

Prairie Fire

March
2022



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

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March Calendar

Please see www.uuprairie.org for detailed descriptions & public event links (where applicable)

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Friday 4 (every Friday)

- 4:30p Advanced D&D

Saturday 5

- 10am WOW (Women of Wonder)

Sunday 6

- 10a Service: "Imagining the Next Normal of the Coronavirus Pandemic" by Ajay Sethi

Tuesday

- 7p Trivia (*this month Trivia might be on a different Tuesday, contact Renee*)

Wednesday 9 (every other Wednesday)

- 1p Rev. Matt's Chats
- 7:30p Rev. Matt's Chats

Sunday 13

- 10a Service with Rev. Matt Aspin

Monday 14

- 7p Study Group: *Let the Record Show - A Political History of ACT UP New York, 1987-1993* by Sarah Schulman

Sunday 20

- 10a Service with Anne Pryor

Saturday 26

- 10a Creativity & Connection

Sunday 27

- 10a Service: "Healthcare and Homelessness" by Matt Julian



Study Group

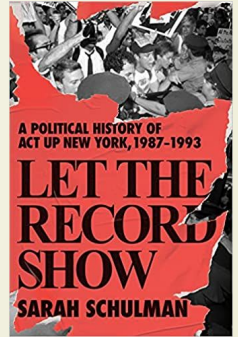
Rachel Long, President

We meet once per month on the second Monday from 7-8:30 pm. See our website for the link. Please join us! Even if you haven't read the book, let's learn from each other.

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MARCH -- Let the Record Show - A Political History of ACT UP New York, 1987-1993 by Sarah Schulman, led by Rachel Long

The goal of our discussion will be to understand what made this movement successful and how we can apply these learnings to the current moment. However since the book is very long, we are offering other options for participation:



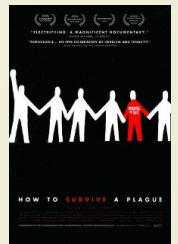
Podcast *The Ezra Klein Show - Sarah Schulman's Radical Approach to Change and Communication*

<https://podcasts.podinstall.com/new-york-times-opinion-ezra-klein-show/202106220900-sarah-schulmans-radical-approach-conflict-communication-and.html>



Podcast *It's Been a Minute with Sam Sanders* - Conversation with Sarah Schumann

<https://www.npr.org/2022/01/13/1072782588/the-direct-action-of-act-up-helped-end-aids-heres-what-it-can-teach-us-in-2022>



Film "How to Survive a Plague" available for rent on Amazon Prime. You may also want to read the extensive prologue and introduction to **Let the Record Show** rather than read the entire book.

APRIL – Colonize This! Young Women of Color on Today's Feminism,

edited by Daisy Hernandez and Bushra Rehman, led by Pegeen Small.

Daisy Hernandez and Bushra Rehman, self-described as a "Catholic Cuban-Colombian girl from New Jersey" and a "Pakistani Muslim girl from Queens," offer various perspectives--their own and others--of life lived as young feminists of color, exploring commonalities and cultural differences and examining macho cultures and American capitalism. The essays explore four major themes: family and community; mothers; cultural customs; and talking back to white feminists, men, mothers, liberals, and others. These women express a more radical, racialized feminism that broadens the movement beyond its early incarnation. *Vanessa Bush*



Study Group Calendar (7-8:30 pm on the 2nd Monday of the month)

March 14 - Let the Record Show by Sarah Schulman

April 11 - Colonize This! edited by Daisy Hernandez and Bushra Rehman

We will conclude for the season after our April selection.

Rev. Matt's Musings

Rev. Matt Aspin, Minister



There has been a good bit of loss experienced by members of this community over the recent stretch. It seems heartbreaks, even the ones we see coming, can feel especially heavy right now. In addition to the expected trials and tribulations of life, we've been separated, confused, scared, saddened and disappointed by a pandemic that never seems to end.

Several folks have recently asked me to speak on grief, and it seems like this topic may be ripe for exploration in this moment. One of the reasons I'm choosing to focus on it now is that I do sense there may be brighter days ahead, and failure to acknowledge our grief today ensures that it will continue to weigh us down even after we've decided it's time to set sail towards our next adventures.

While grief can't be sped up, or shortcut, or controlled in any real sense, the presence of even a spark of light can illuminate our way forward. The fact that your leadership team has been and will continue to be actively discussing re-gathering plans over the coming days surely has me breathing a sigh of blessed relief. At the very least, it feels like a hopeful target to be moving towards.

Fortunately for us all, no matter what challenges life decides to present to us next this community is *filled* with sparks of light. I for one am grateful for each of you, and the contribution your presence adds to the collective illumination.

If you could use a little pick up today, I might recommend [The Keep Going Song](#), a tune designed to help us keep putting one foot in front of the other when the muck of life is feeling especially thick.

But if you're in the depths of grief right now, don't worry about anything but taking care of yourself the best you can. Remember that you are not alone, and just do what you can to keep moving towards the warmth of the light.

In this community, it truly does surround us all.



Religious Exploration (RE)

Alice Mandt, Director of Religious Exploration

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How do you do religious education in a pandemic? It is a question we have never had to answer before, so we don't have an easy answer to turn to. We all have different needs and capabilities in this time.

Everyone is tired of hearing the word "unprecedented," but here we are in a pandemic world of unprecedented disruption. It's confusing, chaotic, and more than a little bit lonely. But disruption forces innovation and change, and this church year will be one of unprecedented change, in the ways we function as an organization and interact as a community.

March 13th is our hoped for re-opening date. That being said, there is a lot to figure out and consider in these uncertain times. As time progresses expect more updates from myself and the RE Committee regarding Religious Exploration activities resuming in the building. Be sure to check the Announcements and your email for the latest updates.

Even though we haven't been able to meet in person for quite some time, I am patiently awaiting the time that we can all be together.

Same.

I still haven't figured out how to keep my shower floor clean or make morning smoothies or respond to stress calmly. *Same, same, same* my friends tell me, a love note of sorts. Maybe the world doesn't need us to cut down on carbs or make more money or waste less time. Maybe instead it needs us to reach those who feel alone in their messy homes or difficult relationships or unresolved issues. To impress less and connect more. To share one simple message: *Same. Same, same, same.*

@hannahrowrites

RE still needs volunteers to help our vision for February and beyond to happen!! [SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER!!!](#)

It's Nominating Season!

Paula Pachciarz Nominating Committee

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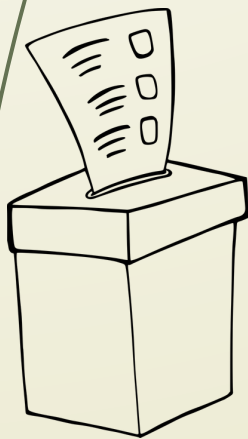
The Nominating Committee is currently seeking candidates to fill some key positions that will be coming open soon. We encourage you to please consider deepening your connection to Prairie by serving in one of these roles. Each candidate is required to be a member of Prairie and the term for each position is two years, beginning July 1.

Additionally, we want to put in a plug for the Membership Committee, which is looking for a co-chair and more members. This is a crucial committee and its tasks can be made much lighter with more hands on deck. The Membership Committee welcomes new members, organizes orientations, updates required records, and makes sure you get one of those colorful name badge lanyards, among other things. If you're new to Prairie, joining this committee is a great starting point for volunteering. There's no nominating process to be on this committee! Just contact [membership\(at\)uuprairie.org](mailto:membership@uuprairie.org) if you'd like to help out.

President: The President presides at Board Meetings, held at least ten times a year, and is responsible, along with other Board members, for setting goals and making strategic choices for the society at large. The President should be somewhat familiar with Prairie's history and culture, our Covenant of Right Relations, the Bond of Union, and our Mission Statement. Throw your hat in the ring if you think this role is a good fit for you, or if you'd like to recommend another Prairie member.

At-Large Board Member: Board members are expected to attend meetings and assist the President in setting goals and making strategic choices. A Board member may occasionally be asked to represent the Board on certain projects, or to head up an ad hoc committee when the need arises. The Board functions as Prairie's governing body and strives to be collaborative and inclusive in its approach.

Youth Board Member: This Board member is an older youth or young adult and has the same expectations as those of the At-Large Board Member above. The Board especially values the perspective that a younger member brings to meetings.



Nominating Committee Member: This committee's main role is to identify and recommend candidates for open positions at the Spring Parish Meeting. It usually convenes early in the year prior to the Spring Parish Meeting. If there is an unforeseen vacancy on the Board, on the Nominating Committee itself, or on the Committee on Ministry, the Nominating Committee will convene at other times of the year as needed. A member of this committee should have some knowledge of the society's members, and of their capabilities.

If you would like to know more about the time commitment and functions involved, please contact us at [nominating\[at\]uuprairie..](mailto:nominating@uuprairie.org) You may also reach out to any of us who are on the committee. Hope to hear from you soon!

Nominating Committee Members

Kent Wenger (Chair), Paula Pachciarz, Rebecca Strome, Heidi Hughes

MOSES Update

Pam Gates, Social Action Committee Co-Chair



Madison Organizing in Strength, Equality, and Solidarity

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Prairie is a member of MOSES

(Madison Organizing in Strength,

Equity, and Solidarity for Criminal Justice Reform), an organization of congregations and individuals which seeks criminal justice reform and emphasizes racial equity in achieving that goal.

Big news this month is that you can donate to MOSES through the online Big Share event taking place Tuesday, March 1. MOSES' "power hour" is 11 a.m.-noon that day, but donations can be made immediately by going to the Big Share website. I wrote a brief statement as to why I'm a member of MOSES; it appears in the MOSES section, along with one by the current president.

Other big news is that the MOSES yearbook, of which I was editor-in-chief, has been published. You can find it online via the MOSES website, I'm sure, but when we meet in person I'll bring plenty of hard copies. We also publish five newsletters a year; they should also be available via the website. Hard copies will appear at Prairie when we meet at last!

The MOSES organizer, Eugene Crisler 'El, has agreed to speak to the congregation as soon as the Program Committee can find him a slot. I think you will find his observations interesting and worthwhile.

MOSES members have been testifying at the Capitol at hearings on bills about voting, parental rights of incarcerated people, life sentences for juveniles, etc. I recommend getting yourself on the MOSES email list to keep updated on everything MOSES and WISDOM (the state umbrella organization) are doing to create a more equitable world.

FUS 1st Friday Film March 4th

Molly Plunkett, Social Action Committee Co-Chair



Join First Unitarian Society and partners for the March First Friday Film and Discussion - Friday, March 4th - 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. *The Reluctant Radical* is an intimate portrait of climate activist Ken Ward. The film follows Ken through a series of civil disobedience direct actions, culminating with his participation in the coordinated action that shut down all the U.S. tar sands oil pipelines on October 11, 2016. Facing 20 years in prison for his actions, the film reveals both the personal costs and also the fulfillment that comes from following one's moral calling.

A brief after-film discussion will be led by Madison area climate activists who on this same day will have launched the [March Forth to Earth Day Project](#).

[To register, click here.](#) Registration ends at 6:00 pm on March 4th. Zoom Link will be sent to you at least once after 6:00 pm on March 4th.

Facebook Link: <https://tinyurl.com/FbFFFMar3> Please share the Facebook Event