



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### 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.

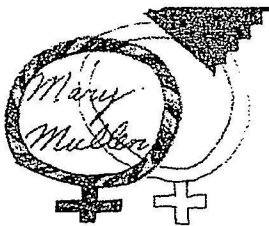
In Wisconsin, Heffernan has served as a member of the Legislative Council Committee examining the criminal code and other correctional issues, testified on correctional problems before the legislature, and has also appeared on a number of talk shows dealing with correctional issues.

### September 29

#### "Virtual Chicken Soup"

Bob Dopp

Bob will share with us his personal journey through the Internet in search of cures for cancer, on-line chatting with widows and widowers, and using electronic mail as a form of therapy. This program is the first in a series on informational technology coordinated by Lay Minister Al Nettleton..



### The Welcoming Congregation

Lay Ministry Begins October 12

The Welcoming Congregation is a recognition of UUA congregations that have taken

the 15 actions that make a congregation feel welcoming to lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals. While Prairie long ago took some of these actions, and generally thinks of itself as the ultimate friend to a diverse population, Prairie is not officially a Welcoming Congregation; and it, as well as nearly every other congregation and every individual within our group, can be more welcoming.

One measure of how welcome gays, lesbians, and bisexuals feel is the number of us presently attending Prairie regularly. This number has drastically declined since the James Reeb Church opened its doors with lesbian minister Jonalu Johnstone and many gay and lesbian members and since First Unitarian began to take specific actions to become more welcoming in the past few years.

### October 6

#### "Virtual Medical Records"

Judy Faulkner, president of *EPIC Data Systems*

Ms. Faulkner will talk about electronic medical records for managed care and integrated community health networks. Epic is a supplier of systems to some of the largest health care providers, and Judy has some unique insights on the role of automation in health care and the impact on the quality of medical care. She will also address issues of privacy and confidentiality related to electronic records. (Program two in the series on information technology.)

### Saturday, October 12 (at Camp Upham Wood)

#### "Introduction and Expectations"

Mary Mullen

How have you felt excluded in your life? How did you learn about sexual orientation? What do you fear about participating in this series of services? What do you think you or our congregation can gain through this lay ministry? (Reading material for the next week is "Twenty Questions About Homosexuality," available at the end of this service.)

### October 20

#### "What We Know and How We Learned It"

Mary Mullen

Participate in a word association brainstorm and share your feelings about the process and your reactions to the word lists with a partner. Then discuss "Twenty Questions About Homosexuality" with a small group. Don't worry if you haven't read "Twenty Questions." You may skim a few of the questions and answers right during the service. (Next reading assignment, "Homophobia: A Weapon of Sexism," may be picked up at the end of the service.)

### October 27

#### (Young people especially invited!)

#### "Gender Socialization and Homophobia"

Mary Mullen

After a guided memory of your own same-sex friendships, small same-sex groups will recall the "rules" for fitting in with their own gender group and discuss what individuals had to do in junior high and high school to avoid being called "queer." Have any of these behaviors been carried over into adult life? Hmmmmmm

The Welcoming Congregation lay ministry will offer every participant - straight, gay, or bisexual - opportunities to:

- learn more about homosexuality and homosexuals,
- examine the roots of Homophobia in society and in ourselves,
- become familiar with what the Bible says about this topic, and, most of all,
- find ways to combat Homophobia at Prairie and wherever it raises its threatening head.

The lay ministry will be conducted in a workshop-like atmosphere during regular Sunday morning services. Reading materials and "assignments" will be available prior to many services to help participants prepare for or experience the topic of the day. Some services will be very appropriate for middle and high school students who will be especially invited to at least one service.

The opening workshop/service will be held at Prairie's annual Upham Woods retreat on Saturday, October 12. The lay ministry will continue at Prairie the two following Sundays. Other dates are yet to be scheduled.

Lay minister for the 8-service series is lesbian Mary Mullen who will be assisted by several other leaders. Leaders will be of various sexual orientations so that all those who attend services will feel validated in their own personal persuasion.

See you there!

## Religious Education

We began the R.E. year with a somewhat subdued start. Lots of great "acts of kindness," and some special "little lights." Some of them are hanging on the R.E. bulletin board waiting for accompanying photos (once again by Ken Skog).

Thank you to the members of the building and R.E. committees for their hard work getting the R.E. area ready, especially Rick O., Carl, Paula, Barbara and others I'm sure I forgot. It looked so nice that everyone pitched in to clean up afterwards. There were lots of compliments to pass on.

Also thanks to Arleigh for printing the labels for the R.E. Library books, the beginning of an effective library.

- Preschool/Nursery: Heidi Bosch agreed to help out and felt the first day went "good."
- Grades K-1-2 "Celebrating Roots and Branches" started with special activities and went outside for some activity.
- Grades 3-4-5 "Beginning Unitarian Universalism" put up UU hero/heroine pictures and got acquainted, ending with a volleyball session.
- Grades 6-7-8 "How can I know what to believe?" began with What We Believe About People and "Where are you on the continuum?" Everyone participated. "Gonna be a fun year," said Randy.

- Grades 9-12 "Exploring Spirituality" Happy to be back together, the teens talked about what they did this summer and started on a definition of spirituality.

More information available in the R.E. Program, which includes the calendar.

Parents - If you still need to register your child, please try to arrive ½ hour before R.E. begins or mail them to Prairie UU, Attn: John-Brian. Thanks.

