

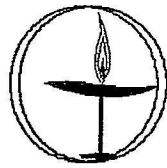
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Editor - Prairie Fire
Prairie U.U. Society
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Prairie Fire



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, June 2 Submit
items for June 6 -June 20



Friday, May 24
6:00 PM

Playreaders Annual Fish Dinner
Francis Innkeeper Hotel,
University and Highland Avenues)
Phone Pat Watkins at 233-5795

Saturday, May 25
6:00 PM

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 (See Story)

Tuesday, May 28
5:00 - 8:00 AM

Homeless Shelter (See Story)
7:00 PM
Social Action Committee (See Story)

Friday, May 31
7:00 PM

New Member Dessert Party (See Story)

Sunday, June 2
9:00 AM

Choir Practice
10:00 AM
"Weather, Wealth, and Wars" -
Bob Reuschlein

Monday, June 3

Tony Awards - CBS (See Story)

Thursday, June 6
7:00 PM

Program Committee

Friday, June 7

2:00 - 10:00 PM
Rental - John Jallings' School Reunion

Saturday, June 8
7:30 PM

Farewell Party - 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

Sunday, June 16
9:00 AM

Choir Practice
10:00 AM
"Urban Sprawl" - Elizabeth Bardwell

Monday, June 17
7:00 PM

Board Meeting

Thursday, June 20 -
Tuesday, June 25

UUA General Assembly
Indianapolis, Indiana

Saturday, June 22
6:30 PM

Salad Bar Movie

Sunday, June 23
9:00 AM

Choir Practice
10:00 AM
"W-2 — Welfare Reform" -
Barbara Herrick

Monday, June 24
7:45 - 11:30 PM

Homeless Shelter (See Story)

Tuesday, June 25
5:00 - 8:00 AM

Homeless Shelter (See Story)
7:00 PM
Social Action Committee (See Story)

Saturday, June 29
PRAIRIE CABARET

Piano Fund Raiser (See Story)

Sunday, June 30
9:00 AM

Choir Practice
10:00 AM
"Northern Ireland" - Andrew Somers

...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

A large congregation shared in a Transition Sunday which passed successfully for Heidi Bosch and Aaron Lawrence. We recognized their passage from childhood to adulthood and their willingness to accept the challenges of personal responsibility. We are confident of their well-grounded success. Erin Bosch organized a cheerful service which was highlighted by the premiere performance of Dean Schroeder's new choral music, "Your Gifts". Dean dedicated this work to the youth of Prairie Society.

Another transition was held this week. The new Prairie Board ascended to their positions of exalted responsibility on Monday. Those leaving the Board provided many unheralded services to the Society and to them we say, thank-you. I look forward to working at their side as we move to keep this Society vibrant one more year. Please take your complaints directly to the Committee Chairpersons.

In past years, Prairie held a transition/recognition Sunday. In it, the youth and a broad spectrum of volunteers to the Society was recognized and small tokens of appreciation were exchanged. Space prevents me from recognizing all the members who put added effort into what we affectionately call Prairie — the list is too long. Thanks to you all. Everyone has the opportunity to join that long list by participating on Committees or in many other ways - from greeting to lawn mowing - in the coming year.

— *Rick Ruecking*

Denominational Affairs

Many thanks to the following persons who have agreed to serve on this committee for the '96-'97 church year: Nancy Graham, Mary Mullen, Barb Park, Dick Prest, and Rachel Siegfried.

— *Pat Watkins, chair*

Shaarei Shamayim

We're missing a rosewood Torah pointer (about 8" long with a small box) and some laminated copies of the Prayer Over the Torah. They seem to have been misplaced. Please call Jackie at 255-7864.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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. 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!

The Tao that can be known is not the true Tao

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.

Program Survey

Please complete the enclosed survey and mail it to Prairie, or to me, or drop it off at the greeter's table.

Call me at 233-6031 (home) or 829-8305 (work) with any questions or comments.

— *Bob Reuschlein*

Shelter News

Thanks, Tom Wardell, Fran Remeika, Barbara Rames, and Mike Briggs, for staffing the Grace Episcopal Men's Homeless shelter in April.

If you can take a turn, either evening or early morning shift (4th Monday evening and following Tuesday morning), please contact Fran Zell, 233-0213.

To make work easier for our A.M. crew, we have installed a drop-off box in the Prairie Foyer for cereal and other breakfast staples. Please remember the box when out grocery shopping. Also, don't forget the regular drop-off box for the Allied Drive Food Pantry.

RECORNER

On the 19th, the traditional Transitions Intergenerational Service was led by RE Committee Chair, Erin Bosch. We honored two graduating eighth graders, Aaron Lawrence and Heidi Bosch. Dean Schroeder debuted a song he wrote, dedicated to the youth of Prairie UU Society (text is reprinted with permission nearby).

