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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 March 18, 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>

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PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Sunday, March 22

9:00 AM; **Choir Rehearsal**
10:00 AM; **"Minority Student Education in Madison"**, presented by Kaleem Caire.
12 Noon; **Annual Prairie Auction**

Sunday, March 29

9:00 AM; **Choir Rehearsal**
10:00 AM; **"Political Correctness: Using language to include versus using language to censor"**, presented by Gail Coover.
11:30 AM; **Working for a Just Economic Community Study Group** will meet at Prairie immediately following the service.

Saturday, April 4

7:00 PM; **The Poetry of Love.** Marilyn and Rick Rueckings' first wedding anniversary celebration. See article under "Our Society".

Sunday, April 5

9:00 AM; **Choir Rehearsal**
10:00 AM; **"Moving Through Conflict. Lessons from life and research."** Presented by Rebecca Dumlao.
*******Prairie Fire Deadline!!!!!!**

Sunday, April 12

9:00 AM; **Choir Rehearsal**
10:00 AM; **"Easter Intergenerational Service"**, organized by Anne Pryor.

Tuesday, April 14

6:00 PM; **Madison Urban Ministry Series: Beyond Violence--Judgement, Guilt and Forgiveness.** Prof. Robert Najem of the UW Liberal Studies Dept. speaks on how a young man's loss of religion, separation from family, and exile from Ireland result from a distortion of Christ's judgement, repentance and forgiveness in James Joyce's *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. Midvale Community Lutheran Church, 4329 Tokay Blvd. Please phone 256-0906 in advance to sign up. Cost is \$5, including a light meal.

Sunday, April 19

10:00 AM; **"What is This Thing Called 'Adjustment'?"** by Dr. Beatrice Wright.

Saturday, April 25

7:30 PM; **Prairie Playreaders Group meets.** Location to be announced. More details to follow.

Sunday, April 26

10:00 AM; **"Richard Rogers & Collaborators"**, music program organized by Warren Hagstrom & Co.

Thursday, April 30

7:00 PM; **Spanish Speakers' Potluck** at Prairie. Anyone needing a ride or info call Rosemary at 238-4382 or Kate at 221-2168.

OUR SOCIETY

Prairie Service Auction

Make Your Bid!!!!!! Come to the Prairie Service Auction this Sunday, Mar. 22, and bid on these and other fantastic services being offered by Prairie members and friends! A great way to connect with each other, enjoy yourself, and help Prairie.

Pakistani meal, Ethnic Connection music
for your party
Tax preparation, Personalized "Shamanic
Journey"
Babysitting, Weekend babysitting
Homemade pies, Lemon bars, Basic will
Piano entertainment, Running errands
Stained glass window,
Hanging personalized Panegyric Poems
of your design
Vacuuming, Cleaning, Home Repair
Make Hanging Baskets
Big-screen TV Party, Fung shu Chinese
Art
Dog Sitting, Wildflower guided trip in
Juneau Co.
Massage, Custom designed pin/earrings
Weekend at Rick's farm, Lawn mowing
during your vacation
Orange Tree Import gift, Ballroom
Dancing instruction
Certificates Thai meal

We have requests for these services: Cat sitting and leaf rakers. Can you offer one of them?

The soup lunch will be served at about 11:45 AM (\$3 adults, \$1.50 children) and the Service Auction will be from 12:15 - 2:00 PM with Orange Schroeder and Rick Owens as auctioneers. Child care will be available.

The Poetry of Love

Marilyn and Rick Ruecking invite you to join us in celebrating our first wedding anniversary with the poetry of love. We will host an open house at Prairie on Saturday, April 4 at 7:00 PM to share our wedding cake and our love.

Bring yourselves, a celebratory attitude, and a favorite poem of love to share.

Future By-law Revisions

Anyone with suggestions for By-laws revisions should call or e-mail their ideas to Barb Park, Al Nettleton or Rick Ruecking. There will be a discussion of revision of the Membership portion of the By-laws at the Annual Spring Meeting.

