

Jan
2021

Prairie Fire



Nifty Gifty elves with the craft kits they assembled together in Karen's garage

Prairie Contacts

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

Table of Contents

Calendar	2
Study Group	3
Small Group Access to the Building	3
Prairie RE: January Edition	4
Covid Couldn't Stop Nifty Gifty	5
Caring Committee	5
Flamingo Flight Status	6
Renovations Nearly Complete, How to Help	7
Policy & Procedures Manual Update	7
Social Action News	8
MOSES Update	8

January Calendar*

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

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

2

Saturday 2

- 10a Prairie WOW

Sunday 3

- 10a Service: "Wishes for the New Year" by Prairie
- 11a Virtual Coffee Hour (every Sunday)
- 7pm Sing Along (every Sunday)

Tuesday 5

- 4:30 Beginner D&D (every Tuesday)
- 7p Trivia (1st & 3rd Tuesday)

Wednesday 6 (every Wednesday)

- 6p Wednesday Night Fun Night

Thursday 7

- 7p Program Meeting

Friday 8 (every Friday)

- 4:30p Advanced D&D

Sunday 10

- 10a Service: "One City Schools"

Monday 11

- 7p Study Group (2nd & 4th Mondays)

Tuesday 12

- 6p Board Meeting

Sunday 17

- 10a Service: TBA

Saturday 23

- 10a Creativity & Connection

Sunday 24

- 10a Service: TBA

Sunday 31

- 10a Service: TBA



A Prairie flamingo flock travels

Study Group

Rachel Long, President

3

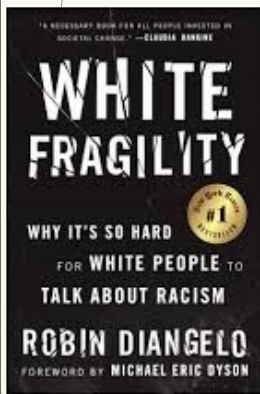
The January selection will be *White Fragility - Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin Diangelo. New Yorker writer Katy Waldman wrote, "The value in *White Fragility* lies in its methodical, irrefutable exposure of racism in thought and action, and its call for humility and vigilance. Combatting one's inner voices of racial prejudice, sneaky and, at times, irresistibly persuasive, is a life's work." Study Group meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month from 7-8:30 pm. You are welcome to participate whether or not you have read the book. Our upcoming schedule is as follows:

Dec. 28 2020 - *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* part 2, lead by Tracy Warnecke. Note that Tracy is planning a more personal discussion, including sharing of our own biases during this session.

Jan. 11 2021 - *White Fragility* part 1 lead by Mary Somers

Jan. 25 2021 - *White Fragility* part 2 lead by Mary Somers

The link will be on the main web page. Join us!



Small Group Access to the Building

Rachel Long, President

The Board is hoping that at our January meeting we will complete the policy and procedures for small groups to meet in our main meeting hall. We will let you know as soon as these are finalized. Everyone planning to attend a meeting will need to review and sign two consent forms; one outlining the procedures they agree to follow to keep themselves and everyone else safe, and the other releasing Prairie from liability in case they become ill. We will only open the building for use when and if such meeting is in keeping with Dane County public health recommendations at the time. Prior to 12/15/20, Dane County was recommending NO meeting indoors outside of household members. The current guidelines have been loosened to allow meeting with a maximum of 10 people, maintaining masking and other safety measures. Once the building inspectors have signed off on permitting us access to our building and our meeting procedures are finalized, we can begin offering our space to you for small gatherings. We expect that to be in mid-January.

Please keep in mind that gathering together in person remains quite risky, and it is still safest not to meet indoors. Carefully weigh the risks and benefits of meeting before you decide to do so. We will post the policy and procedures to PrairieneWS and on the website. Let me know if you have any questions.

