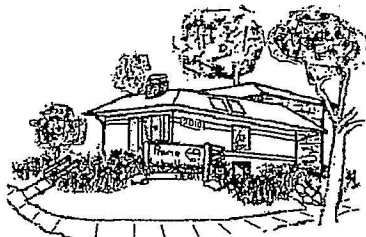


Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society  
2010 Whenona Drive  
Madison WI 53711-4843  
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

NON PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
MADISON, WI  
PERMIT NO. 1604



|||||  
Barbara & Bob Park  
5610 Hammersley Rd  
Madison, WI 53711

## 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*

Sunday, October 20, 1996

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

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

## President's Column

Election season. As inheritors of a liberal democratic society we have responsibilities. We will inform ourselves and then assist and vote for candidates whom we believe will best serve our collective interests. When November 6 dawns with our politics ascendant or in decline, our duties turn to preparing ourselves for Prairie's Fall Business Meeting on Sunday, November 17. To minimize scheduling conflicts and increase participation, this annual meeting will begin after a very-short program at 10 AM. You will make the choices leading to an approved 1997 budget and provide direction to your religious community. This Society cannot long survive without your active participation.

Orientation to Prairie. The Membership and Denominational Affairs Committees are still putting the finishing touches on a three-session orientation to Unitarian Universalism, Prairie Society, and personal religious histories. If you are new to Prairie, or want more

information, call Marilyn Peters at 838-8540. These are enjoyable evenings of activity and conversation. I hope everyone will consider joining the fun. Except for sex, what would you rather talk about than religion?

Upham Woods! It was a terrific year. Many of us make the retreat a priority because we feel our community is strengthened and centered through this experience. We are optimistic about Prairie Society when our programs can bring 115 people intimately together in such peace and goodwill. Thanks to all who participated in the Upham Woods retreat -- especially the program leaders, child care workers, and teen chaperone draftees. Thanks for the generous scholarship donations that made it possible for all to attend. And still net \$8! If you could not be with us this year, make it a priority in 1997.

*—Rick Ruecking*

## Submitting items to Prairie Fire

- a) e-mail, exact wording, well in advance;
  - b) clean, crisp, type-written piece of paper in an easily readable, standard font, such as *Arial* or *Times New Roman*, of at least 10, preferably 12 point size;
  - c) clearly stated, slowly spoken, phone message (273-9811) several days before Prairie Fire goes to the printer;
  - d) hastily scribbled note on a napkin giving a rough idea of what you think you might want said;
  - e) interrupt me while I'm talking to a visitor after the program on the Sunday P.F. goes to the printer.
- (a, b, or c probably have the best chance of working. Try e repeatedly to find out why some people think I'm rude.)

## Finance

Please send your pledge form to the Finance Committee by October 18. Save a phone call—return your pledge! We would encourage all Prairie friends receiving the Prairie Fire to contribute at least \$12 to cover costs. Thank you for your continued support of our Prairie community.

Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society: 1997 Pledge

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

My/Our Pledge for 1997 will be \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per \_\_\_\_\_ (month/year)

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We are contributing at least \$12 for the Prairie Fire Newsletter.

Return to: Aileen Nettleton, Finance Chair, 645 Sheldon Street, Madison WI 53711

-----

### Pledge Drive

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. The Board is proposing a budget of \$45,595 for 1997. Your pledge allows us to plan our finances for the coming year. The membership will vote on the final budget in November.

<b>Program</b>	<b>\$2,645</b>
<b>Religious Education</b>	<b>7,206</b>
<b>Denominational Affairs</b>	<b>6,409</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>2,370</b>
<b>Housing and Property</b>	<b>19,484</b>
<b>Administration</b>	<b>7,286</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$45,400</b>

### Thanks to Pizza Pledge Helpers!

Our Pledge Drive got off to a great start with the kick-off pizza lunch. Special thanks to our wonderful teenagers who set up tables, served food, and cleaned up!! They included Erin, Alana, Todd, Kevin, Kelly, Heidi, Tara, Emily, Alison, Ian, Erik, and Katrina. Thanks to Doleta for the lively lyrics and Orange for the \*pep talk.\*

—The Finance Committee: Aileen Nettleton, Nicky Bromberg, Jennifer Parker, Ken Skog, and Orange Schroeder.

### Do You Donate or Pledge to Wisconsin Public Radio?

The UUA has made a suggestion to congregations across the country that your Denominational Affairs Committee is very much in favor of and hoping to implement. We feel it should be voted on at the November Parish Meeting. Some early groundwork needs to be laid prior to the WPR pledge drive.

The UUA suggests that Society members pledge to WHAWERN as individuals only the minimum needed to continue their subscription to **AIRWAVES**. Any additional would be given to Prairie and earmarked for public radio. Your contribution remains tax-deductible. Prairie would contribute the money to WPR becoming an underwriter of a show and being acknowledged as such on the air. The number of acknowledgments would depend on the amount of money pledged to the Prairie fund.

