

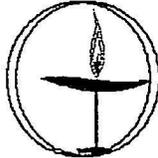
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Editor - Prairie Fire
Prairie U.U. Society
2010 Whenona Drive
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Prairie Fire



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

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Vol. 34 No. 9, 5-5-96

The deadline for the next issue of
Prairie Fire is Sunday, May 19 Submit
items for May 23 -June 6



Saturday, May 11
9:00 AM to ??
Workday — Prairie Spruce-up
(See Story)

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

Monday, May 13
7:00 PM
Spanish Speakers' Potluck (See Story)
At Prairie Kitchen - 221-2168

Friday, May 17
7:00 PM
Shaarei Shamayim

Saturday, May 18
9:00 AM
Shaarei Shamayim

Q: What do you get when you cross a
Jehovah's Witness with a Unitarian?
A: Some one who goes around knocking
on doors for no apparent reason.
(Prairie Home Companion - 4/27/96)

Sunday, May 19
9:00 AM
Choir Practice
10:00 AM
"Transitions" - Erin Bosch
Intergenerational Service - NO R.E.
Noon, or so ...
Potluck
After ...
Women's Discussion Group

Monday, May 20
7:30 PM
Board Meeting

**Monday, May 20 -
Wednesday, May 22**
Rental - Harmony School
Rick Owens - 845-3884

Friday, May 24
6:00 PM
Prairie Playreaders & Fish Dinner
(See Story)
Pat Watkins - 233-5795

Saturday, May 25
10:00 AM
One-Day Canoe Trip
Red Cedar Lake (See Story)
Warren Hagstrom - 238-4970

Sunday, May 26
Noon
Memorial Day Picnic - Potluck
At Marion and Carl Thompson's

Monday, May 27
7:45 - 11:30 PM
Homeless Shelter

Tuesday, May 28
5:00 - 8:00 AM
Homeless Shelter
7:00 PM
Social Action Committee

Friday, May 31
New Member Dessert Party
(details to follow)

Sunday, June 2
9:00 AM
Choir Practice
10:00 AM
"Weather, Wealth, and Wars" -
Bob Reuschlein

Friday, June 7
2:00 - 10:00 PM
Rental - John Jallings' School Reunion

Saturday, June 8
7:30 PM
Farewell Party for
Julie and Dick Bonser
At Prairie (See Story)

Sunday, June 9
9:00 AM
Choir Practice
10:00 AM
"Iraq After the War" - Kathy Kelly

Friday, June 14
7:00 PM
Shaarei Shamayim

Saturday, June 15
9:00 AM
Shaarei Shamayim

...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

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Rick is out of town and asked me, as VP, to substitute in writing his column.

I recently had the pleasure of serving on the Committee on Committees. I say pleasure, because I was very impressed at how willing Prairie People are to take on tasks, either heading or joining committees, or serving as members of the board. The committee first concentrated on filling the committee and Board vacancies prior to the Spring Parish Meeting. This being done, our attention turned to the important task of developing Lay Ministries for the coming year.

We have three exciting offerings. First, Reed Miller agreed to do a series of programs, sharing with us his considerable talents as a story teller and experimenting on incorporating music into the act. Stories can be a powerful way of communicating an idea or point of view and I hope he will encourage us to share our own stories and develop our skills in this area. Second, Mary Mullen will lead us through the steps needed to become an official "Welcoming Congregation." This is something that the Prairie community has talked about for quite awhile and we thank Mary for being willing to step in and take the lead. Third, Al Nettleton has agreed to lead us through a series of programs on the new information technology. Should we get on board the new information super highway? How will this effect our families, schools, and society in general? This should be an exciting year!

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who so willingly offered their time and talents to our Prairie community.

— Barbara Park

Directory Update

Thanks to Julie Bonser and Doleta Chapru, our directory and mailing list has been kept in excellent shape.

I have been continuing to get updates from the folks who come to Sunday programs and other Prairie events. I have also begun calling people who receive the Prairie Fire and who live in the local calling area. The calls have resulted in learning of several joys and concerns: new babies, the end of long relationships. I hope my calls have not inconvenienced anyone. Soon I will begin sending update cards to folks who live outside our calling area.

— Anleigh B. 273-9811

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 eighth graders. This is an important time in the life of a young person. A potluck will follow the service.

May 26 - Memorial Day Picnic - Potluck

The short drive to Marian and Carl Thompson's home south of Oregon will be well worth the time! Marion and Carl's lovely home is secluded in the country with beautiful views of the refulgent spring days. This will be a great chance to get to know other Prairie friends and members. It will also be a chance to pickup your new Prairie directory if you haven't been to a program lately!

To get to Marian and Carl's home, head South from Madison and Fitchburg on highway 14 East past the town of Oregon. Turn left on Old Stage Road. THERE IS NO ROAD SIGN AT OLD STAGE.

