



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* February 17, 1998

*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>*

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

Editor: Kate Heiber-Cobb (608) 250-6512; prairieu@execpc.com

PRAIRIE FIRE CALENDAR

Saturday, February 21

2:30 PM; **Denominational Affairs Committee**
meets at Rachel Siegfried's, 5209 Tolman
Terrace. Phone: 271-2173.

Sunday, February 22

9:00 AM; **Choir Rehearsal**
10:00 AM; "**Woman the Hunter**", presented by
Keri Beheler-Amass.
11:30 AM; **Women's Group**. Potluck
downstairs.

Sunday, March 1

9:00 AM; **Choir Rehearsal**
10:00 AM; "**Welsh Voices in Unitarianism**",
presented by Barbara Rames. (March 1 is St.
David's Day, the day of the patron saint of
Wales.)

PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE!

Saturday, March 7

6:00 - 10:00 PM; **Intergenerational Potluck &
Party!!!** 6 PM is the Potluck. 7-10 PM is the
Party. Come join the fun!!!

6:00 PM; Our friends at James Reeb UU
Congregation will be hosing the **Fifth Annual
Reeb Rave**. Members & friends donate services
and goods, which are auctioned off during the
evening. If you would like to donate items or
services for this auction, or receive a list of items
available contact Bob Komes at 873-8302.

Sunday, March 8

9:00 AM; **Choir Rehearsal**
10:00 AM; "**What's a Guy Like Me Doing in
a Place Like This?**" presented by Robin Carre.

Tuesday, March 10

6:00 PM; **Madison Urban Ministry Series:
Beyond Violence--Judgement, Guilt and
Forgiveness**. Prof. Bruce Kittle of the UW Law
School and Director of the Restorative Justice
Project leads the group in exploring these
concepts in "Can the State Hold Criminals
Accountable for Their Acts While Promoting
Healing, Reconciliation and Forgiveness?" First
Methodist Church, 203 Wisconsin Ave. Please
phone 256-0906 in advance to sign up. Cost is
\$5, including light meal. Free parking in
Manchester Place Parking Garage.

Saturday, March 14

1:00 PM; "**Just Economic Community Study
Group**", meets at Rachel Siegfried's home.
7:30 PM; **Playreaders** meet at the home of Pat
Watkins, 230 N. Meadow Lane.

Sunday, March 15

9:00 AM; **Choir Rehearsal**
10:00 AM; **Speaker Jack Ziegler**. Title to be
announced later.

After Service: **Secret Friend's Potluck Party**

Monday, March 16

6:00 - 8:00 PM; **Family Enhancement
Sponsored Program for Community activists,
parents, educators and others concerned with
the achievement of students in the Madison
School District**. Meetings are held the 3rd
Monday of the month and the facilitator is Barb
Golden.

Location is Head Start at 2096 Red Arrow Trail
(near Pizza Hut). For more info call Family En-
hancement at 241-5150 or Barb G. at 238-4867.

Tuesday, March 17

6:45 PM; **GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network)** meets at Madison Public Library Central. Topic will be "School In-Service Programs".

Friday, March 20

7:00 PM; **Folk Music at James Reeb.** Jim Scott will be performing a benefit concert at James Reeb. His songs promote peace, human rights, and preservation of our environment. He frequently performs at UU congregations across the country and has composed songs included in our hymnal. Admission is \$7.00.

Sunday, March 22

10:00 AM; **"Getting to Know Your Neighbor"**. Guest speaker will be Kaleem Caire.

12 Noon; **Annual Prairie Service Auction.**

OUR SOCIETY

Lost & Found!!!

If anyone found a black wallet containing a 10 dollar bill and eight cents with no name in it on Sunday, Feb. 15th please give Kay Frazier a call because it belongs to her son Ben. Her number is 839-5607. Thanks!

Big News!!!!

We are very happy to announce that Maya will have a baby brother or sister soon! We were contacted recently by the adoption agency that helped us find Maya in 1996, and we have agreed to adopt her biological sibling, who is due to be born in April (we think). We are looking forward to the new baby (but not the lack of sleep!).

We appreciate all the support we received when we adopted Maya. This time around we have about 2 months to get ready - instead of 1 week like the first time. We are looking to buy or borrow some baby items that we don't have - in particular, a double stroller (preferably the front-to-back kind), either a bassinet or a cradle, and a baby sling. Please call us at 221-4053 if you can help us find any of these items. Thanks! Anne, Lee and Maya Urbanski

SERVICE AUCTION DONATIONS

With the Annual Prairie Service Auction coming up Sunday, March 22, start thinking

about what service you can offer. Services auctioned off in the past few years have included everything from offers to bake rhubarb pies in season, fresh bread delivery, a guided nature walk, window washing, and a Cajun meal for 6. Consider what talents, abilities, or interests you have that others might appreciate. Call Jennifer Parker (246-4304) or Ken Skog (273-4813) with your services. You may also let them know if there is a service you need. Maybe they can find someone to offer it!

