



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, August 20, 1997*
The Prairie Fire is the newsletter of Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society and is published semi-monthly.
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DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

Working for a Just Economic Community

As a follow up to this 1996 U.U.A. Resolution, Prairie Society is forming a six session study and action group. Sessions 1,2 and 3 will consist of discussions of hypothetical situations and dilemmas requiring moral and ethical decisions on economic justice issues. Participants will also be engaged in part of a small community action project and either share their information, or work on it during sessions 4 and 5. Session 6 will be an evaluation of the study group idea and process. There will be opportunity to do additional study and action on the topic for anyone interested. If you would like to participate in such a study group, call Pat before 10am or after 10pm, before October 6th, at 233-5795.

Chalice Lighters

How gratifying it was to receive a warm "thank-you" from the Central Midwest District office for our participation in the program. The May contribution went to the 1st Unitarian Church of Hobart, Indiana for a comprehensive publicity program in preparation for membership growth grounded in it's funding of lay leadership training, strategic planning, and it's commitment to professional religious education and staff development. If you are not yet a Chalice

Lighter, please consider being one. Chalice Lighters are UU's and Friends who support extension programs and extension ministry in the Central Midwest District. Three calls a year go out for a \$10 donation, and all money raised stays in our district. There will be one more call in 1997. Sincere thanks to Nancy Graham, through whose efforts, approximately 25% of Prairie members (one of the District's highest percentages) joined Chalice Lighters this year. Your new contact person for '97/98 is Rachel Siegfried. Please see her and consider joining this program.

Congratulations to First Society Member

Michael May who was elected director at large for Personnel and Administration on the Central Midwest District Board. Did you know that our own Barb Park also serves on the CMWD Board - busy lady!

Overheard at General Assembly

What is the difference between a Universalist and a Unitarian? Answer: The Universalists believe that God is too good to punish them; Unitarians believe that they are too good to be punished.

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Our Society

Marty Drapkin's Photo Exhibit

Prairie member Marty Drapkin's exhibit of black and white photographs, *Mothers and Daughters*, will be on display at Sunroom Café and Gallery, 638 State Street in Madison, from August 25th through October 5th. Some faces familiar to Prairie members will be in the exhibit.

There will be an opening reception for the exhibit on Tuesday, August 26th, from 7-9 pm at Sunroom. All are welcome to attend.

Gifts from the Heart

In late July Aileen Nettleton and Ken Reinebach each gave a pint of blood, and each had given many times previously. Bravo! Summer sports and accidents make it an especially needy time, while possible donors tend to "put it off". Your recruiter had a recent guest who arrived wearing on his t-shirt:

See Pete.

See Pete drive.

See Pete crash.

Pete needs blood.

For Pete's sake, GIVE BLOOD!

Brag a Little

When you enter the Prairie Society's meeting house, if you look left at the little kitchen-ward window you will see a blue notebook with a few vignettes of our members. YOUR contribution is needed: Please write a paragraph or two or three about yourself, telling where you grew up, what you do as "work" and hobbies, how you happened to come to Prairie Society and what you have done as part of our society's activities. Funny items welcome! Snapshots solicited! Don't be modest! Spouses, perhaps you'd be a better author of your partner's portrait; if so, feel free to compose his/her page.

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 (271-8218) so the correct info gets into the directory.

Announcing "UU & Me!"

"UU & Me!" is a new magazine for UU kids ages 7-12, packed with ideas to help kids and their parents talk about what really matters, and create a link between home, church and their UU faith.

Quarterly issues bring original stories about kids in everyday situations and famous UUs in history, ways to celebrate the seasons and holidays at home, activities and games that make learning about different religious beliefs and developing right relationships fun.

See "UU & Me!" for yourself and share it with all the young UUs in your life. To subscribe, send \$15 (\$17 Canada, \$19 Foreign) along with the name and address of both the subscriber and the child receiving the magazine to: CLF Fulfillment Center, 8080 Pierpont Rd., Bloomfield, NY 14469-9714.

ONGOING

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE BOOK

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

Quote

"I don't believe there is intelligent life on other planets...I think they are just like us." Michael Feldman, "Whaddaya Know?" 3/22/97

Note from the Administrator

As many of you may have noticed, I was on vacation last week. I'm sorry if your phone calls were not returned promptly and am trying to do so this week. I had a wonderful time camping in the north woods and not worrying about everyday life.

