



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* April 6, 1998

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PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Sunday, April 12

NO CHOIR REHEARSAL

10:00 am; "**Easter Intergenerational Service**",
organized by Anne Pryor.

Monday, April 13

7:30 pm; **Prairie BOD Meeting**

Tuesday, April 14

6:00 pm; **Madison Urban Ministry Series:
Beyond Violence--Judgement, Guilt.** Prof.
Najem speaks. Community Lutheran Church,
4329 Tokay Blvd. 256-0906 to sign up.

Sunday, April 19

9:00 am; **Choir Rehearsal**

10:00 am; "**UU's in the Media**", presented by
Al Nettleton.

11:30 am; **Prairie Potluck**

12:30 pm; **Prairie Annual Meeting**

PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE!!!!

Tuesday, April 21

7:30 pm; **GLSEN Meeting** at the central
Madison Public Library, 201 W. Mifflin St.

Saturday, April 25

RE's Annual Spring Fling

Sunday, April 26

9:00 am; **Choir Rehearsal**

10:00 am; "**Richard Rogers & Collaborators
Music Program**", coordinated by Warren
Hagstrom & Co.

11:30 am; **Prairie Women's Group potluck.**

2:00 pm; **James Reeb UU Congregation's 5
Year Anniversary Party.** Prairie invited!!!

Tuesday, April 28

5:00 pm; **Allied Dunns Marsh Cultural
Celebration.** Prairie members & friends invited.

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

Officers & Committee Chair Nominees For Prairie B.O.D.

The committee on committees proudly
nominates the following candidates for 1998
B.O.D. Official nominations and elections will
take place at the Spring Parish meeting on
Sunday, April 19.

Nancy Shraufnagel: President

Pat Cautley: Assistant Treasurer and will call:
Treasurer

Aileen Nettleton: Finance Chair

Paula Pachciarz and Shannon Hayes: co-chairs
Social Action

Mark Wehrly: Secretary

Ken Skog: Long Range Planning

Marian Thomsson will co-chair with the current
chair of the Program Comm., Warren Hagstrom.

For their dedication to Prairie we thank
ALL the out going committee chairs and E-board
members who served on the board last year.

Thank-you! Barb Park: President, Judy Skog:
Treasurer, Rob Steinhofer: Social Action, and
Kate Tucker: Secretary. Also thank you Aileen
Nettleton for agreeing to continue an additional



year as Finance Chair and to Judy Skog for continuing until we find a replacement.

Annual Meeting

12:30 pm, Sunday, April 19th.

Agenda:

*Report from the Committee on Committees

*Election of officers and committee chairs

*Election of the next Committee on Committees

The Annual Meeting will be preceded by a Potluck at 11:30 am. Childcare will be provided. This should be a relatively short meeting. Remember, we need a quorum, so your participation really counts!

The By-laws Committee met and discussed several potential changes, most minor. However, an Annual Meeting seemed a bad place to flesh out the details, since many of us are not "by-law buffs". Therefore, the committee is proposing that we have one, two or even a series of get-togethers to thoroughly discuss the potential changes. Everyone will be welcome to attend. These sessions will be relatively short and focused. Then at a Parish meeting, all the changes, including alternative ideas when appropriate, will be presented, discussed again and voted upon. The date of the first of these meetings has not been set as yet.

Thanks from the Sheehys

My children and I wish to thank the Prairie community for the love, support, and caring extended to us during Michael's illness and after his death. Mike was always showing us how to live a life of kindness, patience, and gentleness. And the members and friends of Prairie showed us how an entire community of people can respond with those same wonderful qualities.

Linda Sheehy

Service Auction a Success!

Thanks to all who attended the lunch and Prairie Annual Service Auction and who generously offered and purchased services. We raised \$3,000! Hats off to Orange and Rick for keeping us bidding, to Ken, Nikki, Diane, Jennifer, Ian and Katie for the tricky recording and accurate billing, to Kathy, Lisa, Allison, Emily, Katrina, Eric, Ian, Brian and others for serving and clean-up, Peg and Judy for soup, and everyone for food donations. If you bought a service, you are responsible for 1)being sure you paid for the

service or send your check to Ken Skog and 2)arrange with the provider of the service for a time of delivery at your mutual convenience! Please arrange for the service before the end of the calendar year. We hope you enjoy your special service and the opportunity to get to know each other better. If you have questions, please call Ken. The Finance Committee is grateful for your generosity to help Prairie finance it's ongoing program for you and all our members and friends. Aileen

Olan Mills Directories

Rick Ruecking has let it be known that the Prairie Olan Mills Directories will be available at the first Sunday Service in May.

New UUA Pamphlet

Need to talk to your children--your own or others--about sexual orientation and homophobia? The UUA has a new pamphlet entitled "Talking with Children and Youth about Sexual Orientation and Homophobia", written by Meg Riley. See Prairie's RE chair.

General Assembly

General Assembly 1998 will be held in Rochester, New York on June 25-30. To date, only one person has applied for delegate status, and I am told that delegates must be officially approved at the Parish Annual Meeting on April 19th. Please notify Pat Watkins if you are interested. Also, are you curious about how the UUA governs itself, and how our General Assembly process connects to our districts and governance at the individual congregation level? Please ask Pat for the pamphlet "Who's In Charge".

Central Midwest District Annual Assembly

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 two official delegates and the Board has approved Barbara Parks and Pat Watkins. Nancy Schraufnagel and Karen Gross also plan to attend. Please let Pat Watkins or Barb Park know if you are interested. Programs and registration materials are posted on the bulletin board.

