

Prairie Fire

October 2017

Editor: Phyllis Long plong373@gmail.com

Pub. Date: 09/27/17

Rev. Sandra Ingham, minister—minister@uuprairie.org

Dan Klock, administrator—admin@uuprairie.org

Holly Tellander, DRE—prairie_uu_dre@outlook.com

Gary Gates, president—gig.gts@gmail.com

Andy Garst, vice-president—garst.andrew@gmail.com

Kathy Converse, treasurer—conversekrtn@gmail.com

Cindy O'Neill, board secretary—cmoneill@tdsw.net



Prairie Calendar

(See descriptions of programs below)

Sun Oct 1 8:45 a.m.—**Choir Rehearsal**—in the Annex

10:00 a.m.—**Would Have, Could Have, Should Have**—Today we mark the most important time on the Jewish calendar, the High Holidays that begin with Rosh Hashanah and end with Yom Kippur. The Jewish religion is important to our faith tradition because it is one of the sources we draw from to make our Unitarian Universalist beliefs richer. Jewish New Year is more meaningful to me than January 1st. It is a time of reflection and introspection of what I would have, could have, should have done better or differently during the past year. What is the place of shame in this exercise? There is a word that you don't often hear used by UUs, but you will on this Sunday. Hope to see you then!—Rev. Sandy

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

Sat Oct 7 5:00 a.m.—**Men's Shelter Breakfast**

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

Sun Oct 8 8:45 a.m.—**Choir Rehearsal**—in the Annex

10:00 a.m.—**Service**

11:30 a.m.—**Book Club**—will meet in the Annex. There will be a potluck, followed by a discussion of **Life and Death in Shanghai** by Cheng Nien. A woman who spent more than six years in solitary confinement during Communist China's Cultural Revolution discusses her time in prison.. Recommended by Helen, a speaker at Prairie. Suggested by Cynthia O'Neill. 287 pages.

Sun Oct 15 8:45 a.m.—**Choir Rehearsal**—in the Annex

10:00 a.m.—**Service**

Sun Oct 22 8:45 a.m.—**Choir Rehearsal**—in the Annex

10:00 a.m.—**Service**

11:45 a.m.—**Soup Sunday**

Tues Oct 24 *Prairie Elders* meets in the Annex. Contact Al Nettleton (238-6053) or Penny Eiler (852-8750) for more information

Sun Oct 29 8:45 a.m.—***Choir Rehearsal***—in the Annex

10:00 a.m.—**Service**

Musings from the Minister—Sandra Ingham

The fiftieth anniversary celebrations have come and gone. What a wonderful celebration it was the weekend of September 16 and 17! There was a large turnout on Saturday evening for the wine and cheese party. And, we had a packed house on Sunday morning, the 17th. For me, it was a joyful occasion, a heartwarming event seeing so many returning Prairie-ites, all those folks who have passed through the Prairie doors over the past five decades and helped shape what Prairie currently is.

Now that the party is over and Prairie is poised to embark on its next fifty years, you might ask “What now? Where do we go from here? *How* do we go from here?” Of course, these are ongoing questions that organizations ponder—or should ponder. The conversation about what you want to be and how to achieve it should be revisited periodically by the members of institutions, in general, and perhaps by nonprofit organizations, in particular, because these groups often aspire to make the world a little bit better and fairer.

One way to intentionally do this is to have regularly scheduled meetings to brainstorm and talk about ways of being in community. To that end, I invite you to come to the next town-hall meeting. It will be held on Sunday, October 29, after the service. The first such gathering was held on July 30. I called it CAALT for Conversation And Active Listening Time. Later I remembered that when I initiated these conversations at the Green Bay Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, we called them town-hall meetings, which is more descriptive than the acronym CAALT.

But whatever we call these listening and learning times, please plan to attend on October 29. Among other things, I hope that we talk about forming a task force to concentrate on growth: how to bring in more members; how to keep them; how to get new people—and “older” ones, too—more enthused and excited about giving time and money to Prairie; how to make better use of social media; how to be more effective at getting our message “out there” in the wider world. If you are interested in being on such a task force, please let me know—you don’t have to wait until October 29 to do so.