(next column)

It is 4.4 miles south of the Oregon turn-off, or 1.2 miles south of County A. When you see the White Rock Inn on the left you have just missed the turn-off! Old Stage is a bucolic one and a-half lane black-top road that winds and turns through the countryside. Marian and Carl's driveway is 4.8 miles on the left. When you pass the Graves Cemetery on the left you are about half-way there. Marian will hang orange streamers on both sides of the road. It's about 1/4 mile up a dirt driveway, over hill and down into the dale where their lovely home sits.

June 2 - Weather, Wealth, and Wars

Weather, wealth, and War are three examples of major events that follow a 54-year natural cycle. What is causing this Earth-wide cycle of natural and people-made events? What is the common cause of major droughts, floods, volcanoes, earthquakes, blizzards, economic depressions, inflation, unemployment, stock-market collapses, social upheavals, and wars? Come to this service to find out how Mother Nature effects whole generations at a time. Bob Reuschlein will explain it all!

June 9 - Iraq After the War

Peace activist Kathy Kelly is no stranger to the world's hot-spots. Struck by the reports of dead and dying in Iraq due to lack of medical supplies, she recently joined a group delivering humanitarian aide to Baghdad. "With the mortality rate over five times the norm," she states, "it is clear that the U.S. is using hunger and disease as a weapon of war against non-combatants." Kathy has also carried messages of justice and non-violence into Haiti just before Aristede was reinstated and into Bosnia during the height of the fighting. She is a passionate and articulate advocate for peace and non-violence.

June 16 - Urban Sprawl

Elizabeth Bardwell will present a video which describes the problems that are created for an urban community through over-growth. It graphically illustrates the fact that growth can, and should, be limited. Group discussion will follow the video.



Well, I thought I would be reviewing the year in depth for this issue of the Prairie Fire, but preparing for traveling to AYS (About Your Sexuality) Training outside of Chicago (May 3-5) did not give me enough time. So, instead of looking back, I find myself looking ahead. I am enthusiastic about planning our unique version of sexuality training for teens and pre-teens (scheduled for February '97). Details will be forthcoming as the next RE year takes shape.

Next Sunday (12th), Prairie will be meeting at Picnic Point. It is the traditional wrap up Sunday for R.E. So....we'll be wrapping up the classes at Picnic Point. Teachers, be prepared. There, we will have the annual picnic/pot luck. There will be interactive activities and a talking circle.

On the 19th will be the traditional Transitions Intergenerational Service led by RE Committee Chair, Erin Bosch. Here, we will also be honoring teachers.

The canoe trip tradition lives!
Scheduled for Saturday, May 25.

Speaking of June, do we need volunteers for childcare during the summer? Robin (who has done a great job with the preschool class) has indicated that she may take a few Sundays. Her compatriot (also known as Louis) has decided to focus on other activities.

An RE Review and Questionnaire, sent to all teachers and parents (who could include their children if they wish), should be arriving by the time you get this. Please fill it out and return (either by mail or dropping it off). Your thoughts and suggestions are greatly appreciated.

It's been a great year! Thank you for the honor and privilege of learning while serving such a great group. (I promise, there will be some sort of report on the '95-'96 RE Program, next issue)

— John Brian Paprock

A Heartfelt Thank You to R.E. Teachers

The children in our religious education program are a very important part of our Prairie community. Each year we manage to assemble a group of adults to be teachers in the R.E. Program and we entrust our children to their care. This year's teachers have done a wonderful job communicating our shared ethical beliefs to the children in a manner appropriate to their age group. We greatly appreciate their efforts. Listed below are the teachers and what group they taught. When you see them at Prairie, stop and ask them to share some of the highlights in their class this year.

K.K.Anderson	teens
Orange Schroeder	6,7,8
Bob Park	6,7,8
Paula Pachciarz	3,4,5
Kerry Beheler-Amass	3,4,5
Randy Converse	3,4,5 / teens
Amy Wilcox	K,1,2
Cindy Haq	K,1,2
Bob Lawrence	K,1,2
Robin Zinthefer	pre-school
Louis Scrattish	pre-school

Thank you every one!

Spruce-Up Saturday May 11, 9:00 AM

Once again Prairie Society will have a workday that deepens friendships while it makes our building and property look cleaner, neater, better! This Saturday, May 11, come to our building any time after 9:00 AM and choose a task and partner that suits you. At noon we'll have soup, bread, & dessert together. If you cannot participate for a whole morning, come for as long as you can. Truly it hath been said, "You meet the best people on workdays." Bring rags, window cleaner, lawn and garden tools.

Pat Watkins, who is buying new carpeting for her home, has donated used-but-worthy carpet to our needy lower floor toddler room. Hurray!!

Lost and Found Alert

If you think you may have left something in our building, please search for it soon. Items remaining after May 12 will go to a resale shop.

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

Marilyn Peters has volunteered to chair committee! Many, thanks from all of us, Marilyn!!

Hospitality Squad

The following people have volunteered to help with hospitality during the next Month.

