

Oct
2020

Prairie Fire



Adult Nifty Gifty on 9/12

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October Calendar*

Please see www.uuprairie.org for detailed descriptions & public event links

***All events take place online via Zoom**

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(Retreat events happening 9/24 thru 10/4 see News for links)

Friday 2 (every Friday)

- 4:30p Advanced D&D

Saturday 3

- 10a Prairie WOW

Sunday 4

- 10a Service: "Wild Animal Rescue" by Dane County Humane Society
- 6pm Sing Along (every Sunday)

Monday 5 (every Monday)

- 4:30p Beginner D&D

Wednesday 7 (every Wednesday)

- 6p Wednesday Night Fun Night

Thursday 8

- 7p Program Meeting

Sunday 11

- 10a Service: by Madeline Arnold

Monday 12

- 7p Study Group: *White Trash* pt 3

Tuesday 13

- 6p Board Meeting

Sunday 18

- 10a Service: "Chameleons in Camouflage - Females on the Autism Spectrum"

Saturday 24

- 10a Creativity & Connection

Sunday 25

- 10a Service: "What is Nehemiah & Focused Interruption Coalition" by Anthony Cooper

Monday 26

- 7p Study Group



Prairie RE - Wednesday Fun is Getting Funner!

Karen Deaton, RE Committee Chair

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During the pandemic, a handful of Prairie people have been gathering for a half hour of Zoom on Wednesday evenings. Some of our activities have been household scavenger hunts, virtual hide-and-seek, meeting each other's stuffed animals and live pets, and singing songs. Participants have been kids with their parents, kids on their own, and adults without kids who enjoy the company of youngsters. It's a lot of fun in a short amount of time.



We have a special series of Wednesday Fun programs coming up **virtual visits with live animals!**

September 30 - Heartland Farm Sanctuary

October 14 - Three Gaits Therapeutic Horsemanship Center

November 11 - Dane County Humane Society

Thank you Renee Deschard for arranging these events! All are welcome - mark your calendars! [Click here to join!](#)

About Wednesday Fun: On Wednesday evenings we come together to focus our activities around our youngest learners - grades 3 and under. But ALL are welcome and it's fun to visit with our littles. Common activities are read aloud, show & tell, virtual hide & seek, talent shows, pet demonstrations, sing-a-longs, or general tomfoolery. Actually, the tomfoolery is guaranteed. Hope to see you there! Room opens at 5:50. Fun usually concludes by 6:30.

More about our October Visitors

Three Gaits is an organization that holds a special place in my family's life. Jesse began doing therapeutic riding there as a 9 year old (more than half their lifetime ago), as a fun supplement to their regular physical therapy. Horseback activities are great for developing strength, balance, and control. Over the years, Jesse has continued taking lessons and also worked a volunteer helping in lessons, caring for horses, and doing barn chores. Three Gaits has developed into a place for them to not only build physical skills and confidence, but also find peace of mind, work as part of a team, nurture younger riders, and just have fun. Horses and people at Three Gaits have become an important community in Jesse's life.

I spent a few years serving Three Gaits' board of directors, and had the opportunity to meet many riders and their families. If you love a pet, you won't be surprised to hear that the connection between people and animals is strong and motivating. I have been amazed, however, at its power. I heard stories of an 8-year-old child speaking her first words ever - telling her horse to "walk on" - of a child gaining the physical strength to join his cousins in grandpa's Gator rides for the first time - and many more. For kids with serious physical challenges such as cerebral palsy, life can be too full of uncomfortable therapy sessions in basement clinics, but weekly appointments at Three Gaits are a time of joy as well as physical progress.

I was delighted when Renee lined up a virtual visit at Three Gaits for Wednesday Fun. Jesse and I will be out at the farm with human and equine friends that evening. I encourage you to check out their website and consider volunteering if you'd like a little more horse in your life (financial contributions will be put to good use, too)

Frantz Car Parade 8/29

Patty Stockdale, Membership Co-Chair

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Prairie members and friends have had the pleasure of celebrating 3 members in car parades. These are John and Mary Frantz and Metje Butler.



On August 29, there was no special occasion for Mary and John, although the organizers, Membership Committee Co-Chairs Deesa Pence and Patty Stockdale, debated whether their birthdays were close at hand. Turns out their birthdays are in February and May, and they are 97, not 100, as some folks were suggesting. Oh well, 97 is a good birth year to celebrate whether it is on the actual day or not. And a good time was had by all. Attending included Gary and Pam Gates, Karleen and Ralph Tyksinski, Rick and Marilyn Ruecking, Paula Pachciarz, Rachel Long and Martin Arnold, Al and Aileen Nettleton, Barb Park, John Wunderlin, Peter Anderson, Chris Porter, Katrina Thompson and Tony Luebbert and kids, Ken and Judy Skog, Mary Mullen, and Deesa Pence.

Later in the morning, Mary Frantz had the opportunity to record videos of her playing piano at the Prairie UU Society main building. John Wunderlin provided his professional engineering skills to make the recordings which will be used in future Sunday Services on Zoom. September 13th Sunday service was one such service. Mary played "On Wings of Song" by Mendelssohn which was enjoyed by all.



upper right - Mary & Patty's sign for the Frantzes
right - Mary and John Frantz, Membership chairs Patty Stockdale and Deesa Pence
lower right - Paula's bike sign for the Frantzes
lower left - Mary F. and Barb Park in the community garden
left - Judy and Ken Skog in the car parade.



