

June  
2019

# Prairie Fire



Mary Mullen at podium, Johanna Hatch and Peter Anderson on chairs against the wall, Barbara Park, Rosemary Dorney, Al Nettleton, Ruth Calden, and Anne Pryor around the table.

## Prairie Contacts

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Please see [www.uuprairie.org](http://www.uuprairie.org) for other contacts, including board members and committee chairs.

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# June Calendar\*

Please see [www.uuprairie.org](http://www.uuprairie.org) for detailed descriptions

*\*All events take place in the Annex, unless starred\**

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## Sunday 26 May

- 10a Service: If These Walls Could Talk
- 12p Book Club: Men We Reaped by Jesmyn Ward/The Widows of Malabar Hill by Cornelia Sorabji. Bring snacks to eat.

## Saturday 1 June

- 5a Men's Shelter\*
- 9a Prairie WOW

## Sunday 2 June

- 10a Service: Transition Service
- 11:45a Humanist Union

## Thursday 6 June

- 7p Program Committee

## Friday 7 June

- ~~□ 6p Game Night Cancelled~~
- 6pm Suicide Panel for Teens/Tweens

## Sunday 9 June

- 10a Service: Summer Reads
- 11a Bakery Sunday
- 11:45a Board Meeting

## Tuesday 18 June

- 2p Archive Committee

## Sunday 16 June

- 10a Service
- 11:30a Soup Sunday

## Friday 21 June

- ~~□ 6p D&D/Subversive Threads Cancelled~~  
(see you in July)

## Sunday 23 June

- 10a Service

## Sunday 30 June

- 10a Service

## Calendar Notes

### June 2nd Humanist Union: Humanists Brainstorm Fall Programs

All participants in our June 2nd Humanist Union meeting are encouraged to bring a paragraph or two from a print or online source discussing current issues of concern to humanists. We'll take turns reading these paragraphs and then brainstorm about the top issues we would like to feature in our monthly meetings this fall. Once the top issues are selected we'll ask for a volunteer to dig into each issue as a fall presenter. We'll meet in the Annex or (weather permitting) on the Annex rear deck for potluck lunch at 11:45 and program 12:15 to 1:15. All are welcome. For July 7th watch for a Humanist Union picnic announcement.

### June 7th Suicide Panel for Teens/Tweens

Prairie RE is hosting a Suicide Panel for teens/tweens and is open to those outside of Prairie. The panel will be on Friday, June 7, at 6pm in the Annex. The purpose is to discuss suicide, suicide prevention, and the impact of suicide on people. Our panel will consist of several people with diverse backgrounds and experience with suicide and caring for suicide victims. Our objectives are to reduce stigma regarding suicide, to offer honest and accurate information about suicide, and to provide resources on suicide prevention and helping suicide victims. We offer a friendly, open environment and a pizza dinner for all participants. Here is a link to the Facebook event. <https://www.facebook.com/events/421730148391777/>



### June 9th Bakery Sunday

Prairie has enjoyed the benefits of Just Bakery goodies (aka Bakery Sundays) for more than two years. This is a 16 week educational/vocational program developed by Madison Urban Ministry. The program trains folks who have experienced homelessness, conviction record, history of unemployment, lack of education, or other obstacles to gainful employment and trains them to be commercial bakers. For more information you can check out <https://www.justbakerymadison.org/> and <https://emum.org/what-we-do/justbakery/>

A graduate of the program brings a selection of baked food items for sale to Prairie one Sunday every other month. Don't forget to bring your cash and buy some bread, cookies or other delicious treats on June 9th.

## Parish Meeting Recap

### Rachel Long, President

Our annual meeting was well attended, and a lot of business was accomplished. First, we approved the slate of candidates offered by the Nominating Committee, and now have new Board and Nominating Committee members.

#### 2019-20 Board:

- President - Rachel Long
- Vice President - Chris Porter
- Secretary - Dan Proud
- Treasurer - Evan Creed
- At Large - John Wunderlin
- At Large - Jesse Garst
- At Large - Marty Drapkin

#### 2019-20 Nominating Committee:

- Ron Frye
- Rebecca Strome
- Kent Wenger
- Lynn Currie



80 chairs being stored in John & Nancy Wunderlin's house

A big THANK YOU to the outgoing Board members: Phyllis Long (secretary,) Kathy Converse (Treasurer,) and Anne Pryor (At Large,) and outgoing Nominating Committee members Robin Proud and Kate Liu. We note that Barbara Chatterton Frye is going to chair the Caring Committee, because Cheryl Robinson is stepping down. A big thank you to Cheryl as well!