I will be out of town in mid-October (9-25) hiking in the Southwest. As usual, I will be available via phone and email while away, except for October 11-17 when I will be at the bottom of Grand Canyon with no cell phone or computer access. Otherwise, I will be checking messages regularly.

Happy Fall Equinox! As we move into more autumnal weather—as surely we will, although I am writing this on yet another 90 degrees + day—may you enjoy the beauty of the fall season before the earth shifts again and takes us into the dark of winter.—Rev. Sandy

Message from the President—Gary Gates

They say that those who do not remember history are condemned to repeat it. In Prairie’s case that might be okay, given that we have created and continue to have a strong and loving family community. Of course, there are parts of our history we’d rather not repeat, such as the arguments over building and moving to Fitchburg. But total results to date look pretty good.

Thank you, Barb Park, Mary Mullen, Ruth Calden, and Rosemary Dorney, for the fantastic effort you have put in to document how we got to where we are.

When talking about history, of course, we have certainty about what happened, even if we often do not remember it exactly the same way others do. The future, however, often turns out different than we expect, which is what has happened with Lockers for the Homeless.

We have gone through extensive effort to involve our congregation and our neighbors with the need and appropriateness of helping homeless people by providing a location for a few of them to store their belongings. We were prepared to put it to a vote of the congregation at our Parish meeting on October 1.

Tami Fleming, the city-wide coordinator of the Lockers project, has now decided that Prairie is not a good site for the program, due to the virulent opposition of two of our neighbors.

Therefore, at the Parish meeting we will be exploring other ways that we can help homeless people. We will also be discussing the possibility of becoming a “buddy” sanctuary church and doing a re-vote on planning for possible future remodeling.

We need your input on where we go in the future. Please come to the Parish meeting after the service on Sunday, October 1, so we can have a full discussion of where we want to go on these issues.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: There will be a town-hall meeting on Sunday, October 29, after the service. These listening and learning sessions are meant to be informal, free-wheeling, brainstorming times together. We will discuss whatever comes up as long as it is related to our Prairie community. All are welcome. You do not have to be an official member of Prairie to attend. Now that Prairie has completed fifty years of being, it is time to think about the next fifty years—or at least the next year or so! More information about what could happen at a Prairie town-hall meeting can be found in the minister’s column.

HUMANIST UNION TO MEET IN NOVEMBER—The Humanist Union will not meet in October because our usual meeting places in the Meeting House and Annex will be in use on both Oct. 1 and 8. Our next meeting will be Sunday, November 5, when we will hear a presentation by Malia Jones of the UW-Madison on the topic of vaccinations and public health—potluck lunch 11:45 a.m., program 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Links to audio recordings of past programs can be found on our past events page—

<http://humanist.madisonwi.us/eventspast.htm>.

The Essential Role of Local Community Organizing in National Change

When: Tuesday, October 3 5:30 p.m. dinner; 6-8:30 p.m. workshop

Where: Catholic Multicultural Center, 1862 Beld Street, Madison

Sponsored by: Madison Arcatao Sister City Project (MASCP)

To Register: Go to www.mascp.org to sign up (Event is free and open to all)

Join anti-mining Salvadoran organizers, Cintia Gonzales and Zulma Tobar for an interactive workshop on Popular Education as a powerful tool for community organizing here in Madison. *Popular Education is grounded in issues of class, political struggle, and social transformation.*

Water is life: stories of grassroots environmental activism in El Salvador and the United States.

CENTRAL LIBRARY
201 W MIFFLIN ST.

