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# 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. *From Prairie's Bond Of Union*

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

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

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Thanks to all who attended the Annual Meeting on Sunday. I counted 37 people (unofficially) which is a good turn out. In addition to affirming the new slate of officers, Pat Cautley, Phoenix Wardell and Marilyn Peters were elected to the new Committee-on-committees. Paula Pachiarz will be the carry-over member.

The problem of adequate lighting on the outside stairs and ramp was discussed. Several believe it is a safety hazard. The members present voted to make lighting in these areas a high priority this coming year. Funds will be taken from the Capitol Reserve to complete the project.

Interviews have been completed in preparation for hiring a new Office Administrator. Several really excellent candidates were interviewed. It will be a difficult decision to pick the one best suited to Prairie's needs. It was a real pleasure to talk with so many interesting and competent people. The attraction of the job seems to be the limited and flexible hours as well as the challenges. The new administrator should be in place by the end of this month. Arleigh Bircheler and John-Brian Paprock deserve thanks for the continued publication of the Prairie Fire during this transition period.

Speaking of thanks, many thanks go to the outgoing Board members: Jan Howe, Secretary; Rick Owens, Housing and Property; Marilyn Peters, Membership; Bob Reuschlein, Program; and Arleigh Bircheler, Long Range Planning. A special thanks to Rick Ruecking for his long service as President (and congratulations to him and Marilyn Peters on their recent marriage).

A new computer and printer has been proudly installed in the office. The office door can now be locked. This should add to the building's security. Thanks to Al Nettleton on both fronts. He will be helping all of us learn our new machine. The society will soon be connected by e-mail through Dane-Net. Those that have access to e-mail can submit items for the Prairie Fire electronically. Some of were spoiled by Arleigh in this arena!

Yours in Faith,

*Barbara Park*

## WHAT'S INSIDE THE FIRE?

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NEXT FIRE DEADLINE: Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup> 1997 ~ ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MAY 1st-30<sup>th</sup> 1997

## OUR SOCIETY

### UPHAM WOODS NOTES

Even as the cold weather is finally loosening its grip, we're already anticipating and planning for the Upham Woods program in the fall. October 10-12 are the tentative dates for this event. Gail Coover and Mark Wehrly will be handling the registration. Rick Owens and Amy Wilcox will be organizing the variety show. (Start working up your acts!) Others have offered to help, but we still need a program coordinator. If you are interested in organizing the program schedule, please contact Paul Pachciarz at 273-4806. This is an important and much appreciated job.

(P. P.)

### LAY MINISTERS '97-'98!

Here are the recommended lay ministers for the upcoming program year. These were recommended by the 1997 Committee-on-committees and were approved at the Annual Meeting, April 13<sup>th</sup>.

GAIL COOVER

Interethnic Communication and Identity

CINDY HAQ

Health and Justice

PHOEBE ROSEBEAR

When Your Heart Opens

BARBARA GOLDEN

Meeting Prairie's Neighbors: Educational Issues in Madison

Thanks for all your ideas and work. (N. S.)

- *Nancy Schraufnagel*

### WHA UNDERWRITING

At the fall Parish Meeting, the congregation unanimously approved the concept of underwriting, to the extent possible, the Sunday afternoon radio show "To The Best of Our Knowledge." Please send your contribution to Prairie, indicating WHA in the check memo space. When we have sufficient funds for several announcements, Prairie will underwrite the air time. (P. W)

*The great thing in this world is not so much where we stand as in what direction we are moving.*

*Oliver Wendell Holmes*

OTHER STUFF

### INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY

Susan Crow from the National Interfaith Hospitality Network will be in Madison to discuss how congregations, on a rotating basis, provide overnight accommodations and meals for homeless families. Monday evening, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm at the First United Methodist Church, 203 Wisconsin Avenue. For more information: Lester Strom, Transitional Housing 250-0380

### ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Madison Urban Ministry welcomes, from Chicago, The Community Renewal Chorus and All God's Children, choruses with a message of urban renewal and hope. Saturday, April 26 at 7:00pm at Bethel Lutheran Church, 312 Wisconsin Avenue (Adults \$10, Children \$5 - a Madison Urban Ministry Benefit Concert) For more information contact MUM at 256-0906.

### OUR EARTH FAMILY

An Interfaith Peace and Ecology Festival will be held just down the street from Prairie at the Arboretum 1206 Seminole Highway, Sunday, April 27 from 1pm to 5pm. Activities begin at 1pm. An interfaith welcome at 2:30pm. Trail chipping at 3pm. Refreshments at 4:30pm.