We got the remodeling update from Tom Robinson, who shared the tremendous progress they are making on the plan. Committee reports were accepted (these went out on Prairieneews if you missed them.)

The proposed Bylaws changes were all approved. Suggestions were made for some additional changes which will likely be brought back for a vote at the next Parish meeting.

We appreciate all who attended and participated in our Prairie democracy!

Rachel Long, President  
Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society



# Onward and Upward!

Rachel Long, President

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What a wild ride May was for our congregation! Our remodeling committee and its many subgroups have been investing lots of time and energy to get the details right for our remodeling plans, while others have been actively planning how we will adapt during the approximately 1/2 year we are likely to be unable to use our main meeting house. Many volunteers have cleaned out and reorganized the Annex, and moved almost everything from the main building either into the Annex or into a few members' homes for storage. Wow! So many folks putting in so much time, muscle, and brain power for our community!



The current plan is to use the Annex as our home base for the summer, having programs on the main level, while our youth use 2 upstairs rooms and the outdoor classroom. Come September when our youth religious education year begins and attendance at our programs typically rises, we will need to move to a bigger space until the remodeling is completed. The alternative space task force (Barb Chatterton, Randy Converse, Paula Pachciarz, Barb Park, Patty Stockdale and me) will continue to assess the alternatives and let you know once we settle on a plan for the fall.



It is an exciting time to be a part of the Prairie community. Let's joyfully share this next adventure with one another!

Rachel Long, President  
Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society

## Program Ideas in the Annex

### Program Committee

Meeting in the Annex during remodeling presents a challenge to the Program Committee. Stepping outside of the box, we realized this was an opportunity to use the Annex for something it is well suited for - small group adult RE programming. We still have Transition Sunday and Summer Reads where we will meet as a group, but after that we can experiment.

Here is your opportunity to delve more deeply into a topic. Some ideas include: trying meditation with Dan Harris's "Meditation for Fidgety Skeptics" with Julie Lyne, updating our Welcoming Congregation, using [Cakes for the Queen of Heaven](#), a topic/s presented by the Social Justice Committee. We are looking for leaders for and suggestions for these or other possible groups. The commitment could be for a couple weeks to something that would last the whole time we are in the Annex. **Please contact [program@uuprairie.org](mailto:program@uuprairie.org) if interested in leading a group.** We would have a TED Talk topic du jour so visitors would have a place to fit in.

# Summer RE Fun

Holly Tellander, Director of Religious Education

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**A BIG THANK YOU...** to everyone who helped downstairs to help **RE sort & pack & move!** There are too many people to name, but it is times such as these that we are reminded **how much we all value our community** - and that is a beautiful thing.

**LOOKING AHEAD: 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 turn in 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. If you have written/submitted a letter - you will get an email confirmation this week. PLEASE - SEND your letters TO [DRE@UUPRAIRIE.ORG](mailto:DRE@UUPRAIRIE.ORG) & write GRADUATE LETTERS in the SUBJECT LINE :)

**SUMMER CHANGES:** Here's a quick overview of the changes you can expect in RE as we move through summer programming & into the fall this year! Please reach out with any questions, comments, suggestions or ideas to [DRE@UUPRAIRIE.ORG](mailto:DRE@UUPRAIRIE.ORG).

- **Nursery/Childcare** - At least two of our three childcare workers (Mimi, Faith & Grace) will be available at Prairie all summer for childcare. The minister's office has been turned into a temporary nursery and the room across the hall will be available for indoor activities. Each Sunday there will be at least two choices for kids who decide to stay at Prairie or for visitors who happen to attend. The outdoor classroom will also always be an option, weather-permitting. Any adult is welcome to come upstairs and hang out with us as an alternative to the service on any Sunday!

**No Story For All Ages** - For the duration of the remodel there will not be a Story for All Ages with the entire congregation in an attempt to maximize space and lessen congestion. RE students will either head upstairs upon arrival or head off on the field trip of the day!

**RE ON THE ROAD!**- The remodel is giving us a wonderful opportunity to incorporate family & group trips this summer!

- In addition to the **option of attending the service at the Annex (RE childcare & activities available on site every Sunday)**, families have the option of **joining other families & volunteers on one of the many fun field trips** we have planned for this summer!
- Check out the [schedule here](#) - print it off and hang it on the fridge if that's your thing!

**NOTE:** [This schedule](#) will also be posted on the website & the calendar & **IT IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE** :) Please make sure to **check the website/calendar each week** before heading out on Sunday morning to check final plans.

