

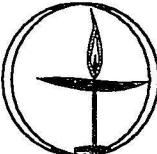
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Prairie Fire



Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society
2010 Whenona Drive, Madison, WI 53711

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Judy Skog, Treasurer 273-4813

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Meeting House 271-8218
To Change Address Or Cancel PRAIRIE FIRE, Call Fran Zell 271-8218

Production Assistants — Susan Hagstrom and Dick Bonser

Vol. 33, No. 205-12-95

The deadline for the next issue of **Prairie Fire** will be Sunday, May 21. Submit items for May 25 through June 23.

CALENDAR

Friday, May 12
6:30-9:30 PM

SPRING FLING for all RE students—food, games, and special activities.. (See story and note new date.)

Saturday, May 13
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

PYGs Bike Trip on Military Ridge Bicycle Trail.
Meet at 2456 Spring Rose Circle.

7:00 PM

SPRING PARTY at the Meetinghouse. Fun and games for all ages. Refreshments will be provided by Doleta Chapru and Warren Hagstrom to celebrate the second anniversary of their marriage.

Sunday, May 14
9:00 AM

Choir Practice.
10:00 AM

"MOTHERS AROUND THE WORLD"
presented by Peg Barratt. (See related story)

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

RE POTLUCK PICNIC (last day of RE classes)

Friday, May 19
6:30 PM

PRAIRIE PLAY READERS annual fish fry at CJ's Westgate, followed by one-act playreadings at Dick and Julie Bonser's, 5213 Milward Drive.

Call Julie at 274-3248 by Thursday, May 18 if you will attend the fish fry. Everyone welcome.

Saturday, May 20
9:00 AM

PRAIRIE WORKDAY, including a POTLUCK LUNCH. Come dig, scrape, paint, mop, dust and polish Prairie from stem to stern, top to bottom, and deep into the corners.

Sunday, May 21
9:00 AM

Choir Practice.

10:00 AM

"TRANSITIONS" an intergenerational service. Recognition of Eighth Graders by Erin Bosch and Anne Pryor.

11:30 AM

Potluck lunch for everyone.

12:30 PM

Women's Group meets.

Monday, May 22
7:00 PM

SPANISH SPEAKERS' POTLUCK at the Meetinghouse. Bring a dish to pass if you can. For information or rides, call Rosemary at 238-4382 or Kate at 221-2168.

Friday, May 26 thru
Monday, May 29

ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY CANOE TRIP. No service at Prairie on May 28. (See story.)

Sunday, June 4
9:00 AM

Choir Practice.

10:00 AM

'EXPERIENCES WITH THE UNITED FARM WORKERS," presented by Karen Gross

Sunday, June 11
9:00 AM

Choir Practice.
10:00 AM

"SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER, working for change in a new political climate." Presented by Robert Alpern, Director UUA Washington, D.C. Social Justice Office.

Today's Quote

"The important thing is not to fear death, but to fear not living."

-Algernon D. Black



Prairie Patter

One fall my grandparents were plagued by a large yellow dog that took up residence on their backporch stoop and bayed through the night. For weeks my grandfather would hurl curses and objects from an upstairs window in vain attempts to drive the beast away. Finally, late one night he spied the dog curled asleep on the bottom step. Stealthily, he crept forward to deliver the sharp kick he thought the creature deserved. With a mighty swing he laid a powerful blow to what turned out to be the belly of a large and heavy pumpkin.

The yellow dog is back. By your sufferance, I'll be taking residence on this stoop to bark or bay or whimper—anything to keep you awake. Prairie needs members and friends who are aware and ready to howl or lend a hand when the circumstances demand. The next Executive Board will offer opportunities for keeping

...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

Prairie active and effective to all who have affection for this institution. We trust you will respond to help us maintain the quality programming and healthy environment of our Society for yet another year.

My goals for the Executive Board are to better understand and meet your needs while expanding the religious home we call Prairie. You are welcome to attend Board meetings and encouraged to join standing committees. We will try to willingly accept criticism in the form of suggestions, curses, even thrown objects. But I've got to warn you-my grandfather broke his toe when he tried to kick that old yellow dog.

With ears and tail wagging,

-Rick Ruecking

President

Memorial Weekend

Plan to join us for Prairie's annual canoeing, bicycling and camping trip on Memorial Day weekend, May 26-29. Come to camp even if you don't canoe. Come at the last minute. Come just for the day and join us for dinner. It's always a lot of fun. We share potluck meals Saturday and Sunday nights (and some share breakfast). Come for all or any part of the weekend.