Butler Car Parade 9/8

Patty Stockdale, Membership Co-Chair & **Barbara Frye**, Caring Chair

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Metje Butler had her 90th birthday on September 8, and her 3 sons were in Madison to celebrate. Caring Committee chair Barb Frye connected with Metje's sons to plan the car parade, and Judy Lazarus lead the parade passed her house on the eastside of Madison. When the car parade arrived, Metje was nowhere to be found. Then Judy Lazarus called her on her cellphone and roused her out to her yard! Attending included Barb Park, Ken and Judy Skog, Rick and Marilyn Ruecking, Karleen and Ralph Tyksinski, Morris Sadicario, Patty Stockdale, Carl Wacker, Al and Aileen Nettleton, Gary and Pam Gates, and Molly Plunkett.

Thanks so very much to all of you for helping Metje Butler to have a very happy birthday. She received so many birthday cards and was thrilled by the drive by greetings. It was a little challenging at first to get her to come outside and experience it but your enthusiasm and persistence paid off greatly. She sent me a thank your card detailing how happy she was and the card had one of her charming paintings as show below (the cat). Thanks again to each and every one of you and especially Judy Lazarus who did a lot to help organize too.



Prairie UU Fall Retreat is On!!!

Karen Deaton, Nancy Wunderlin & Renee Deschard

Prairie UU Fall Retreat is happening September 24th thru October 4th. Registration has closed for the 2 in person events & supply kits, however you can attend all of the amazing virtual events! September 24th starts with a UUA workshop called Beyond Categorical Thinking and all Prairie members and friends are highly encouraged to attend. Here is a link to the current schedule <https://tinyurl.com/20retreatsched> (zoom links included where applicable). Email retreat@uuprairie.org if you have questions.



The Catalyst Project

Molly Plunkett & Pam Gates, Social Action Co-Chairs



We will be sharing our next quarter offertory collections with The Catalyst Project, a community of up to four single moms and their kids who are experiencing homelessness. In partnership with founders Susan and Anna Donahoe, the families gain access to permanent housing and other support services while living community-style in a house on Madison's east side. Catalyst is founded on the belief that the wisdom of those who are not well served by society is essential to creating a society that serves all of its people. The Donahoes made a presentation to Prairie on March 24th 2019.

Our Extended Circle Supper Group met at Wingra Park on 9/18. It was a bit chillier than previous ones but we enjoyed our time together with our theme of headlines and happenings from the year of your birth.

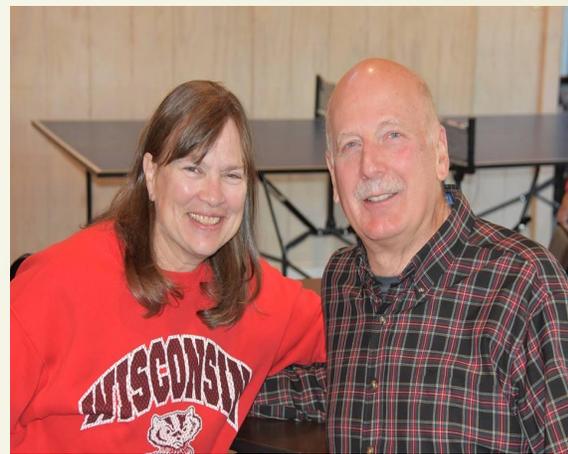


Member Spotlight

Deesa Pence & Richard Berling (spouse)

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What current Prairie positions (i.e. committees) do you hold/past positions? I am currently a co-chair on the Membership committee, and have participated in RE, the Book Club, and the choir in recent years. (Richard) I occasionally help Deesa with her volunteering. I've also attended Book Club, various PUUS gatherings and auction bike rides.



I grew up on the far south side of Chicago, in a still ethnically integrated neighborhood. I moved to Madison for my first husband's job at the university. (Richard) I grew up in a Cincinnati Ohio suburb called Blue Ash. Once it was a sleepy somewhat segregated town at the end of the urban bus line. Of course, now housing reflects national trends. Blue Ash has one of the highest tax bases in the state of Ohio.

While taking one of my sons to his soccer game, I noticed this other UU congregation in Madison. We had been members of FUS for about 10 years before I was enticed to come to a "Day of the Dead" gathering to honor my mother-in-law and father.

For my first impressions of Prairie, I remember feeling very welcomed. I had wanted a personal connection within the UU congregation and didn't find it at FUS. (Richard) My first impression was a of very intelligent open-minded people who love to pursue their values and interests have a good time along the way.

Since retiring in June (yay!) I've managed to keep busy biking, hiking, and canoeing with my husband, Richard. We've also been babysitting my 3.5 year old granddaughter once a week (an 8 hour day). I also enjoy reading, cooking, sewing and baking bread. My challenge is to share those activities with my granddaughter. (Richard) I volunteer a lot with my church Eckankar and am the Secretary of the Kiwanis Club of Downtown Madison. Our interrupted pre-pandemic hobbies include social dance, curling and the gym. My continuing hobbies include biking, hiking, canoeing, camping, reading, nature photography, and cooking. Many of you know we took the dive and built our dream senior living home. The first floor is ADA and the second floor is for family, friends and Airbnb guests to supplement our income.

What is something even long-time Prairie members might be surprised to learn about you? I attended Chicago's Fenger High School in the early 70's, during The Great Migration. Our school was 300% capacity and there were security guards in the school because of the race riots. I learned so much then that is so relevant today. (Richard) Well, if they don't know it yet they might be surprised that I've made a half dozen cedar strip canoes.

