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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* Wednesday, September 10, 1997  
*The Prairie Fire is the newsletter of Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society and is published semi-monthly.*  
*e-mail version available* <http://www.execpc.com/~prairieu/>

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## DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

### Building Tolerance Through Interfaith Cooperation:

U.U.'s are working together with members of other faiths in almost every significant justice area. Thanks to John Brian Paprock, Prairie has already made a start in interfaith cooperation by our involvement in the Madison Urban Ministry. Our committee hopes to build on this foundation, and has already participated and been represented at two events. Nationally, last August, 75 U.U. volunteers, under the sponsorship of the U.U. Service Committee, traveled to Green County, Alabama and worked side by side with members of three African-American churches to rebuild the structures burned in the racist-inspired arson. An interreligious "Burned Church Fund" was also something which U.U.'s contributed to. On the local level, M.U.M. will again be sponsoring it's Community Dialogue Forums throughout 1997/98. This years forums will explore judgementalism, defensive guilt, and lack of forgiveness as they affect the violence and incivility of our society. They will also explore how the more positive dynamics of these topics might help restore greater health to ourselves and our society. The forums meet on the second Tuesday of each month at various

religious locations. A small fee includes a light supper and beverages.

### National Public Radio

In the Fall of 1996, there were more than 500 calls to the 800 number used in the few weeks of the UUA announcements on N.P.R.. All callers received packets of information on U.U.. In addition to the U.U. A. radio spots, 100 individual congregations produced an aired spot announcements. In late September, for about five weeks, you will again hear on the top of the hour news that "This program is brought to you in part by the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, religious people supporting freedom, reason, and tolerance for more than 200 years.

### Wisconsin Public Radio

Sad to say, our efforts did not bear the same fruit as the national effort. Not a single pledge to W.P.R. has been submitted to Prairie for our announcement, which was to be aired on "To the

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Best of Our Knowledge". If you plan to pledge or donate to W.P.R. in 97-98, won't you consider giving your tax deductible donation to Prairie (writing W.P.R. in the note space) so that we will soon hear, "Brought to you by the Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society, a lay-led liberal religious voice in Madison". The W.P.R. pledge drive will begin in mid-October, and Ruth Calden and Pat Watkins will be in Prairie's lobby on Sun., Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>, before and after the service, to accept donations.

## **OUR SOCIETY**



### **PRAIRIE YOUTH GUEST AT WHITE HOUSE**

Mischa Park-Doob, one of Prairie's own (whose flute playing we have enjoyed at a number of our services), was one of 141 graduating high school seniors selected as Presidential Scholars for 1997. The Scholars, representing all 50 states and Americans abroad, received an all expense paid trip to Washington D.C. for a National Recognition Week June 24-29. On June 26 each scholar was awarded a gold medallion, inscribed with his or her name, by the U.S. Secretary of Education, and on June 27 the Scholars were invited to the White House as guests of the President during the taping of his weekly radio broadcast. Each Scholar got to meet and be photographed with the President. On his meeting with Bill Clinton (photo above) Mischa commented "He kept shaking my hand". Mischa was one of 3 Presidential Scholars from Wisconsin.

Mischa's parents, Bob Park and Deborah Doob, also spent the week in Washington, attending events organized for the parents and families of the Scholars. Bob was very fortunate to be offered home hospitality by Catherine Parker, a member of a sister UU congregation in the Washington D.C. suburban area who he met through their Internet web page and the timely and much appreciated assistance of their web page operator, Joyce Dowling. Catherine is Membership Co-chair of Davies Memorial Unitarian Universalist Church in Camp Springs Maryland, a church of about 100 members named after A. Powell Davies, who was the key figure in initiating a number of new UU churches around the Washington beltway when he was minister of All Soul's Church in Washington about 40 years ago. Bob got to meet a number of the members of the Davies Memorial Church at a get-together which Catherine organized at her home in (as coincidence would have it) Clinton, MD.

Internet users may wish to visit the Davies Memorial Church's interesting web page at <http://www.dmuuc.org>.

### **Last Exit From Brooklyn By James & Laurence**

On September 10<sup>th</sup>, Joe, Barbara, many animals and too much stuff moved to

27497 Schulte Road  
Carmel, CA 93923

Phone (408)626-0610

Email remains [76402.166@CompuServe.com](mailto:76402.166@CompuServe.com)

### **CANOE DATE CHANGED!!!!**

The date of the annual Prairie Canoe Trip **HAS BEEN CHANGED** to Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. As previously announced, we are planning a very accessible local trip. Come regardless of your age, paddling ability, or whether you own a canoe. We put in an order for very pleasant Fall Weather. Please call Diane and Ken Reinebach at 221-1434 so we can coordinate boats.

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"The reward of a thing well done is to have it done." -Emerson

### **Finance Committee Plans Budget**

The Finance Committee is requesting all committees to submit budget requests. Committees should review the past year's expenses and look ahead to plan financial needs for our programs for 1998. The Finance Committee will then prepare a proposed Prairie budget and continue the membership pledge drive.

If you are interested in helping, you are invited to join the Finance Committee. Call the chair, Aileen Nettleton, 238-6053. Our first meeting will be mid-September. Current members are Jennifer Parker, Nikki Bromberg, Ken Skog and Orange Schroeder.