Pint-Size Facts

The first Prairie Society blood donor in 1998 was Rob Steinhofner. His pint was followed by Mike Briggs' gift in February, and then Aileen Nettleton gave a pint. Won't you join them? One-A-Week Club has no dues---just your generosity and the wonderful feeling you experience when you know you have helped a needy unknown friend.

HELP

A family of four, just arrived from Switzerland, is looking for a house in Middleton, if possible with 3 BR, 1.5 baths and garage. Our kids Vincent, 7, and Lushana, 5, would love to have a yard to play in and to make new friends very soon. Please call 836-7482 and ask for Daisy if you can help.

Air Purifiers

Some of you may know that I, Kate Heiber-Cobb, have chemical allergies and sensitivities. Last year I was fortunate to find an air purifier that allows me more versatility in my life. These are Alpine Air and Water Purifiers. I have some that people can try to see if it helps with their own toxic work or home environments. If you want more info let me know at 250-6512.

House Wanted

I am looking for an apartment or small house to rent starting in late May or June 1st. I am a female graduate student and have an 11 year old Collie. References available. I would like a simple, quiet place within 5 miles of the UW campus. Ideally, this would be a place with garden space, hardwood floors, a porch, clothes-line, clawfoot tub....I would consider a house-sharing arrangement in exchange for yardwork and snowshoveling as part of the rent. Please call me at 238-3131 (evenings) or email Osh Anderson at bjander2@students.wisc.edu

Central Midwest District Annual Assembly

(formerly the CMD Annual Meeting) will take place in Madison at First Society on April 24-26. Put the dates on your calendar, and consider attending, since it is close to home, and is far more affordable than the national assembly. Prairie is entitled to and will fund two delegates (except for the Saturday night banquet). So far, only one person has expressed an interest. Please let Pat Watkins or Barb Park know if you are interested. Programs and registration materials are available from Pat.

General Assembly 1998

This will be held in Rochester, N.Y. on June 25-30. Prairie will fund two delegates up to a total of \$450 per delegate. To date, only one person has applied for delegate status. If you are interested in being a delegate or the alternate, please submit your name, in writing, to Pat Watkins directly, or place a note in the mailbox labeled Denominational Affairs in the downstairs office. Follow up by asking Pat if she received your info. Do this as soon as possible, so that we can get the best air fares and relay necessary information to you as soon as it is received. Please look through the General Assembly information in your April issue of the *UU World*.

Volunteers Needed

The "Working for a Just Economic Community" Study Group is seeking Prairie family members who would be willing to participate in a short interview and answer some job related questions. We are seeking individuals who are either presently, or have been recently employed, either full or part time, permanent or temporary, in any of the following types of businesses: restaurants, bookstores, hotels, dry cleaners, retail stores, day care centers, grocery stores, manufacturing, fast food. Contact Pat Watkins.

Photo Contest

The First Unitarian Church in Rochester, N.Y. is sponsoring a 1998 Photo Contest and Exhibit. The theme is "Individuals: Unique and in Community." \$600 in prizes will be awarded, and selected photos will be exhibited at General Assembly and in various locations in the city of Rochester. Application deadline is April 3rd. An entry blank and detailed rules have been posted

on the bulletin board or request that Kate Xerox it for you. You can contact Larry Eldridge at (715)-271-9070 if you have questions.

Lake Geneva UU Summer Assembly

Lake Geneva Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly is a wonderful week-long gathering of UUs and friends from across the midwest. Held on the George Williams College campus right on Lake Geneva, it's a wonderful opportunity to meet lots of interesting UUs, swim and sail in a beautiful lake, become spiritually renewed, attend intellectually or physically stimulating workshops, and have relaxing fun. It's usually held during the week of July 4, although this year will be held from July 5-11. I've received the brochure for this summer's gathering and will be happy to pass it on to anyone who might be interested in attending. Please contact Anne Pryor at 244-7099 or anniep@macc.wisc.edu.

Secret Friends Party

We were having so much fun with the Secret Friends Frog Jump and Orange Passing Games, there was no time to hear which teams completed the Crossword, Autograph Collection, and Rhyming Puzzle challenges:

Most teams completed the Secret Friends Crossword, although several seemed to be momentarily stuck on 10 Down: unscramble these letters: TL.

