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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*

Thursday, May 22, 1997

The Prairie Fire is the newsletter of Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society and is published semi-monthly Sept. through May; monthly June through Aug. e-mail version available

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

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Spring is coming slowly with the cool spring persisting, but the meeting house was a place of warmth and fellowship last weekend. The Karaoke Party, organized by Erin Bosch, was lively and entertaining, whether you were singing or just observing. Participants ranged from kids to grandparents. On Sunday, the transition service for our 8th graders continued the warm spirit. This was one of the best programs of it's type that I have ever attended. (As a proud parent, I may be a bit biased.) Randy Converse, Reid Miller, and Erin Bosch did much of the planning. The special feeling, however, emanated from the four 8th graders, Tara Converse, Alana Pryor-Ackerman, Alison Owens, and Ian Park. The students in the current Middle School Group have a close bond that infected all of us. Congratulations!

As you may recall, the Prairie Fire is published with less regularity during the Summer months. The Board Decided that we will publish two newsletters in June and August and one in July , with the due date for articles being the 2nd Sunday in July in order to avoid the holiday weekend. This should help us keep in better touch as we pursue different interests during the Summer months. Remember to check the calendar of events for the specifics of Sunday gatherings as they will not always be at the church building.

Have a safe and refreshing Summer.

Barbara Park

WHAT'S INSIDE THE FIRE?

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NEXT FIRE DEADLINE: Monday, June 2, 1997 ~ ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR June 7th-June 27th, 1997

OUR SOCIETY

THANK YOU

A big thank you to Prairie members who pledged their support in the recent Big Brothers/Big Sisters bowling tournament. All moneys go toward agency operating expenses. In addition, thanks to your support I was able to raise a total of \$160, the amount necessary for my little sister to receive some very cool prizes. I wish you could have seen Chamieka's face when she got them. I hope to bring her to Prairie sometime so you can meet her.--Fran Zell

ATTENTION CHOIR MEMBERS

There will be no rehearsals over the summer. Choir members and their families are invited to a picnic at Barb and Bob Park's house (5610 Hammersley Rd.) on Saturday, June 14th at 5:00. Bring a salad or dessert to pass and we will provide the brats, hotdogs and veggie burgers. Come if you sang with the choir anytime during the year, not just at the end. For directions or questions, call us at 273-8775.

SOFTBALL UPDATE

A couple months ago we asked if any Prairie people would like to play softball in a laid-back church league on Sunday afternoons. We've had good response, mostly families, but we could still use more players. Ages middle school to adult are eligible. The league organizers haven't had a meeting yet, (this thing is loosely run, apparently) but the games should start sometime in June. We'll be contacting those who have already expressed interest. For more info, call Erin Bosch or Rick Owens.

ADMINISTRATOR HOURS

My set office hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 9am through 11am. I will be in the office other hours, but they will vary. You can always reach me at home by phone 250-6512 or Email me at this address.

< Heibercobb@mailbag.com >. When I am needed to do the Service Program I would appreciate getting the info by Wednesday evening. I look forward to meeting you all and encourage you to give me any feedback about the tasks that I do. This is your Society and I intend to honor that. Kate

PRAIRIE AUCTIONEERS

Watch the WHA-TV Auction on Wednesday, May 28th at 8:00 to see two Prairie auctioneers: Rick Owens and Orange Schroeder. Call in and bid.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Upham Woods Retreat is scheduled for October 10, 11, 12, 1997.

Meadville/Lombard Winter Institute 1998 set for Feb.12-15, 1998. Multiple Intelligences in a Church Setting: Implications for Ministry and Education

DICK & JULIE BONSER

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SERVICE AUCTION EXTENDED?

I just thought of a service that I would like to purchase and am hoping there is someone in Prairie who would like to offer it. My father-in-law comes to visit us every Summer and several times when we've been around town he has noticed people fishing. I think he would like to go fishing, but we don't fish. We don't have the equipment and wouldn't know how to use it if we rented it. Are there any fisherpeople in Prairie who would be willing to take Grandpa fishing, just off Tenney pier or somewhere like that, not far afield? I would be glad to pay some agreed-upon hourly rate. Grandpa's a nice old guy. Please call Erin Bosch at 238-6285.

SPIRITUAL & RELIGIOUS RESOURCE GUIDE

Once again, John Brian Paprock has compiled and edited the most inclusive guide to area spiritual and religious resources. This updated version, in stores this week, has over 1000 changes, over 2000 listings, email, websites and more. For more info: Living Gold P.O. Box 5207, Madison, WI 53705.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

May 25

Memorial Day Weekend Picnic

Potluck Picnic at Carl & Marianne Thompsons: 3418 Old Stage Road at 12 noon. TO GET THERE: take Park Street south (which becomes Hwy 14 south of the Beltline); turn left on Old Stage Road (it is the first left after County Trunk A); drive about 5.5 miles on Old Stage; RED RIBBONS on mailbox will be opposite the Thompson driveway. Their house is not visible from Old Stage Road.

