

# 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 17

2:00 p.m.--Picnic at Grindrod's, 5235 Harbor Ct. Potluck supper, swimming, games, conversation. Call 238-4422 for more information.

No service at Prairie.

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

9:00 a.m.--Gordon Gibson, Prairie Board, & Long Range Planning Com. to discuss our by-laws. All interested members and friends are invited.  
1:00 p.m.--Gordon Gibson, Finance Com. and other interested persons to discuss budgeting.  
6:00 p.m.--Gordon Gibson, Finance Com. and others to discuss fundraising at an evening meal in a restaurant.

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

10:00 a.m.--"We Affirm and Promote . . ." Gordon Gibson, Extension minister  
10:00 a.m.--Child care available  
11:45 a.m.--Potluck lunch and discussion

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

5-7 p.m.--Program Committee Meeting at 4337 Milford Rd. All welcome.

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

3:30-9:30 p.m.--Photos at Prairie for next Prairie Directory. See story.

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

1:00 p.m.--Playreaders organizational potluck picnic at Pat Watkins, 2419 Norwood. Questions: 233-5795.

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

9:00 a.m.--Potluck breakfast  
10:00 a.m.--VIOLENCE AND NON-VIOLENCE IN CENTRAL AMERICA with Chris Smith  
10:00 a.m.--Child care available

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

10:00 a.m.--George Calden starts his lay ministry: EIGHT WHO DARED  
10:00 a.m.--R.E. classes begin fall term  
10:00 a.m.--Childcare available

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

SERVICE AUCTION AT PRAIRIE

### SEPTEMBER 26 - OCTOBER 9

PEEDGE CANVAS

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10 - 12

UPHAM WOODS RETREAT -- See story.

### GUEST EDITOR FOR PRAIRIE FIRE

George Calden will be the editor for the next edition of Prairie Fire. Please get your announcements to him on or before the deadline date of August 24. Thank you, George

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A publicity person is needed to place information in the paper about Prairie. This is a very important position but not too time-consuming. Please contact Fredericka Schilling immediately if interested. 271-5192

NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE: AUGUST 24

## R.E. Corner

I am very pleased to be the new Director of Religious Education here at Prairie. Since Mary Beth O'Halloran filled me in on my duties at the beginning of the month I have been quite busy planning for the fall semester.

Our fall semester is shaping up quite nicely. Within a couple of weeks families should have registration forms. These forms need to be returned the first day of classes on September 7 or mailed to Alison McKee at Prairie.

Presently the curriculums being offered will be: Pre-K: Growing Times

K-1-2: Our Roots and Branches

3-4-5: Stepping Stone Year

6-7-8: Peace

There will be Youth Group activities beginning later in September and Mentoring programs for those 9th and 10th graders who are interested.

### NIFTY GIFTY

We need a volunteer to organize and run the Nifty Gifty program this year for the children in R.E. Dayle Haglund, who has organized and run the program in the past, will be teaching our 3-4-5 R.E. class and does not feel she can take Nifty Gifty on too. We all appreciate the work Dayle has put into the project and now we need a volunteer or two to carry on her work. (The children really enjoy this part of our program at holiday time.)

Briefly the job consists of planning 5-7 gift ideas for the children to make (with volunteers to help), collecting the materials to make the selected projects, organizing volunteers to help the children and running the Nifty Gifty on the selected date which looks as though it will be December 14. If you have any questions feel free to call Dayle Haglund (233-5199) or Alison McKee at 238-3302. If you are interested in running the program let Alison McKee know soon so that we can put it on the R.E. Calendar.

Alison McKee

### PRAIRIE BUDGET RUNNING ON EMPTY

The treasurer's report presented to the August 4 Prairie board meeting showed that at the end of July, while we were well within our projected spending for the first seven months, our income for that period would cover only somewhat over 4½ months.

Among the sources of income: pledges, contributions, Prairie Fire, building rent, and interest, none of these have contributed half of the annual budget amount. Two other items, "fund raising" and service auction have not yet occurred, but the service auction is scheduled for next month.