For more information contact Christine Diebels at 839-5954

### DEAD SEA SCROLLS

50 years ago the first of the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. An illustrated lecture "The Dead Sea Scrolls: Reassessing the Excavations of Qumran" will be presented by distinguished archeologist, Prof. Jodi Magness of Tufts University. Wednesday May 7 at 7:30pm at 2080 Grainger Hall (Brooks St. and University Ave.) For more information: Dr. Keith Schoville 262-3204 or e-mail: [knschovi@facstaff.wisc.edu](mailto:knschovi@facstaff.wisc.edu)

May 11 - Madison Area Literacy Council Picnic

May 16 - Briarpatch 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party

More information next Prairie Fire

Also, in next Fire, A UU Summer preview

# Upcoming Programs

April 20

## This Little Light of Mine: Individual and Community Strategies Regarding Homophobia

Expect to recap Mary's lay ministry on the Welcoming Community. Discuss how your attitudes and knowledge have changed (or have not) - and hear how others have been impacted by this series or over their lifetime. What can we do to prevent hate-group activities and damage in our community? What is our next step at Prairie and in the Madison area and beyond?

Lay Minister - Mary Mullen

April 27

## Being Digital Today

This will be the final program of the Lay Ministry on Technology.

Lay Minister - Al Nettleton

May 4

## Race in the 90s: Can't We All Just Get Along on T.V.?

The program is about the role of the media, especially television, in maintaining racism.

Lay Minister - Gail Coover

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

April 20 Service Sunday (combined classes)

A special Earth Day session with special guest, Christine Diebels Coordinator for Our Earth Family Festival

April 27 Regular RE Classes

May 4 "Spirit Circle"

(combined classes for opening) For the last of the year, we will wrap up our themes to take with us: Meditation and Acts of Kindness

May 11 Last RE Classes

"LAST BLAST" PICNIC/POT-LUCK  
Following classes @ Marlboro Park

May 18 Annual Transitions Intergenerational

We will honor "8" Eighth Graders! and this year's RE Teachers!

May 19 - Sept. 6 SUMMER BREAK

It's not over 'til it's over. Evaluations will be distributed to get your ideas about this year and the next. Spring Fling was fun with almost 20 fine youth on a snowy April night. Enough said.

*John-Brian Paprock, DRE*

*Shaarei Shamayim*

Community Passover Seder

Apr. 26 (Saturday) 5:00-9:00 PM

Prairie members are invited to a pot-luck Seder meal. If you wish to attend, please send reservation forms to Judith Burstyn, 830 Ottawa Trail, Madison WI 53711 by April 24. It is important to know how many to expect.

There is a small cost to cover the ritual food for the Seder. Please note that late reservations will be subject to additional cost. \$3.50 per person by April 24<sup>th</sup>; \$4.50 per person after April 24<sup>th</sup> (children under 6 are free).

Please bring a veggie/dairy Kosher for Passover dish to pass. No bread, flour, pasta, beans, rice, corn or other grain.

For more information regarding the suitability of a dish for Passover, or about the Seder, or to register, please call Judith Burstyn 238-5545

Shavuot and the all night study session is still in planning for June 10<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday.

*B'Shalom,*

*Judith*

## PRAIRIE



## CALENDAR

ALL SUNDAY SERVICES ARE AT 10 AM

Choir Rehearsal Every Sunday through May 11 at 9 AM

SUNDAY 4/20

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE:  
INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY  
STRATEGIES REGARDING  
HOMOPHOBIA

Mary Mullen - Lay Minister

## Religious Education

SERVICE SUNDAY - COMBINED CLASSES

CHRISTINE DIEBELS, SPECIAL GUEST

6pm - Salad-Video @ Pat Cautley's

4805 Regent Street (please call in advance)

WEDNESDAY 4/23

Spanish Speakers Potluck

Kate - 221-2168

SATURDAY 4/26

Shaarei Shamayim

COMMUNITY PASSOVER SEDER

5pm - 9pm (see page 3)

SUNDAY 4/27

BEING DIGITAL TODAY

Al Nettleton - Lay Minister

SUNDAY 5/4

RACE IN THE 90s: CAN'T WE  
ALL JUST GET ALONG ON T.V.?

Gail Coover - Lay Minister

## Religious Education

"SPIRIT CIRCLE" COMBINED CLASSES FOR OPENING

SUNDAY 5/11

## MOTHER'S DAY

Religious Education

"LAST TIME" PICNIC/POTLUCK FOLLOWING  
CLASSES AT MARLBORO PARK (WEATHER PERMITTING)

SUNDAY 5/18

ANNUAL TRANSITIONS

INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE