

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*
The Prairie Fire is the newsletter of Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society and is published semi-monthly.
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<http://www.execpc.com/~prairie/>

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PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Mark your calendars for our annual Upham Woods Retreat, Friday, October 10th to October 12th. Mark Woerly and Gail Coover agreed to be registrars, not realizing that a fair amount of work is involved, but have gamely decided to proceed with the role just the same. Hopefully, registration forms will be in your hands by mid to late August. We will invite the Fellowship in Stevens Point to join us again, thanks to the help of David and Marcia Johnson. Program ideas are already coming in, so get in line early!

SYMPATHY TO KATE TUCKER

We would like to express our sympathy to Kate Tucker on the death of her brother, Donald, on Tuesday, July 22nd in Montana. Donald resided between his mountain property near Missoula, Montana and Orfordville, Wisconsin for the past 19 years. He worked summers for the U.S. Forest Service near Bozeman, Montana and has run a power tower and house painting business in Wisconsin for many years. He is survived not only by Kate, but a very large family, including his daughter Torrey who lives in Minnesota. Memorials for Torrey's college fund may be made in care of Donald and Kate's parents, Donald and June Tucker, 73 S. Blackhawk,, Janesville, WI 53545.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTE

As you may have noticed, I put the wrong deadline date for the Prairie Fire in the last newsletter. We will continue to have newsletters published every 1st and 3rd week of the month. In July we made some adjustments because of the July 4th Holiday. Sorry for any confusion this may have caused people in trying to meet the deadline for this Prairie Fire.

I am requesting people call me at Prairie to speak with me or leave messages for me on the answering machine, unless it is urgent or has a deadline involved. I am almost always at the Society on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-11 a.m., plus various other hours depending on my week and workload. Also, please understand if I don't immediately get back to you it's not that I don't value your call, but that my life is busy and my job at Prairie consists of 10 hours a week on average. But, if it's important to reach me, of course call me at home and leave a message that it is urgent to speak with me ASAP.

WHAT'S INSIDE THE PRAIRIE FIRE? Our Society - Pg 2; More Our Society, Upcoming Programs - Pg 3; Calendar, Quotes and Shaarei Shamayim Calendar - Pg 4.

OUR SOCIETY

Help with Dehumidifier

There is a dehumidifier near the nursery door downstairs that usually needs to be emptied during the Summer months once a day. If you happen to be downstairs it would be wonderful if you could empty the water in the sink. This really helps keep the mold and mildew to a minimum in the basement.

Prairie Lawn Mowing Schedule

Aug. 9 - Aug. 22: **Did anyone volunteer yet?**

Aug. 23 - Sept. 6: Rob Steinhof

Sept. 7 - Sept. 20: Karen Gross

Sept. 21 - first freeze: **Volunteer still needed.**

Contact Karen Gross if you can help.

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 partici-pants) 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.

New Prairie Directory In The Works

Kate is working on a new, updated directory for the Society. If you have information, such as a new address or phone number that needs to be changed, please contact Kate at Prairie so the right info gets into the directory.

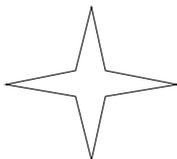
Friendly Supper Club

No Officers, No Dues - JUST FUN!

6:30 pm, 2nd Wed. of each month.

10 years of Making Friends.

Call 249-5979 for more information.



Online Religion

Cyberspace is ecumenical. So it seems natural that the Unitarian Universalist Association would show us how one sets up a highly informative religious site there. The address is <http://www.uua.org/>. The final versions of the 1997 GA Resolutions, the Actions of Immediate Witness, and the Study/Action Issues are now available on the UUA website. Look under "GA Report" or "News from GA" on the top page.

Denominational Affairs

In the last newsletter, I promised to provide more information on the Study/Action Issue on which U.U. congregations will concentrate for the next two years. What follows is the text of the Issue, as presented to Prairie at the parish poll in April.

BUILDING TOLERANCE THROUGH INTERFAITH COOPERATION

Issue: The constitutions of both Canada and the U.S. guarantee religious freedom. Both countries are among the most religiously diverse nations on the planet. Both are also nations with histories replete with religious intolerance, bigotry, and violent attacks against religious minorities. How can Unitarian Universalists work with other faith communities to protect civil rights of religious minorities?

Background and Reasons for Study: In the U.S. and Canada, religious discrimination has been reported in housing, education, employment, and government services. New immigrants, many of whom are also religious minorities, often face religious ignorance and intolerance. Members of new religious movements confront human rights violations. The sacred sites of Native Americans and First Nations peoples continue to be destroyed. Religious leaders and places of worship have been attacked. The current socio-political climate in the U.S. is increasingly focusing on limiting and even denying benefits and privileges afforded most citizens to immigrants and persons of color. As believers in the inherent worth and dignity of every person, we need to affirm our support as individuals and in congregations for the rights of religious minorities. CONTINUED NEXT PG.

