

Return to:  
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Prairie U.U. Society  
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# Prairie Fire



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

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The deadline for the next issue of  
Prairie Fire is Sunday, April 21 Submit  
items for April 25-May 9



**Saturday, April 13**  
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
Allied Neighborhood Center Clean-up

**Sunday, April 14**  
9:00 AM  
Choir Practice  
10:00 AM  
"Das Kapital" - Betty Jallings  
11:30 AM  
GA Participants (See Story)  
Letter Writing Session

**Monday, April 15**  
7:30 PM  
Board Meeting

**Friday, April 19 -  
Sunday, April 21**  
Central Midwest Annual Meeting  
Rockford, IL

**Saturday, April 20**  
7:30 PM  
Prairie Play readers (See Story)

**Sunday, April 21**  
9:00 AM  
Choir Practice  
10:00 AM  
"Mordecai Vanunu" - Sam Day  
11:00 AM  
Spring Service Sunday

**Monday, April 22**  
7:00 PM  
Spanish Speakers' Potluck (See Story)  
7:45 - 11:30 PM  
Homeless Shelter (See Story)

**Tuesday, April 23**  
5:00 - 8:00 AM  
Homeless Shelter (See Story)  
7:00 PM  
Social Action Committee (See Story)

**Wednesday, April 24**  
6:00 PM  
French Circle Dinner (See Story)

**Friday, April 26**  
7:00 PM  
Shaarei Shamayim

**Saturday, April 27**  
9:00 AM  
Shaarei Shamayim  
9:00 or 11:00 AM  
Dunn's Marsh - Allied Drive Annual  
Clean-up (See Story)  
5:00 PM - 9:00 AM  
Spring Fling

**Sunday, April 28**  
9:00 AM  
Choir Practice  
10:00 AM  
"Beltane: Celebrating Passion and  
Partnership" - Nancy Vedder-Shults  
12:00 Noon  
Annual Spring Meeting and potluck  
(See Story)

**Thursday, May 2**  
7:00 PM  
Program Committee

**Friday, May 3**  
5:30 PM  
Ethnic Dinner Circle (See Story)

**Sunday, May 5**  
9:00 AM  
Choir Practice  
10:00 AM  
"Uncle Tom's Cabin" - Betty Jalling

**Sunday, May 12**  
10:00 AM  
"Nature & Spirituality" - Mike Sheehy  
NOTE: Program will be held at Picnic  
Point

**Friday, May 17**  
7:00 PM  
Shaarei Shamayim

**Saturday, May 18**  
9:00 AM  
Shaarei Shamayim

**Sunday, May 19**  
9:00 AM  
Choir Practice  
10:00 AM  
"Transitions" - Erin Bosch  
Intergenerational Service - NO R.E.  
Potluck after Program

**Thursday, June 20 -  
Tuesday, June 25**  
UUA General Assembly  
Indianapolis, Indiana

...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

The Oldest and Largest Lay-Led Society in the UUA

## President's Column

The Annual Spring Meeting and elections will be after church on April 28. To speed that meeting along, I am asking the Committee Chairpersons to prepare written reports summarizing the activities of 1995-1996. The Committee on Committees has prepared a slate of candidates about which you can read in another feature of this Prairie Fire. Among the characteristics which I have always loved about our Society has been the chance it afforded me to use my talents and have them recognized and appreciated. We hope that those of you who are not accepting board positions will be making service commitments to the committees or making other concrete service plans. There are many ways in which our Society may be enriched and your many efforts can be appreciated.

Human kind looked to the sky with reverence but had not yet developed writing, nor agriculture, nor cities when the comet formerly known as Prince was last in the sky. In 1996, Comet Hyakutake passed this third-wave technological society and still generated awe. I do hope you traded some sleep (and warmth) for the opportunity to empathetically reunite with far-distant ancestors. Of such is marvel.

I'm off to visit a friend who treasures the health he no longer owns. Too often and recklessly, we take good health for granted. Be concerned and aware for yourself and others.

## Allied Neighborhood Center Spring Spruce-up

This Saturday, April 13, Prairie members and friends will partner with the Allied Drive Neighborhood Center (4705 Jenewein Road) for their spring clean-up. We will pick up and replant outside the center. There is a potluck barbecue to follow. Meet at Prairie at 11:00 AM or come to the center between 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM. Call Bob Steinhofner at 221-9417 for more information.

## GA Participants

All Persons desiring to attend General Assembly, either as a delegate, alternate, or general participant, should save a few minutes after the April 14 service for a brief meeting. See story on next page.

