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

Robert Ruecking, President 238-2924
Judy Skog, Treasurer 273-4813

Production Assistants - Marilyn Peters
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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 AM
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

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 Mullens 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 affect 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.

Arleigh B. 273-9811

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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 refugent 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)
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 year.

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

— John-Brian Paprock

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 at Marian and Carl Thompson's
May 26 at Marian and Carl Thompson's
June 2 Anne Urbanzki
June 9 volunteer needed

Coffee Cleanup
May 12 at Picnic Point
May 19 Nikki Bromberg
May 26
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 games. 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 Urbanzki
We believe that by joining our energies in welcome. B’shalom. joy and we want We come together because Judaism is our vision we can build a community.

alt-Image

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 Steinhofer 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 there!

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 10 AM 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.
— Joan Zell

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.