

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*
June 20, 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

We are in the process of re-negotiation of our mortgage loan with the bank, an every three year exercise. Three years ago, we benefited from a drop in interest rates and folded the window replacement into our loan with no increase in payment. This year interest rates have not dropped further, but the Housing and Property Committee tells us that it is time to replace our aging boiler. We will be folding that into the new mortgage. Fortunately, our Veach loan will be complete at the end of this year.

"What in the world is a Veach loan?" you might ask. That gets into some Prairie history. When we first purchased the building about 18 years ago, there was a special program through which money was available at low interest rates for the purchase of church buildings. This was made possible through an endowment fund known as the Veach fund and was administered by a UU church in New York. The fund was self-sustaining in that it loaned money which was ultimately repaid. My understanding is that since that time, management of the fund was taken over by the UUA. This is the mortgage that we are about to pay off. Later, when Prairie extensively remodeled the building, we took out a conventional mortgage through a local bank. It is this loan that is re-negotiated every three years. Naturally, including replacement of the boiler will raise our payment on this loan, but fortunately not as much as we have been paying all along to the Veach fund, so it will not have a major impact on our budget for 1998. It will be a bit of a stretch for the remainder of 1997, but can easily be covered by our reserves in savings. At least we will have a warm winter! Don't worry about the project to light the sidewalk at night. That is not being pushed aside.

Money for that will also be included and the Housing and Property Committee say it will be done this summer.

Thank Karen Gross, Rick Owens, Al Nettleton and Barbara Rames for all their hard work, as well as Rob Steinhofer for getting the bids for the boiler. Also thanks to Judy and Ken Skog for their work with the bank. Once again, many hands go into making Prairie work as an organization!



PLEDGES OVER SUMMER

Thanks to those of you who have been contributing your pledges regularly; we are doing fine keeping up with our financial obligations. Please remember to continue sending your contribution during the summer. Send checks to Judy Skog, treasurer, 626 Orchard Drive, Madison, WI 53711 or bring them to Prairie.

WHAT'S INSIDE THE PRAIRIE FIRE?

Our Society - P2; Upcoming Programs - P3; Shaarei Shamayim - P3; Calendar - P4

Next *FIRE* deadline is Sunday July 13.

OUR SOCIETY

PRAIRIE SEEKS RELIGIOUS ED. DIRECTOR

Many thanks to John Brian Paprock for his past two years of service to the Prairie community as the Director of Religious Education. John Brian brought some real strengths to the position and those contributions, as well as his creativity and enthusiasm, will be missed. Best wishes to him in his future endeavors!

Because of John Brian's resignation, the Re Committee is instituting a search for a new DRE. The position is for an average of 10 hours per week and runs from August through May each year. Qualifications include experience working with children, parents and other adults; knowledge or interest in UU religious education, and leadership experience. Interested individuals should contact Anne Pryor, RE Chair, 244-7099 for further information, or Kate Heiber-Cobb, Prairie Administrator, 271-8218, for a written job description and application. The application deadline is June 30.

SUMMER CHILDCARE

Childcare will be available during the summer for children in grades 3 and younger. Members of the Prairie Youth Group will be there each Sunday to be with the younger children. Parents of children older than grade 3 will be responsible for them during the services. Those older kids are welcome to also play downstairs, but they need to report to parents if they're going to leave for the park and they need to be sure to clean up after themselves at the end of the service.

The PYGS Childcare Schedule

June 8 Alison Owens & Emily Owens
June 15 Ian Park & Katrina Schroeder
June 22 Katrina Schroeder & Tara Converse
June 29 Erica Skog
July 13 Alison Owens & Katrina Schroeder
July 20 Emily Owens & Alana Pryor Ackerman
Aug 3 Tara Converse & Emily Owens
Aug 10 Ian Park & Alana Pryor Ackerman
Aug 17 Ian Park & Tara Converse
Aug 24 Alison Owens & Alana Pryor Ackerman

SPANISH SPEAKERS POTLUCK

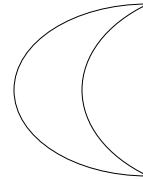
Spanish -speakers' potluck will meet next Monday Eve, July 28th, at the home of Amy Schulz, 2304 So. Syene Rd. Bring a dish to pass if you can. But if you can't, come anyway - we always have plenty of food! We have many different levels of expertise, so don't worry about being "fluent". Usually we manage 1-1/2 hours of Spanish before we degenerate into English. For more info, or directions call 273-2639.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS

Those of you who voted in the Parish Poll on April 6th may like to know that the three resolutions which garnered the most votes worldwide were: 1) Supporting the United Nations, 2) Health Care Reform, and 3) Promoting Religious Tolerance by Supporting Interfaith Tolerance. The Prairie Board, on June 9th, voted #1 and 3 as the choices our delegates should give priority to. Nancy Graham and Pat Watkins are your delegates to the General Assembly in Phoenix on June 19-24. We hope to return to Madison with lots of good information for you.