What we are asking you to do at this time is to hold off on making more than the minimum pledge to WPR until after the Parish Meeting.

—Denominational Affairs

### YOU SAVE, WE SERVE!

The Social Action Committee has a BUCKY BOOK waiting for you. This is our biggest fund-raiser of the year to restore the Committee operating funds and continue our mission of community service. The super discount book is the best around at \$35. Ask a Committee member to show you how this small investment pays back in many ways or ORDER NOW from:

—Rob Steinkofer (221-9417)

Paula Pachciarz (273-4806)

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### 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 Chapru

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.

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. 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?

### November 24

"Thanks for the Generations"

Reid Miller

This is an inter-generational service of sharing stories of wonder, wit and wisdom.

Bring a precious object – an artifact – of your own and be ready to share your story of where it came from, what happened to it or what happened when you got it, how it was used, who gave it to you, or used it, and why it is precious to you.

Count on having fun!

### December 1

"Religious Dissidents and Politics in Nineteenth Century Germany"

Hans Adler

The first of two talks on the German Free-Thinker's movement. Next week Max Gaebler will discuss "The Second Reformation: The German Free-Thinkers".

## UPHAM WOODS REPORTER

Prairie Society had a very wonderful weekend at Camp Upham Woods. The weather was super for more than 115 people who participated in the activities. The "leaf weekend" beauty, happy faces of serene campers, helpfulness of Upham Woods staff, and the excellence and variety of programs exceeded our expectations. It must have been good when the participants from the Stevens Point Fellowship asked for an invitation back. The registrar told the Board that almost \$200 was donated by campers for scholarships to assure everyone who made plans to attend was provided a place. We appreciate that everyone contributed toward their total cost. Prairie made a profit, too! Our net is between \$8-40 dollars depending upon final payments.

Al Nettleton organized an excellent and varied program. Many hands make light work. Appreciation to those who agreed to leadership and voluntary activities from workshops to child care. Special thanks to the performers and Rachel Long for directing the World's Greatest Variety Show and to Upham Woods staff for the programs they lead, Barbara Chatterton and Peter Miche lead a touching Sunday service at the fire circle facing the river under a cloudless blue and yellow canopy. We will seek that chalk-cratered island where bears still dance under a moonlit sky. (Note to Bill Bennett: our family values are very good, thank-you.)

—Rick Ruecking

*"The world is not a prison house, but a kind of spiritual kindergarten where millions of bewildered infants are trying to spell 'God' with the wrong blocks — Edwin Arlington Robinson*

## Calendar

### Friday, October 25

7:15 PM

Shaarei Shamayim

### Saturday, October 26

9:30 AM

Shaarei Shamayim

7 AM -- 7 PM

The Chicago Art Institute  
DEGAS: Beyond Impressionism  
Pat Watkins & Pat Cautley

### Saturday, 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

9:30 AM

Shaarei Shamayim

7:30 PM

Prairie Playreaders  
Susan Hagstrom  
238-4970

### \*\*Sunday, November 3

10 AM

Prairie Stir-Fry  
George Calden

### Saturday, November 9

6 -- 9 PM

Rape Crisis Center  
Chimera Program

### \*\*Sunday, November 10

10 AM

Promise Keepers  
Doleta Chapru

### Friday, November 15

6:30 PM

Spanish Speakers' Potluck  
Prudence Barber  
1050 Jenifer St  
251-0852

7:15 PM

Shaarei Shamayim

### Saturday, November 16

6 -- 9 PM

Rape Crisis Center  
Chimera Program

6:30 PM

Salad Bar Movie  
Beatrice Wright  
5418 Old Middleton Rd #103  
233-2464

### \*\*Sunday, November 17

10 AM

Annual Meeting

after program

Women's Discussion Group

### Friday, November 22

7:15 PM

Shaarei Shamayim

### Saturday, November 23

9:30 AM

Shaarei Shamayim

### \*\*Sunday, November 24

10 AM

Thanksgiving Intergenerational  
Reed Miller

### \*\*Sunday, December 1

10 AM

Religious Dissidents and Politics  
in Nineteenth Century Germany  
Hans Adler

### \*\*Sunday, December 8

10 AM

The Second Reformation:  
The German Free-Thinkers  
Max Gaebler

### Sunday, November 17

### Annual Meeting -- Agenda

- 1) Minutes of Spring Meeting
- 2) Committee Reports
- 3) Treasurer's Report
- 4) Presentation, Discussion, & Decision -- 1997 Budget
- 5) Underwriting Wisc. Public Radio programming
- 6) Other Business

—Rick Ruecking

### Small Society Conference

Twenty-three people gathered at Prairie last Saturday for the CMD's Small Society Conference. Arleigh facilitated a workshop on "Assimilating New Members." Thanks to Barb Park and Anne Urbanski for organizing, Nancy Graham for ordering delicious lunches, and to Barb Park and Rachel Siegfried for providing home hospitality.

—Denominational Affairs