Prairie's new members for July were Randy Converse and Reid Miller.

Randy Converse and his wife, Kathy, moved to Madison from Massachusetts about 1985. They live in the Monroe Street neighborhood with their daughters, Tara and Mei-Lien. Randy works as a childcare teacher at the Sunrise School on West Lawn Avenue. He and his family started attending Prairie in 1990, when they were looking for a church in which they could be part of a community. Randy's main interest at Prairie is the Religious Education program, in which he has taught for several years. He plans to teach R.E. again in the upcoming year. In his spare time he is learning the martial art T'ai-chi, and attempting to learn to speak Chinese and to sing and play drums simultaneously.

Reid Miller says he learned about Prairie many years ago through Mike and Norma Briggs (whom he knew from English and Scottish dance groups) but only began attending regularly in December 1995. A native of Oklahoma City, OK, Reid moved to the Madison area in the mid-1970s. He lives near Blue Mounds and is the father of an adult son, David, and two younger daughters, Tess and Dawn. He describes his occupation as "telling stories, singing, playing music and calling dances." In his spare time he particularly enjoys bicycling. Last month Reid performed in and helped coordinate Prairie's successful Cabaret. In the fall he will present a service on storytelling and also will teach R.E. He joined Prairie, he says, because he received "a warm-hearted and genuine welcome." His motto is "Keep it Simple, Make it Fun."

When you see Randy or Reid, be sure to give them a big Prairie hug!

— Anne Urbanski, Long-Range Planning
**UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

**August 18**  
"U.U.A. General Assembly"  
Cinda LaMar, Nancy Graham, & Barb Park  
The Unitarian Universalist Association holds its General Assembly in a different city each year. This year our delegates traveled to Indianapolis. They will return full of stories of Plenary Sessions, General Resolutions, Youth Activity, Fellowship, Worship, and Celebration. Come learn more about the U.U.A.

**August 25**  
"Summer Musicale"  
Barb Park & Rosemarie Lester  
Calling all Musicians, Poets, and other Performing Artists. Please contact Barb (273-8775) or Rosemarie (255-7039). Help make the '96 Summer Musicale an Event to Remember!

**September 1**  
Canoeing at Lake Wingra  
Meet at Wingra Canoe & Sailing Center, 824 Knickerbocker at 1 PM. This is off Monroe Street South-West of Edgewood College. Wingra is a quiet, beautiful, lake. It borders the UW Arboretum. Gift certificates for canoe rental available to contest winners at the Founders' Day Picnic.

**September 8**  
"Education Strengthens Communities – Builds Futures"  
Candidate for U.S. Congress, Paul Soglin  
The Strength of the United States can be tracked to a commitment to invest in the future. That commitment is seen in our transportation and communications systems, our national parks, and our rivers and waters.

Nowhere is that commitment more critical than in the area of education. Without an education the individual has little opportunity to care for themselves or their families. Lack of education deprives one of access to health, safety, and the pursuit of happiness and endangers out democracy. Education should be and must be a priority.

**September 15**  
"The Dance of the Storyteller"  
Reid Miller  
With the telling of stories, humans chronicle experience, heal wounds, predict the future, resolve disputes, educate and entertain each other, and much more. The Dance of the Storyteller explores what stories we are, how they are told, and their power in our lives. Bring an artifact from home, an object of your own, with meaning to you in your life.

**September 22**  
"Criminal Justice"  
Esther Heffernan  
Sister Heffernan is coordinator of the Criminal Justice program at Edgewood College, and professor in the Department of Social Science. She is also a consultant for the Alaska Department of Corrections and Federal Bureau of Prisons in the use of co-corrections. Sister Heffernan has recently finished a published history of women in federal corrections.

In Wisconsin, Heffernan has served as a member of the Legislative Council Committee examining the criminal code and other correctional issues, testified on correctional problems before the legislature, and has also appeared on a number of talk shows dealing with correctional issues.

