



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*
Tuesday, July 15, 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/>

President: Barb Park (608) 273-8775 bpark1@facstaff.wisc.edu
heibercobb@mailbag.com

Editor: Kate Heiber-Cobb (608) 250-6512

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

Social Justice Issues: At the 1996 General Assembly in Indianapolis, delegates approved changes in the process by which the U.U.A. adopts positions on social justice issues. The former two-year "General Resolution" process (resulting in three resolutions to be worked on for the year preceding the next GA), has been replaced by a single "Statement of Conscience", to be studied and acted upon for three years. The Statement of Conscience selected at the 1997 General Assembly is entitled "Building Religious Tolerance through Interfaith Cooperation." In the next Prairie Fire, I hope to provide some suggestions on ways Prairie can get involved in the implementation of this.

Give Yourself A Pat On the Back: Did you read your July/August U.U. World - yet? If so, you saw that Prairie alone, among Madison U.U.'s) received a "Banner Society Award", given to congregations in which at least 10% of the membership are members of U.U.S.C. And, be sure to ask Nancy or Pat why their nametags at GA were among the very few to possess four ribbons.

WHAT'S INSIDE THE PRAIRIE FIRE?

Our Society - P2&3; BOD/Committee Reports - P3; Upcoming Programs/Calendar - P4.

A Serendipitous Meeting with Malcom Williamson (whom many of you will remember from Prairie), took place at General Assembly, where he was the delegate from the U.U. Society of San Diego. He and Danielle have married and they send greetings to all Prairie-ites. You can reach them at 6321 Mt. Ainsworth Court, San Diego 92111-3220. Phone (619) 576-2569 (H) and 622 -5421 (W), or Email: MALCOM @CCRWEST.ORG ...Also spent time with former Prairie-ite Lilo Koehl, who is recuperating very nicely from her by-pass surgery, and who also sends greetings to all who know her. She can be reached at: 1030 Scott Dr. #29C, Prescott, AZ 86301-1754; Phone (520)445-3254.

Thr U.U. Women's Heritage Society is a membership organization (\$25 reg.; \$10 Student/Senior) whose mission is to recover and to celebrate / deseminatate the history and contributions of U.U. women. If this is of interest to you, please take one of their brochures from the pamphlet rack at the back of the main meeting room.

OUR SOCIETY

Keeping Up With the Board

Years ago I was on the Prairie Board. I found I was in the know about all the breaking news. Then I was off - and all of a sudden I couldn't answer anybody's questions.

The Board wants to remedy this and has asked me, the secretary, to write a brief note about important items that have come to us. So here are some things you should know from the June 9th and July 14th meetings.

Many of you will remember **Sam Lin**, the chinese scholar who spoke at Prairie and later came to tell us that he had inoperable cancer. After he died, Prairie folk contributed \$110 to a memorial fund. Recently, we sent this memorial to his family to use for his daughter's education.

A **doorbell** has been installed at Prairie for you to use in case you seek entrance and there is a person inside who could let you in.

Our **boiler** is in trouble - a new one is a double digit item - and our **M&I Bank loan** is due to be renegotiated. In June the Board decided to roll up to \$12,000 into the loan capital improvements. Meantime, bids have been received, and the Housing and Property Committee will be selecting the contractor and boiler equipment as soon as the bank loan is finalized. It was noted that our original Veatch loan on the building has only 1-1/2 of it's quarterly payments left for a total of about \$1600. In other words, the cost of the new boiler will be fairly painless.

Were you wondering what all that earth work was in the Prairie front yard? It's our new **side-walk lighting**. Many thanks to Karen Gross, Al Nettleton, Rick Owens, Rick Ruecking and Barbara Rames whose hard work makes this project cost about 1/2 of what it would if contracted out.

The Board voted to commend the **Welcoming Congregation Committee** for it's work on gay/lesbian/bisexual acceptance. It also recommend-

ed that the committee complete the forms that will allow Prairie to officially become a Welcoming Congregation. This is being done.

Mary Mullen, Secretary

Whose Supplies Are You Using?

Two organizations use our building - Prairie and the Jewish Reformed Congregation, Shaarei Shamayim. Please be sure you are using the consumables that belong to the group you are a part of.

Religious Education Report

A search for our new Director of Religious Education is continuing. Hopefully we will be able to announce that we have a new DRE by the time of the next Prairie Fire issue.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

We still need a number of teachers for the RE program that will start in September. If you want more involvement in your society, if you want to have fun with our wonderful children, if you want to grow in many ways yourself, then please consider teaching RE. Contact either Anne Pryor (244-7099) or Carl Wacker (273-4806) Or, be prepared to be contacted by them!

Many thanks to those members of Prairie who have agreed to serve on the Religious Education Committee: Kerry Beheler-Amass, Kathy Converse, Barbara Golden, Susan Vennard, Carl Wacker, and Anne Pryor (chair).