Prairie RE: January Edition

Karen Deaton, RE Committee Chair

4

In addition to Wednesday Fun for our youngest friends, the RE committee is planning an array of new social activities for our young people. We're still in planning stages - details are not yet settled as the Prairie Fire deadline approaches. We'll share details via email with our RE families in the weeks to come, but in the meantime email re-committee@uuprairie.org with questions, concerns, or expressions of enthusiasm

Hike - January 3, early afternoon, see your friends in person, from a distance! We'll have an in-person winter hike (socially distanced and masked) at [Lake Farm Park](#) for families with children age 10 or above. Find and make your own walking stick! Show off your fire-making skills. Watch your email for details.

Minecraft - we are planning to set up a secure server for youngsters ages 7 and up to gather online and build. We will need people to serve as hosts/moderators. Please let us know if you're willing to help! Please let us know if your kids will be interested in participating!

Roblox - we are planning to set up a secure server for youngsters ages 11 and up to gather online and play games. We will need people to serve as hosts/moderators. Please let us know if you're willing to help! Please let us know if your kids will be interested in participating!

FLAT FRIENDS?!? Mystery Friends gets a reboot in this fun new asynchronous RE activity. Much like the flamingos that roam Dane County visiting different Prairie houses, our new Flat Friends Box will circulate among our RE families and give us a chance to connect with each other WITHOUT ZOOM. If you are interested in participating in our Flat Friends Circuit and would like more information, [please fill out the form here](#). We think this will be a fun way for our RE families to stay in touch & have a laugh as we all slug through the long, dark winter. Email holly.tellander@gmail.com for more info or to sign up!



Covid Couldn't Stop Nifty Gifty

Karen Deaton, RE Committee Chair

5

Prairie's Nifty Gifty tradition of a crafting extravaganza in early December goes back decades. If your children grew up at Prairie, you probably treasure creations they made for you at Nifty Gifty in years gone by. Thanks to a crew of Prairie elves who planned projects, donated supplies, assembled and delivered kits, and led crafting sessions via Zoom, the tradition continued this year.

Thank you Kathy Converse, Karen Deaton, Kate Liu, Deesa Pence, Barb Park, Peggy Small, Rebecca Strome, Holly Tellander, and Nancy Wunderlin!



Miles and Kira joined Zoom to make aromatic pomanders from oranges and cloves

Caring Committee

Barbara Frye, Caring Committee Chair

We had a Poetry Circle Supper evening, December and we each wrote 2 sentences of a story separately which was prompted by a picture (attached). We wrote these randomly and then Rick put it together into one story. Attending this event were Jane Richards, Lynn Currie, Rick Ruecking, Nancy Schraufnagle, Barbara and Ron Frye.



- Couldn't pay the rent; got evicted. Packed all my belongings in the truck with my bike on top.
- My truck broke down and I called a tow. I only wish I knew where I was.
- But, oh no! I needed my bike after all, but how to get it?
- Nothing runs like a deer. But this International pickup ran too much.
- A migrant's life is hard. Once we unload in the pickers' camp the crops are yet to be picked.
- "Hey pa, where'd the accordion go? I was hoping to shine it up a bit for the talent show."

Flamingo Flight Status

Paula Pachciarz, Official Flamingo Flight Tracker



6

Did Prairie's flamingo flocks flinch when flecks of snow began to fly? Nay, the fearless fliers fled not to Florida!

After a busy summer and fall of gracing the yards of Prairie members, they will take a well-deserved break. Both flocks are now hibernating in the Deaton/Garst and Pachciarz/Wacker garages. Flock Two especially deserves the rest after its last stint in the snow in front of Dean and Orange Schroeder's house.

It was in June that the flocks first took up their charge of helping to keep the Prairie community connected. Prairie households hosted a flock for about a week, then passed the birds on to another family or member. Each flock consists of seven birds and each bird has a word written on it representing one of the seven principles: dignity, justice, acceptance, truth, conscience, community, respect. The flocks have traveled throughout the Madison area and beyond. Passers-by and neighbors have asked about the birds, "Why is there writing on the flamingos?" etc., leading to conversations about UUism and the principles.

The flamingos were popular. Those who hosted them were unanimous in their appreciation: "A great idea." "We love seeing flamingos hanging out in our yard." "We were excited to see the flamingos today!" "So cheery." "The flock was a wonderful "hug" from friends in this unusual times." "The birds are a hoot!"

