

May
2019

Prairie Fire



Backyard Hero Award

Recognizing outstanding volunteers for their work in our community



Judy Skog

Sierra Club Foundation-John Muir Chapter

Judy Skog is a founding member of the Tar Sands Team, a joint effort between the Wisconsin Chapter of the Sierra Club and 350-Madison to halt the expansion of pipelines that threaten Wisconsin's land and water. Judy brings positive energy, hopefulness, humor and adorable pictures of her grandchildren everywhere she goes!

For more information about Sierra Club Foundation-John Muir Chapter or to volunteer, visit www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin or call 608-256-0565.

Prairie member Judy Skog was recently named a "Backyard Hero" by Community Shares of Wisconsin for her outstanding volunteer work on environmental issues. Congratulations, Judy!

Prairie Contacts

Rachel Long, President—president@uuprairie.org

Dan Klock, Administrator—admin@uuprairie.org

Holly Tellander, DRE—dre@uuprairie.org

Renee Deschard, Prairie Fire Editor —
prairiefire@uuprairie.org

Please see www.uuprairie.org for other contacts, including board members and committee chairs.

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May Calendar

Please see www.uuprairie.org for detailed descriptions

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Thursday 2 May

- 2:30p Ukulele Group – Annex
- 7p Program Committee

Friday 3 May

- 6p Game Night – Meeting House

Saturday 4 May

- 5a Men's Shelter
- 9a Prairie WOW – Annex

Sunday 5 May

- 8:45a Choir Practice – Annex
- 10a Service
- 11:45a Humanist Union – Annex

Thursday 9 May

- 7p Ukulele Group – Annex

Sunday 12 May

- 8:45a Choir Practice – Annex
- 10a Service
- 11:45a Board Meeting

Thursday 16 May

- 2:30p Ukulele Group – Annex

Friday 17 May - Cancelled, see you in June!

- ~~□ 6p DND and Subversive Threads – Annex~~

Sunday 19 May

- 8:45a Choir Practice – Annex
- 10a Service
- 11:30a Parish Meeting
- 11:30a Soup Sunday

Thursday 23 May

- 7p Ukulele Group – Annex

Saturday 25 May

- 6p Wages of Fear movie – Annex

Sunday 26 May

- 8:45a Choir Practice – Annex
- 10a Service
- 12p Book Club (*The Widows of Malabar Hill* by Sujata Massey) – Annex

Calendar Notes

Humanist Union: Pastor to Atheist Discussion

The Humanist Union's monthly meeting on May 5th will feature Rob Brink, talking about his personal journey from UCC minister to atheist. Titled "A Journey from Pastor to Atheist Q&A", this will be a followup to his morning presentation that day at Prairie. Rob served as a Christian minister for 15 years. Over time, he moved from the theological far right to the theological far left, until he finally fell off the edge. Today, he is a happy humanist, and a regular speaker at the Free Congregation of Sauk County. In our Q&A discussion we expect to look at identity, how it changes over time, and how "soft" virtues like kindness and courtesy can be the key to changing minds. We'll meet in the Annex, starting with a potluck lunch at 11:45 followed by our program from 12:15 to 1:15. All are welcome.

We will have a showing of the movie **Wages of Fear at the Annex** on Saturday, May 25 at 6:00 pm. The film runs for 2 ½ hours and may lead to discussion afterwards. This 1955 fictional movie by Henri-Georges Clouzot is set in a South American jungle and concerns the plight of the working class. It is based on the 1950 French novel *Le Salaire de la Peur*. The film brought Clouzot international fame - winning both the Golden Bear and the Palme d'Or at the 1953 Berlin Film Festival and Cannes Film Festival, respectively. For questions contact Andrew Garst.

Upcoming Spring Parish Meeting

Rachel Long, President

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After our Service on Sunday 5/19/19 starting at 11:30 pm, we will have our Annual Parish Meeting, along with Soup Sunday so you can get lunch as we get started. Child care will be provided. Here is the agenda:

1. Welcome and Chalice lighting - Rachel Long, President
2. Election of Board and Nominating Committee members - Robin Proud, Nominating Committee
3. Remodeling update - Tom Robinson, Remodeling Committee
4. Plan for alternate space during remodeling - Rachel Long, Alternate Space Task Force
5. Vote on Bylaws change proposals - Chris Porter, Vice President
6. Approval of minutes from previous Parish Meetings - Dan Klock, Administrator in lieu of Secretary
7. Acceptance of Committee reports - Rachel Long
8. Adjourn

The text of the Bylaws change proposals will be finalized after the 4/28/19 feedback session. The Nominating Committee is still finalizing their slate, and will publish it as soon as it is complete. Prior Parish Meeting Minutes will be distributed about a week before the meeting. Watch for these items on Prairieneews, in the mail for those members who request it, and on the bulletin board at the back of the meeting hall.