This year we will again go to the Mecan River near Montello. Camping is primitive and the fee is about \$2 per person per night. The Mecan River is an excellent trout stream with exceptionally clear water and a steady current (meaning that without care capsizing can occur!). It passes through the Germania Marsh Wildlife Area, where it's possible to see ducks, sandhill cranes, muskrat and beaver. There are good back roads in the area for bicycling; maps with mileage, etc. will be available.

There is a canoe livery on site, which requires a minimum reservation of six canoes with a 50 percent deposit. Individual canoes may be available for Memorial Day, but you take your chances. Please contact Warren Hagstrom (leave a message at 238-4970) if you intend to come. **You must make a reservation by May 14 if your want to rent a canoe from the Mecan River Canoe Outfitters.**

Directions will be provided in the next Prairie Fire.

Bond of Motherhood

Longtime Prairie member Peg Barratt is a developmental psychologist who studies mothers and babies. On Mothers Day, come and hear her perspectives from work in the United States and Japan. The program will include commentary by Marcia Johnson and Yoko Terami.

Thank you, Thank you

Our thanks to everyone who participated in Annie's birth celebration on April 16, and a

special thanks to those who provided pages for her book.

-Phoebe, Dawn, Nicholas & Annie

Salute to Musicians

The Program Committee thanks all the musicians for the wonderful musical tribute to George Gershwin. Thanks too, for all the musical contributions to our services all year 'round. We are fortunate to have such a range of musical talent, and for those of us who are musicians, the opportunity (and encouragement) to make music.

Goodbye, Anne!

After seven years as Director of Religious Education at Prairie, Anne Pryor will be moving on. We have been very fortunate to have Anne, as she has enriched our children and our programs for them in many ways. She has shown enthusiasm, energy and love which has spread throughout R.E. and Prairie itself. Thank you, Anne, you will be greatly missed!

If you know of anyone who would like to apply for the DRE position, please let Dean Schroeder know.

UU Christianity

The recently formed Christian Exploration group at James Reeb UU Church would like to invite all Madison area UUs (whether they are Christian or not) who are interested in exploring this aspect of our UU heritage within an open-minded, nonjudgmental context. Meetings are at 5:30 PM on the first and third Sundays of the month at James Reeb, 2146 E. Johnson St.

Currently we celebrate Holy Communion on the first Sunday, while the third Sunday meeting is devoted to discussing a topic relating to Christianity. All are welcome. Call the church at 242-8887 for more information.

Interweave

Interweave hosts a potluck meeting Monday, May 22 at 7 PM in the hearth room at First Unitarian Society. Interweave is a group that shares joys and concerns relating to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and heterosexual UU communities. The group will view and discuss a number of relevant videotapes after the potluck. The group is for all UU's. Please join us.

Garage Sale

James Reeb holds an all-church garage sale on Friday and Saturday, May 12 and 13, at the church, 2146 E. Johnson St. It will be open to the public from 8 AM to 4 PM on the 12th and from 8 AM to 2 PM on the 13th.

Prairie Kids Need You!

Please volunteer to co-teach an RE class next year. Your guiding hand can make a big difference to our kids (and it's lots of fun!). Please ask Anne Pryor or Dean Schroeder for details.

Hospitality Anyone?

Wanted: Volunteers for Sunday hospitality jobs at Prairie.

We need folks to sign up for coffee set up, greeting visitors, and coffee clean up. Slots are open for all upcoming Sundays.

Please sign the schedule when it is passed on Sunday mornings. Your help is needed to keep Prairie friendly, hospitable, clean, and on schedule. Thank you.

Please convey your comments or concerns to Kerry Beheler-Amass or Rick Ruecking.



K-1-2: Caring Hands

Carl Wacker led the group in constructing and decorating a bird house. Look for it in the backyard!

3-4-5: Timeless Themes

Bob Purvis led the group in a discussion of Jesus' temptations during his 40-day fast. The kids then made a list of their own temptations: TV, video games, etc. They discussed whether they would "do wrong" to get them. They expanded the topic to discuss several moral dilemmas. The morning ended with them succumbing to the temptation of spring by going outside to play tag.

The following week Fran Zell led the group in exploring the story of Joshua and his difficulties in following in Moses' footsteps. They did an exercise in which each person said something that was unique about him or her as a person (younger siblings seemed to have a harder time with this). Mary Mullen came by to lead them in the song, "Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho." They ended by playing in the sunshine at the park.

6-7-8: Who was Jesus?

Jesus' parables were the focus, and Randy Converse led the group in discussing how these

might apply to life on a school playground. Most felt that Jesus' style was probably too passive for effective intervention in playground conflicts. Then they played co-op basketball in the park.

The following week Jesus' crucifixion was the topic, led by Erin Bosch. They again ended the morning by playing in the park.