# UPCOMING PROGRAMS

## April 14 - Das Kapital

Betty Jallings will continue her "Books That Made a Difference" series. We will consider Karl Marx' "Das Kapital" and its influence on the world. Clarence Keilin will be out authority. We will review the Marxist Theory of history and its various applications which are still being developed.

## April 21 - Mordechai Vanunu

Sam Day, a Madison writer and peace activist, will speak about Mordechai Vanunu, a former nuclear technician now in his tenth year of solitary confinement in Israel for blowing the whistle on that country's secret nuclear weapons program. Day is coordinator of the U.S. Campaign to Free Mordechai Vanunu, part of an international movement which also seeks elimination of nuclear weapons in Israel and throughout the world. A former managing editor of The Progressive, he was the winner of the 1992 Martin Luther King, Jr., peace award of the U.S. Fellowship of Reconciliation.

## April 28 - Beltane: Celebrating Passion and Partnership

Nancy Vedder-Shults will guide participants in a service based on this ancient Celtic celebration. Beltane, the celebration of the fertile fullness of spring, is an appropriate holiday to reflect on female-male relations. In ancient time, this festival marked the crowning of the May King and Queen and the celebration of the sacred marriage of the goddess with the god. Today we will explore new ways of relating to the opposite sex. in partnership with one another.

Daoism was founded in 565 BC by the Chinese philosopher Lao Zi, 39, in Hunan Province. He set down principles of conduct in Dao De Ging ("teaching of Dao"). The liberal religion teaches that form and ceremonies are useless; it advocates a spirit of righteousness, but it will degenerate in future centuries into a system of magic.

## May 5 - Uncle Tom's Cabin

Betty Jallings will continue her "Books That Made a Difference" series. We will discuss Harriet Beecher Stowe's classic novel of slavery. Abraham Lincoln considered this book to be an important impetus for Civil Rights and the Freedom Movement. (The author was the daughter of a "Liberal Calvinist" minister.)

## May 12 - Nature and Spirituality

This program, the sixth and last in the "Web of Life" series, led by Mary Mullens, Cindy Haq, and Mike Sheehy, is intended to be an experience of nature and spirituality, not merely a program about nature and spirituality. We will also have a time for reading of nature poems or singing of nature songs written by Prairie members and friends. Weather permitting, we will meet outdoors, at Picnic Point (125 paces directly up the hill from the brown sign inside the entrance). Assistance will be available for persons needing help to walk that distance up a slight incline. If you want something other than the ground to sit on, please feel free to bring it. If in doubt about the weather, please call Mike, Cindy, or Mary by 9:30 AM. If it is too miserable out, we will meet at Prairie Society, as usual. After the "Story for all Ages", an alternative activity, probably a hike, will be available for the younger persons.

## May 19 - Transitions

Our traditional transitions intergenerational service will be led by Erin Bosch. We will honor our graduating 8th graders. This is an important time in the life of a young person. A potluck will follow the service.

## Lay Ministry Ideas Needed

Do you have an idea for a lay ministry that would inspire, inform, or amuse the Prairie community? The Committee on Committees would like to hear from you with ideas or suggestions for programs, and you may even volunteer yourself (or someone else) to lead them!

Please share your ideas with Barb Park, Dean Schroeder, Ken Skog, Mary Mullen, or Shirley Grindrod.

## CANDIDATES FOR PRAIRIE BOARD

The Committee on Committees is pleased to submit the following slate of nominees for approval of the Society at the Annual Meeting on April 28:

President	Rick Ruecking
Vice President	Barb Park
Secretary	Jan Howe
Treasurer	Judy Skog
Finance	Aileen Nettleton
Religious	
Education	Erin Bosch
Program	Bob Reuschlein and Mike Sheehy
Social Action	Bob Steinhofner and Nancy Graham
Housing & Property	Rick Owens
Long Range Planning	Anne Urbanski
Denominational Affairs	Pat Watkins
Membership	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>

Thank you to all who agreed to participate, making our assignment enjoyable and successful.

### Welcome, Nikki!

Photographer and photo archivist, who came to Madison to be curator of photography at the Wisconsin State Historical Society — that's Nicolette Bromberg, the newest member of Prairie UU Society. She learned about our congregation from a recent article in Capitol Times, and she is glad she came to get acquainted. Growing up in Washington and Oregon, she had participated in various religious education programs and in a UU fellowship when a high school student. Her academic graduate degrees include both photography as art and architecture. Her ten years of work at University of Kansas in Lawrence sparked a book-in-the-making (about Kansas highways), so she will find kindred creative friends among our members. With no family in the Madison area, she enjoys runs with her two husky dogs in parks or in her car in huge empty parking lots. Nikki lives at 2505 Balden in Madison, 53713. Phone: 251-0976.