Monday, Oct. 2
6-6:30 food and socializing
6:30-7:30 panel

(Photo: Joe Bruski/CC BY-NC 2.0) <https://www.flickr.com/photos/0969296@N05/3137330962/#album=7215767311880273/>

Speakers:
Cintia González: Association for the Development of El Salvador, CRIPDES.
Zulma Tobar: US-El Salvador Sister Cities.
Rebecca Kemble: activist and Alder 18th District, Madison
Al Gedicks: activist and Professor—YW Eau Claire

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Moderator: Norm Stockwell of *The Progressivemagazine*

For more information: mascp.org

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 part of your spiritual 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 Prairie 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 current Chair of the Caring Committee, Cheryl Robinson (618-364-6499), or any other members of the committee: Aileen Nettleton, Erin Bosch, Pam Gates, Dean Schroeder, or Linda Sheehy. 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 and we will try to get the response you need. We also encourage you to contact our minister, Sandy Ingham, 920-217-2236 or minister@uuprairie.org, and she will pass your request along to us.

You can check the list of Caring Groups on the Prairie bulletin board to see which Caring Committee person is your current Caring Committee contact person. (Occasionally, there are changes in our committee, and you may have a different “caring person”, although we try to update you on that personally as soon as possible when that happens.) We want to help when we can, so please feel free to give us a call!

Circle of Friends—Holly Tellander, Director RE

We're Off to a Great Start in RE!

It's been a great start to the year! There has been very positive student feedback about our new workshop model for grades 1-6! We've had several people new to RE get involved and we haven't lost anyone yet.☺

Our older youth will have their first class on the first Sunday of October and will be working on plans to be involved in the last service of the month. Rachel and Robin are still looking for movie buffs who might be interested in co-teaching—no planning necessary—for this age group throughout the year. We've created a Google Spreadsheet with the class dates and the films/themes that will be discussed each week. If you'd like access to that document to help you decide if you'd like to join them for their lively discussions, let me know.

Our 5th and 6th grade OWL students have launched as well. They will be in the Annex during regular Sunday service through December 3rd. A big thank you to Karen Deaton,

Randy Converse, Rick Ruecking and Paula Pachciarz for taking on this great work for our kids and our community! Be sure to thank them when you see them!

Registration Reminder

This year we are launching online program registration. If you haven't yet done so, please register your students for RE as soon as possible. You can find the registration link on the RE page of Prairie's website. We need to have this information updated every year in order to stay in line with our Safe Church Policy. Additionally, if you are choosing to pay your program contribution rather than volunteer—please submit checks as soon as possible as well.

Coming up in October!

Keep an eye on the website for weekly workshop offerings! We've got lots of fun stuff planned for October—plenty of choice-based, multi-age learning experiences that will empower our students to make meaning in their own unique way.

October 1st Choices:

Kitchen: It's the time of year when our Jewish friends are celebrating Yom Kippur—one of the holiest days of the Jewish year. It is a day of fasting, prayer and atonement. Thanks to Kim and Sophie Tedesco for helping us to make latkes!

Theater—It takes practice to be a good sport! Join us for a round of group games in which we can practice working together, good sportsmanship and communication. Thanks, Erin Bosch!

October 8th Choices:

Theater—Join us for Animal Yoga to help us learn about St. Francis de Assisi! Thanks Johanna Hatch for this great idea!

Maker Space—We'll be making animal toys to donate to the Humane Society in keeping with our learning about this famous catholic saint.

October 15th Choices—

Maker Space—Nancy Wunderlin and Chris Porter will be helping us help sick children and their families through the Ronald McDonald House! They pack 40 lunches a day to take to families at the hospital and our kids will have the chance to contribute to their efforts by decorating and assembling bags. A big thanks to Chris Porter for bringing this idea to our program!

Outdoor Classroom—Ron Frye and Barbara Chatterton will be playing some sweet tunes out at the stump circle for us! We'll be singing freedom songs and learning about times through history when people have had to peacefully protest injustice.

October 29th—Our first implemented student request! This one is still a secret! Sorry for the suspense, but we know everyone is going to love it! Keep an eye on the website for more details—in the meantime, if you must have a clue, I'll just say that this one takes honoring our 7th principle to a Whole. New. Level.