RE Picnic

Sunday, May 14 is the last day of RE until the next season begins in September. To celebrate we'll hold our annual RE picnic at the park near Prairie. We'll stay in the Meetinghouse if it rains.

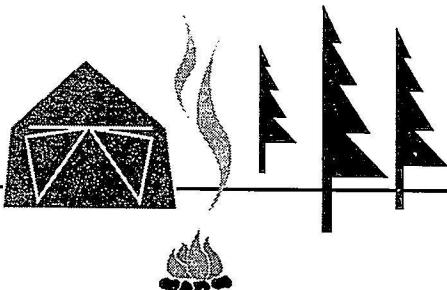
We'll provide drinks and a grill. You should bring something to grill, a dish to share, a blanket for sitting on, and favorite toys or games. Come to thank the RE teachers, chat with other parents, and run around with the kids. All Prairie people are invited, whether connected with RE this year or not.

Spring Fling

Our annual spring party will be held on Friday, May 12 at Bob and Barb Park's home, 5610 Hammersley Road. Join us at 6 PM. We'll eat (bring food for adding to a sub). Then we'll join Mary Mullen at Dunn's Marsh for a frog hike. We'll return to the Park's around 8:30; our party will end at 9 PM. Parents are invited too. Bring clothes for outdoor weather.

Softball Starting

All RE kids are invited to join the MSCR softball teams out of Allied Drive. It's a great way to get to know our neighbors. There's a coed T-ball team for grades 2 and 3, and separate boys' and girls' softball teams in two divisions: Mites (fourth and fifth grades) and Juniors (sixth, seventh, and eighth). All games will be played on Mondays or Wednesdays at either 1, 2, or 4 PM, except for junior girls, who play on Tuesdays or Thursdays (same times). The season runs from the third week of June to the end of July. If you're not on a team yet, this would be a great way to connect with kids at Allied Drive. Contact Anne Pryor for more information.



SOCIAL ACTION

Oklahoma City Relief

Anyone who would like to contribute to UU relief in Oklahoma City, please send your donation to:

First Unitarian Church
(Bombing Relief)
600 NW 13th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73103

The First Unitarian Church lost two of its members—Mary Rentie and Susan Farrell—in the blast. Susan was single. Mary's survivors include her husband (currently unable to work) and two teenage daughters. The church also suffered structural damage.

Foster Parents

Dane County has recently seen a dramatic increase in the need by teens for foster homes. In response, the Dane County Department of Human Services has developed FOSTERING INDEPENDENCE, a program which recruits and trains people to become foster parents for teens. As a foster parent you will receive compensation, support, and training for the care you provide.

Directors of the program are aware that a disproportionate number of today's homeless people were once in foster care. Once their care is terminated at age 18 most of them do not have a family to fall back on if things don't go well for them. Through FOSTERING INDEPENDENCE it is hoped that teens will learn the basic tenets of adult living in a supportive, loving environment, so that they will be able to live independently as adults.

If you are interested in becoming a foster parent to a teen call Dane County Human Services at 273-6611.

Baby Needs Drive

The Community Action Coalition's Baby Needs Center helps families provide for infant needs on an emergency basis by providing baby formula, food, clothing, diapers and transportation vouchers. Suby, VonHaden & Associates organized a Baby Needs Drive. Until May 20, you can drop off baby items at the Copp's Food Center on Whitney Way. For more information please contact Pat Bice 831-8181

Food Pantry

It's peanut butter sandwich time, or is that tuna salad? Both peanut butter and tuna make good contributions to our entryway basket that holds our gifts to the Allied Drive pantry. Any non-perishable food is welcomed.

Blood Donors

Immediately after the Oklahoma City tragedy, hundreds of caring people rushed to help in any way they could. Those who had never given blood before gave now. Previous donors gave again.

Every need for blood is crucially important. Please give to aid in someone else's emergency. Pick up a card at our greeter's table to remind you of hours at the Sheboygan Avenue donor center. Other sites and times are listed on our bulletin board. Laurie Larson and Bob Purvis gave last week. Bravo!

Does the back of your driver's license say that your organs can be donated at your death? It is important to talk of this to your loved ones, if that is your wish.

Volunteers Needed...

For the Homeless Shelter. Prairie is responsible for staffing two shifts on the fourth Monday of each month and the following Tuesday morning, at Grace Episcopal Homeless Shelter. The shifts are 7:30 to approximately 11:30 PM and 5:00 AM to 8:00 AM. The evening shift includes serving dinner and bringing a gallon of milk, and the morning shift includes serving breakfast and bringing milk and cereal.

