Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society  
2010 Whenona Drive  
Madison WI 53711-4843  
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Barbara & Bob Park  
5610 Hammersley Rd  
Madison, WI 53711

Sunday, October 6, 1996

PRAIRIE FIRE

...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

http://www.execpc.com/~prairie/

To subscribe, change address or cancel, call Arleigh at (608)273-9811, or e-mail birchler@students.wisc.edu

President's Column

Upham Woods is upon us this "leaf" weekend. You will find a map to the retreat as an insert in this issue. If you don't already know the way, PUT IT IN YOUR CAR NOW! There are 117 of us registered for cabins and dorms. Please be patient upon arrival. Prairie welcomes 10 people from the Stevens Point Fellowship who will join us. Be sure to get to know them and thank Dave and Marcia Johnson for extending this outreach. Al Nettleton is the Program Chair and welcomes willing activity leaders and people who would volunteer for brief child care responsibilities.

The Finance Committee began the 1997 Pledge Drive with a well-received kick-off lunch on Sunday, September 29. The results of this campaign will determine Prairie's health, services, and direction in the coming year. The Committee is more directly addressing us this year with a request to reconsider our past pledge levels and, if possible, to increase our financial giving. To assist us, they have provided information (see inside) on how our funds are spent and the proposed budget that will come before you at the Annual Meeting on November 17. I trust you will seriously consider this information and urge you to be involved in deciding how our funds are used.

—Rick Rauh

WSPR Open Meetings

WSPR is a group of UU women who meet two evenings a month for ritual, book discussion and to share their personal journeys. The women who participate in WSPR have taken the UU "Cakes for the Queen of Heaven" and/or the "Rise UP and Call Her Name" course(s) and are associated with one of the Madison UU societies. On Monday, October 7 and 21, WSPR invites women who are interested in participating in such a group to attend one of its meetings. The meetings are from 7:30 to 9 PM in the Lower Meeting House of the First UU Society, 900 University Bay Drive. The group is currently discussing Patricia Riley's book, A God Who looks Like Me. Please contact Diane Derouen at 238-3766 if you have questions regarding WSPR.

—Diane Derouen

Editor's Note

In ancient Sumer, as in most societies before the rise of Male-centric religions, BOTH women and men worshipped the Goddess. There are now, as there have always been, many committed MALE feminists.
UPCOMING PROGRAMS

October 11 - 13
Upham Woods!
No Service at Prairie

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? Hmmmmmmm

November 3
"Prairie Stir-Fry"
George Calden
We Prairie Unitarians are proud of the fact that we are not part of the "Silent Majority", but belong to the "Critical Minority". In this service George will present a stir-fry of provocative ideas, issues, images and anecdotes for discussion. With the help of music we will celebrate our ability to express ourselves freely on many subjects.

November 10
"Promise Keepers"
Doleta Chaprui
The men's organization "Promise Keepers" merits close security by those of us who believe people can be good without "God," women and men are entitled to equal rights, lesbians and gays are not sinners who need to repent, and unquestioning obedience to Biblical authority is an insult to human reason.

Thousands of men, genuinely seeking to better themselves, are attracted to Promise Keepers' euphoric atmosphere of male-to-male nurturing. I believe that members who obediently follow Promise Keepers' dictates are ripe for manipulation by leaders deeply connected to the political religious right.

My service November 10 will outline the strengths of Promise Keepers and explore aspects I find most disturbing.

November 17
"Annual Meeting"
All Members
Each fall we meet to plan the new year, and to conduct the business of the Prairie U.U. Society. Typically we have reports from the Board and from each committee. Any proposals for changes in our bylaws are acted on. The budget for the coming year is presented and voted on.

This is a good opportunity to consider the future of our group. Do we want to grow? Do we want to stay the same? Do we want to develop closer ties to other UU societies in our area? To other liberal religious groups? To Shaarei Shamayim?

Relationship Enhancement for Lesbian Couples
A six-week course led by Jonalu Johnstone of James Reeb and Judith Lyons of the Samaritan Counseling Center. Sessions begin at 8 PM on Monday, October 14 and course cost is $30. Call 250-0050 to register or obtain additional information.

—Denominational Affairs

Corporate Power and Citizen Power
The Madison Institute and the Madison Campus Ministry invite you to their seminar series on Corporate Power and Citizen Power: Striking a Balance. Nine AM to noon the second Saturday of each month at the State Historical Society auditorium. First Speaker October 12 will be David Korten MBA, PhD, Stanford University speaking on "When Corporations Rule the World." Dedicated to the memory of Ed Miller, Physics Professor, UW.

—Midge Miller, 238-7177
Religious Education

One month later, the RE gears and cogs seem to be working well together. Preschool now has two committed leaders: Melissa Pokorney and Heidi Bosch. The teachers/leaders have been working well with each other, with an extra-special presentation on T'ai Chi by father-daughter combo, Randy and Tara, for a combined 678 and High School Class. Everyone continues to compliment the room arrangements and improvements.

