

# Prairie Fire

newsletter of

PRAIRIE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY

... As the prairie stretches out until it becomes one with the sky, let us reach out to touch and be one with the natural world and with one another.—PRAIRIE'S BOND OF UNION

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## CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

9:00 a.m.--Potluck breakfast at Prairie  
10:00 a.m.--LAST NIGHT I HAD THE STRANGEST DREAM  
10:00 a.m.--Baby & child care

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

9:00 a.m.--Potluck breakfast at Prairie  
10:00 a.m.--BEYOND PRAIRIE: Cinda LaMar, Elizabeth Jones, and Les Lyons report their exciting experiences at national UU events.  
10:00 a.m.--Baby & child care

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

1:00 p.m.--PLAYREADERS ORGANIZATIONAL PICNIC MEETING: home of Pat Watkins 2419 Norwood Place. Please call 233-5795 or 262-7960 to sign up for a dish. Rain? Indoors at Pat's. See story.

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

9:00 a.m.--Potluck breakfast at Prairie  
10:00 a.m.--YOU ALREADY KNOW THE WAY: Explorations of Buddhism, Taoism, and Zen by John Ohliger and David McKee  
10:00 a.m.--Baby & child care

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

9:00 a.m.--Potluck breakfast at Prairie  
10:00 a.m.--HOW SHALL WE GROW? Prairie panel moderated by Lynda Lewis  
10:00 a.m.--Baby & child care

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 27

7:30 p.m.--Executive Board Meeting at Prairie. All are welcome.

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Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society  
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McFarland, WI 53558

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TO CHANGE ADDRESS OR STOP PRAIRIE FIRE,  
PLEASE CALL 838-8055

## PLAYREADERS MYSTERY WEEKEND--Sept. 14-15

The play - Sheer Madness - is at the May-fair Theater (which is at lobby level of the Blackstone Hotel, 636 S. Michigan Ave., our home for Saturday night, September 14. Hotel accommodations will cost \$19.10 for a single or a double room). Sheer Madness is a party game, in which cartoony characters - an effeminate hairdresser, his hard-bitten manicurist, and his suspicious customers become suspects when a concert pianist is murdered in the upstairs apartment. A bumbling detective and his moronic assistant investigate the crime by quizing both members of the cast and members of the audience. The audience then votes on who the murderer is, and there is a play ending available for each of the solutions given. When I receive checks for your tickets, I will call a meeting of everyone attending, and we will arrange transportation, other events, and roommates (where needed) at the hotel, and will coordinate the ticket purchase and hotel reservations. Pat Watkins:233-5795.

## THANK YOU TO PARTICIPANTS ON WORK SUNDAY

A great big thank you! to everyone who participated in Work Sunday on July 21. We had over 20 people who came, worked and then had a picnic lunch in the back yard. There are still things needing to be done. Think about how we can make our space more useful and esthetically pleasing. We're thinking about another work day, perhaps in the fall. Again thanks! Dan Laux & Rachel Siegfried

Next meeting of Building & Property Committee, August 7 at 7 p.m. at Prairie.

NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE: AUGUST 11

## THE PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS

This is a social organization made up of people who enjoy the theater (and plan one or more theater parties each year, such as the upcoming Mystery Weekend), enjoy reading and discussing plays, and enjoy getting together for fellowship and refreshments. The Playreaders meet once a month, rotating to each other's homes. The person who hosts the group provides the refreshments that month, but in return gets to choose the play which is read, and assigns the reading parts. The group also goes out each spring to their Annual Fish Dinner, after which it reads a short play over desert and coffee, etc. At the late summer or early fall organizational luncheon, we line up the hosts for the year, the dates, and the plays which we intend to read. If you think you might be interested, please attend the organizational meeting (which will not obligate you to join). Will those who have playreading collection guides, please bring them and also come with some advance thought given to the plays you might like to read, and the date you wish to be host.

Pat Watkins

## OLYMPIA BROWN'S 150th BIRTHDAY PARTY

Ten Prairians were part of an overflow crowd which celebrated the 150th anniversary of the birth of the first ordained woman minister in the United States, Sunday, July 28. Olympia Brown, a Universalist minister and a lifelong worker for women's rights, served the Mukwonago Unitarian-Universalist church from 1878 to 1896 and from 1906 to 1908.

On the program were Mukwonago's paster, Dr. Max Patrick, who spoke of Olympia Brown and the Social Gospel; Dr. Jessica Gerard: Who Were the Suffragists; Rev. Denise Tracy and Charlotte Cote, An Hour With Olympia Brown. The Mukwonago museum had a special display on her life.