Coffee Setup

May 12	at Picnic Point
May 19	Barbara Rames
May 26	At Marian and Carl Thompson's
June 2	Anne Urbanski
June 9	volunteer needed

Coffee Cleanup

May 12	at Picnic Point
May 19	Nikki Bromberg & volunteer
May 26	At Marian and Carl Thompson's
June 2	volunteers needed
June 9	volunteers needed

Greeting Visitors

May 12	at Picnic Point
May 19	Barbara Rames
May 26	At Marian and Carl Thompson's
June 2	volunteers needed
June 9	volunteers needed

Seeking Home Hospitality for Small Societies Conference

Prairie has offered to host the next Small Societies Conference of the North Central Area Council / Central Midwest District. The conference is scheduled for Saturday, October 19 — the same day as the UW-Madison homecoming football game. Since hotel rooms will be hard to come by that weekend, we need to provide home hospitality for perhaps 15-20 people. We'll be requesting volunteers later this year.

— Anne Urbanski

Shaarei Shamayim

Shaarei Shamayim is a Jewish congregation dually affiliated with the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation and the Network of Jewish Renewal Communities. We come together because Judaism is our joy and we want to celebrate with each other, our community, and our children. We believe that by joining our energies in those things for which we have passion and vision we can build a community.

The group meets at Prairie Society once a month, Friday evening and Saturday morning, for Shabbat services. It also holds a Seder during Passover, celebrates Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Chanukah, and other holidays, at Prairie.

The group is open to the public and Prairie friends and members are always welcome. B'shalom.

A Club Without Meetings or Expense

Ah, but the dues are life-giving and the rewards are such good feelings!

When blood donors were polled as to why they donate, they replied that after the blood donation they experience a strong, almost overwhelming sense of elation and happiness, created by the realization that by sharing their blood, one or several patients' lives and health will be significantly strengthened. Share this best-kept secret with Prairie members who are part of our One-A-Week club! A person can give every eight weeks, if s/he weights at least 110 pounds and is in reasonably good health. Bob Steinhofner and Barbara Rames are our most recent donors.

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.

Important Notice!

If there is a "1" or "2" after your name on your mailing label, please call Arleigh at (608)273-9811 to prevent being accidentally removed from our mailing list!

Spanish Speakers' Potluck May 13, 7:00 PM

The Spanish Speakers' Potluck will be in the Prairie Society kitchen on Monday, May 13, at 7:00 PM. Please phone 221-2168 or 276-9827 for more information.

Women's Group May 19, after Potluck

Prairie Women's Group will meet on Sunday, May 19, after the general potluck. We will attend the potluck and then meet downstairs or outside for our discussion. Please bring a dish to share at the potluck. See you then!

Playreaders & Fish Dinner May 24, 6:00 PM

Reservations for the Playreaders' Fish Dinner are due by Wednesday night, May 22. We are combing the Fish Dinner Circle and the Prairie Playreaders. Those who wish to attend the dinner only, may do so. Those who wish to attend the Play reading (and everyone is welcome) will adjourn to the home of Pat Watkins for dessert and coffee and the reading of a short play — The Dining Room, by Gurney. Location of Fish Dinner will be announced in next Prairie Fire.

Canoe Trip at Red Cedar Lake May 25, 10:00 AM

Weather permitting we will have a one day canoe trip on May 25 on the Memorial Day weekend. We will go to Red Cedar Lake southeast of Cambridge in Eastern Dane County, a marshy area with lots of birds. We will meet at the public lake access area off the highway about one mile east of Cambridge at 10 AM, picnic on the lake, and leave the way we entered. Call Warren Hagstrom at 238-4970 for details.

Shelter Update May 27, 7:45 PM May 28, 5:00 AM

Based on feedback from a few very committed members, Social Action has decided to continue staffing both PM and AM shifts at the Grace Episcopal Homeless Shelter for as long as possible. **Volunteers are desperately needed to help the homeless!**

Now that warm weather and vacations are on the way perhaps you, too, can find time to take a turn at the shelter.

I will continue to coordinate our efforts and maybe even set my clock radio for an AM shift, too!

Thanks for your support.

— Fran Zell

Farewell Party for the Bonsers June 8, 7:30 PM

Yes, Dick and Julie are not only retiring, but selling their house and leaving Madison for the life of motor home explorers. On Saturday, June 8, a farewell party will be held at Prairie to share memories, music by the Ethnic Connections, games, and of course, food. This will be a family event for Prairie members and friends of all ages to come wish Julie and Dick a fond farewell. They promise to drop back in to Madison occasionally!

Please bring popcorn, pretzels, veggies, or other munchies. Punch will be provided.

Saturday Night Salad Bar at the MOVIES June 22, 6:30 PM

Join once a month for a lively evening with friends, food, and a good movie. The next Salad Bar Movie will be at the home of Pat Cautley, 4805 Regent St., Madison, on Saturday, June 22. Join us at 6:30 PM and bring a salad to add to the salad bar. Bread and beverages will be provided.

Please call for the title of the movie and to sign up.

Movie will start about 7:00 PM with discussion to follow.

Call: Pat Cautley at 238-5373.