(Apologies for error in a previous introduction to new member Chris Liu: It is Chris who works technical support for a software firm, and his wife Kate who is a full-time student at UW Madison.)

## Membership Committee

Greets visitors  
Maintains Society membership list  
Prepares biennial parish directory  
Provides coffee at services and arranges for cleanup  
Organizes Circle Dinners and other social events  
Hosts orientation programs

*CHAIR IS VACANT!*

## Prairie Annual Spring Meeting

The Annual Spring Meeting is scheduled for April 28 following services and potluck at Prairie. Committee reports, elections of officers, and GA delegates, and by-law amendments are on the agenda.

## Proposed By-Law Amendments

The following amendments to the By-Laws are being proposed by Pat Watkins.

Amendment #1:

### Article VII, A, 7

Denominational Affairs. This committee shall maintain for Prairie Society relations with other Unitarian Universalist organizations and will act as the contact and liaison to the Prairie Board for persons wishing to represent Prairie at denominational meetings and affairs.

Amendment #2:

Article VII, C, 2, c, (1): to be added after the first sentence

Also, verify Prairie's representation on the Channing Murray Board of directors and recommend, when necessary, representatives for appointment by the Prairie Board.

## Central Midwest District Annual Meeting

Delegates from the 69 churches and fellowships in the Central Midwest District of the Unitarian Universalist Association will gather in Rockford for the District's Annual Meeting on the weekend of April 19-21, 1996.

In addition to the business meeting, a program on the theme of "Reinventing" will stimulate delegates and other meeting attendees. The Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockford provides an attractive, functional setting for the gathering.

## General Assembly

The 35th Annual General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association will convene in Indianapolis, Indiana on Thursday, June 20, with the Opening Plenary Session and Banner Parade at 8:00pm. The meeting will end by noon on Tuesday, June 25, with a Plenary Session and Worship Service. Observers are welcome.

You can reach Indianapolis via car, rail or air. Room rates range from \$75 to \$104 for single or double. Registration for the full six days is \$195 for adults and \$100 for youth (14-22), theological students and retired ministers. Or come for the weekend and register for \$130/\$65. Plan to join over 2500 UUs from across the country in Indianapolis from June 20 to 25.

All Unitarian Universalists are encouraged to attend the annual convention and participate in a variety of programs and business meetings. Postmark your registration before May 10 to receive the lowest registration fee. Check the March/April issue of the World for detailed fees and hotel information.

The General Assembly theme in 1996 will be The Future is Now, and this theme will focus on the youth in our denomination and will explore the wonderful gifts they have to offer our congregations. There will be youth-led workshops throughout GA at every time slot, and multiple opportunities for socializing and interacting with the three hundred youth across the United States who are expected to attend. It is a wonderful opportunity for young people and we encourage parents to consider bringing or sending their youth to GA.

## Directory Update

We are planning to reproduce the Prairie Fire mailing list of friends and members the end of April for all of us to have an up-to-date list of addresses and phone numbers. There is a copy on the table at Prairie. Make corrections on that list. You may send an update to Prairie Directory at 2010 Whenona Drive, Madison WI 53711. We do not have everyone's phone number, names of children, etc. This is the last call for information. The deadline is April 30, 1996. Ad hoc directory committee — Julie Bonser and Doleta Chapra.

# SOCIAL ACTION

## Committee Meeting

The Social Action Committee will meet at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, April 23 at Prairie. All are welcome.

## Cereal Drop-off

Please note the addition to the Prairie foyer of a Homeless Shelter drop box. Please fill it with boxes of breakfast cereal and other breakfast staples. We are trying to make work easier for our AM shelter volunteers, who are required to bring food for the morning meal. Even if we discontinue our morning shift commitment (see above article) the Social Action Committee would like to remain committed to providing food.

## Homeless Shelter

Many Thanks to Marilyn Peters, Jan Howe, Pat Cautley, and Bob Steinhofner, at the homeless shelter. Prairie members and friends work at the Men's Homeless Shelter at Grace Episcopal Church the fourth Monday evening of every month and the following Tuesday morning. Evening shifts run from 7:45 - 11:30 PM, and breakfast shifts are from 5:00 - 8:00 AM. Morning volunteers bring, prepare, and serve breakfast. Evening volunteers bring milk and help serve dinner. Anyone wishing to be reimbursed for their shelter expenses should turn receipts in to Fran Zell, Social Action Chair.

