

Oct
2019

Prairie Fire



WOW women gather around the table to eat and check-in on September 7, 2019. From left – Barbara Park, Kathy Converse, Kate Liu, Terri Prudlo, Judy Lazaarus, Mary Somers, Rosemarie Lester, Patty Stockdale, Renee Deschard, and Mary Mullen. The group meets the first Saturday of each month from 9:00-11:00 a.m. All Prairie women are invited.

Prairie Contacts

Rachel Long, President—president@uuprairie.org

Dan Klock, Administrator—admin@uuprairie.org

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

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Calendar*

Please see www.uuprairie.org for detailed descriptions

***All events take place at Oak Park Nakoma, unless stated**

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Saturday 5 October

- 5a Men's Shelter (Grace Episcopal)
- 9a Prairie WOW (Annex)

Sunday 6 October

- 8:45a Choir Rehearsal
- 10a RE & Service (All Ages): "Native WI Reptiles & Amphibians" by Madison Area Herpetological Society
- 11:15a Planning for a Minister

Sunday 13 October

- 8:45a Choir Rehearsal
- 10a RE & Service: "Life with Dementia" by Claire Box
- 11:45a Board Meeting (Annex)

Friday 18 October

- 6p D&D/Subversive Threads (Annex)

Sunday 20 October

- 8:45a Choir Rehearsal
- 10a RE & Service: TBA

Thursday 24 October

- 7p Program Committee Meeting (Annex)

Sunday 27 October

- 8:45a Choir Rehearsal
- 10a RE & Service: "We Are Many-United Against Hate" by Masood Akhtar



Calendar Notes

Sept 29th Humanist Union: Life of Ernestine Rose

We will hear a presentation by Robin Proud on the life of Ernestine Rose, suffragist, abolitionist, and freethinking atheist. Largely overlooked in contemporary discussions of the American women's rights movement, she was one of its major intellectual forces in nineteenth-century America. We will meet in the Annex for potluck lunch at noon with our program from 12:30 to 1:30. All are welcome.

From the President

Rachel Long, President

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If you haven't yet had the chance, please read the letter about our upcoming meetings that was sent out online on prairienews on 9/19/19 and by mail to those members who prefer. The letter explains the issues we have to discuss before we embark on our search for a new minister. Please watch for draft proposed bylaws regarding Prairie's relationship with a minister, also for our discussion. Oak Park Place has generously agreed to let us meet there after service for one of these discussions and for the Fall Parish Meeting. Here is the schedule:

Sunday October 6, 11:15 am, Oak Park Place - Discussion 1
Saturday November 2, time TBA Bethel Horizons - Discussion 2
Sunday December 8, 11:15 am, Oak Park Place - Fall Parish Meeting

Child care and snacks will be provided. We need your insight and perspectives! Hope to see you there.

Rachel Long, President
Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society



Retreat Registration Open!

Karen Deaton, Renee Deschard & Nancy Wunderlin

What does crafting, hiking, nature programming, discussing, dancing, doing yoga, making s'mores, singing, a talent show and keylog service have in common? They are all available at the 2019 Prairie UU Retreat Nov. 1-3!!!! Check out Carl Wacker's [2016 Retreat Video](#) for a nice overview.

Click on this link <https://tinyurl.com/19uuretreat> to register online (preferred). Paper copies are also available at Sunday services.

Questions? Please email retreat@uuprairie.org or talk with Nancy Wunderlin, Renee Deschard, or Karen Deaton. Hope to see you there!

Registrations due October 13th so register today!!!!

Building Community

Holly Tellander, Director of Religious Education

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We're off to a great start in RE :) During the month of September we are focused on the theme of *community* and learning more about the religion of *Judaism*.

Our **preschool & K-5 learners** have made Friendship Soup Jars (you'll be able to buy these in a Justice Bazaar soon!), explored the country of Palestine by making candy maps (thanks Randy!), learned about the Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashanah with Challah bread (thanks Peggy!), reflected on their lived experiences with the 7th principles IN REAL LIFE, found moments of mindfulness AND practiced being good sports in community games (thanks Erin!).