Pledges, of course, are the largest item of revenue in the budget and pledges paid so far would cover about five months of their expected share.

Members are urged to bring their pledges up to date if at all possible.

### BOARD DISCUSSES HEARING PROBLEMS, SOLUTIONS

A suggestion was made at the August 4 board meeting that Prairie consider either installation of earphones at some area of the meeting room or amplify the speakers' voices generally. Because the earphone solution would segregate those with hearing loss and because part of the problem lies with low projection of some speakers' words, it was decided to experiment with general amplification.

### ALISON MCKEE SELECTED AS R.E. DIRECTOR

After a period of no applicants for the R.E. Director job, a number of candidates appeared. At the Aug. 4 board meeting, the R.E. committee recommended the hiring of McKee. Barbara Golden was appointed chair of the R.E. committee to replace Alison in that position.

### HINDU GROUP TO MEET AT PRAIRIE

A group of Hindu families have arranged to hold a meeting and vesper service at Prairie Saturday, Sept. 6, in the afternoon and evening.

The meeting, at which Swami Bashyananda, the chief monk of the Chicago community, will be the speaker, will begin about 4 p.m. The vesper service will follow and a potluck meal will complete the program which is expected to end about 8:30. Prairie people are invited and will not be expected to bring food.

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A teacher is needed for the pre-school group, infants to 5-year. Applicants should be of high school age or older. The job pays \$12.00 per Sunday. Call Barbara Golden, 231-1490 to apply.

#### UPHAM WOODS RETREAT

Save October 10-12 for a weekend with your Prairie community. Prairie families and friends gather annually at the Upham Woods 4-H Camp on the Wisconsin River to share the beautiful natural setting and our personal resources as a community. Activities often include nature walks, discussion groups, volleyball, kazoo band, singing, informational workshops, talent show, canoeing, embroidery, story telling, Dungeons and Dragons, new games, mask making, worship, folk dancing, orienteering, capture the flag, treasure hunt, and Trivial Pursuit. We cannot promise to repeat all of these activities this year, but we will offer a full weekend of choices. Begin thinking about an activity which you would like to lead for your Prairie friends. And if you have an idea for an activity which you would rather not lead, we will help find someone to organize it. In early September, we will begin pulling together these ideas, so please start thinking about your interests and what you would like to contribute.

#### "WE AFFIRM AND PROMOTE . . ."

It seems so easy for us, as Unitarian Universalists, to be clear about what we disbelieve or oppose that we often fail to develop a clear sense or statement of what we believe. A year ago the Unitarian Universalist Association did adopt a new statement of principles and purposes that merits our attention as a positive model. The program on August 24 will look at such affirmations and aspirations as the UUA's and Prairie Society's, "As the prairie stretches out . . ."

Gordon Gibson  
Weekend Extension Minister

#### SUPER SALE AT PRAIRIE

Leslie Watkins has contributed merchandise valued at approximately \$1400 (retail) from Paperteria to Prairie for fund-raising purposes. These items will be sold at Prairie just prior to and in conjunction with the Service Auction on Saturday, September 13. Everything will be sold below wholesale cost and will consist of greeting cards, stationery, invitations, desk sets and accessories, portfolios, party goods, notebooks, pads, banks, novelty items, and much more. These will make wonderful gifts - to yourself and to others - and are tremendous bargains. Plan to Christmas (birthday, graduation, etc.) shop early. Come and invite your friends to come. AND, PLEASE: No brokers nor purchases for resale.

#### MUSICIANS ATTENTION

The Program Committee issues a resource list for the use of lay ministers for planning the musical part of their services. If you would like to be on the list or willing to help in an emergency, please call Chris Smith, 233-2208, or Fredericka Schilling, 271-5192.

#### DESK LAMP NEEDED FOR R.E. OFFICE

Anyone having an unused desk lamp is requested to let Barbara Golden know. Barb will provide information on the type of lamp needed.

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Please remember to save 30 minutes Wednesday 27 between 3 and 9 p.m. for picture taking at Prairie. Free 8 x 10 of your family if we get 40 Prairie families to participate. Questions? Call Rita Reffner, 231-1816