The autograph collection was a bit more challenging - I'm not sure any teams found a bungi jumper. And did you know that Reid Miller has ridden on a dog sled? Or that Tara Converse doesn't like chocolate?

A few teams came up with some very creative rhyming puzzles of their own - here's a sample:

Clue: smart, lyre-playing fish

Answer: sharp, harp, carp

Clue: sleepy selfish amphibian

Answer: groggy hoggy froggy

Clue: angry grass-colored vegetable

Answer: mean green bean

Clue: high dog's glass

Answer: up pup cup

Thanks to everyone who helped make Secret Friends a success this year.
Carl Wacker, Prairie RE Committee

RE Corner

Twenty pairs of Secret Friends finally got the chance to meet and greet at the Secret Friends Potluck/Party on March 15. There was plenty of great food for Secret Friends, their families and visitors to enjoy. Many of the adults were genuinely surprised by the identity of their Friend, which means the kids did a great job of describing themselves without giving too much away. There were puzzles and word games on the tables for Friends to solve together and we had an origami frog jumping contest, and passing the orange under the chin relay. Thanks to all the Secret Friends and special thanks to Carl Wacker and Anne Pryor for their help planning the event.

We are still looking for Adult Volunteers to help with the Prairie Burn tentatively scheduled for March 29 (it doesn't look so good at this point). The make-up date is April 5.

The 3-4-5 class made real arrows (come check them out) in a class devoted to the balance of nature. They discussed hunting and attitudes about eating meat. During their last class they were introduced to the idea of peace and justice in the environment by a series of sensory activities.

Fabric of Our Lives Workshop

Nancy Vedder-Shults is busy this spring. After her Crone Power workshop in March, she will be facilitating a day-long workshop on the Fabric of Our Lives on April 18 at the 1st Unitarian Society. Come celebrate with her the web of life, the skeins of fate, the patchwork quilt of our everyday existence. Mythically, fabric has been a symbol of our interconnections with each other as well as representing our individual destiny. In a ritual format, we will explore the meaning of textiles in myths from ancient Greek, Norse and American Pueblo culture, using guided visualization, art activities, stories and songs, some from Nancy's recording Chants for the Queen of Heaven. For more info contact Nancy at 231-3362.

Volunteer Schedules

Snow Removal:

Mar. 22-28: NEED VOLUNTEER

Mar. 29-April 4: NEED VOLUNTEER

It's' still snowing folks!!! And NOT melting.

Hospitality Helpers:

Greeting Visitors:

Mar. 22: Barbara Rames

Mar. 29: Karen Gross

April 5: Rick Ruecking

Coffee Set-up:

Mar. 22: Kay Frazier

Mar. 29: Mark Wehrly

April 5: Paula Pachciarz

Coffee Clean-up:

Mar. 22: Jan Howe & Phoenix

Mar. 29: Kathy Converse & Phoenix

April 5: Betty Jallings and ??????

Taping of Service:

Mar. 22: Robert Park

Mar. 29: Robert Park

April 5: NEED VOLUNTEER

Still Seeking Prairie Musicians

for the Program April 25, dedicated to the musical works of Richard Rogers and his collaborators, Hart and Hammerstein. Contact Warren Hagstrom or Doleta at 238-4970.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Sunday, March 22

"Minority Student Education in Madison"

Continuing the series on public education, the guest speaker for this service will be Kaleem Caire. Mr. Caire is a Madison native who will speak to us about his experience being an African American educated in the Madison school district, and his ideas of how the district can improve the achievement of low performing students. Mr. Caire is a candidate for School Board for Ray Allen's seat.

Sunday, March 29

"Political Correctness: Using language to include versus using language to censor."

Presented by Gail Coover.

Sunday, April 5

"Moving Through Conflict. Lessons from life and research."

Rebecca Dumlao will share stories about using communication, movement and other techniques to deal with conflict. She will also provide a brief overview of her research in communication and mass media.