Mark your calendars and bring your checkbooks for this enjoyable fundraiser! It is our major fundraiser of the year. The event will begin with lunch immediately after the Sunday service and the auction will be from 12:15 to 2:00. The soup lunch will be \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children. (If you would like to help with the lunch, call Aileen Nettleton, 238-6053).

The Service Auction is a great way to connect with Prairie members in different ways and contribute to Prairie at the same time.

Volunteer Schedules

Snow Removal:

Feb. 22 -28: Gary Giorgi

March 2 - 7: Rick Owens

March 8 - 14: Anne Pryor

Hospitality Helpers

Greeting Visitors:

Feb. 22: Linda Sheehy

March 1: Gail Coover

Coffee Set-up:

Feb. 22: Judy Skog

March 1: Kathy Helm & Gary Giorgi

Coffee Clean-up:

Feb. 22: Al Nettleton & **need a volunteer**

March 1: Kay Frazier & **need a volunteer**

Taping of Service:

Feb. 22: Nancy Schraufnagel

March 1: Paula Pachciarz

Olan Mills Tidbit

Our Olan Mills photos arrived today (yes, we succumbed). Thanks Rick. They look very nice. I notice on the bag which enclosed the photos that Olan Mills occasionally shares their mailing list with other "carefully screened" companies. You are supposed to send the mailing label to them, but I could not get it off without ripping it. Great! So I called the

number (1-800-251-6320) and they said that they would take care of it. Judy Skog

Update on Activity Groups & Hugging Partners

You may remember that last September clipboards were circulated on several Sunday mornings giving people the opportunity to sign up for Circle Dinners, Activity Groups, or Hugging Partners. I think all the Circle Dinners are up and running, but I don't think many of the Activity Groups have convened. Since this is a fairly new concept at Prairie, it may take more time to get it going. Here's the idea. Activity Groups differ from Circle Dinners because instead of meeting at someone's home to have a meal, the participants would agree to engage in some activity. Some suggestions have been movies, concerts, plays, bowling, canoeing, games, etc... While Circle Dinners try to meet about 8 or 9 times throughout the year, Activity Groups might meet only 4 or 5 times. The difficulty in getting things going seems to be the telephone calls necessary. Someone in the group has to take the initiative to get things going. Just as with Circle Dinners, one person was given an asterisk (*) and the list of group members and asked to get the group going. Apparently that hasn't worked very well, so instead, here is a list of all the people who signed up to be in an Activity Group and how the groups are currently configured. If the phone calls continue to be an obstacle, on an upcoming Sunday there will be an announcement that Activity Groups will meet after the service for a short planning meeting.

Group 1: Anne Pryor, Warren Hagstrom, Doleta Chapru, Kate Tucker*, Andria Hayes-Birchler, Jean Fahrenbach, Ken & Judy Skog.

Group 2: Rosemarie Lester, Shirley Grindrod, Nikki Bromberg, Shannon Hayes, Betty Jallings, Ruth & George Calden* (they were given this list in Oct. before they left).

Group 3: Nancy Schraufnagel, Gary Giorgi, Bob Park*, Osh Andersen, Pat Watkins, Rachel Siegfried.

Group 4: Blake Ferris, Amy Voorhis, Rachel Long*, Martin Arnold, Ned Frey, Anne Urbanski, Marilyn & Rick Ruecking.

Group 5: Al Nettleton, Phoenix Wardell, Cindy Haq, Sharon Scratish*, Virginia & Dominic Giorgi.

Here is also the list of Hugging Partners. The names were given to one half of the pair, to get the hugging started. The goal here is just to have an excuse to exchange hugs on a regular basis. Maybe you've noticed some extra hugging happening at Prairie on Sunday mornings? The difficulty is in "remembering" to seek out your hugging partner. Paula Pachciarz/Rachel Siegfried; Jennifer Parker/Toby Wacker; Phoenix Wardell/Shirley Grindrod; Claudia Richards/Cindy Haq; Mei-lien Converse/Marian Thompson; Melissa Pokorney/Jose Rodriguez; Tara Converse/Anne Urbanski; Alana Pryor-Ackerman/Randy Converse; Mary Mullen/Madeline Arnold; Judy Skog/Kathy Converse; Rick Owens/Heidi Bosch; Reuben Arnold/Erin Bosch.