Rachel Long, President
Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society



May RE Greetings!

Holly Tellander, Director of Religious Education

We are winding up another year in RE - hard to believe but time marches on :)

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LOOKING BACK:

Here is a picture of our recent Easter Play, "Outlawing Jellybeans & Other Injustices". The kids did a great job, whether they had speaking lines, stood in for horses, helped with scenery or just wore a costume on stage. A big thank you to Robin Proud, Jesse Garst and Aidan Small for helping support the cast & crew. The Prairie RE Theatrical Society is strong & talented :)



LOOKING AHEAD:

Here's a quick overview of the year as it wraps up!

April 28th - Field Day & Packing Party from 11:30-2:30 - come help RE pack up for the move! Lunch provided :) - Please RSVP to dre@uuprairie.org ASAP :)

May 5th - Mother's Day - RE workshops as usual - something special for mom!

May 12th - RE Workshops as usual

May 19th - Last Day of RE - Field Day & Packing Party from 11:30-2:30 - come help RE pack up for the move! Lunch provided :) - Please RSVP to dre@uuprairie.org ASAP :)

May 28th - Memorial Weekend - Summer fun begins at Prairie!

June 3rd - Transitions Service! - **LETTERS NEEDED FOR GRADUATES!**

This year we are honoring TWO high school graduates - Aaron Liu & Rachel Hughes.

It is a Prairie tradition to collect letters of advice, encouragement, wisdom, etc. to share with the graduates. Please begin to work on your letters so that we can give these two Prairie kids a wonderful gift to show them how much they mean to their Prairie community. Reminders will be coming - but the sooner the letters get it, the easier it is to make the beautiful :)

Summer Schedule:

Please stay tuned as we continue to hammer out our summer schedule! We will likely be on the road for fun field trips most of the summer, but will always have childcare available at whatever temporary location we choose. Please offer up any ideas you have for fun outings we can schedule! When life hands you renovations, we take field trips?!?

In peace & progress,

Holly Tellander, Director of Religious Education
Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society

Where Will We Meet?

Rachel Long, President



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Lots of Prairie folks have offered great ideas on alternate meeting space during the remodeling. The Board has appointed a task force to make the decision, including representation from the Board and from Finance, Hospitality, Housing & Property, Program, and Religious Education Committees. The members are Patty Stockdale, Barb Chatterton, Randy Converse, Barb Park, Paula Pachciarz and Rachel Long. We will be drawing from all of the ideas and information gathered thus far, and further investigating and discussing options. Please feel free to approach any of us with your suggestions and concerns, but make haste! We plan to decide in time to announce at the Spring Parish Meeting.

Rachel Long, President
Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society

Capital Campaign Goal Update

Patty Stockdale, Finance Committee Chair

Newsflash!!! Prairie is now **ONLY \$35,000** away from our \$505,000 Capital Campaign goal! So, as you may guess, Prairie is looking to raise \$35,000 to finish the match! Can you help? All of you are very generous, and THANK YOU!



Looking for a Fridge

Kitchen Renovation Committee



Do you know of a white refrigerator that could be donated to Prairie? You might be remodeling, you know someone moving who has to get rid of theirs, etc... It would have to be approved, it is not an automatic acceptance. Thank you to Glenn and Emily Judd who donated their lovely self cleaning stove after the last newsletter request. Check it out in the Prairie kitchen!

Member Spotlight*

Get to know Erin Bosch (Membership Co-Chair)

*Please email prairiefire@uuprairie.org to suggest a future member to spotlight



Chicago Ferris Wheel

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- Where did you grow up? When and why did you move to Madison?

I was born and raised on west side of Chicago. We moved to Madison in 1978 because my husband got a job at Graber in Middleton. I was a stay-at-home mom with 3 kids for 11 years, then I went back to work and was the Editor of the Forest Products Journal.

- What brought you to Prairie?

I was an ex-Catholic, agnostic who couldn't get out of the habit of going to church. That is similar to an old UU joke and there is a lot of truth to that joke. I was looking for a "community" for my family that did not have a lot of dogma attached.

- Do you remember your first impressions of Prairie? What has changed since then? What has stayed the same?