Oh, by the way, there was one very important name left out of the gratitude list last Prairie fire - Al Nettleton. Also a shout out thanks to several donations to the RE Program, the latest from Alice and Lee Bullen.

Forty-two children are currently registered for RE Classes this year, averaging 24 for the first four Sundays - that's 57% attendance! In a book called, "What Kids Need to Succeed," one of the thirty determining 'developmental assets' is Involvement with a Faith Community. It is suggested that kids attend religious programs or services at least once a month. If interested in learning more about "What Kids Need to Succeed," we are tentatively looking to schedule a parent opportunity to learn more. Please call.

The first RE "Service Sunday" will be October 20 (the week after Upham Woods) and the focus will be the UN's theme of eradication of poverty combined with our RE theme of acts of kindness. We will be creating a "hope chest" for children in poverty in Madison area. We will also be preparing to participate in the Children's Sabbath (nationally coordinated by the Children's Defense Fund and supported by the UUSC). I'm coordinating an interfaith service, hosted by Prairie. If interested in participating, please let me know. Parents will be getting more information in the mail.

The following week is the annual Fall Frolic overnight ... more will be revealed in the fullness of time.

There is a sign on the 9-12 classroom door (courtesy of student Erik Schroeder):

"WARNING!
OCCUPANTS ARE BEING SPIRITUAL.
DO NOT DISTURB!
(or at least knock)"

Kinda' says it all, doesn't it?

-P ~ -?l'U<U

Denominational Affairs

Are you a chalice lighter? Would you consider being one?

What is the chalice lighter program?
Every UU congregation in the Central Midwest District (CMD) is eligible to apply for a Chalice Lighter Award, which must be used only for: 1) initiating a new congregation, 2) acquiring meeting space for a congregation, 3) securing a minister, religious educator, or other professional staff, or 4) providing an outreach or public relations program. The congregation obtains an application/proposal form from the CMD office, completes and returns it. The CMD's Growth and Support Committee and the District Administrator review the proposals and no more than three times during the year will designate a Chalice Lighter Awardee.

Help Wanted
Channing-Murray is in need of a group coordinator. This is a paid ¼ time position with a commitment of at least one year.

—Rud Fray, 274-1855
Prairie is in need of a ¼ time administrator. This position will involve working at the meeting house ten hours a week.

—Rick Raczkowski, 271-3218

Small Society Workshop
Registration cost of $9.00. A great opportunity to join in discussion with folks from other congregations! Registration forms on the bulletin board. We need volunteers for home hospitality.

—Barb Park, 273-8775

Roommate Wanted
Available October 15. Please give me a call for further information.

—Jennifer Parker, 266-4504

Who is a Chalice Lighter?
Any friend or member of Prairie who contracts for one year to donate ten dollars ($10) to each of the three awards, when the award is announced. You will be contacted by (or encouraged to contact) Prairie's Chalice Lighter liaison, Nancy Graham, who will supply you with the registration form. Once you have registered, you will receive a Chalice Lighter insignia to wear on your name tag, and you will be contacted by the District Office and notified when an award has been made, and to whom and for what purpose.

Won't you consider being a Chalice Lighter?

Leland & Alice Bullen
Tel Hai Retirement Community
Box 190, Hillcrest Apt.
508, Beaver Dam Rd.,
Honey Brook, PA 19344.

Choir Rehearsal
Rehearsals are usually at 9 AM, before the Sunday program. Please contact me for specific dates.
Everyone is welcome to sing in the choir.

—Barb Park, 273-8775
Calendar

Saturday, October 12
9 AM – 4 PM
Corporate Power and Citizen Power
State Historical Society
Midge Miller, 238-7177

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

**Saturday, October 12
Welcoming Congregation
Introductions and Expectations
Mary Mullen
Prairie Playreaders
Aristophanes -- The Frogs
Arleigh Birchler

Sunday, October 13
NO SERVICE AT PRAIRIE

Saturday, October 12
9 AM – 4 PM
Corporate Power and Citizen Power
State Historical Society
Midge Miller, 238-7177

Sunday, October 13
1 – 5 PM
Madison Area Interfaith Network
Strategic Vision
5 – 8 PM
Madison Children's Choir

Monday, October 14
7:30 PM
Board Meeting
8 PM
Relationship Enhancement for Lesbian Couples
Jonalu Johnstone & Judith Lyons

Wednesday, October 16
7 PM
Dunn's Marsh Neighborhood Association

Friday, October 18
6:30 PM
Spanish Speaker's Potluck
Bill Shaffer
3718 Gregory St
233-8286