We continue to need volunteers to work at the shelter during the coming months. Contact Fran at 233 - 0213 if you can help.

## Shelter Troubles

In recent months it has been increasingly difficult to find Prairie people willing to staff the shelter during our monthly AM shift. Not being a morning person myself, I can understand why this may be so, and have been wondering lately whether or not Prairie should discontinue its AM shift commitment. The Social Action Committee feels I should consult you, the members of Prairie, before taking any such step. Our shelter work is a long-standing Prairie tradition, and serves an important need in the community. How would you feel about such a change? We must give at least two months notice to the Shelter before making any change. If you feel it is a mistake to quit, show your concern by volunteering. I welcome all feedback on this issue.

—Fran Zell

# HAPPENING

Prairie Society receives many announcements about events that may (or may not) be of interest to members and friends. See Arleigh if you would like more information about any of these.

## Songs for Tibet

(Benefit Concert for Tibetan Children's Home)

April 13, 7:30PM — St Francis House Chapel

## The Wisdom of Faith (WHA-TV)

(Bill Moyer and Huston Smith)  
April 16, 10 PM — Islam and Sufi Mysticism

## Central Midwest District Annual Meeting

April 19-21 — Rockford, IL

## Benefit for the My Lai Revolving Loan Fund

(Asian Buffet Dinner and Music)  
April 24 — Art House Cafe

## Suzanne Westenhoefer

(Avalon Cultural Work - Apple Island)  
April 26 — Barrymore Theater (241-8633)

## Madison Urban Ministry

Faith, Action, and Politics  
May 7, 7 PM — Communities Divided  
June 4, 7 PM — Pocket Book Decisions & Values

## Allerton Conference

CMD-UUWF  
June 9-11 — Monticello, IL

## Hersey Retreat

June 14 - September 21 (Several week or less camps) — Stockton Springs, ME

## AMUUSE Camps for Singles

June 16-22 — Saugatuck, MI  
July 14-20 — Lake Geneva, WI  
August 4-10 — Saugatuck, MI  
August 18-24 — Saugatuck, MI

## Camp UniStar

June 22 - August 24 (Several one-week camps) — Star Island, MN

## spirituality@Unitardependentweb

UU Summer Assembly  
June 30 - July 6 — Lake Geneva, WI

## Allied-Dunn's Marsh Clean-up

The annual Allied Drive - Dunn's Marsh neighborhood clean-up will be on Saturday and Sunday, April 27-28. Contact Scott at 273-0904 for more information. They especially need help with prairie burning and restoration at Marlboro Park.

## Spanish Speakers' Potluck

The Spanish Speakers' Potluck will be at Kate Tucker's home on Monday, April 22, at 7:00 PM. Please phone 221-2168 or 276-9827 for more information.

## French Circle Dinner

Francophiles note April 24 at 6:00 for the next French Circle Dinner / Potluck. Call Lori Anderson at 271-1274 or Bob Steinhofner at 221-9417 to reserve a place.

## Ethnic Dinner Circle

Save Friday evening, May 3rd at 5:30 PM for dinner at the China International Buffet (next door to the Hilldale theater). Call Pat Watkins for reservations (233-5795) before May 1st.

## Prairie Playreaders

This month's meeting will be at 7:30 on April 20 at Rosemary Dorney's, 4205 Odana Road. Call Rosemary at 238-4382 for more information. Everybody is welcome!

## True-Blue with Priceless Red

Our faithful blood donors are still contributing unique gifts to help unknown needy sufferers: after Heidi Oliverson gave in late February, Bob Purvis and Dick Bonser gave in March. Won't you follow their good lead? Even if a person is rejected for low hemoglobin, that reading can be raised in one day! One can try again in a short time, and can be thankful that the Red Cross is so careful not to accept blood that is more needed "at home". When Prairie Society held its Visioning Workshop recently, participants rated community involvement as important to their ideal for our religious society. Giving blood, serving at the homeless shelter, and helping to stock the food pantry are all ways we show our sincerity about a wish for community inclusion. If you are already a donor, won't you now make a note on your calendar to show when eight weeks have passed since your last donation? Every good brain needs a little reminder! Be sure to sign the book as a Unitarian Universalist!