I'm slowly improving with the newsletter format and deadlines. I encourage people to submit poems, quotes and any other interesting tidbits for Prairie Fire.

Thanks!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Kate

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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.

September 7

Building Community at Prairie

We'll discuss the various ways new and veteran Prairie members can get to know each other better. Erin Bosch will lead the discussion.

September 14

Racism from a Global Perspective

We'll consider racism from different cultural perspectives and discuss what it means to be anti-racist. Gail Coover will lead the discussion.

A NEW UU CHURCH OPENS

Lake Country UU Church is a new congregation forming in the northwest Waukesha County "Lake Country". It will serve the families living in Oconomowoc, Okauchee, Delafield, Nashota, Hartland, Chenequa, Peewaukee, Waukesha, Wales, Dousman, Sullivan, and the townships of northwestern Waukesha County. We will begin having formal services on September 7th, 1997. They will be held at 6:00 PM Sundays at the Delafield Presbyterian Church which is located approximately 1.5 miles north of I-94 and 3 miles south of Highway 16; (Take the Hwy. C "Exit" to Delafield from wither freeway). It is

just north of Christ the King Lutheran Church, but on the WEST side of Highway C.

On September 7th our first pulpit guest will be the Rev. Jonalu Johnstone, minister of the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Madison, WI. The following Sunday, September 14th, the service will be conducted by the Rev. Tony Larson, minister of the Olympia Brown Unitarian Universalist Church in Racine, WI. Religious Education programming will be provided for children and teenagers.

Please inform any friends or relatives who might be interested in Unitarian-Universalism of this new church in southeastern Wisconsin. For further information, people may contact Brenda Patterson at 414-542-3243, or Jean Milliren at 414- 646-3689.



First Lesson

Lie back, daughter, let your head
Be tipped back in the cup of my hand,
Gently, and I will hold you. Spread
your arms wide, lie out on the stream
and look high at the gulls. A dead-
man's float is face down. You will dive
and swim soon enough where this tidewater
ebbs to the sea. Daughter, believe
me, when you tire on the long thrash
to your island, lie up, and survive.
As you float now, where I held you and
let go, remember when fear
cramps your heart what I told you:
lie gently and wide to the light-year
stars, lie back, and the sea will hold you.

--Phillip Booth

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

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.

12 NOON Long Range Planning Committee Meeting at Prairie. Brown bag lunch. The Long Range Planning Committee is looking for people interested in Prairie U.U. Society's future objectives and services to members and the community. We would also like comments from last year's "Visioning" and "Small Society's" workshops. The 1997/98 members thus far are: Pat Cautley, Rick Ruecking, Orange Schroeder and Chair, Nancy Schraufnagel (273-3195).

Monday August 25

7:00 PM Spanish Speakers' Potluck
Call Rosemary Dorney (238-4382) about location and if you need a ride.

Saturday August 30

1:00 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.

11:30 AM Welcoming Congregation T-shirt Sale in Lobby. Bring your checkbooks!

Friday/Saturday September 5 & 6

Annual Canoe Trip down the Yahara River near Madison with optional overnight camping at Lake Kegonsa State Park. Contact Diane & Ken Reinebach at 221-1434 if you are interested.

Sunday September 7

10:00 AM "Building Community at Prairie"
Discussion of the various ways new and veteran members can get to know each other better.
Led by Erin Bosch.

Sunday September 14

10:00 AM "Racism from a Global Perspective". We'll consider racism from different cultural perspectives and discuss what it means to be anti-racist. Led by Gail Coover.

Saturday September 27

1:30 PM Denominational Affairs Committee Meeting at Pat Watkins', 230 N. Meadow Lane. Phone 233-5795. RSVP requested.

Sunday December 14

Save this date for the Art Institute exhibition of Renoir's Portraits.

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar

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

Sept. 12 -- Shabbat evening service. 7:15-9 pm

Sept. 20 -- Shabbat morning service. 9:30 am - 1 pm.

Sept. 27 -- Selichot service (note the odd time) 8 - 10 pm.

SOME TABLE GRACES VIA RACHEL LONG

- ❖ This food comes from the earth and the sky
It is the gift of the entire universe
And the fruit of much hard work;
I vow to live a life worthy to receive it.

- ❖ We eat the good bread
We eat months of sunlight,
Weeks of rain,
The richness of the earth.
Let us shine our light,
Dance like the rain,
Feel the peace of the good earth.
As we eat, these good things are within us.

**NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE IS
AUGUST 31ST.**