tony Prudlo's 40 years together**—In Prairie Meeting Hall (see details below)

**Mon Aug 7** 6:30 p.m.—**Program Committee**—meets

**Sun Aug 13** 10:00 a.m.—**How Many UUs Does It Take to Save the World?**—That probably depends on whether or not enough of us can agree on the necessity of saving the world, let alone how we might go about accomplishing such a gigantic task. Daily acts of resistance are important. To spark our imagination on what forms daily resistance might take, we will take a brief look at the lives of Jefferson, Emerson, Phineas Quimby, Andrew Jackson Davis and Helen Blavatsky and consider the radical religious ideas of Paul Tillich, Alan Watts and Mary Daly, among others. Religious restlessness motivated the lives of these people, often resulting in their successfully making a connection between being creatively religious and committing random acts of resistance.—Rev. Sandy

11:45 a.m.—**Humanist Union**—We will view and discuss three short films from Brave New Films that examine issues related to immigration that impact undocumented and refugee communities in the U.S. The films are: *Pursuing the Dream*, *Nowhere to Go: Shutting out Syrians*, and *The Call to Sanctuary*. We'll start with a potluck lunch followed by the program from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. All are welcome to participate

**Tues Aug 15** 7:00 p.m.—**Board**—meets in the Annex

**Sun Aug 20** 10:00 a.m.—**The Hidden Life of Trees**—by Kathy Converse. Peter Wohlleben in his international bestseller, *The Hidden Life of Trees*, makes the case that the forest is a social network and draws on groundbreaking scientific discoveries to describe how trees are like human families; tree parents live together with their children, communi-

cate with them, support them as they grow, share nutrients with those who are sick or struggling, and even warn each other of impending dangers. Kathy Converse will share her take on Wohleben's research

11:45 a.m.—**Soup Sunday**

**Sun Aug 27** 10:00 a.m.—**Service TBA**—

**Fri Sept 1** 6:00 p.m.—**Board Game Night**

**Sat Sept 2** 5:00 a.m.—**Men's Shelter breakfast**

9:00 a.m.—**Prairie WOW**—meets in the Annex

## LOOKING AHEAD

**Sun Sept 3** 10:00 a.m.—**The Water Ceremony**—Prairie's annual water ceremony is this Sunday. There will be a slight change in this year's celebration of the beginning of the church year. The Program Committee hopes that you will, as usual, bring your stories and memories about your summer trips or stay-at-home adventures, but—**Please do not gather water from your travels or even your homes; we will provide water for this year's celebration.**

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## Musings from the Minister—Sandra Ingham

In last month's column, I told you a little bit about my experience at this year's General Assembly (GA), the Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA) annual gathering, which includes business meetings, workshops, lectures, worship services, reunions with friends, and much, much more. I barely scratched the surface in that column, so here is more news from the 2017 GA, held in New Orleans.

A highlight for me was the final worship service, held Sunday, June 25, the last day of GA. Because we elected a new President of the UUA this year, that service ended with the installation of Susan Frederick-Gray, our first female president—ever. Saying this was long overdue is a huge understatement. We like to brag about our liberalism and how progressive we Unitarian Universalists are! And yet...and yet, are we really? Seeing a woman finally installed brought tears to my eyes. I am excited about Susan's presidency; I think that she will do amazing things. I am hopeful that she will turn out to be the right person, in the right place, at the right time.

Sadly, her first official order of business was to tell us that two men from the UUA staff team were attacked the evening before in the French Quarter. They were beaten up and robbed. One of them was badly hurt; the other one was treated and released. I don't know how either one of these men is doing at the moment, but my heart goes out to them. When bad things happen to good people, it leaves us puzzled and frightful. And sometimes it gives us a shiver because it could have happened to us. I had been walking in the very same block of the French Quarter where the attack happened only a few hours before.

Several resolutions were considered at the final plenary session which is held after the Sunday morning service. One resolution was about the wording of one of our sources—this was especially interesting to me because here at Prairie we are using the six sources as an ongoing theme for Sunday morning reflections this year. At GA, we overwhelmingly voted to change the wording of the second source **from** "The living tradition we share

draws from many sources: “*Words and deeds of prophetic women and men*” to “*Words and deeds of prophetic people*”.

There were two resolutions related to our principles. One dealt with changing the wording of our first principle to include not only the inherent worth and dignity of every person, but also *all living things*. You can probably imagine the debate around this proposal. Realizing that we did not have enough time to give this the attention it needed, we voted to table it for at least two years. There would have been enough time to continue debate on this issue had there not been a fascinating resolution “in the wings” awaiting our input. This was the introduction of a resolution to consider adding an eighth principle to our existing seven.

Intrigued? To be continued either in next month’s newsletter and/or in a Sunday morning service...

Happy August Days to All of You...Rev. Sandy

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### **Celebrating 40 years together—Luncheon Party**

Tony and Terri Prudlo want you to join them in celebrating the joy of having found the right life partner, together since August 7, 1977. Lunch will be prepared by refugee women from *Open Doors for Refugees*—with music and dancing. RSVP to Aileen Nettleton at [aanett@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aanett@sbcglobal.net) or call her at 238-6053 so we will know how much food to prepare.

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### **IHN week is August 27 to September 3**

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, 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 this website for an explanation of the volunteer jobs and to sign up. Click on the photo that says Road Home: [www.midvalelutheran.org](http://www.midvalelutheran.org).

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### **Prairie to Celebrate 50th Anniversary September 16 and 17**

Prairie turns 50 on Sunday, September 17, and we are celebrating the event with a wine and cheese event on Saturday evening, the 16th and on Sunday at the 10:00 a.m. service, a community meal afterward, history displays, tours of the buildings and possibly the former Prairie site way out on Raymond Road.

We will also have a newly published history book for sale that you won’t want to pass up. Put the dates on your calendar now, and look for a chance to reserve a book for yourself when we know a price, closer to the time of celebration.

Mary Mullen



***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 contact Andy Garst for more information at: [garst.andrew@gmail.com](mailto:garst.andrew@gmail.com)***