**Technology Now!**  
A Lay Ministry to explore the impact of technology on our lives.  
Al Nettleton  
Through a series of programs this year we will take a look at information technology - exploring both the benefits and dangers. I will directly share some of my experiences in learning about technology and becoming the Information Technology Manager for the Wisconsin Division of Care and Treatment Facilities, which has 4,300 employees. I also have invited a number of people to share with us their knowledge and concerns. The major topics we will cover are the Internet, medical records, libraries, government systems for welfare and child support, confidentiality and privacy, education, and the First Amendment.

**Win Dinner at Hunan Kitchen, a Canoe Ride on Lake Wingra, or Lunch at Pizza Hut!**

We are conducting three contests: Name That Plant!, Who Are Those People?, and Prairie Thru Time and People. The prizes will be awarded at the Founder's Day Picnic. Teams should have four members each, and should include new and inactive people. (See sign regarding "Some Thoughts on Rules" at Prairie.)

Each contest has three prizes for a total of nine. These are gift certificates to Hunan Kitchen, Pizza Hut & Wingra Canoes.

- First Prize: $20.00 Gift Certificate
- Second Prize: $10.00 Gift Certificate
- Third Prize: $5.00 Gift Certificate
**Program Popularity Vote**

The most popular program of the 1995-96 year was Cephus Childs' moving story about his experiences at the "Million Man March." Second was Hugh liths speaking on "Population and Development." Third was George Calden's "Let Every Little Light Shine." Rounding out the top five were Leona Balek's "Countering the Religious Right" and Barbara Rames "Emerson."

Rounding out the top ten were the "Beijing Women's Conference" by Jean Lind & Sue Munkres, and Warren Hagstrom's "Mendelsohn" musical, both tied for sixth. In a three-way tie for tenth were "Uncle Tom's Cabin" by Betty Jallings, "Spring Equinox" by Nancy Vedder-Shults and Barbara Rames for a second time in "Of Babies and Bathwater."

In the honorable mention category, for above average votes, were the Barb Park - Rosemarie Lester musical, Spencer Black, Barbara Rames for a third time, Mike Boehm, Sam Lin, Mike Sheehy twice, Dave Johnson, Arleigh Birchler, Anne Urbanski group, Erin Bosch group, and Sam Day.

Bob Reuschlein, Mike Sheehy, and Rachel Siegfried recruited three of the top five speakers. Anne Urbanski had the idea for the top speaker, Barb Park worked on it, then a desperate Bob got lucky just four days before that Sunday!

The average attendance for the year was 50 and the average vote slightly under seven votes, with 27 people voting. By categories, in order, outside speakers, musicals, and lay ministers were less than one vote above average, while intergenerational services and inside speakers were less than one vote below average.

Outside speakers as a group had 23% more votes than inside speakers as a group; but the eight outside speakers average vote was exceeded by eleven inside speakers, and services and eight outside speakers. Upham Woods received enough votes to place second overall but was not listed since it is an event rather than a service.

— Bob Reuschlein, Program Chair

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Music Hath Charms —**

... to do many things: It brought to Prairie Society its newest member, Karen Kiener who signed our membership book August 11. Her first visit to the Society was on all-music Sunday, led by Warren Hagstrom. Already she was acquainted with Metje Butler and Barbara Park, for they had sung together in the M.A.T.C. Show Choir that had traveled to Italy to share their music. Barbara Park then persuaded Karen to add her lovely alto voice to Prairie Society's choir for several performances. Out lay-led ministers appealed to Karen; she liked the variety of content in our Sunday morning services.

Karen grew up in Chicago in a Roman Catholic family; she completed college work at St. Xavier's College in that city. Her thoughts as to future as to future career led her to enter a Lutheran seminary, where she received her M.Div. degree and she was ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Her first parish ministry was as associate in a church of 1200 members, but she has experience with small churches also, for she served 5 years each at Avoca and Lone Rock congregations, of about 400 members each. She broadened her present position as chaplain at the Central Wisconsin Center for the Developmentally Disabled. In addition to her services and counseling there, she “fills in” at other parishes when a pastor must be absent.