## R.E. CLEAN UP

Please reserve ½ hour on 8/11/85 to help clean the childrens' rooms. We will begin after the Prairie service.

FOR SALE: 30" x 60" steel office-style desk, purchased in 1980 at State of Wis. auction -- good condition. Best offer takes it. Anne Reardon, 271-2173

## BIKE EXCURSION A HAPPY SUCCESS

We couldn't have asked for a nicer day for the 13½ mile bike trek up the Military Ridge Bike Trail to Sharon Scratfish's in Mt. Horeb on Sunday, July 28. The forecast was for 90 degree weather. Fortunately for the 19 bikers, the temperature was hardly over 80 and the sky stayed a beautiful blue the whole day long.

The hardy bikers included 2 entire families -- Linda, Bob, Cara (age 13) and Andy (10½) Nelson and Aileen, Allan, Anna (11½) and Greg (9½) Nettleton -- as well as assorted other adults and children. Several other people drove to Mt. Horeb making for a gathering of nearly 30 people.

A number of pleasant activities occupied the participants once they arrived at the Scratfish household. Right away there was informal singing from the Prairie Song Book to the guitar playing of Gretchen Vetzner. A delicious potluck lunch was followed by swimming, for those who thought to bring their suits, and visiting for the rest. Everyone enjoyed Sharon's mile-high roomy deck. The children also spent a lot of time in Louis' platform tree house -- reached by a rope ladder.

For most, the trip home was faster than the ride to Mt. Horeb even though many weren't used to a 27 mile bike hike. First, the grade was downhill for several miles and secondly, the wind was with us. This writer doesn't know whether some people got hung up for a lengthy period of time in the Riley Tavern.

To sum up, the event was a happy success -- even though Andy Nelson got stung by a bee and minor skirmishes occurred regarding who would occupy the tree house. It's an activity more Prairie-ites may wish to join if another trek is planned for next summer. Thanks from all of us! Mary Mullen

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Joan and George Hall have a full sized Simmons Beauty-rest mattress, still in pretty good condition. If anyone would like it please call 238-7490, afternoons or evenings. Joan Hall

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A baby sitter is wanted in the Whenona Dr. area. Randy Huntsman, 1910 Whenona Dr. has 2 boys, 2 and 5 years old. He and his wife go out usually once a week on the weekends. They believe young people from Prairie would be dependable baby sitters and would like to get acquainted. They will pay \$2.00 an hour. Call 271-2502 if interested.

TO ALL MY PRAIRIE FRIENDS:

It is with much sadness that I must tell you I will be leaving Madison by the end of September. My boy-friend, Lee Urbanski, recently accepted a job in a suburb of Chicago and moved there July 31. Because I don't want to be 150 miles away from the man I love, and also because the job market in Chicago is exponentially better than in Madison, I have decided to follow him there. We are now looking for an apartment somewhere in the vicinity of LaGrange/Hinsdale/Downers Grove/Woodridge (we may even have to sneak in one of my two cats, because many places there will take only one cat!). I am very sad to leave Prairie, because it has been such a big part of my life during the past three years. I am not resigning, just becoming "inactive." If we're lucky, we hope to be able to move back to the Madison area in a couple of years, because we both like living in Madison very much. I hope to see many of you in the next 8 weeks. Thank you all for your friendship.

-- Anne Reardon

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I'm looking for another single person to share my home since Anne Reardon will soon be leaving. We are a fun-loving, pet oriented, semi-cooperative household. I do enjoy having fellow U-U's living in my space. Get in touch with Rachel Siegfried: 271-2173.

Finally a reminder: I do sewing and alterations in my home for a living and can use a few new, valued customers. Contact Rachel Siegfried: 271-2173.

FROM GLOBAL VIEW-AURO INTERNATIONAL INC.

Dear Rachel & all at Prairie UU Society: We at Global View wish to express our gratitude for the use of Prairie Meeting Room for the Global View presentation. The fitting aspect of the space, the friendliness of the people who came and their receptiveness to what we are doing all combined to make a pleasant day.

Special thanks to Lee Bullen, and to Elizabeth Jones for all the special help they gave. We feel as if we have made many friends.

Enclosed is a check for the amount of \$57.22 which is a percentage of our sales along with the \$13.00 already sent.

We hope to connect with you all again.

In friendship, Marion Nelson

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The Respite Center provides 24-hour short term child care for families experiencing a crisis. We have a great need for volunteers who are able to provide emergency child care in their own homes as a back-up when the Center is full. If you would like to help us in the prevention of child abuse and neglect please give Lulis a call at 256-6948. The Respite Center is located at 906 Williamson St., Madison 53703.