Our **middle & high school learners** have been diving more deeply into an exploration of Judaism, specifically building awareness around the main sects of Judaism (orthodox, reform & conservative), and visited Beth Israel Center here in Madison for an educational tour that got RAVE reviews.



We'll round out the month with a **trip** to Eplegarden on Sunday, September 29th. All are welcome to join!

Coming Up in October & Reminders First if you haven't yet.... [Register here for RE](#)

During the month of October we will be exploring the religion of **Christianity** and focusing on the theme of **Teaching**.

And on **October 6th**, we'll have a **SPECIAL** intergenerational service with **LIVE ANIMALS**. You will not want to miss it!



Thank you to Peggy Small for signing up to lead the religious exploration of Catholicism with our middle & high school learners. We are still looking for interested adults to join in on their conversations & excursions. Please let Holly Tellander know if you think you have a great perspective to add to the exploration of Christianity with our students.

As always, **volunteers needed!** Please consider filling out this [Google Form](#) to indicate your willingness to engage with our youth this year.

Our community is our biggest strength - and it takes a village!

Circle Dinner Sign Up

Erin Bosch, Membership Committee Co-Chair

Please contact Erin Bosch (membership@uuprairie.org or talk to her at a Sunday Service) to sign-up for Circle Dinners. Send names of all the participants in your family and contact info if you are not in the Prairie Directory.

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Circle Dinners are a great way to get to know others in the Prairie community on a more personal basis. If you were to sign up for a Circle Dinner, it would mean that you are agreeing to get together for dinner with a group of people several times during the year, and host the group one time. A typical size for the group is 6 to 8, although groups with children can get larger if you count the kids.

Lists of the groups are handed out and the people listed first in bold are the ones we are asking to communicate with the others to find a good date for the first dinner. At the first dinner, participants can decide the date for the next dinner. Groups usually go around once (about four dinners) or sometimes they decide to go around again.

People are always welcome to use the Prairie main meeting room (after the renovation) or the Annex for the dinners. You just need to call Dan Klock, our administrator, to reserve it for you. The usual procedure for these groups is that the person hosting furnishes the main dish and all others bring contributions of food to round out the meal. But that procedure can be altered whatever way the group decides. You can even decide to meet at a restaurant every time if that is more appealing.



Caring Helper Sign Up

Barbara Frye, Caring Committee Chair

Caring Committee Group Leaders and those on the Volunteer list provide help to other members when needed.

Want to be a Volunteer? Contact caring@uuprairie.org to be added to the list of those who can be called to help out (i.e. making a meal for a member with a recent hospitalization or a new baby, giving a ride to a program event/activity, water plants, etc)

Know a Prairie Member who needs help? Please email caring@uuprairie.org or talk to your Group Leader.

Prairie Directory Going Online: You May Opt Out

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Mary Mullen, Archives Committee Chair

The Prairie Board has authorized putting the Prairie Directory online on the password-protected portion of the Prairie website. The purpose is to make it easier for members to communicate with each other and Prairie friends.



Concerned that some members or friends listed in the directory may not want their name and contact information available on the web even under password protection, the Board will allow a person to opt out of being included in the online directory.

If you do not wish to have your name and contact information available in the online directory, please contact Archives Chair Mary Mullen immediately through email <mmullen0843@gmail.com>, by calling her (608) 298-0843, or catching her at a Prairie activity. If you wish, you may choose to have partial information excluded. Be sure to give your name in your communication as an email address may not be enough to identify you.

The password is available to members only. Contact Administrator Dan Klock at Prairie's phone number to ask for the password, or catch Mary at any Prairie event. As always, the complete Directory will continue to be available in its paper version.