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

Your Denominational Affairs Committee will be hard at work for you during the 1997/98 church year. Many thanks to Prairie members who volunteered to serve on the committee: Ruth Calden, Mary Mullen, Susan Prest, Nancy Schaufnagel, Rachel Siegfried, and Pat Watkins (Chair).



CENTRAL MIDWEST DISTRICT MEETING

The Central Midwest District will hold its 1998 Annual Meeting on April 24-26 here in Madison. Save the dates and plan to attend and/or to provide home hospitality. This will be a wonderful opportunity to tune in and to be a part of the greater denomination.

SALAD BAR FILM GROUP MEETS JUNE 28

The Salad Bar Film group meets Saturday evening, June 28th at 6pm at the home of Beatrice Wright, 5418 Old Middleton Road. Please call Rosemary Dorney, 238-4382, with any questions. Bring a salad to share, and please be prompt: FILM WILL BEGIN AT 7PM!

HOMELESS SHELTER VOLUNTEERS

NEEDED

A little of your time goes a long way providing comfort to the homeless in Madison. Sign up for a shelter shift on the fourth Monday night (7:30-10:30pm) or Tuesday morning (5-8am). Complete and simple instructions provided and volunteers always work in a group with a shelter

supervisor. Contact Rob Steinhofer (222-9417). Next

shifts are June 23rd and 24th.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

June 22

The Images We Live With

Part Two

Rosemarie Lester and Nikki Bromberg will present the second part of their series on Images-from 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. **Don't forget to bring slides of the images you would like to share.**

June 29

An Indian Experience

Guest speaker Joanne Seckman is part Osage Sioux and a member of the Southwest Indian Spiritual Center. Joanne was raised as a Catholic, but was exposed to both cultures. Her program will focus on why Indians call us "Wasichu", meaning "white eyes" or "blind", in the sense that linear thinking can make us blind to spiritual things that they see as important.

July 6

Picnic Potluck

There will be no Sunday morning program, but there will be a picnic potluck at Shirley Grindrod's home (5235 Harbor Ct., Madison) at 2:30pm. and last as late as you want. Bring a dish to pass, and bring a swimsuit if you wish to swim in Lake Mendota. A grill will be available. If the weather is bad, we will picnic on the deck, so come anyway!

July 13

What Drum Do You March To?

What makes a life well lived? You are invited along with the Prairie Social Action Committee members to share your story of who or what inspires your life. Tell a tale, ballad, poem or other memory of the hero or heroine **in you.** Talk with Rob Steinhofer (221-9417) or Paula Pachiatz (273-4806) for more information or special arrangements for your participation.

July 20

A Practical Experience in Conflict Transformation

This program will introduce you to a creative group listening format for transforming conflicts within communities. We will practice the "Dialogue" method, which includes listening deeply to each other on a topic, challenging our assumptions, and eliminating traditional arguments and discussions. "Dialogue" has been shown to lead to increased understanding of each other, more creative solutions, and increased respect. Guest speaker Jody Whelden is a Certified Professional Counselor, co-founder of "The Learning Styles Group", and a member of First UU Society.

July 27

**Joint Program at Sauk City
Freethinkers' Society, followed by potluck.**
More details to follow.

Shaarei Shamayim

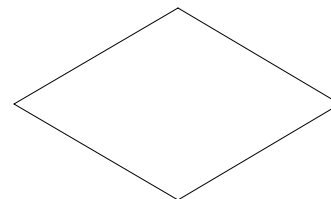
June 28 - Shabbat morning "Singin' Sabbath" service. 9:30am

July 11 - Welcoming Shabbat and Vegetarian Potluck at the home of Stephen and Lillian Abrams, 208 Farley Ave., 238-6902, 7pm. Please RSVP by July 8th so they can rent chairs.

July 19 - Shabbat morning "Talking Torah" service. 9:30am.

July 25 - Shabbat evening service. 7:15pm.

July 26 - Learning the Chants and Song of Shabbat. 10am. Location to be announced.



PRAIRIE CALENDAR

SUNDAY JUNE 22

The Images We Live With
Part Two

Women's Group Meeting

THURSDAY JUNE 26

Program Committee Meeting
7:30pm at Prairie

SATURDAY JUNE 28

Salad Bar Film Group
6pm; 5418 Old Middleton
Rd.

SUNDAY JUNE 29

An Indian Experience

SUNDAY JULY 6

Potluck Picnic at Shirley
Grindrod's. 2:30PM; 5235
Harbor Ct., Madison

SUNDAY JULY 13

What Drum Do You March
To?

SUNDAY JULY 20

A Practical Experience In
Conflict Transformation

SUNDAY JULY 27

Joint Program at Sauk City
Freethinkers' Society
Followed by Potluck Picnic

MONDAY JULY 28

Spanish Speakers' Potluck
7pm at 2304 So. Syene Rd.

SATURDAY AUGUST 30

Playreaders Organizing
Meeting & Potluck Lunch.
Pat Watkins, 230 N. Meadow
Lane. Call 233-5795