We will also be coordinating a **group text chain** for folks who would like to stay informed of schedule changes and/or want to be stay in contact as we come across new opportunities & information. **Please touch base with Holly if you want to be on that chain.**

Holly Tellander, Director of Religious Education  
Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society





# Free Children's Books!

**Karen Deaton**, Religious Education Committee Chair

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The Religious Education (RE) program appreciates the generous donations of children's books we've received over the years. Unfortunately, some of these fine books don't get used. Sometimes that's because their topics don't come up in our activities. Sometimes it's because their format is not suited to our use; for example, they may be too long to be read aloud as one part of a Sunday morning's activities. Some of them are duplicates.

We hate to see these books languishing without readers, so we're putting a whole lot of books back into circulation. Prairie people get first choice! On June 9, the day of our Summer Reads service, we will set up tables of books for browsing - in the backyard if it is a sunny day, perhaps in the garage if the weather is wet..

Books not claimed will be distributed to places where children can pick up free books, such as Prairie's Little Free Library and the Allied Drive Food Pantry.

The titles with "**Ds**" in the last column of our [RE Library list](#) are the ones we're giving away. If you see something you want, but you won't be at Prairie on June 9th, let me know and I'll put it aside for you.

As for the books we're keeping, most of them are packed away right now, but will again be available for borrowing when we move back into the meeting house. We appreciate the work that Bob Park puts into maintaining online lists of Prairie's libraries!



Grandmother and grandchild enjoy reading a book together

## Coffee Drinkers Unite!

**Barbara Chatterton**, Hospitality Committee Chair

Do you enjoy the delicious Fair Trade coffee every Sunday at Prairie? What if you arrived one day and there was none? We do not want this possibility to occur! It could happen if I am unable to attend on a given week. Please let me know if you can help. The coffee making process will differ when we are at the Annex vs the main meeting house, but I will give free lessons (along with a treat or two). It is not even difficult-just takes a little time and one must arrive by 9:15. am. One bonus is that you get to chat with the Sunday speaker and that can be very fun and interesting. You can even: read a book, listen to music, or play a game on your phone or tablet since it is not an intense process. And you get to sip the very first cup of coffee too, if you like. Please contact me at [bchatter10@gmail.com](mailto:bchatter10@gmail.com) or call or text 608.239.2777.



# Member Spotlight

## Get to know John & Nancy Wunderlin

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- What current Prairie positions (i.e. committees) do you hold/past positions?  
John is currently a board member and liaison to the Communications and Archives committees. He also helps with the sound system for services. Nancy is currently a member of the the Hospitality and Caring committees.
- Where did you grow up? When and why did you move to Madison?  
We both grew up in Platteville, Wisconsin. We lived in Mineral Point, Wisconsin for over 20 years and raised our two children there. We moved to Madison 5 years ago after our youngest graduated high school and John started his Masters degree at UW-Madison.
- What brought you to Prairie?  
We started attending Prairie a few months after we moved to Madison. We attended Saturday services at FUS many years ago and were looking for a similar but smaller community of free thinkers after moving to Madison. We found our new home and have been very happy getting to know so many Prairie members.
- What do you do with your time when you're not at Prairie?  
Nancy is a member of the Madison Flute Club where she has the opportunity to play C flute and alto flute. John spends a lot of time playing horn (French horn) with many ensembles across Wisconsin. He's a member of the LaCrosse and Beloit-Janesville symphonies. He's also a staff member at the Kendall Betts horn camp in New Hampshire where he spends the month of June working with campers. When John is not playing horn, he may be found in our back yard with one of his telescopes or talking with fellow Tesla enthusiasts about his newest toy, a Tesla Model 3. Together we run a small business out of our home selling products from our websites. Nancy also works part-time for UWHC. When the weather is nice, we enjoy taking our sailing kayak out on one the many lakes in the area.
- What is something even long-time Prairie members might be surprised to learn about you?  
We were high school sweethearts and got married before our last semester of undergraduate studies. John likes to joke it was so we could sit next to each other during graduation after Nancy changed her name.



# Ready for Release (MOSES project) Work Party at FUS June 1st

## Social Action Committee

Please join us Saturday, June 1, at 9:30 a.m. at FUS to help secure release of "old-law" (pre-1999) prisoners. You will answer letters from prisoners and/or put their information into a spreadsheet, so the (hopefully) new Parole Commission could easily evaluate their readiness for release. The focus is on Wisconsin's approximately 3,000 prisoners sentenced before 2000, when parole was an expected portion of every sentence.

