



# 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*  
Thursday, October 23, 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/~prairie/>

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## **DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**GLSEN** (Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network) and INTERWEAVE sponsored a "Town Hall Meeting" with State Superintendent of Public Instruction, John Benson, at First Unitarian Universalist Society on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>.

Benson presented what DPI is, and can do to address homophobia in the schools and with Barb Bitters, responded to questions and suggestions.

Benson will meet with a smaller group representing different professionals to form an advisory committee to address the safety and well-being of all students in schools.

For further info on GLSEN contact Larry Palm at 608-284-1508 or GLSEN SCW at P.O. Box 259502, Madison, WI 53725-9502.

## **Study Group on "Working For a Just**

**Economic Community:** This group had it's first meeting, mostly organizational, at Upham Woods. Seven people have signed up for the six session course, and have expressed a desire to meet, either at members homes or at Prairie, and the preferred time is right after the Prairie meetings on Sundays. The group will have it's next meeting at noon on November 9<sup>th</sup> at Prairie. If you are interested in joining the group, call Pat Watkins at 233-5795, and read the course description in the August 20<sup>th</sup> Prairie Fire. You may also wish to check some of the background

material on the topic in the March 4<sup>th</sup> and June the issues.

## **Central Midwest District Annual Meeting:**

This mini, mini General Assembly-like meeting will be held in Madison and hosted by the First U.U. Society on April 24-26. The call has already gone out for volunteers to help at the meeting, and for families who will provide home hospitality. If you are able to volunteer or host a delegate, please let Pat Watkins know, and she will pass the names along to First Society. Call 233-5795.

**WHA Underwriting:** A great big thank you to those of you who contributed your WPR pledge or donation money to Prairie for the under-writing project. You will be happy to know that, to date, we have received \$440, and since many of you pay your pledges on a monthly basis rather than in one lump sum, we should have additional funds coming in as the year progresses. We have made a wonderful beginning. It will take a couple of weeks to confirm the details with the station, and we will let you know when the first of our announcements is due to take place.

In this Prairie Fire: Pg 1 Denominational Affairs; Pg 2 Our Society; Pg 3 Upcoming Programs & Calendar; Pg 4 **PLEDGE DRIVE FORM**. Next Prairie Fire Deadline is November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Welcoming Congregation T-shirts:** Thanks to all of you who purchased T-shirts. Please wear them with pride, and please wear them. It is important that we use this small but important symbol as our voice against homophobia, and our kinship with the gay members of our community. We sold 22 T-shirts, including several to members of the Stevens Point Fellowship who joined us at Upham Woods. Prairie earned \$86.00 from this effort by your committee.



### **OUR SOCIETY**

**Spanish Speakers' Potluck** will take a small vacation from the "potluck" part by meeting on Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, Wed., at 6:30 PM at Taqueria Gila Monster (on King St., downtown, across from the Majestic Theatre). Call Kate Tucker about a ride or other questions at 221-2168.

### **News from the Pratts**

A letter from former Prairie members, Annis and Henry Pratt, told that Henry "was diagnosed with a large, malignant cancer tumor in his stomach" in June, followed by surgery, radiation and chemotherapy. He is in "no pain, just a lot of fatigue". Notes may be sent to:

Annis & Henry Pratt  
1056 Larchlea  
Birmingham, MI 48009

### **Upham Woods Lost & Found**

A new deck of card (in French) with pictures of medieval armor/weapons/soldiers is lost. If it accidentally came home in your stuff please call Kate Skog at 273-4813. Thanks!

### **For Sale**

Very nice Stationary Bike Exerciser (3 speed). \$25. \$20 will go to Prairie. Call Phoenix T. Wardell 271-8365 if you are interested.

### **Thanks to Pizza Pledge Helpers!**

Our pledge drive got off to a great start with a kick-off pizza lunch last Sunday. Special thanks to our wonderful teenagers who set up tables and served food. They included Heidi, Tara, Ian, Erik and Melissa. Thanks to everyone who contributed food and help. The Finance Committee: Aileen Nettleton, Nikki Bromberg, Jennifer Parker, Ken Skog and Orange Schroeder.

### **Renoir Portrait Exhibit**

There are still some spaces on the Bus Trip to the Renoir Portraits exhibit at the Chicago Art Institute Sunday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, we have to send the money for the reservations to the Art Institute by November 10, so if you are interested, send your check soon to Pat Cautley, 4805 Regent St., Madison, WI 53705.