Saturday, October 19
9 AM – 4 PM
NCAC/CMD
Small Societies Workshop
At Prairie

Sunday, October 20
10 AM
Welcoming Congregation
What We Know and How We Learned It
Mary Mullen

after program
Women's Discussion Group
R.E.
Children's Sabbath

Monday, October 21
7:30 PM
WSPR
First Society
Lower Meeting House

Wednesday, October 23
7 PM
Madison Area Interfaith Network

Saturday, October 26
7 AM – 7 PM
The Chicago Art Institute
DEGAS: Beyond Impressionism
Pat Watkins & Pat Cautley

Sunday, October 26 -- Sunday, October 27
FALL FROLIC!
Overnight

Saturday, October 26 -- Sunday, October 27
Premier Performance:
The Simple Gravity of Stars
Elizabeth Alexander
Stephen's Point

**Sunday, October 27
10 AM
Gender Socialization and Homophobia
Mary Mullen

Monday, October 28
7:45 – 11:30 PM
Men's Homeless Shelter
Grace Episcopal Church

Tuesday, October 29
5 – 8 AM
Men's Homeless Shelter
Grace Episcopal Church
7 PM
Social Action Committee

Friday, November 1
5:30 PM
Fish Dinner Circle
Avenue Bar
1128 E. Washington Ave.
Pat Watkins, 233-5795

Saturday, November 2
7:30 PM
Prairie Playreaders
Susan Hagstrom
238-4970

**Sunday, November 3
10 AM
Prairie Stir-Fry
George Calden

Saturday, November 9
Rape Crisis Center
Chimera Program

**Sunday, November 10
10 AM
Promise Keepers
Doleta Chapru

Saturday, November 16
Rape Crisis Center
Chimera Program

**Sunday, November 17
10 AM
Annual Meeting
after program
Women's Discussion Group

Thursday, December 5
(not yet confirmed)
Chanukah
Shaarei Shamayim

Wednesday, December 6
(not yet confirmed)
Chanukah
Shaarei Shamayim
Directions to Upham Woods

From I-90/94:
Use exit 87. Turn left at the second stoplight onto 12/16 north. At hilltop turn right onto County A. County A becomes N beyond RR underpass.

From the EAST on WI-16 or 23:
Follow 16/23 through the city of Wisconsin Dells. Cross the Wisconsin River. Turn right onto 12/16 North. At hilltop turn right onto County A. County A becomes N beyond RR underpass. Upham Woods is on the right .6 mile.

Upham Woods
Emergency Phone #: (608) 254-6461

Note to TRUCKS:
The RR underpass on County A has a clearance of 12'2". Taller trucks should continue north on 12/16 and turn right (east) onto 60th street. Turn right onto County N. Upham Woods is on the left .3 mile.

PLEASE COPY THIS MAP OF DIRECTIONS FOR YOUR GROUP'S DRIVERS.
**UPHAM WOODS PROGRAM**

**October 11-13**

*Each fall* since 1970, Prairie members and friends have scheduled an annual retreat in October. This year's retreat will take place October 11 - 13 at Camp Upham Woods near Wisconsin Dells. The retreat provides an opportunity for members and friends to join together in canoeing, nature walks, crafts, discussion groups, games, dancing, singing, meditation—**you name it!** The highlights of the weekend are the Talent Show on Saturday night and the Sunday morning service featuring a "key log ceremony."

*Last year's* retreat was held November 10-12. Some of the activities available included a hike on Blackhawk Island, an expedition through the "Peanut Butter Mountain" obstacle course, apple carving, a visit to the Nature Center, poetry reading, a country line-dancing lesson, a long-range planning focus group, and slides of Japan. Our all-ages talent show on Saturday night was followed by an informal dance. Sunday's service was held indoors due to cold, snowy weather.

This year Mary Mullen will lead a workshop on the Welcoming Congregation.

*Activities*

- Blackhawk Island Nature Walk
- Guided photographic walk
- Peanut-Butter Mountain Obstacle Course
- Affinity Groups workshops
- Dave Johnson workshop on the war on drugs in the USA.
- Funniest Family videos
- Family variety show Saturday night
- The Welcoming Congregation — Introduction and Expectations
- Prairie Playreaders — Aristophanes, *THE FROGS*
- AND the activities you want to lead.
- We need several people to lead craft workshops for kids.

**Workshop On The War On Drugs**

1. Is there any point to a "War on Drugs" headed by a retired General?
2. Is a "Drug Free America" a realistic goal?
3. Are all drugs equally dangerous and should possessors and sellers of all drugs be considered to be equally punishable under the law?
4. Are your children less able than you were to handle drug hazards in their lives?
5. Do you believe that most kids will reach adulthood having never tried drugs?
6. Do you believe that drugs are addictive? All drugs? Some more than others?
7. Do you believe that taking drugs is usually caused by low self esteem, broken homes etc?
8. Do you think it is possible to take drugs just for the fun of it and not become addicted?
9. What is wrong, if anything, with our present drug policies?
10. Finally, do you level with your kids about your actual experiences and feelings about drugs?