Breakfast volunteers can call Glenn at the shelter at 8 AM the previous morning—255-2960—for information about current breakfast supplies. Save your receipts for reimbursement by the Social Action Committee. Please call Fran Zell at 233-0213 if you can volunteer in May or June.

Senior Book Sale

The Westside Senior Center, 602 Sawyer Terrace, is collecting books for the annual used book sale to be held on June 3. Books may be dropped off at the Center weekdays between 9:00 am and 3:00 PM, or will be picked up at your home (call 238-0196). Funds from this sale are a major source of support for the program at the Westside Senior Center.

Drivers Needed

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Dane County is looking for older adults (55 plus) to provide rides for seniors and disabled persons without access to personal

transportation. Drivers are reimbursed 28 cents per mile and covered with personal accident, liability and excess automobile liability insurance. If you can volunteer call the RSVP office at 238-7787.

Braille Course Offered

Volunteer Brailists & Tapis, Inc. will offer a nine month course in the transcription of print into Braille. We urge you to consider this worthwhile community service. If you are interested in this or other services for the visually impaired, please contact Karen or Gail at their office (233-0222) between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM or leave a message on the answering machine after hours.

Death Penalty

The Wisconsin Senate has scheduled a floor vote on the death penalty for Tuesday, May 23. There is still time to contact your legislators about your views on this issue. The only hearing before the vote is scheduled at Wisconsin High School in Watertown at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, May 17. Call Mary Bottari at the Wisconsin Coalition Against Capital Punishment for further information, 266-5400. There will also be a vigil outside the main entrance to the high school at 6:00 PM that day, sponsored by death penalty opponents.



Peace Internship

The Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR), a national interfaith peace and justice organization, is accepting applications for 1995-96 internships. FOR interns work with FOR staff to build racial and economic justice, peace, and a stronger movement of faith-based nonviolent activists. Interns must be at least 21 and willing to make a one year commitment. Interns receive room in Nyack, NY (20 miles north of NYC), insurance, paid vacation, and a \$600/month stipend. For details contact Fellowship of Reconciliation, Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960, 914-358-4601. Information is also on the Prairie bulletin board. Deadline to apply is June 1.

Leadership Training

The Fellowship of Reconciliation will offer three leadership programs this summer for people aged 17-25. Sliding scale fees, based on ability to pay, range from \$275-\$425. For details

contact Fellowship of Reconciliation, Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960, (914) 358-4601. The programs include:

****United for Change**, June 24-30, Santa Cruz, CA.

Application deadline, May 20.

An intensive week of leadership development and nonviolence training. Includes meeting with local community organizers, skill workshops, discussions of social change theory, and reflections on participants' successes and challenges in organizing work.

****International Training**, July 17-31, Nyack, NY.

Application deadline, June 15.

A two week gathering of youth from Bosnia, Germany, the US, and elsewhere to explore both local and global violence, and positive alternatives.

****Skills for Change**, August 15-22, Washington, D.C.

Application deadline, July 15.

The focus will be on multiculturalism, racial and social justice, and strategies for creating positive social change. Lots of workshops and interaction with D.C. folks.

Housemate Wanted

I am interested in finding a compatible person to share my home. There is a large private room which is part of a nicely furnished older home with kitchen, living/dining room, laundry and semi-private bath. There is plenty of privacy when desired, storage space available in the basement and attic, and garage space. If interested, please call Jennifer Parker at 246-4304. The space is available for May 1.

Chicago Blues Weekend

Join Chicago's Second Unitarian Church for a weekend of food, music, home hospitality and UU Fellowship on June 2-4. See the blue brochure on the bulletin board or contact Tom Hartman of Second Unitarian at 312/404-5320 for information.

Elder's Fair

Help celebrate cultural diversity at the Elders' Ethnic Fair, Friday, May 19 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Olbrich Gardens. The fair will highlight food, entertainment, and arts and crafts of the Southeast Asian, African-American, and Hispanic elders. The event is sponsored by the Dane County Commission on Aging's Elder's Cultural Diversity Committee. For more information, contact Rita Odegaard at 266-9063.

Editor's Hours

A change in my work schedule necessitates a change in my hours at Prairie. I will be here on Tuesday mornings (beginning at about 9:30 AM) and into the afternoon on Prairie Fire deadline weeks. On Prairie Fire deadline weeks I will also be here for two to three hours on Monday afternoons, beginning at about 3 PM. During the summer there is only one Prairie Fire per month, so my hours through August will generally be Tuesday mornings only.

Also, to make my job easier, please submit all newsletter material on standard 8 1/2 by 11 paper. The little scraps of paper are easy to lose track of. Thanks.

-Fran Zell