PRAIRIE LAWN MOWING SCHEDULE

July 12-July 25: Paula Pachizarz
July 26-August 8: Larry Nahlik & Phoenix
Aug. 9-Aug. 22: **Still need a volunteer**
Aug. 23-Sept. 6: Rob Steinhofer
Sept. 7-Sept. 20: Karen Gross
Sept. 21-first freeze: **Still need a volunteer**



MORE PRAIRIE SOCIETY

Walkway Lighting Underway!

On Saturday July 13th, the Building & Property Committee began excavation for installation of Prairie's outdoor lights. When finished, we hope these lights will brighten your way to our Society. Thanks to Al Nettleton, Rick Owens, Barbara Rames & Rick Ruecking for their hard work on Friday and Saturday. This safety improvement should be completed by Sunday, July 21st.

Also, thank to all Prairie people for money and maintaining the grounds! (Mowers are still needed for Aug. 9-22 and Sept. 21-October. Please do not use the riding mower until you have received instruction by Al Nettleton. Thank you.

Karen Gross - Bldg. & Property Committee

Annual Canoe Trip

We are planning our annual canoe trip for Sat., Sept. 6th, down the Yahara River near Madison. We plan to camp overnight (optional for participants) at Lake Kegonsa State Park on Friday, Sept. 5th. The canoe trip will begin from the park and will take about four hours. Canoe rentals are available at several places in Madison. We encourage all ages and all abilities to participate - even "duffers" who wish to be a non-paddling passenger. We would like to coordinate boats and participants, so please contact Diane and Ken Reinebach at 221-1434 if you are interested in attending.

Moving Sale!

Saturday, Aug. 16th, 8am - 4pm at Anne Urbanski's house, 317 N. Baldwin St., Madison, 53703 (near E. Johnson & N. Baldwin). Featuring: stereo cabinet, turntable, dining table and chairs (suitable for students), misc clothes (mens M, womens 8P-10P), computer and architectural books, & other stuff. Please help us get rid of this stuff before we move to our new house!

QUOTE: When Oliver Wendell Holmes was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, one of his colleagues wondered aloud as to why he attended

Sunday morning services every week, for he seemed to not be an especially "religious" man. Holmes supplied an answer: "I have a little plant at my house, called reverence, and it needs watering every week."

Hosta Plants , Anyone?

In the shade garden just south of our meeting house, our ivory-edged hosta plants have prospered so well that they overhang the walking path. If you want to dig, split and take home several plants for your yard, Barbara Rames would help. 231-1871

Beloved Pets Need Home

My niece, Carol, is going through very difficult times. One small thing I can do for her is to try Prairie for homes for her children's pets, which they cannot keep. The dog, named Toby, is a neutered male Poodle/Lhasa mix. The cat, named Mittens I'm not sure about. They have had good care, love and shots and are nice pets. Please contact Metje Butler at 244-3659.

Pint-Size Facts

Recent blood donors from our Prairie Society membership were Al Nettleton, Linda Sheehy, Rob Steinhoefer, Barbara Rames and Robin Zinthefer (she is Fredericka Schilling's daughter).

A June bulletin from Red Cross told that when Art Hackett (TV producer for Channel 21, and a member of James Reeb UU Society) gave a pint in June, his teenage son, Jim, also donated a pint on that same day. It is a beautiful way to celebrate one's adulthood!

Organ Donation Info

Available on the table at the rear of our meeting room are bumper stickers that say, "Don't send your organs to heaven - Heaven knows we need them here". Remember to tell your next-of-kin, if you want to donate your organs at the time of death , that that is your wish.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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

Summer Celebration -Joint Program At Sauk City

Members of Prairie UU Society and the Sauk City Freethinkers UU Society will read prose, recite poems, and sing songs on the theme of SUMMER (hooray!). There will be an outside potluck afterwards to get to know our Sauk City cousins. Please bring a dish to share, your own tableware and folding chairs. Directions to the Sauk City Freethinkers' historic building will be posted on Prairie's bulletin board or call Osh Anderson at 238-3131.

August 3

A Report on the 1997 General Assembly

Delegates Nancy Graham & Pat Watkins A report on the highlights of G.A., including voting results on Social Action issues, the new resolution process, women and religion demonstrations, and locations of future G.A.'s. We will also discuss and answer questions about possible effects which GA business could or should have on local congregations.

August 17

Program by Thai monks from Chicago

More info and title to follow.

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

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.

Sunday August 3

Report on 1997 UU General Assembly

Saturday August 9

Meeting of new and outgoing Denominational Affairs Committee. 1pm at home of Pat Watkins, 230 N. Meadow La. (233-5795)

Monday August 11

7:30pm Board Mtg. At Prairie

Saturday August 30

Playreaders' Organizing Mtg. & Potluck Lunch.
Pat Watkins, 230 N. Meadow La. (233-5795)

ONGOING

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE BOOK

RESALE. We are calling for donations of recycled quality reading materials (books, paperbacks, classic magazines, LP albums, CDs) for our continuing fundraising needs. Please call Rob Steinhofner (221-9417) or Jan How (238-7090) to arrange for a pickup.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Cindy Haq and her family upon the recent loss of her father.

Next Prairie Fire Deadline is July 27th