She will find many "kindred spirits" in the Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society, for art education was her college major, and she still has a strong interest in oil painting and drawing and photography; she plays trumpet, violin, and guitar, and she is learning to play drums (taking a class, as of now!) She is an avid reader, and writes poetry, too; perhaps we will see a sample of her work in a future Prairie Fire.

Karen lives at 6425 Bridge Road, #210, in Madison, 53713. Her phone number is 221-2801.

— Barbara Rames

**Caring Circles**

Several of the circles are beginning to meet, form silver friendships (outreach), and strengthen the golden ones (affinity). We are collecting information to help us help friends in need obtain help and contact those close to them in a crisis (making links). Some folks are reaching out to other individuals to strengthen the Prairie fellowship (adopt a friend). The Founders' Day Picnic will give new and inactive friends and members a chance to become more involved, and to honor the Founding Members, Prairie Pioneers, and Past Presidents who did so much to make Prairie a reality.

We need to start forming Circle Dinners for the Fall, recruit and train new folk as Greeters and "Name Tag Police", encourage more folks to volunteer on Sunday, and get more people involved with the work of our committees.

— Marilyn Peters, Membership Chair
SOCIAL ACTION

BEAUMONT U.U. CHURCH PERSECUTED

The minister and several members of Spindletop Unitarian Church in Beaumont, Texas, are encountering religious persecution from local fundamentalist churches.

Dennis Rozell, minister of Highland Avenue Baptist Church in Beaumont, is conducting a media campaign against Spindletop Church, its minister, Mike Thompson, and in particular Spindletop's small Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPS) chapter. He accuses CUUPS members of practicing "Satanism" and threatening children from his church. The CUUPS members deny these accusations. Thompson wrote a lengthy letter to the local newspaper explaining paganism as practiced by CUUPS members and debunking the fundamentalist idea that paganism is equivalent to Satanism.

Rev. Mike Thompson later attended an "anti-paganism" seminar held at the Baptist church and was arrested for attempting to dispute Rev. Rozell's accusations during the seminar. (The actual charge was something like disorderly conduct). A local attorney has offered to help Thompson fight the charges on a pro bono basis. While this will reduce Thompson's legal costs, he still will have some legal bills for the court case.

Anyone wishing to contribute to Rev. Mike Thompson's defense can send contributions to:

Spindletop Unitarian Church
PO Box 6136
Beaumont TX 77705

—Anne Urbanski, Long-Range Planning

Thank you, Prairie...

... for your support thru the years. Your steady contributions of food are very important and much appreciated, as are your volunteer work at our Neighborhood Center, your help with Spring Clean-up, and with our recent Neighborhood Festival.

—Doris Brown, Allied-Dunn's Marsh Neighborhood Center

Men's Homeless Shelter

Thanks to Barb Barley, Kate Tucker, Aileen Nettleton, and Barbara Rames for volunteering last month.

—Fran Zell

More than ninety men stayed overnight at the Grace Episcopal Church's Homeless Shelter last week. Members of Second Baptist Church, our neighbor on Britta Parkway (the Rev. Dr. James A. Ivy) gave and served the evening meal as usual. In the morning, we scrambled fourteen dozen eggs plus dried eggs provided by the federal government, and served cereal, juice, milk, and bread. We are in need of substantial contributions of food and dollars to feed these homeless men.

If you are willing to be "on duty" either evening or morning on the fourth Monday-Tuesday, please contact Fran Zell at 233-0213. Food and cash donations to support this effort would be greatly appreciated.