—John-Brian Paprock

### Choir Rehearsal Begins!

The first rehearsal of the season will be held on Sunday, September 22 at 9 AM. This is a good time for new folk to join us as well as previous singers to begin again. You don't have to have a lot of singing experience to come. There is NO AUDITION! If you have always wanted to participate in music, this is your chance. Call me with any questions.

—Barb Park, 273-8775

### Small Society Workshop

Prairie has organized and will be hosting the district-wide workshop on Small Societies. Topics of discussion will range from a vision of finance to assimilating new members. Lunch is included in the registration cost of \$9.00. This is a great opportunity to join in discussion with folks from other congregations without having to travel far to do it!

Registration forms will be on the bulletin board at the back of the meeting room. We also need volunteers for home hospitality as that is Homecoming week-end and Hotel Space will be very tight.

—Barb Park, 273-8775

### Garage Sale a Success

Thanks to all who helped on the garage sale last week-end at the Parks. We made almost \$300.

### Women's Group

We will meet on September 22 after morning service. All women are invited to share their thoughts and bring something for a light lunch. This is a good time to get to know other members and discover common interests.

—Marilyn Peters, 838-8540

### Gardening Party

Come to the meeting house on Saturday, October 5, 10 AM to 1 PM. Help trim, dig, pull, and mulch. We will finish with a pot-luck lunch.

### Roommate Wanted

My space is on the east side and will be available October 15, or so. Please give me a call at 246-4304 if you are interested in further information.

—Jennifer Parker

### Help Wanted

Channing-Murray is a Unitarian Universalist young adults group on the UW campus. We are in need of a group coordinator. This is a paid ¼ time position with a commitment of at least one year.

—Ned Frey, 274-1855

### Help Wanted

Prairie is in need of a ¼ time administrator. This position will involve working at the meeting house ten hours a week. Help the officers and board members with administrative tasks.

—Rick Raeching, 271-8218

### Welcoming Congregation

Committee meeting at Prairie Wednesday, September 26, at 7 PM. Still especially needed on this committee to help plan 8 services related to gay-lesbian-bisexual issues are people who identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual and are willing to be out publicly, and men. People of any sexual orientation are welcome. If you are interested and haven't already spoken to Mary Mullen, please call her at 271-5192. Services begin in mid-October.

### Congratulations...

... to Prairie friend and former member John Hoffman, one of whose photographs was published in the Sept/Oct issue of ZOOM. John's photographs will be exhibited at Canterbury Booksellers beginning at the opening at 4 PM on Sunday, September 29.

**Saturday, September 21****10 AM -- Noon**MSN Intergroup ACA  
John-Brian Paprock -- 274-4405**7:30 PM**Prairie Playreaders  
Rosemary Dorney & Tim Fast  
238-4382**\*\*Sunday, September 22****9 AM**

Choir Rehearsal

**10 AM**Crime  
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

**Wednesday, September 25****7 PM**MSN Area Interfaith Network  
John-Brian Paprock -- 274-4405**7 PM**Spanish Speakers' Potluck  
Kate T. Tucker -- 221-2168**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 29****9 AM**

Choir Rehearsal

**10 AM**Virtual Chicken Soup  
Bob Dopp**after program**

Pledge Drive Kick-Off Lunch

**Saturday, October 5****10 AM -- 1 PM**

Prairie Gardening Party

**\*\*Sunday, October 6****9 AM**

Choir Rehearsal

**10 AM**Virtual Medical Records  
Judy Faulkner**Friday, October 11 --****Sunday, October 13****Upham Woods!****\*\*Saturday, October 12**Welcoming Congregation  
Introductions and Expectations  
Mary Mullen**Wednesday, October 16****7 PM**

Dunn's Marsh Association

**Saturday, October 19****9 AM -- 4PM**NCAC/CMD  
Small Societies Workshop  
At Prairie**\*\*Sunday, October 20****9 AM**

Choir Rehearsal

**10 AM**Welcoming Congregation  
What We Know and How We  
Learned It  
Mary Mullen**after program**

Women's Discussion Group

**Saturday, October 26****7 AM -- 7 PM**The Chicago Art Institute  
DEGAS: Beyond Impressionism  
Pat Watkins & Pat Cautley**Saturday, October 26 --****Sunday, October 27**Premier Performance:  
The Simple Gravity of Stars  
Elizabeth Alexander  
Stephen's Point**\*\*Sunday, October 27****9 AM**

Choir Rehearsal

**10 AM**Gender Socialization and  
Homophobia  
Mary Mullen

## *Prairie Playreaders*

The Prairie Playreaders is one of several social groups available to Prairie friends and members. Participation requires no commitment and neither expertise nor experience in theater.

We meet once a month at the home of a volunteer Prairie host, who chooses the play, assigns the parts, and provides refreshments. We read and discuss the play, and have a lovely social evening. We also have theater parties, and end the year with a fish-dinner.

Please join us this month on Saturday 21 at the home of Rosemary Dorney and Tim Fast.

September 21	Rosemary Dorney & Tim Fast	238-4382
October 12	Upham Woods	
November 2	Susan Hagstrom	238-4970
January 11	Rachel Siegfried & Mona Birong	271-2173
February 8	Aileen & Al Nettleton	238-6053
March 8	Paula Pachciarz & Carl Wacker	273-4806
April 12	Guys & Dolls	University Theatre
May 17	Pat Watkins	233-5795
June 13	Hagstrom or Prests	Fish Dinner