ATTENTION PRAIRIE MUSICIANS

For the program April 26th, we seek volunteers to perform music by Richard Rogers and his collaborators, Larry Hart and Oscar Hammerstein II. If you have something you wish to perform or desire suggestions about what to perform, contact Warren Hagstrom or Doleta Chapru at 238-4970 or hagstrom@ssc.wisc.edu.

Volunteers Needed

The "Working for a Just Economic Community" Study Group is seeking Prairie family members or friends 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, banks or theatres. If you can volunteer, please call Pat Watkins at 233-5795, and leave a message stating which kind of business your job experience has been in. One of our group members will contact you.

Thanks from Pat Watkins

Many thanks from Pat for all your warm wishes and the lovely card you sent for her hospital stay.

Volunteer Schedules

Snow Removal:

April 12-18: Rick Owens

April 19-25: Warren Hagstrom

Hospitality Helpers:

Greeting Visitors:

April 12: Pat Cautley

April 19: Rachel Siegfried

Coffee Set-up:

April 12: Pat Cautley

April 19: Lisa Glueck

Coffee Clean-up:

April 12: *Need Volunteers*

April 19: Al Nettleton

Taping of Programs:

April 12: Nancy Schraufnagel

April 19: Anne Urbanski

Jennifer Parker Looking for Housemate

Available May 1. Private room with shared kitchen and dining facilities. 246-4304.

RE Corner

You've probably noticed a proliferation of pictures around the RE bulletin board upstairs. We've been quite busy with Secret Friends and wrapping up the RE Service Project with the Allied Drive Neighborhood. We raised just over \$100, which purchased an impressive amount of toiletries.

We will soon be seeking Adult volunteers to participate at Spring Fling which is scheduled for Saturday, April 25th. Please note that this date has been changed from what was previously scheduled. We are especially interested in anyone who owns a telescope and/or has any knowledge of astronomy/star-gazing.

House Wanted

I am looking for an apartment or small house to rent starting as soon as May 15th or as late as August 31st. I am a female grad student and have an 11 year old Collie. References available. I would like a simple, quiet place within five miles of the UW campus. Ideally, this would be a place with garden space, hardwood floors, a porch, clothesline, 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



Newest UU Neighbor Church

Welcome from your newest UU neighbor church to the east; we are Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church of Delafield (50 miles east of Madison). My family and I have personally been to visit your society a few times over the past few years, and I'd like to let you all know you are welcome here if you happen to be in the area on a Sunday evening. Our website is

<http://www.execpc.com/~timmrh/lcuuc.htm>

I'd love to put in a link to your site, if you'll do the same for us. Tom Hlaban, member, Board of Trustees, Lake Country UU Church.



A Call for Stories!

Skinner House is publishing a collection of "Stories of Principle", with the power to teach, challenge and inspire children and adults alike, in liberal religious settings. We're looking for previously-unpublished stories by UU's (youngsters as well as adults) which: 1) illustrate one of the following principles: The inherent worth and dignity of every person (Each and every person is important.); a free and responsible search for truth and meaning (Everyone must be free to search for what is true and right in life.); a world community, based on peace, liberty, and justice for all (We believe in working for a peaceful, fair and free world.); 2) Reflect human diversity; 3) Incorporate dramatic and/or participatory "storytelling" elements; 4) Are 1-3 pp. (double spaced) in length.

Authors' stories which are selected will receive a free copy of the anthology.

Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for a reply, and send manuscripts to: Colleen M. McDonald, Editor, 417 N. Rockford Ave., Rockford, IL 61107; (815)399-9249; email: cmmcd@xta.com Thanks!

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar

April 17-- Kabbalat Shabbat service at Prairie starting at 7:15 pm. Theme: "Crossing the Sea and into the Wilderness".

April 25-- Shabbat morning services at Prairie starting at 9:30 am, with educational programming for school-age children from 10:30 until noon (in addition to usual childcare).

Online!

Remember to go online to get all the latest info for UU's at uua-1@uua.org . The Prairie computer is online and gets all the latest info, some of which fits into the newsletter and much that doesn't. So check it out! Kate

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Sunday, April 12

"Intergenerational Easter Program", led by Anne Pryor.

Sunday, April 19

"UU's in the Media. Who are you UU? UU's have a reputation, deserved or not. This image of UUs is one that appears regularly in the media. Al Nettleton will explore how we are portrayed in the media. Everyone is encouraged to bring clippings or stories about how they, or others, learn of Unitarian Universalist Churches.

Sunday, April 26

"Richard Rogers & Collaborators Music Program", led by Warren Hagstrom & Co.

You too can perform and participate! See the article earlier in this Prairie Fire.



From the Administrator's Desk

It's been about a year since I began the awesome task of being Prairie's administrator. I have been trying to improve my newsletter skills and use my organizational skills to set up some systems for Prairie, such as a better building rental system. You may notice that the building is recently getting used a lot more. This is good for Prairie's finances, but also for the soul of the building. I continue to receive much feedback on all the different tasks I do at Prairie. Many of these suggestions contradict one another, so I wait for an official decree to make any huge changes. I continue to receive a vast amount of phone calls at home, which I have grown more accustomed to, and realize are necessary. But remember that you can leave a message on Prairie's answering machine and e-mail me at the church. These numbers and addresses are always in the Prairie Fire heading. It is a pleasure to work with such a fine group of people. Kate

PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE IS APRIL 19TH.