Prairie Fire

May 2023

The All Ages Prom, a Prairie auction event, was held on April 22. Attendees moved and grooved on Prairie's new dance floor, and everyone was crowned prom royalty. In the above photo, Karen Deaton (back center) teaches attendees to do the Hustle. Photo credit: Jeremy Small

Prairie Contacts

The Reverend Matt Aspin, Minister - minister@uuprairie.org
Kathy Converse, President - president@uuprairie.org
Alice Mandt, Director of Religious Exploration - dre@uuprairie.org
Nancy Wunderlin, Administrator - admin@uuprairie.org
Pageen Manolis Small, Prairie Fire Editor - prairiefire@uuprairie.org

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

Table of Contents

Calendar	2
Staff Office Hours	2
Words from the President	3
Easter Fun in RE	3
Chicken Art Workshop	4
Monoprint Workshop	5
Remembering Taku Ronsman	6

Published April 23, 2023

Calendar

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

Friday 5, 12, 19, 26 (every Friday)
- 4:30p Dungeons and Dragons (online)

Saturday 6
- 10a Women of Wonder (WOW)

Sunday 7
- 10a Service: Spring Parish Meeting

Saturday 13
- 1p Game Group

Sunday 14
- 10a Service: "Reclaiming the Feminine Divine" by Ilene Haykus
- 11:30a PUUPs Meeting
- 11:30a Newcomer Orientation

Tuesday 16
- 6p Board Meeting

Thursday 18
- 7p Guys Group

Sunday 21
- 10a Service: "Will China Spark WWIII?" by Ed Friedman
- 11:30a Interweave Meeting

Saturday 27
- 10a Creativity and Connection (online)

Sunday 28
- 10a Service by Rev. Matt
- 11:30a Covenant Group
- 11:30a Prairie UU Parent Support (PUUPS) Group

PrairieUU
Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society

Office Hours

Rev. Matt Aspin's Office Hours:

Sun: In-person a minimum of 3 times per month. Available for meetings in the afternoon upon request.
Mon: Consistent in-person office day. Available for meetings upon request.
Tue-Thu: In office or working from home, depending on appointment schedule. Available for meetings upon request.

Administrator Nancy Wunderlin's Office Hours:
Sun-Tue: working on site in the Annex
Wed-Fri: working remotely

DRE Alice Mandt's Office Hours:

Mon: 3pm to 7pm
Wed: 3pm to 7pm
Thu: 3pm to 7pm
Fri: 3pm to 7pm

Editor's note

Please contact the editor at prairiefire@uuprairie.org if you would like to submit an article or photograph to the newsletter. Submissions are due by the 21st of each month for the next month's edition.

Words from the President

Kathy Converse, President

As I look out my window and it is snowing again, I tell myself to relax, enjoy the ever mysterious spring process.

Prairie UU is also currently in a growing, changing process this spring. We are looking forward to prepare for changes in our ministry. A major change is deciding on the presence or absence of a minister. In addition many members are reviewing and commenting on proposed changes to the UUA principles and purpose.

Thank you to Reverend Matt, the board, nominating committee, committee on ministry, and other members for attending extra meetings and pressing to meet deadlines that will allow our community more choices.

Take time to renew your spirit by watching all the growing flowers and trees and listen to the returning birds.

Photo credit: Ray Hennessey on unsplash.com

Easter Fun in RE

Andrea Scott, Religious Exploration Volunteer

Prairie's RE kids had some recent Easter fun. They first did an egg hunt by age groups. The eggs had tickets inside and we had table full of prizes, some donated they could turn in for the prizes with a price named by Alice.

The oldest of the kids wanted to play outside with each other with Randy watching, and the rest of the children colored Easter eggs. It was very well attended with 14 students.

A lot of RE helpers were at the event to help it run smoothly! Alice Mandt, Tim and Andrea Scott, Patty Stockdale, Ollie Warnecke, Jesse Garst, and Randy Converse. Yay!

Photo credit: Andrea Scott

Chicken Art Workshop

Mary Mullen, Workshop Leader

Eleven fabulous chickens and two turtles were created by participants at the Prairie service action activity offered by Mary Mullen on April 11, 2023. The finished or nearly finished products, mostly made from designs on address labels, are shown below. Some brought commercial stickers, and the turtles were made from a sticker book and a picture book rescued from the trash when the Prairie kids' library was culled.

While these creations all look good here, they are much better full sized and in person. In the top row, Tom and Cheryl Robinson (left photo) show their work just before they had to leave less than two hours into the four-hour workshop, while Richard Berling and Deesa Pence (right photo) display their finished turtles at the three-hour mark.

Creator credit for the chickens:

- Top row, left to right: Ann Sawyer, Pageen Small, and Nevenah Smith
- Middle row, left to right: Tom Robinson, Jessie Garst, Karen Deaton, Kathy Converse, and Chris Porter
- Bottom row, left to right: Deesa Pence, Kate Liu, Jane Richards, and Richard Berling

Photo credit: Mary Mullen for all except rainbow rooster. Jane Richards for rainbow rooster.

Monoprinting Workshop

Mary Mullen, Workshop Participant

Gene Kain (in red hat in the group picture) led a 5-morning workshop on monoprinting from April 10-14. This was a service auction offering that brought $800 to Prairie and many hours of enjoyment to the eight participants: Lynn Currie, Suzanne Gernandt, Karen Deaton, Jane Richards, Kathy Converse, Ken Skog, Jessie Garst, and Mary Mullen. The border pictures show some of the "plates" (the inked objects on which you press the paper) and the prints (the finished paper impressions).

Remembering Taku Ronsman

Mary Mullen, Archives Committee Chair

Taku Ronsman spent several years at Prairie when she lived in Madison, her bright spirit and interest in music lighting up all around her. She brought her music to Prairie services and held a monthly singalong in her home that was advertised in the Prairie Fire. I recall two things most vividly: the amazing music studio in her large finished basement and an appearance before the Madison City Council where she sang her opposition to smoking and her support for removing smoking from restaurants. That performance prompted me to do the same thing later on when I spoke against the steep sliding scale payments the City mandated for community garden plots. I put my words to "Home on the Range." Later on, in Green Bay, Taku worked for the Brown County Tobacco-Free Coalition.

It seemed like she moved away just as we were getting to know her. She then attended the Green Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. At one point in 2007, she joined a lawsuit against the City of Green Bay that displayed a nativity scene on city property. The lawsuit mentions that she was not allowed to display a symbol of Unitarian Universalism at the nativity scene. Just a few weeks before her death, through Facebook, she was promoting UUism and encouraging her friends to attend services by Zoom. About the Fellowship on March 12, she said, "I had a great time today with friends on a zoom meeting with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship…. I love how you get to learn to live with more wisdom, more connection, and more compassion."

Nancy Schraufnagel remembers her too, like me writing on Taku's Facebook page several times during Taku's fight against cancer that began in June 2021. In one of Nancy's posts, she mentions, "All the joy, music, and dance you shared with so many, over the years. You have sprinkled gifts, which are everlasting. Thinking of you."

Taku was 70 when she passed away April 13, in Green Bay. "In her next life she hopes to be a butterfly."

Read her obituary and hear some of her music at
https://www.simplycremationgb.com/obituaries/ms-taku-ronsman?fbclid=IwAR04ZXywPFh1CyZRV4H16_8jaIF-VO0xgi2LGX7by9bF2tRx5CDL2917haM