

Prairie Fire

March 2019

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Prairie Calendar

(See descriptions of programs below)

Fri Mar 1 6:00 pm—**Board Game Night**

Sat Mar 2 5:00 am—**Men's Shelter Breakfast**

9:00 am—**WOW Women's Group**

Sun Mar 3 8:45 am—**Choir Rehearsal**—In the Annex

10:00—**Auction Sunday**—Following what has become a tradition on the Sunday when Prairie holds its annual auction, Rev. Sandy will do a brief service starting at our regular time. At 10:30, the Auction will begin. Not only is Prairie's auction an important fundraiser, it is also FUN and full of surprising items to bid on. *Don't miss it!*

Thurs Mar 7 2:30 pm—**Ukulele Group**—In the Annex

7:00 pm—**Program Committee**—In the Annex

Sun Mar 10 **Daylight Savings Time Ends**

8:45 am—**Choir Rehearsal**—In the Annex

10:00 am—**Democracy and the Electoral College**—An overview of the undemocratic nature of the Electoral College and a few alternative approaches to electing U.S. Presidents and Vice Presidents, with reference to the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, among other possibilities. By Ken Haydock

11:45 am—**Humanists Discuss Electoral College**—Ken Haydock will lead our discussion. We will be meeting in the Meeting House for potluck lunch followed by the presentation and discussion from 12:15 to 1:15 pm. All are welcome to attend and dig deeper into the topic of Ken's Sunday service presentation that morning.

11:45—**Board Meeting**—In the Annex

Thurs Mar 14 7:00 pm—**Ukulele Group**—In the Annex

Fri Mar 15 6:00 pm—**Dungeons and Dragons and Subversive Threads**—meets in the Annex

Sun Mar 17 8:45 am—**Choir Rehearsal**—In the Annex

10:00 am—**Service**

11:30 am—**Soup Sunday**

11:45 am—**Still Life**—by Louise Penny is this month's Book Club selection. Chief Inspector Gamache and his team of investigators are called in to the scene of a suspicious death in a rural village south of Montreal. The locals are certain it's a tragic hunting accident, but Gamache smells something foul. 293 pages. Suggested by Al Nettleton. The Book Club is open to everyone. You do not need to have read the book. The meeting will be held in the Annex.

Sun Mar 24 8:45 am—**Choir Rehearsal**—In the Annex

10:00 am—**The Catalyst Project**—by Susan Donahoe. This quarter we are sharing our Sunday offering with the Catalyst Project. The Catalyst Project is a new non-profit in Madison that provides space for stability for under-housed single mother-headed families through a nurturing community home.

Sun Mar 31 8:45 am—**Choir Rehearsal**—In the Annex

10:00 am—**These are a Few of My Favorite Things**—On this Sunday, her last one in Prairie's pulpit, Rev. Sandy will weave some of her favorite hymns and poems into a reflection about transitions and change, challenges and growth.

Sun Apr 7 8:45 am—**Choir Rehearsal**—In the Annex

10:00 am—**A Tribute to Mary Oliver**—This will be a can't miss presentation for fans of the poet Mary Oliver.

Going Away Party for Sandy

We are planning a reception right after service on Sunday, March 24, to wish our Reverend Sandy Ingham well as she completes her ministry with us. Please plan to stay, eat cake, and perhaps say a few words about her and our time together. Let's have a nice sendoff for her!

The Prairie Board

WE ARE GOING TO REMODEL!

We had 42 members present at the 2/24/19 Parish Meeting. We discussed and voted on the following motion:

The congregation authorizes the Board to move forward on the remodeling project as it has been proposed by the remodeling planning committee, and authorizes spending up to a maximum of \$540,000 on this project.

We requested funds over and above the current estimate for the project to account for inflation and unexpected costs, since we do not yet have an actual bid. The chair of our remodeling group, Tom Robinson, said they are planning a contract that specifies a cost not to exceed a certain amount, and will strive to keep the project to \$505,000. The motion passed, vote was as follows:

35 votes in favor, 3 opposed, 4 abstentions.

The remodeling planning committee will now work with architect and builders, and if the bid is acceptable, will go forward with the project. The board will begin serious exploration

of rental meeting space. Finance committee will include expected rental costs in the operating budget for the period of the remodeling. Given the interest shown by some of our members, we will be informing the Friends congregation of our plans, in case they want to consider a rental relationship with us. The Board will do what is needed to cover any shortfall, including additional fundraising, applying for a chalice lighter grant, or getting a mortgage. Given our tremendous success in fund raising so far, we hope to raise the entire amount and avoid a mortgage.