—Barbara Rames

Blood is Needed and Given

One of our Prairie members, who suffered through an attack of Lyme Disease recently, has given a pint of blood again as soon as the Health Department's time interval prohibiting donations was complete. That's Frederica Schilling! Our Red Cross need for blood increases in summer, with vacation accidents. Let's follow Frederica's good example! Hours at the donor center are available at Prairie. Recently, Kathy Borkowski, Heidi Oliverson, Barbara Rames, and Linda Sheehy each gave a pint.

—Barbara Rames

Special Thanks ...

... to Prairie's official Grounds Keeper for single-handedly removing the dead tree on Whenona, cultivating the bare ground, and planting grass. Isn't it amazing how much one small woman can (and does) do!

—An Admirer

Next Meeting ...

... will be Tuesday, August 27, 7 PM, at the Meeting House.

—Rob Steinhofer, Social Action Chair
**Saturday, August 17**
12:30 PM
Playreaders Organizational Potluck Lunch
Pat Watkins
233-5795

**Sunday, August 18**
10 AM
"U.U.A. General Assembly"
Cinda LaMar, Nancy Graham, & Barb Park

**Monday, August 19**
7 PM
Spanish Speakers' Potluck

**Wednesday, August 21**
7 PM
Finance Committee
Aileen Nettleton

**Friday, August 23**
6 -- 10 PM
Shaarei Shamayim

**Sunday, August 25**
10 AM
"Summer Musicale" -- Barb Park & Rosemarie Lester

**Monday, August 26**
7:45 -- 11:30 PM
Men's Homeless Shelter
Grace Episcopal Church

**Tuesday, August 27**
5 -- 8 AM
Men's Homeless Shelter
Grace Episcopal Church
7 PM
Social Action Committee

**Thursday, August 29**
7 PM
Program Committee

**Saturday, August 31**
9 PM ‘til milking time

**Founders' Day Picnic**
At Prairie Meeting House
Taste of Madison
Capitol Square

**Sunday, September 1**
1 PM
Canceing at Lake Wingra
824 Knickerbocker

**Sunday, September 8**
10 AM
"Education Builds Futures" -- Mayor Paul Soglin
(Religious Education classes start)

**Monday, September 9**
7:30 PM
Board Meeting

**Friday, September 13**
Garage Sale
Barb & Bob Park
6 -- 10 PM
Rosh Hashanah
Shaarei Shamayim

**Saturday, September 14**
Garage Sale
Barb & Bob Park
6:30 PM
Salad Bar Movie
Dick & Susan Prest
3444 Lake Mendota Dr.
232-9919
8 AM -- 10 PM
Rosh Hashanah
Shaarei Shamayim

**Sunday, September 15**
10 AM
"The Dance of the Storyteller" -- Reid Miller
1:30 -- 6 PM
Rosh Hashanah
Shaarei Shamayim

**Sunday, September 22**
10 AM
"Criminal Justice" -- Esther Heffernan
5:30 -- 10 PM
Yom Kippur
Shaarei Shamayim

**Monday, September 23**
8 AM -- 10 PM
Yom Kippur
Shaarei Shamayim
7:45 -- 11:30 PM
Men's Homeless Shelter
Grace Episcopal Church

**Tuesday, September 24**
5 -- 8 AM
Men's Homeless Shelter
Grace Episcopal Church
7 PM
Social Action Committee

**Thursday, September 26**
7 PM
Program Committee

**Friday, September 27**
Week of Sukkot begins
Joint observance
Prairie & Shaarei Shamayim

**Saturday, September 28**
9 AM -- 3:30 PM
The Great Goddess Around the World
First Unitarian Society

**Sunday, September 15**
10 AM
"The Dance of the Storyteller" -- Reid Miller
1:30 -- 6 PM
Rosh Hashanah
Shaarei Shamayim

**Sunday, September 22**
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**Saturday, September 28**
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The Great Goddess Around the World
First Unitarian Society

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**Friday, October 11 thru Sunday, October 13 -- Upham Woods!**

**Founders' Day Picnic**

The potluck picnic to honor Founding Members, Prairie Pioneers, and Past Presidents has been scheduled for Saturday of the Labor Day weekend, August 31. It will begin around Noon, and last until Milking Time. We've been informed that we should warn you about the possibility of Chicken Pluckers!