Wisconsin's truth-in-sentencing law, passed in 1999, required that every sentence be served in full, which wasn't the expectation of sentencing judges before then. Before 1999, parole could be granted after 25% of a sentence had been served; it was essentially required after 60%. This is a tangible way we can make a difference and help empty our prisons of people who shouldn't be there anymore.

"Ready for Release" work parties are being held once/month at First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Drive, usually on the second Saturday. June 1 is an exception.

Please come at 9:00 for a brief training if you haven't attended before. For more information, contact Pam Gates at [pml.gts@gmail.com](mailto:pml.gts@gmail.com) or 255-2337.



## Communication Corner: Listserv Info

### Katrina Daly Thompson, Communications Committee Co-Chair

If you would like to stay up to date on Prairie happenings, please join one or both of our mailing lists. But please help us all avoid overcrowded inboxes by making good decisions about which list to send a given message to.



#### Prairie News

Prairie News is for members and friends of Prairie and is focused on announcements of Prairie news and events sponsored by or happening at Prairie. To receive Prairie News, visit this [link](#) or send a message to our Administrator, Dan Klock, [admin@uuprairie.org](mailto:admin@uuprairie.org). This list is moderated, so if you send something that should only have been sent to Prairie Views, it may not go through.

#### Prairie Views

Prairie Views is for (1) discussion among members and friends and (2) announcing events in the community that are not sponsored by Prairie but may be of interest to Prairie members and friends. To take part in Prairie Views, visit this [link](#) or send a message to our Administrator, Dan Klock, [admin@uuprairie.org](mailto:admin@uuprairie.org). If you'd like to share information about our lists with newcomers, you can refer them to <https://uuprairie.org/mailling-lists/>. From there, they can access both lists.



# Prairie's Book Launch - A Heartwarming Party

Ruth Calden, History Committee

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Despite that late spring snowstorm, Prairie's Book Launch Party on April 27 was a huge success. Forty-one people braved the snow, including Dave and Pat Meyer from Chicago and Eleanor Cautley from Milwaukee. It was a joy to see many former Prairie "kids," now adults. In addition to Eleanor Cautley, in that category were Kim Loucks Coplien, Eric and Susan Hagstrom, Ginny and Tom Calden, Nevenah Smith, and Caton Roberts. Other special attendees were Rev. Ralph and Karleen Tyksinski, Rosemarie Lester, Metje Butler, Elinor Loucks and Allyn Roberts.

Tables holding the history books were staffed by Patty Stockdale, Chris Porter, Deesa Pence, Kathy and Randy Converse and Robin and Dan Proud. People chatted over wine and cheese - old friends bonded in a spirit of camaraderie and celebration.

Readers included members of the Prairie History Committee: Chair Mary Mullen, Barb Park, Rosemary Dorney and Ruth Calden, as well as Anne Pryor, Al Nettleton, Peter Anderson and Johanna Hatch. These readers took turns for forty minutes, showing the wide range and variety of articles from the just-released Prairie History book set. A standing ovation greeted the authors at the end and many attendees stayed on to socialize and get their books autographed.

The reaction has been enthusiastic. The most ecstatic response came from former member Annis Pratt to the four major writers, as follows: "I am just bowled over with awe at the quality of your writing – direct, to the point, funny – that conveys all of Prairie's heartwarming and eccentric uniqueness. No Bloviating, no droning on from date to date, but an ingenious organization by topic that has kept me with my nose in the first volume for two nights running since it plopped on my doorstep. I loved the music section, and the stories of the controversies and how we lived through them, how Dr. John smuggled the refugees to Canada, and the theology surveys, every bit of your book riveting and nothing at all like the 'histories of our church' I have toiled through. Kudos and trumpet fanfare to all involved."



Rev. Ralph Tyksinski and his wife  
Karleen

Twenty-six pre-paid color copies were ordered. So far, over 70 black and white copies at \$37 a set have been distributed or promised, but that leaves 50 black and white sets for further sales. A highlight of the sales is that the Harvard Divinity School, which houses archives of all things UU, is purchasing both a black and white set for circulation and a color set for use in the library. Prairie has donated history book sets to its former ministers, to the other UU congregations in the area, and to the Madison Public Library. Orange Schroeder purchased a color set for the Wisconsin Historical Society.

If anyone knows of a former member or others who might be interested in a black and white set at \$37, please let Mary Mullen [mmullen0843@gmail.com](mailto:mmullen0843@gmail.com) know and they will be sent an order form.