### **Bunco Party**

Saturday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM there will be a Bunco Party at Prairie. Bunco is a fun dice game that requires no skill. It's a great way to have fun and meet people. All ages are welcome. Older than about age 8 can play alone; younger ones can be a team with an adult. Admission is \$1.00 to cover "prizes", etc.. Please RSVP in the box on the back pew so we get an approximate count. But you can still come even if you forget to RSVP. We'll adjust. Questions? Call Erin Bosch at 238-6285.

### **Ongoing Prairie Women's Group**

There is a Prairie Women's Groups that meets the third Sunday of every month after the program. We bring items for a light potluck lunch and we just "talk" about our lives. New members are most welcome. It's a great way to get to know people better. The next one is Sunday, Sept. 21 after the service.

### **Upham Woods Program Help Needed**

Are you going on the Upham Woods retreat? Do you have some skills and ideas to share? Give Arleigh Birchler a call at 245-0851 if you could volunteer some time and creativity while there.

### **New Religious Education Director**

The Prairie Religious Education Committee announces that Robin Carre has agreed to be the Director of R. E. He has a wealth of experience with children and is eager to join our efforts.

## **UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

### **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.

### **September 21**

#### **Our Pets Presence In Our Lives**

Phoebe Rosebear will facilitate a discussion of our pets presence in our lives. Bring your dogs and cats and introduce them to other Prairie members. Our cat clan will meet inside, while the dog clan will gather outdoors.

### **September 28**

#### **Issues In Public Education**

The first speaker in a two part series on issues in public education will be Madison School Board member Ray Allen. Mr. Allen will discuss some of the issues the board will address as the district prepares for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. This series will be led by Barbara Golden.

## **VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES**

### **Hospitality Workers**

Sept. 14

Greeter: Still Need Someone

Coffee Setup: Paula Pachciarz

Coffee Clean-up: Cinda LaMar

Sept. 21

Greeter: Pat Cautley

Coffee Set-up: Pat Cautley

Coffee Clean-up: Still Need Someone

### **Program Taping**

Sept. 14: Marilyn Ruecking

Sept. 21: Still Need Someone

Sept. 28: Gail Coover

## **QUOTE**

Forget talent. If you have it, fine. Use it. If you don't have it, it doesn't matter. As habit is more dependable than inspiration, continued learning is more dependable than talent.

-Octavia Butler, Bloodchild

## **PRAIRIE CALENDAR**

### **Sunday, September 14**

10:00 AM; "Racism from a Global Perspective".  
Led by Gail Coover.

### **Wednesday, September 17**

7:00 PM; Spanish Speaking Potluckers will meet at Prairie. If you need more info or a ride, please call Kate Tucker at 221-2168.

### **Saturday, September 20**

6:30 PM; BUNCO PARTY! At Prairie.  
For all ages. \$1.00 admission.

### **Sunday, September 21**

10:00 AM; Phoebe Rosebear will facilitate a discussion of our pets presence in our lives. Bring your dogs and cats and introduce them to other Prairie members.

After Service: Both Men's & Women's Groups Meet. Finger food potluck.

### **Saturday, September 27**

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

7:00 PM; Prairie Play Readers meet at the home of Jean Matos, 324 South Mills Street, 255-2209.

Prairie Canoe Trip: Contact Diane & Ken Reinebach at 221-1434.

### **Sunday, September 28**

10:00 AM; "Issues in Public Education".  
First part in a two part series. Speaker is Madison School Board Member Ray Allen.

### **Friday, Oct. 10 - Sunday, Oct. 12**

Upham Woods Retreat. Registration forms available on the table at the back of the meeting room.

## **MEMBER COMMITTEE UPDATE**

### **Getting To Know Each Other.**

On Sept. 7, the program focused on ways that Prairie members can get to know each other better and increase our sense of belonging to the

Prairie Community. Clipboards were passed and people signed up to be included in various groups. There is still an opportunity for others to be included. There are sign-up sheets on clipboards on the small table in the back of the meeting room. The groups will be formed on Sept. 30, so please sign up soon, but we will make room for procrastinators later. Here are the opportunities available:

Circle Dinners: Meet for potluck meals at members' homes approximately once a month (or less). You may also use the meeting house if your abode is too small. If you don't want to "commit" you can be on a "substitute" list and you might be called if smaller circles need extras occasionally.

Activity Groups: Share group activities 4 or 5 times a year, to be determined by the group members. Possibilities would be movies, dancing, nature walks, etc.

Hugging Partners: If you would like more hugs in your life, you can sign up and be matched with someone to exchange hugs with at Services.

These groups require a sign-up. Other possibilities that do not require a commitment include: Playreaders, Salad Bar Movie, Women's Group, Men's Group, Pizza Hut. Any questions? Call Erin Bosch at 238-6285.

## **Shaarei Shamayim Calendar**

Sept. 20: Shabbat morning service at 9:30 AM.

Sept. 27: 8-10:00 PM; Dessert potluck and Selichot service.

Oct. 1: 5-7:00 PM; Rosh Hashanah Pot-luck Dinner. Reservations required. 7:15 - 9 PM; Rosh Hashanah Evening Service.

Oct. 2: 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM; Rosh Hashanah Service, 1<sup>st</sup> day.

Oct. 3: 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM; Rosh Hashanah Service, 2<sup>nd</sup> day.

**NEXT PRAIRIE DEADLINE IS  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>.**