Donations for The Road Home

Molly Plunkett, Social Action Committee Chair



The Road Home is a local organization that works with homeless families. For many years, Prairie partnered with other churches to host meals at Midvale Lutheran Church when it was housing families. If you want to know more and/or be involved with their work, there are a number of informational sessions scheduled: Tuesday Oct. 8, 4:30 pm, Wed. Nov. 20, 5:30, and Tuesday Dec. 17, 4:30 pm. There is also a fundraising breakfast on Nov. 7, 2019 from 7:30-8:30. You can contact the organization at 608-294-7998 or email Peggy at peggyh@trhome.org.

Please consider donating (take directly to The Road Home at 890 W Wingra Dr, Madison 8am-5pm M-F) any of the following items: diapers/pull ups, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, gift cards for gas and grocery, cleaning supplies, paper towels, baby wipes, hair-care products for African-American hair. Products must be in unopened packaging and full size items rather than travel size.

Remembering Mike

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Prairie UU Society member, Michael Briggs, passed away Monday August 26th at the age of 84. You can find more information about [his life here](#). Following are some words about Mike from fellow Prairie members.



From Gary Gates

I first got to know Mike Briggs when he and I served together on the Madison City Council. We sat next to each other. It was my first and only term on the Council but it was Mike's second term and he was very supportive of my need to learn the ropes, even though we agreed on very little. I was considered an oddball conservative and he was an oddball liberal. When I joined Prairie several years later, I learned he had also been a member but had dropped out because of a difference of opinions about Prairie's future. Remembering the difference of opinions he and I had with each other and with other City Council members, I could fully understand. Nevertheless, I wished he had not left and was delighted when he returned.



Musicians play for Maypole dancing at Prairie, May 2005. Musicians from left: Steve Vorass, Doleta Chapru, and Mike Briggs, by Carl Wacker.

From Barbara Frye

What a beautiful man. I met him the first day I went to Prairie which was about 1996 and he was playing the piano for the service and wearing shorts and sandals with a bright necktie through the belt loops on his shorts and jazzing up every hymn that he played. What a lovely friendship through the years and what wonderful parties Mike and Norma had! So inclusive and fun full of music and dancing and food and conversation. I was also involved with some serious things with him and Norma in an also beautiful way. I personally will miss him a lot as will so many other people.

From Cheryl Robinson

Loved Mike's sense of humor, instrument playing, and how he kept involved in every trip and activity that he could do, even as he aged. A person of integrity and kindness with a zest for life. Mike, you will be missed.

From Anne Reardon Urbanski

I met Mike and his late wife, Norma, in 1982, when I first joined Prairie. I worked on Mike's mayoral campaign in 1983. He was always very kind and gracious to me and my husband, Lee Urbanski. I will miss his wit, charm, and musical talent.



Mike & Norma Briggs and Mary Mullen wear dandelion crowns that Galena Smith had taught them how to braid. Photo by Patty Stockdale.

Remembering Mike

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From Erin Bosch

In 1995, when my daughter Nora was a senior in high school, she had some "friend issues" at the end of the year and she had also had some disappointments regarding not getting a good role in the high school musical so she was not a happy camper that spring. Nora had been taking voice lessons and she really did sing well, but did not get much of a chance to share that with others. So I asked her if she wanted to do a "recital" and I was shocked that she said yes. One of the challenges was to find someone who could play the piano to accompany her. Mike graciously volunteered and I was thrilled to place her in such capable hands. Mike came to our house one night to rehearse on our very old piano that I had purchased from Jack and Betty Jallings at a Prairie auction. Of course Mike played brilliantly but his most important contribution was how kind and encouraging he was to Nora. She was not feeling great about life in general and he made her feel confident and she began to look forward to the recital. They were wonderful together and I have such a nice memory of that day when she sang five songs beautifully for friends and family that came from as far away as Michigan. It might not have happened without Mike.

From Mary Mullen

Mike never missed a chance to invite people to make music with him. He could and would provide a prelude and postlude to any event he attended. And his variations as he play the second and third verse of hymns were legendary. I miss him.