Sign-up sheets available at the meeting house, or call Marilyn Peters (838-8540) or Arleigh Birchler (273-9811) to save a seat. Please let us know if you will need home hospitality or local transportation while in Madison. New and Inactive Prairie Folk: Please help us insure that the honorees do not have to do all the work themselves!
Piano Fund Donations Still Needed

Thanks, Thanks, Thanks, to Cabaret enthusiasts and artists who raised approximately $385 for piano maintenance. We are still $215 short of our immediate $600 goal. Unfortunately, we may have a much bigger repair bill if work isn't done soon.

Prairie members and friends who could not attend the cabaret and wish to contribute may mail a check to Judy Skog or leave it in the collection basket. Write your check to Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society. Be sure to indicate it is for the Piano Fund.

As soon as we have the entire $600, we will hire Norman Sheppard to lighten the piano hammers so performers can survive a music service or another cabaret without liniment and painkillers. Also, hammers need to be shaped so they don't damage the adjacent backstops. The hammers, purchased after the piano was donated to Prairie, are very good ones that should last a long time. They just need some adapting that wasn't done at the time of installation.

Our next goal will be to raise an additional $325 for a climate control system which will protect the piano from temperature and humidity fluctuations.

-Dolores Chapru

Men's Homeless Shelter

Cash donations are needed, as well as food. Frequently the volunteers who work at the shelter have to buy the food out of their own pockets. If you can't be there in person, won't you give cash to enable other Prairie Folk to continue to serve the needy?

—Barbara Rames

That's "Orchard DRIVE", Arleigh!

Please send pledge checks and other monetary contributions to:

Judy Skog
Treasurer, Prairie Society
626 Orchard Drive (not Street!)
Madison, Wisconsin, 53711

Please help us keep up with our obligations and support our ongoing programs with you pledges and contributions.

—Judy Skog, Treasurer

Another Successful Garage Sale

Thanks to all who donated, worked, and shopped at our second Prairie Garage Sale. We raised $410. Special thanks to: Bob Dopp, Fran Zell, Erin & Alana Pryor-Ackerman, Rosemarie Lester, Mike Briggs, Barbara Rames, Donna Murdoch, Will Hayes, Ruth Calden, Reid Miller, and Bob Park. Extra-special thanks to Allan and Jean Matos for masterful, speedy pricing.

September Garage Sale at Park's

Barbara and Bob Park have agreed to host our third & last Prairie Summer Garage Sale Fundraiser (& volunteer fellowship opportunity) on September 13 & 14 at their home, 5610 Hammersley Rd. Drop off your items at their place Thursday evening, September 12, 5-7 PM.

From our experiences so far, donations of housewares, furniture, kids' toys, sports items, kids' clothes, and miscellaneous items are great. Winter coats & winter clothing in good condition may go. Items not moving are art pieces, computers, shoes, and adult clothing. Please do not bring broken items, windows, or tires.

—Aileen Nettleton, Finance Chair

Religious Education

There are a few individuals that have agreed to be teachers this fall that have not yet received the appropriate curricula. If you are such a soul, I will be contacting you soon. All others: I'll be calling to set up a team teaching meeting in August for the RE Classes, which will start Sunday, September 8. We still need a Preschool or Child Care co-worker for the upcoming year. This is a paid position. If interested, please give me a call at 274-4405.

—John-Brian Paprock, Director of Religious Education

( Did you know our "Lay-Led Society" includes at least three trained Unitarian Universalist ministers, a Lutheran priest, an Eastern Orthodox priest, and a Jewish Rabbi? There are probably other "professional" ministers in our group who keep their qualifications quiet; But at Prairie, we are ALL ministers and must provide support and caring to each other!)