Please contact Patty Stockdale, head of our capital campaign, with additional pledges. Please contact Tom if you are interested in helping with the remodeling project. Let Rachel know if you are interested in helping evaluate rental options. It's an exciting time to be part of the Prairie Community!

Rachel Long

President, Prairie UU Society.

Garden Plots Available in the Marlborough Park Community Garden

Interested in gardening in Prairie's neighborhood? You're in luck.

Registration for garden plots in Marlborough Park will be held at Prairie on Tuesday, March 5, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm and Saturday, March 9, from 10:00 to noon. Please try to come at the opening time.

Rental costs per 20x20-foot plots are on a sliding scale depending on size of family and income. Rent starts at \$15 per plot for the season. Contact Mary Mullen or Barbara Park if you have any questions.

Goodbye from the Editor

This will be my last *Prairie Fire*. In April Jim and I will be moving to a retirement community in Chicago. We are in the process of selling our home in Monroe. This was a difficult decision for us. We have lived in Monroe for close to 20 years. We were fortunate to see Madeline and Reuben grow up here, and since they left for college, we have remained close to Rachel and Martin. And of course, I will miss Prairie, and all the friends I have made there. By the way, we have two Chesapeake Bay Retrievers that will need a good home. They have been part of our family for 7 years, and we will miss them. Unfortunately the community we are moving to doesn't allow large animals. So many changes, not all of them positive, but I guess that's the way life is.

Phyllis Long

Editor

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://uuuprairie.org/about us/#com>

Or contact Chris Porter for more information at:

richersport@gmail.com

Order (pay for) Your Color set of Prairie History books now! Book Launch Party Set of April 27!

The Prairie History Committee is pleased to announce that our long-awaited 50-year history is done!!! It is a two-volume set and is available in either black and white or color.

To celebrate, we are planning a **BOOK RELEASE PARTY** on Saturday, April 27, at 7 p.m. at Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society and **YOU** are invited. Join us for wine, cheese, cookies, hot cider, and readings from the stories in the book.

At this point, we need to give you information on obtaining a set of books: Needless to say, the color version is MUCH more expensive than the black and white although it is glorious!! The cost of the black and white version will be \$37 for the set. The color version will be \$144 for the set. We will have plenty of black and white copies of the two-volume set available at the party. **If you want a set in color by the time of the party, you should order them now using the order form provided here.** The color set must be paid for in advance **no later than March 15.** It's your choice whether to pay for the black and white set now or on April 27. The order form follows this article.

To learn more about the book and see page spreads, go to our website www.uuprairie.org On the website, go to ABOUT/COMMITTEES/HISTORY COMMITTEE/ Learn more [here](#).

If you can't make the release party, you will be able to pick up books at Prairie on Sunday mornings after April 27. If you are out of town, we would be happy to mail them to you when they arrive. Just add \$5 per set for the mailing cost.

We hope to see you in a few weeks at the release party.

Sincerely,

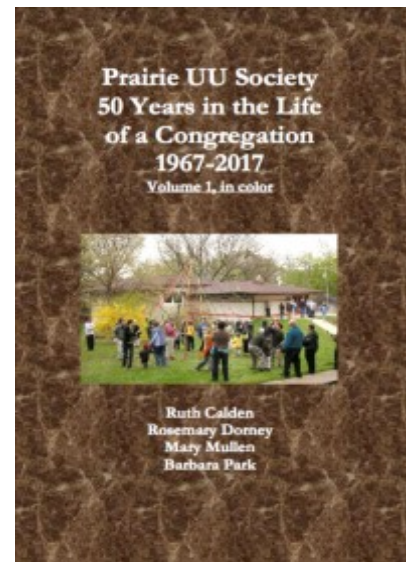
The Prairie History Committee

Mary Mullen

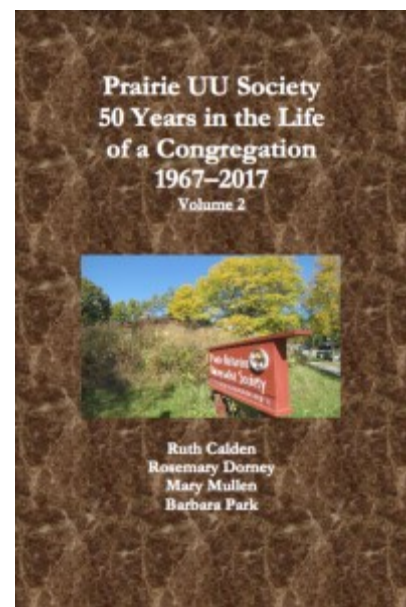
Ruth Calden

Rosemary Dorney

Barbara Park



Volume 1, 492 pages
Color version on shiny white paper; Black & white version on ivory smooth finish paper.



Volume 2 is about the same length and contains the index for both books.