MORE OF OUR SOCIETY

Denominational Affairs continued

Possible Study Questions: What can Unitarian Universalists do to overcome religious intolerance and discrimination in Canada and the U.S.? How should we respond to denials of civil rights and to violent attacks against religious minorities and their places of worship? What can be done to protect the sacred sites of Native Americans and First Nations peoples? What protections are provided to religious minorities in the U.S. by the Religious Freedom Protection Act? How can North Americans from different faith traditions work together to build a multifaith and multicultural society that honors the worth and dignity of every person?

Possible Actions: Honor and become acquainted with the varied and rich religious beliefs, practices, and experiences of religious minorities within our communities and acquaint them with our own religious heritage. Advocate for the preservation of sacred sites. Join a work party to help rebuild a desecrated place of worship. Work in partnership with other religious groups to witness and advocate for religious tolerance and respect for all religious groups.

Related General Resolution: Justice for Indigenous Peoples, 1993

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 Steinhof (221-9417) or Jan How (238-7090) to arrange for a pickup.

Don't Forget Anne Urbanski's Moving Sale

Saturday, August 16th, 8am - 4pm at 317 N. Baldwin St., Madison. (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, & more. Please help get rid of this stuff before the move!

ATTENTION!!!!!!!!!!!!

PLEASE correct Anne Pryor's phone number in your Prairie Directory. It is 244-7099, NOT 274-7099. The poor couple at the latter number are still receiving phone calls for Anne from Prairie members and are still VERY unhappy about it. Save yourself and them an unpleasant conversation. Call Anne at 244- not 274-.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

August 10

Community, Village and Other Buzzwords

This program will be presented by members of the Channing Murray Society, the UU young adults' group. There is a lot of talk about the loss of community these days. We'll explore the joys and difficulties of being in community.

August 17

Buddhism

Basic precepts of what Buddhism is about and relations to Western Tradition, including similarities and differences, and how it relates to Unitarianism. This will be presented by a Thai Monk from Chicago.

August 24

Rise Up and Call Her Name

Using elements from the continental UUWF curriculum Rise Up and Call Her Name, for which she was the music consultant, Nancy Vedder-Shults will lead us in a ritual which connects us with several goddesses from around the world. Story and song, myth and music, will move and shake us.

August 31

Whatever Happened to Social Justice?

This program will be presented by Midge Miller, former State Assembly Representative, founder of The Madison Institute (a progressive think tank) and who is well known for her activism for social justice. Her presentation will be a discussion of the widening chasm between rich and poor, and the implications of corporate power and globalization for government, workers, the church and all of us.

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Saturday August 9

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

Sunday August 10

10:00 AM "Community, Village and Other Buzzwords" -- Members of the Channing Murray Society.

Monday August 11

7:30 PM Board Meeting at Prairie

Saturday August 16

Anne Urbanski's Moving Sale
8am - 4pm, 317 N. Baldwin Street

Sunday August 17

10:00 AM "Buddhism". A Buddhist Monk from Chicago will be the guest speaker.

Sunday August 24

10:00 AM "Rise Up and Call Her Name", or "Why Men and Women Need the Goddess" -- a mythical, musical presentation by Nancy Vedder-Shults.

Monday August 25

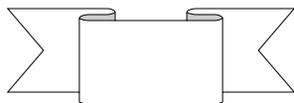
7 PM Spanish Speakers' Potluck
Call Rosemary Dorney (238-4382) about location and if you need a ride.

Saturday August 30

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

Sunday August 31

10:00 AM "Whatever Happened to Social Justice?" Guest speaker Midge Miller; former State Assembly Representative and founder of The Madison Institute, a progressive think tank.



Next Prairie Fire Deadline is Aug. 17th.

SOME QUOTES

"There are no shortcuts to anyplace worth going." --Beverly Sills

"When I was growing up, I always wanted to be somebody, but I see now that I should have been more specific." --Lily Tomlin

"Birds sing after a storm, why shouldn't we?" --Rose Kennedy

"I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody." --Bill Cosby

"No person is your friend who demands your silence or denies your right to grow." --Alice Walker

"To keep a lamp burning, we have to keep putting oil in it." --Mother Teresa

"When you aim for perfection, you discover it is a moving target." --George Fisher

Shaarei Shamayim

August 8 -- Shabbat evening service. 7:15 pm

August 11 --Erev Tisha B'Av. Details TBA.

August 16 --Shabbat morning "Singin'Shabbat" service. 9:30 am. Sheba McCants will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah.

August 23 --Learning the Chants and Songs of Sabbath. 10:00 am, location TBA.

A Few More Words of Wisdom

"We don't make mistakes, we just have learnings." --Anne Wilson Schaefer

"Be bold in what you stand for and careful what you fall for" --Ruth Boorstin