### **Readers Needed!**

I am looking for young people interested in reading short poems for the service on Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>. You may choose your own, or request on from me. Anyone of school age who can read is welcome to participate. You may call me at home at 836-0616 or email me at

[bjgolden@students.wisc.edu](mailto:bjgolden@students.wisc.edu)

Thanks! Barbara Golden

### **SUNDAY PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS**

#### **Nov. 2:**

Greeter: **Still need a volunteer**

Coffee Set-up: Anne Urbanski

Coffee Clean-up: Barb Golden

Taping: **Still need a volunteer**

#### **Nov. 9:**

Greeter: Pat Cautley

Coffee Set-up: Pat Cautley

Coffee Clean-up: **Still need a volunteer**

Taping: Rosemary Dorney (Needs training.)

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**October 26**

### Our Global Communities: The UN & UUSC

Led by Pat Watkins.

**November 2**

### My Communion With Nature in Door County

This summer I took a class on creating a personal journal at the Clearing in Door County. The Clearing is a school of discovery in the arts, nature and humanities. I enjoyed a week of wonderful company, good food, a beautiful environment and creative delight. In my ministry I'll share with you some stories about the founding of the Clearing, the "Journaling" class and a special outing we took to a one room school house. The Clearing will be sending me their pre-packaged (Yuk! But yes!) slide show which will be shown just to tweak your interest.

**November 9**

### Tracing Jewish Life Through Cooking

Led by Phoebe Rosebear, we will look at Jewish Cuisine as a reflection of, as well as a part of, Jewish Life.

**November 16**

### #2 of Issues In Public Education

The guest presenter will be Virginia Henderson, former director of the Diversity 7 Advocacy department of the Madison School District. Dr. Henderson is currently chairing the "Schools of Hope" committee on parent involvement. She will speak on educational issues affecting students of color and other protected classes. This lay ministry is led by Barbara Golden.

**November 23**

### Abraham's Dream

Two and a half months in South India: an attempt to start a progressive school in a remote rural site. Led by Marcia and Dave Johnson.

**November 30**

### Thanksgiving Intergenerational Program

More details later.

## PRAIRIE CALENDAR

### PLEDGE DRIVE

Through Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>. Mail in your form on the last page of this newsletter.

### Sunday, October 26

10 AM; "our Global Community: The UN & UUSC". Led by Pat Watkins.

### Sunday, November 2

10 AM; "My Communion With Nature in Door County". Presented by Karen Gross.

### Sunday, November 9

10 AM; "Tracing Jewish Life Through Cooking". Led by Phoebe Rosebear.

### Tuesday, November 11

6 PM; "Madison Urban Ministry: Beyond Violence: A Shared Dialogue on Judgement, Guilt and Forgiveness". Prof. Robert Skloot on "Who Judges the Bystander? Who Forgives the Bystander? Who *IS* the Bystander?" Our Lady Queen of Peace, 401 S. Owen Drive. \$5 payable at the door, includes a light supper. Phone 256-0906 in advance for reservations.

### Sunday, November 16

10 AM; "# Two of Issues In Public Education". Guest presenter is Virginia Henderson who is currently on the "Schools of Hope" committee on parent involvement in the Madison School District.

### Tuesday, November 18

6:45 PM; GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network) meets at Madison Public Library Central. Teenagers will speak about their experiences with homophobia in the schools. Did you know that our own Mary Mullen is the co-chair of this organization and is responsible for bringing these programs to the public? Try to support her efforts by attending.

### Sunday, December 14

Renoir's Portraits: the Impressions of An Age. There is still room on the bus. Call Pat Cautley.

# PLEDGE DRIVE

The annual Prairie Pledge Drive is beginning. The Board is proposing a budget of \$47,188 for 1998. Your pledge allows us to plan our finances for the coming year. The membership will vote on the final budget in November.

Please send your pledge form to the Finance Committee by October 30. Save a phone call--return your pledge!

We would encourage all Prairie friends receiving the Prairie Fire to contribute at least \$15 to cover costs.

Thank you for your continued support of our Prairie community.

## **Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society: 1998 Pledge**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

My/Our Pledge for 1998 will be \$\_\_\_\_\_per\_\_\_\_\_(month/year)

\_\_\_\_\_I/We are contributing \$15 for the Prairie Fire Newsletter.

Return to: Aileen Nettleton, Finance Chair, 645 Sheldon St. Madison, WI 53711.