If you haven't had the birds land in your yard or patio yet, don't feel left out. The flamingos begin visiting again in early spring.

So farewell for a while faithful flamingos, who have unflaggingly fulfilled your function fanning the UU flame.

Paula Pachciarz
Official flamingo tracker
Happy to answer questions about the birds

Note the scarves made for one group by Kathy Converse. Margit Moses added necklaces later - not shown in pics



Renovation Nearly Complete! How You Can Help!

Heidi Hughes, Design Committee Chair

[\(Please click here for the entire document including needed items/pictures and a donation form\)](#)

We are grateful for the successful campaign to renovate our main building and await its reopening. Prairie still needs help to put our best foot forward with furnishings for the renovated space.

Rachel Long, Prairie President, asked the Interiors Sub-Committee to determine what is needed to furnish the interior and to raise the funds for that purpose. Members of the Committee are: Barbara Chatterton Frye, Heidi Hughes, Nevenah Smith, Paula Pachciarz, Renee Deschard, and Ron Frye. Members kept an eye to consistent style with the items on the list.

Altogether the needed items are estimated to cost \$21,864. As of December 1, we have already raised 75% or \$16,295 of that goal. Prairie needs help with the remaining \$5,569. We especially thank Nancy Schraufnagel for her generous \$12,000 gift for the dance floor. Donations are still needed for prairie grass wood wall art, cellular window shades, and a brochure holder.

Will you add to the gifts from Interiors Sub-Committee and Board members so we can put our best foot forward in the newly renovated building? You can give for specific items or make an unrestricted gift for interior furnishings. Will you send your contribution by Inauguration Day, January 20? Please send your check or credit card gift as shown in the form [linked here](#)

Barbara Chatterton Frye, Heidi Hughes, Nevenah Smith, Paula Pachciarz, Renee Deschard, Ron Frye



Policy & Procedure Manual Update

Dan Klock, Prairie Administrator

Just in time for Christmas: Prairie's policy and procedures will be up on the web! The policies and procedures are "living documents" that will be updated as needed. You'll find the manual in the password protected area of the website before Christmas Eve.

Please let me know if you see any necessary changes.

Social Action News

Molly Plunkett, Social Action Committee Co-Chair

8



As part of its membership in Allied Partners, Prairie shares its collection with the Allied Wellness Center for one quarter a year and donates bus passes, gas and gift cards to the Wellness Center. For December Prairie donated 20 adult and 15 youth bus passes, \$50 in gift cards and \$50 in \$5 gas cards.

There is a food pantry every week in the Allied neighborhood which in summer months often benefits from the garden of Mary and Patty. The pantry is open from 10-12 every Wednesday and could use some more volunteers to help register folks and bag food. Public contact is minimized as much as possible. If you have time or interest contact: Carol Rushmore at 608-332-9773 or email her at rushmore5116@gmail.com.

MOSES Update

Molly Plunkett, Social Action Committee Co-Chair

MOSES, the local interfaith organization Prairie belongs to, continued its focus on bringing more justice to the criminal justice system. One strong effort was a get-out-the-vote campaign: from July through Nov. 2, about 20 volunteers distributed 15,000 pieces of literature in Madison's lower income neighborhoods. The point was to get people voting, not to espouse particular candidates. Information from the League of Women Voters and WISDOM explained how to register and actually vote; an ACLU sheet addressed the problem of Wisconsin's bloated, racially disparate incarceration and probation/parole system; and a MOSES sheet explained the organization and invited people to join.

Another MOSES/WISDOM focus this year has been COVID in Wisconsin's jails and prisons. A candlelight vigil was held Dec. 21 at the Governor's Mansion to urge Gov. Evers to reduce prison populations and thus COVID risk for both staff and prisoners. A round-the-clock vigil was held several weeks this fall for the same purpose.

More information, including a bimonthly newsletter, can be found at MOSESmadison.org.

Thanks to Prairie for continuing its membership in this important racial justice organization!