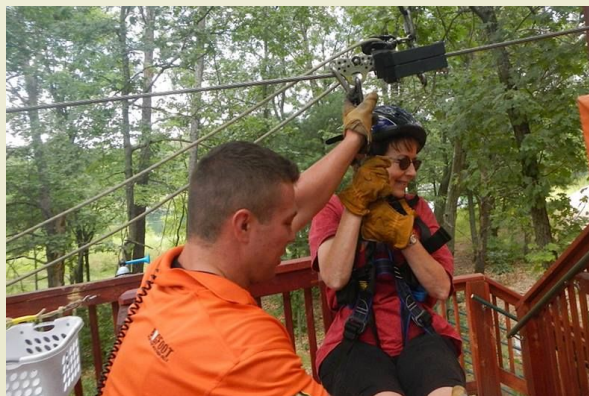
I liked the contrast with the Catholic churches of my youth that I thought emphasized pomp and circumstance way too much. I liked that the programs were laid back and put on mostly by Prairie members. My daughter has always called Prairie "the hippie church" and while I laugh at that depiction, it was kind of true, in a fun way. I found friends at Prairie immediately and still have fun with Prairie folks.

- What do you do with your time when you're not at Prairie?

After I left my full-time professional job, I was still doing a lot of freelance editing. I still do some editing, but my favorite part-time job is taking care of Amelia (age 12) and Tommy (age 10) after school. They are like a second family to me. Besides playing with these kids, and having my grandchildren visit for extended periods whenever possible, I also play volleyball and play tennis in the warmer weather. Andy Garst is my "favorite" tennis opponent, although I do play with some others.

- What is something even long-time Prairie members might be surprised to learn about you?

I think Prairie folks might be surprised to learn that I am not actually as much of an extrovert as I might appear to be. I really like my alone time, and always have. When my children were younger, I would often tell them I was going to my room to take a nap, but really I was just communing with myself, thinking about things, or maybe not thinking about anything, but just soaking up the solitude and recharging my battery.



Ziplining in WI Dells

Welcome New Member:

Kathie Gann

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Kathie Gann moved to Wisconsin from the Catskill Mountains in New York mid-December. She loves it in Wisconsin despite this past winter.



She came to Prairie because of her daughter Kate Gann Liu who is a Prairie member. The reception at Prairie was warm and accepting and Kathie became a Prairie member in March.

For fun, she enjoys reading (current favorite is Wisconsin: Story of the Badger State), wood carving, walking and investigating a Wisconsin genealogy line.

Life Announcements*

Welcome Baby Deschard!

*If a Prairie Member has an engagement, wedding, birth of a child or death of an immediate family member (i.e. parent, sibling) and would like it in the newsletter, please email prairiefire@uuprairie.org

Jason, Renee and Coraline Deschard welcomed Audrey Elise Deschard into their family on 04/14/19. Audrey was born at 10lbs 7oz, 22 inches at Meriter Hospital. The family is getting used to their new normal and remembering newborn sleep (or lack thereof) at night.



Coffee Lovers Unite!

Barbara Chatterton, Hospitality Committee Chair

You like coffee, lots of people like coffee! Please contact Barbara at bchatter10@gmail.com so that you can learn how to make the coffee before Prairie services. I will have a how to breakfast including morning buns and donuts and fresh fruit. As soon as we make the coffee then the coffee will accompany those yummy breakfast food items. Learn and Munch! And it is pretty darn easy to make the coffee. Thanks!



New Archives Committee Approved

Archives Committee

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At its April 14th meeting the Prairie Board voted unanimous approval for the creation of an Archives Committee which will be responsible for paper and digital archives and other archival materials. The committee grows out of the work of the History Committee over the last 4 years during which many archival materials were located, collected and organized as work on their history book set progressed. The new committee includes Mary Mullen, Bob Park and Barb Park, with Rosemary Dorney expected to join to assist with paper archives. Mary is the committee chair and Bob the digital archivist.

The committee will be organizing written materials for longer term storage and finding a home for them as well as continuing to update paper and digital archives as new materials are generated or old items discovered. This includes maintaining archival lists and collections on the website such as the list of Sunday services and the collection of audio recordings. Digital copies of full service recordings from cassette tapes will be made available to the congregation. A few of these tapes (made between 1983 and 2010) are missing and anyone discovering that they have such a tape is urged to contact Mary or Bob. Now that digital copies have been made, the committee will be giving away the tapes on hand to anyone interested.



Prairie Has Gone Google

Communications Committee

Prairie applied and was accepted to have a G Suite for Nonprofits account. This will allow emails and documents to be stored with positions instead of personal email accounts. Prairie also has access to Google Calendar (which is integrated onto our website), Drive storage and more.

Please use the new uuprairie.org accounts when emailing Prairie Officers and Committee Chairs. A few are listed on the front page of each Newsletter. The rest are on the website at the following links <https://uuprairie.org/about/committees/> and <https://uuprairie.org/about/governance/>.

Those with uuprairie.org accounts, please remember to check them or set them up to forward to an account you do check! If you need help setting up email forwarding or any other G Suite features, please email Katrina Daly Thompson at gsuiteadmin@uuprairie.org.



The logo for Google Suite, featuring the multi-colored 'G' icon followed by the word 'Suite' in a dark grey sans-serif font.