We also honored the teachers and the RE Committee (if you couldn't be there, the applause was wonderful and I have certificates of appreciation for you). Without the support of volunteers as teachers, committee members and advisors/organizers for special events, there would not have been Religious Education this past year. Thank you very much for all your work!

Informed of the sporadic attendance by Prairie youth, I was surprised to find out that, of the 46 identified young people attending classes (much higher than projected), 24 attended 3 or less sessions of their class! Of the 22 "regulars," attendance was better than 60%. The Senior High class attendance over 70% demonstrates a commitment to this new addition to the RE Program this year!

Attendance seemed favorable for special events and PYGs gatherings. The overnights seemed particularly positive for the youth and the adult advisors. The ongoing success of the Secret Friends program proves that there are intergenerational activities that are enjoyed by all!

And finally, what I understand to be a growing tradition, Memorial Day Weekend includes a picnic and a canoe trip. Check elsewhere for details.

Missing Hymnals

Have you, possibly, carried home a hymnal that belongs to Prairie Society? We need each one! Please return it!

Only a few of the RE Review Questionnaires (sent to all teachers and parents) have been returned. I hope to be receiving more of them. The RE Committee will be meeting in early June to close out the year and plan next year. Remember, your thoughts and suggestions are greatly appreciated. Oh yeah, teachers could you return curriculum, if you haven't already?

First UU Society has added Saturday classes to its Religious Education, due to high demand for RE Classes. If interested in gaining some teaching experience, there are openings for teachers. Contact Ruth Gibson MRE at First: 233-9774.

My summer plans include presenting workshops and programs (including at WisCon20 and Lake Geneva), preparing for next year's Religious Education and, hopefully, some travels. I hope your summer is full of joyful adventures and spiritual growth!

— *John-Brian Paprock*

Related announcement:

If you happen to have Prairie Library books at your home, please return them. Over the summer, a better and wiser tracking system will be started. Then, requests for specific books or topics will be solicited.

Summer Child Care

Volunteers Needed!

... for child care during the summer months. Sign-up for a Sunday at the church. On behalf of parents/guardians, Thank You!

Cat Sitter Needed

... or think of it as a little get-away.

I will be attending a writers' workshop in Southern Indiana from June 8-16, and am looking for someone interested in staying at my home for all or part of that time to provide company for my thirteen year old cat, Annie.

Call me if you can do it, or know someone who might. Thanks, Fran Zell, 233-0213.

Musicians Needed for Prairie Cabaret

Saturday, June 19. Call Barb Park, Reid Miller, or Doleta Chapru. The Cabaret is a fund-raiser for piano maintenance.

Canoe Trip at Red Cedar Lake

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.

New Member Dessert Party

Come to Prairie at 7:00 PM on Friday, May 31, for a special welcome to new members.

Enjoy dessert while chatting with new Prairie people who have joined during the last year. Mew members; This is your time!

For those wishing to bring a dessert — please contact Marilyn Peters at 838-8540.

The Tony Awards

... will be televised on CBS on June 2, and Pat Watkins' family will all be watching. Why? Because Pat's nephew, Reg E. Gaines, has been nominated for two Tony Awards: one for best book and one for best score in a Broadway musical (Bring on Da Noise, Bring on Da Funk). Congratulations and best wishes!

Farewell Party for the Dick & Julie

Please bring the title of a book, song, play, or prairie event that you relate to Dick or Julie. We will use them to honor Dick & Julie in "team charades" at our Farewell Party for them on June 8 at 7:30 PM. In addition, since they will be traveling across the country with their motor home, write out your "best" places they should visit, and "worst" places they should not visit. Use an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet. The party will be a family event with music by the Ethnic Connection. Come wish Dick & Julie a fond farewell.

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

Your Gifts

Music and Lyrics by Dean Schroeder

Dedicated to:

The Youth of Prairie U.U. Society
Premiere at Transitions Service, May 19, 1996

Refrain:

Every act of kindness
Any small compassion
Every time you treat someone with care
Never will be wasted
Always will be cherished
When you shine your light on them
Others will reflect your love
We receive the gifts that we have shared.

I

Life brings us gifts from
Friends and our families;
Gifts of love light our way.
In the same way we
Bring joy to others
In what we do and say.

II

When you sought comfort
Or asked forgiveness,
Were you with kindness graced?
Your chance will come to
Love those who need you;
Give them your hearts embrace.

III

Be a lamp, shining
Unto your own self;
Find what is genuine.
We are all growing, learning and knowing;
Hold to your truth within.

IV

Open your gifts and
Offer to others;
As you receive, you give.
As we are blessed, so
We can bless others;
As we believe, we live.