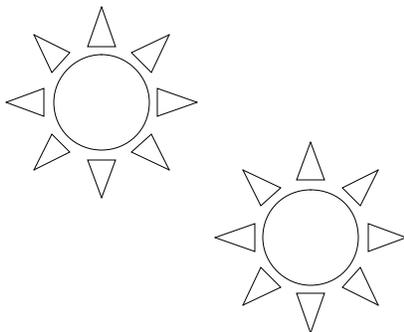
June 1

The Sensuality of Nature

A series of meditations on senses and elements uniting in experience. It will be Prairie's annual outdoor service.

Service Leader - Anne Pryor

DIRECTIONS: If walking is easy for you, please park in the lot across the street from the Picnic Point entrance (on the side of the road away from the lake). Walk inside the Picnic Point entrance, then walk roughly perpendicular to the main path toward the large sign. The site is roughly 125 paces past the sign. Go up a slight grade on the leftmost dirt path into the woods. We will meet in a clearing in the woods. Assistance will be available for those needing help. If you wish, bring something to sit on.



June 8

Personal Strategies for Emotional Healing

A panel of Prairie members will discuss internal strategies and external resources that aided their emotional healing after life traumas.

Coordinated by Doleta Chapru

Prior to the service please think about your friends in Prairie and be prepared to write down the name of someone in the congregation who has maintained a zest for life despite traumatic events or circumstances. You may be asked the secrets of your own resilience.

Emotional trauma can trigger a zest for living, renewed commitment to family, a healthy passion for excellence and improvement in our own emotional state. It can also sabotage our immune systems and fling us into depression. If painful enough, it can cause us to self-medicate or activity-addict ourselves into oblivion or even escape life altogether.

June 15 and June 22

The Images We Live With

Rosemarie and Nikki Bromberg will present a two part series on Images - from the biblical admonition against "craven images" to the images in the mass media that surround us daily and the images we carry within us from childhood. Slides will be used to make their point. Watch for more in the next Prairie Fire.

June 29

An Indian Experience

Guest speaker Joanne Seckman, who is part Osage Sioux and a member of the Southwest Indian Spiritual Center, has taught every grade from kinder-garten through college. She had a near-death experience in 1985. Her program will focus on why Indians call us "Wasichu" or blind.

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

SUNDAY 5/25

Memorial Day Weekend Picnic
Noon @ Carl & Marianne Thompson's

SUNDAY 6/1

The Sensuality of Nature
At Picnic Point

SUNDAY 6/8

Personal Strategies for Emotional Healing

FRIDAY 6/13

Playreader's Annual Fish Dinner
5:30pm Ivy Inn, 2355 University Ave. Call
Pat W. at 233-5795 no later than noon on
Wed., 6/11 for reservations. Playreading
and dessert will follow at 7:30 pm at Rachel
Siegfried's, 5209 Tolman Terrace.

PRAIRIE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

With the annual transitions program where our youth are honored and our teachers recognized, the Religious Education year comes to a close. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the members of the RE Committee and those that have just joined. Over this past year, the efforts of Carl Wacker, Dean Schroeder, Kathy Converse and Erin Bosch have contributed to a successful RE year. Carl, Dean and Kathy are all continuing in their service. They are being joined by Anne Pryor (former DRE at Prairie), Kerry Beheler-Amass and Barbara Golden.

By June 8th childcare for the Summer will be in place. Thank you Anne and PYGs for coordinating.

The 1997-1998 Religious Education year will begin September 7th. The theme for next year's RE is Peace and Justice. There is a parallel adult curriculum of six sessions to "In Our Hands", youth religious education.

With this parallel program, the whole church could be involved!

SUNDAY 6/15

The Images We Live With (Part 1)

MONDAY 6/16

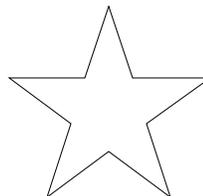
Spanish Speakers Meeting/Potluck
7pm

SUNDAY 6/22

The Images We Live With (Part 2)

SUNDAY 6/29

An Indian Experience



RE continued

Other adult classes are in the plans, including field testing a six week UUA adult program: "Parents as Spiritual Guides". Initial response to this has been favorable. It will probably be scheduled successive weeks starting in September.

In case you didn't catch the names of those that served our youth in the capacity of teacher: Preschool: Melissa Pokorney, Heidi Bosch; K-1-2: Rachel Long, Amy Wilcox, Paula Pachciarz; 3-4-5: Barbara Rames, Ned Frey, Kerry Beheler-Amass; 6-7-8: Randy Converse, Reid Miller; High School: KK Anderson. (applause, applause)

The dog days of Summer will soon be upon us. May your Summer be filled with growth as trees growing to the source of light! Shalom Eliakim!
John-Brian, DRE