Now when you read this, don't feel heaped with guilt if you've neglected to get the activity group started or to hug your partner. This is just a friendly reminder to make an effort to remember sometime in the near future. These endeavors are designed to further a sense of community at Prairie. Let's give them a chance and then we'll evaluate at the end of the year.
Erin Bosch - Membership Committee Chair

More Info On the Passing of the Chalice

In May 1998 Committee Chairs and Executive Board members who wish to pass the chalice are: Barb Park (President), Judy Skog (Treasurer), Aileen Nettleton (Finance Chair), Rob Steinhofner (Social Action Chair), and Kate Tucker (Secretary). Please refer to the last Prairie Fire for a description of all the positions above other than the Secretary, which follows. *The Secretary keeps records of the transactions of all business meetings of the Society and of the Executive Board. All records of the Secretary shall remain the property of the Society. The Secretary is responsible for giving proper notice of all business meetings.*

We thank ALL for their dedication to Prairie. The Committee on Committees is asking for your input on suggestions for candidates to fill these positions. If you have a suggestion please call Paula Pachciarz at 273-4806 or Karen Gross at 259-0556. You may also call Pat Cautley, Marilyn Peters or Phoenix Wardell.

This is your opportunity to help us find new talent and interested members who want to serve Prairie as a board member, chair or

executive officer. Some of the things we look for are interest, experience, and gender balance.

We are also looking ahead to lay ministries for 1998-99. We invite anyone who is interested in doing a lay ministry, or would like to recommend someone to be a lay minister, to contact us. A typical lay ministry covers a series of three to six non-consecutive Sunday services. Lay ministers choose the theme they will address and are reimbursed by Prairie. Lay ministries are an integral part of Prairie's uniqueness and we encourage your participation in this rich tradition.

RE Corner

Service Project Update:

The RE Service Project will conclude on March 22 with a visit from Jerry Gether, the social worker at The Allied Dunn's Marsh Neighborhood Center. The RE program has raised \$65 toward the purchase of toiletries for the Center's food pantry, and is challenging the "upstairs" to match that amount.

Come visit the Preschool room and check out the gorgeous toy kitchen set donated by Jaen Andrews and family. Thanks also to the Skog family for their donation of books for the library.

In the Junior High Class, Randy Converse led a mixed media presentation on being a conscientious objector. He read quotes, played songs, and did a war/peace version of Pictionary. The class discussed how being a conscientious objector reflects your commitment to living your life based on U.U. principles.

The 3-4-5 class has been discussing how to communicate in conflict resolution situations, while the K-1-2 group devoted a recent class to appreciating nature.

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar

Sunday, Feb. 22, 2-5 PM; Community Problem Solving Meeting.

Friday, Feb. 27, 7:15 PM; Kabbalat Shabbat Service.

Wednesday, Mar. 11, Time TBA; Purim Party.

Saturday, Mar. 21, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM;

Sabbath Morning Service.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Sunday, February 22

"Woman the Hunter", presented by Kerry Beheler-Amass. This program is a continuation on the topic of hunting. Kerry will discuss women's role as hunters from ancient and mythologic times, characters in recent popular literature, and 20th century perspectives. Kerry will also discuss her philosophies on hunting as part of the natural order, and how she incorporates ancient principle and ritual into her modern day events.

Sunday, March 1

"Welsh Voices in Unitarianism", presented by Barbara Rames. March First: St. David's Day. St. David was the patron saint of Wales (with much poorer press coverage than St. Patrick of Ireland). Really not much is known about him; he founded many churches in south Wales, and died circa 600 A.D.. People of Welsh heritage remember him on March first, so if you see daffodils displayed that day, they probably show a love of that little country west of England. The farthest western town jutting into the Atlantic is called St. David's.

To question, to doubt, are characteristics of the Cymry. "Non-Conformist" is the denomination of many Welsh congregations. Song and poetry have long been central in Welsh culture. They enjoy using the spoken word: two prime ministers of England, at least, have been Welsh; David Lloyd George and Aneurin Bevan. They spoke forcibly, with a richness of vocabulary. Here in the United States the Unitarian denomination has included several dynamic Welsh preachers. Barbara will share some of their writings and sermon excerpts with us.

Sunday, March 8

"What's a Guy Like Me Doing in a Place Like This?". Come hear Robin Carre answer this intriguing question! Robin, who is doing such a great job as RE Director, is going to share with us the circumstances in life and the "objective coincidences" that were part of the path to Prairie, both for himself and members of the congregation.

NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE IS SUNDAY, MARCH 1.