Still Needed

We are still looking for yoga mats, kitchen utensils (especially fancy or specialized items), aprons, oven mitts, cookie sheets, and other baking paraphernalia.

Also—do you find yourself accumulating random discarded items that look like something a kid could use to make something cool? Please contact me if you have such items collected in bulk. Bottle caps? Random plastic rings? Beer caps? Old mismatched jewelry? Think like a kid!

Lastly—we are still looking for **volunteers! I hope you noticed all those new names up there!** Everyone up there took a chance that they had something to teach and what a gift that is ☺ start small—come as a support person and see how you like it! Just be available to pitch in. It's a great way to check out whether it will work for you!

Thanks everyone, it's going to be a great month in Prairie RE!

"Life's most enduring and urgent question is 'What are you doing for others?'"~ Martin Luther King, Jr.-

Things to Remember—

1. The Board will be meeting the second Sunday of every month at 11:45 starting October 8.
 2. The fall Parish meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 19.
 3. The agenda for the special Parish meeting scheduled for October 1 will be:
 1. Approval of Minutes from May 21, 2017 Parish Meeting
 2. Discussion of becoming a Buddy Sanctuary church for immigrants seeking sanctuary
 3. Homelessness
 4. Re-vote on planning for possible future Remodeling of the Meeting House
 5. 2018 Budget
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MINISTER'S ANNUAL REVIEW: The Committee on Ministry would like your feedback on how our minister is doing. Please help us with this annual review of Rev. Sandy by giving positives that you want to see more of and constructive comments regarding room for improvement. (no anonymous comments, please) *We need your feedback by October 15.* Thank you! Heidi Hughes (hughesha@yahoo.com); Dawn Hayslett (larrydawnhay@msn.com); Cheryl Robinson (cherrob1@msn.com).

Anniversary Events Draw Large, Enthusiastic Crowds

It sure was a party on Saturday night, September 16, when upwards of 70 people gathered at the Wine and Cheese event to mingle, peruse some of the history materials, hear the newly-formed Prairie ukulele group, and open the 1985 time capsule.

Sunday drew over 100 people to the service that featured 5 members talking about Prairie and US history from the different decades. The service was followed by a delicious potluck and tours of both buildings and the grounds.

A number of people from Prairie's past attended one or both events. Some came from distant places, while others, though living in the Madison area, hadn't come through our doors for a long time. Friends were very happy to see Pat and David Meyer, Elinor Loucks and her daughter Kim Coplien, Rita Reffner, Annis Pratt, Peg (Stevenson) Barrett, Julie Bonser, and Joella (Bonser) Berkner - all from the 1970s. Other visitors were from somewhat more recent times: Brent and Dayle Haglund, Barbara Bailly, Tara Converse and her husband Chris, Ian Park and his wife Layla, Kim Truog and her 2 children, Karleen and Ralph Tyksinski, and others.

Our official photographers Carl Wacker and Marty Drapkin got some great pictures. Most importantly, photographer Marty Drapkin got a group photo of 96 of those who had attended the service!



**Part of the Wine and Cheese crowd, during the early part of the evening, September 16, 2017.
Photo by Mary Mullen.**

Nearly all of the people who attended the Sunday, September 17, service gathered for a group photo. At least seven people who came somehow did not get into this photo. Photo by Marty Drapkin.



Here are the 96 people who made it out onto the lawn for the 50-year anniversary photo. At least 7 others did not.

One feature of the celebration was an exhibit of artifacts from the past. Each historical object was identified on a label that contains the date associated with it. Did you know that the wooden chalice was made by Casey Steinau, Barbara Park's daughter, in the mid-1970s when Casey was in middle school? Or that Prairie didn't get its certificate of incorporation until 1977. Did you realize that that the stained glass window looking out to Whenona dates back to 1993? How many of you recognized Lois Hagstrom's painting in the lobby? It hung there for years, but has been absent for many years too.

The items will probably be on display for a month or so. Please feel free to visit them before or after any service. A list of the history displays is available on the welcoming table.

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

